

Aerospace Engineer

What is it?

Aerospace engineers design, develop, test, and maintain aircraft, spacecraft, satellites, and missiles. They focus on improving flight safety, fuel efficiency, and performance, as well as reducing environmental impact. The role can specialise in aeronautical engineering (aircraft) or astronautical engineering (spacecraft).

Qualifications/Experience Required:

A degree in aerospace engineering or a related field (e.g., mechanical, electrical, or materials engineering) is essential.

Many universities offer sandwich courses, including a year in industry. Postgraduate study can enhance prospects, particularly in research roles. Relevant work experience or internships during your degree program are highly valued.

What the Work Involves:

Designing and testing new aerospace systems, including aircraft, drones, satellites, or propulsion systems. Conducting simulations and analysing performance data to optimise designs. Ensuring products meet safety, environmental, and regulatory standards. Collaborating with multidisciplinary teams, including mechanics, technicians, and software engineers. Investigating equipment malfunctions and developing solutions.

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

The UK aerospace industry is one of the largest in the world, contributing significantly to the economy. Aerospace engineers are in demand globally, with opportunities in aviation, defence, space exploration, and drone technology. With experience, career progression could lead to senior engineering roles, project management, or research positions.

Annual Salary £25,000 - £70,000

Typical weekly hours – 37 hours – 40

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

Have a passion for flight and space technology. Are highly analytical and enjoy solving complex technical challenges. Are innovative and eager to work on cutting-edge technology. Have strong attention to detail and organisational skills. Are effective communicators and team players. Are organised, analytical, and capable of managing complex information and competing priorities.

Money/Wage Guide:

Starting salaries range from £25,000 to £30,000 per year.

Mid-career engineers can earn between £40,000 and £60,000

Senior aerospace engineers and managers may earn over £70,000

Related Opportunities:

- Mechanical Engineer
- Avionics Engineer
- Materials Engineer
- Robotics Engineer

Further Information:

Royal Aeronautical Society

[Home - Royal Aeronautical Society](#)

Institute of Mechanical Engineers

[Institution of Mechanical Engineers - IMechE](#)

National Careers Service

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