

## Factsheet 6

## Engineering

National Apprenticeship Service

### Overview

Total employment in the engineering sector is around 1.4 million. A career in engineering allows you to put creativity to the test every day. It offers a host of well paid careers and jobs. It is predicted that by 2011 there will be 25,000 jobs in the North West to fill within the engineering and motor vehicle sector.

The majority of engineering establishments in Britain are very small, employing fewer than 50 people. Only 7% of firms are medium size businesses (employing 50-249 people). Whilst, approximately 1% of establishments employ more than 250 people, these account for around 37% of total employment in the sector.

90% of the workforce is full-time. Part-time employment and self-employment are both extremely uncommon in the sector.

Although employment in this sector is predominantly male, female staff equate to 20% of the workforce and this figure is growing.

Starting salary (once qualified):  
£12,000 - £15,000.

### What is an Apprenticeship

An Apprenticeship is a mix of real work and learning. Apprentices earn a wage and get experience whilst working towards a number of qualifications. An Apprenticeship follows a Level 2 programme and can lead onto an Advanced Apprenticeship which is a Level 3 programme.

### Example Job Roles as an Apprentice

- Aerospace Assembly Engineer
- Automotive Assembly Engineer – (new vehicle build)
- Casting Engineer – (ferrous and non-ferrous metals)
- Electrical Engineer – (assembly of components)
- Lift Maintenance Engineer – (servicing of lift power, control systems, and mechanical structure)

### Apprenticeship Framework

There are a number of elements to each Apprenticeship and this is called the framework. Each Apprenticeship framework has three main strands:

- competence based element
- technical element
- skills element

The three strands are sometimes accompanied by additional qualifications to give the most relevant skills and knowledge required for the job.

### Competence Element

**Apprenticeship** – NVQ Level 2 in chosen route

**Advanced** – NVQ Level 3 in chosen route

**Higher** – NVQ Level 4 Engineering Leadership

### Technical Element

**Apprenticeship** – NVQ 2 technical certificate in your chosen route

**Advanced** – NVQ 3 technical certificate in your chosen route

**Higher** – HND/HNC/Foundation or Degree

### Skills Element

**Apprenticeship** –

Application of Number Level 1

Communications Level 1

Information and Communication

Technology Level 1

Improving Own Learning and Performance Level 2

Working with Others Level 2

**Advanced** –

Application of Number Level 2

Communication Level 2

Information and Communication

Technology Level 2

Improving Own Learning and Performance Level 2

Working with Others Level 2

**Higher** –

As above Level 3

### Other Additional Study

Performing Engineering Operations (PEO) – NVQ Level 2 – 3 Units

Employment Rights and Responsibilities

### Apprenticeships Available

- Apprenticeship (21 months) ✓
- Advanced Apprenticeship (42 months) ✓
- Higher Apprenticeship ✓

### Progression Routes

- Advanced Apprenticeship
- Higher Apprenticeship
- Further Education
- Higher Education
- Supervisory and management positions

### Options within the Framework

- Performing Engineering Operations
- Business Improvement – Techniques
- Mechanical Manufacturing Engineering
- Fabrication and Welding Engineering
- Aeronautical Engineering
- Engineering Maintenance and Installation
- Materials Processing and Finishing
- Electrical and Electronics Servicing
- Marine Engineering
- Railway Engineering
- Engineering Technical Support

### Already Employed?

Are you currently employed but not working towards qualifications? Speak to your employer about converting to an Apprenticeship and ask them to call 08000 150 600 for more information.

### For more Information and to Apply

Visit:

[www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

[www.semta.co.uk](http://www.semta.co.uk)

If you require further advice or support on Apprenticeships please contact your local Connexions or Careers Advice Service.