

Aircraft maintenance engineer



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Description

This work covers all aspects of the maintenance of civil aircraft: inspection, service, repair and overhaul. Mechanical engineers generally look after the engines or airframe: avionics engineers are concerned with the instruments, flight control systems, navigation systems, radar, radio, electronic and electrical systems. Their work is carried out adhering to a rigid schedule. All aircraft must pass regular inspection tests to certify their airworthiness. Most engineers specialise in a particular aircraft type.

Requirements

Aircraft engineers must be good hand workers and enjoy precise working, and must be extremely conscientious as their work involves the safety of all the people who will fly in the aircraft. They must be fit and healthy, as the work often involves working in awkward positions.

Education

Promotion is possible to supervisory or management positions. It is also possible to move into aircraft design and production work, or to become fitters in the RAF or an aircraft manufacturer.

Opportunities

Entry into this work is possible via a Modern Apprenticeship: full-time college courses are also available. In order to certify their work or the work of others, engineers must be licensed: a licence is obtained by passing the relevant examinations that are taken after successfully completing an approved training course. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) approved course can be supplemented by further qualifications.

Contact addresses - Cumbria

For further information, see your local career guidance centre and your career advisor.