Railway Maintenance Engineering Technician - Signalling

Railway maintenance engineering technicians (signalling) install and maintain the signalling systems which provide information about train movements.

The Work

There are three types of signalling systems: integrated electronic control centres (IECCs), panel signal boxes and manual lever frame boxes, so the work you do will be varied.

You could be:

- checking the signalling systems for faults and fixing them
- checking and repairing individual aspects of signalling systems, such as track circuits and axle counters
- taking and recording readings of electrical and mechanical equipment
- checking the Automatic Warning System (AWS) and the Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) which apply the brakes on a train in an emergency
- checking and adjusting the points which switch the rails to divert trains from one track to another
- working with signalling equipment such as control panels and becoming completely familiar with the routes and train services they control
- maintaining signalling equipment.

Pay

Employment is with Network Rail. The yearly salary rates for Network Rail Apprentices for 2019 are as follows:

- Year 1: £9,479 plus £1,265 bonus after successfully finishing the year
- Year 2: £12,525.00 (age 18-20), £13,331.40 (age 21-24) or £14,182.35 (age 25+)
- Year 3: £14,924.20.

Food and accommodation are provided free during the first year.

Once you have completed the apprenticeship you can earn up to around £30,000 a year and more with further experience.

Conditions

- As a signal technician, you would work mainly outdoors in all weathers and you may have to work at heights.
- You will also work indoors in rooms containing large amounts of equipment, known as relay rooms or re-locatable equipment buildings (REBs).
- You would have to travel to different sites where the work is required.
- You would have to work shifts, including evenings, nights, public holidays and weekends.
- You would sometimes be on call and have to work overtime.
- You will have to wear protective clothing such as high visibility jacket, hard hat and safety boots.

Getting In

- Network Rail has a three-year Level 3 Engineering Apprenticeship Scheme which trains Maintenance Engineering Technicians in areas such as: Signalling, Off Track, Track, Distribution and Plant, Telecoms or Overhead Line.
- Entry requirements: 4 subjects at National 5 including English, Maths and a science or engineering subject.
- Applications for the March 2020 intake open in September. You need to apply by Monday 21 October 2019. You can find the link for the apprenticeship scheme here.
- To qualify you need to be 18 years of age or older by the time you start your training.
- If your online application is successful, you will then complete some aptitude tests followed by a telephone interview. If you pass these then you will attend the assessment centre for practical tests and an interview.
- You need a good level of physical fitness, and have to pass a medical examination, which includes sight and hearing tests.
- You will undergo regular drug and alcohol tests to make sure you are not under any influence during working hours – Network Rail have a zero tolerance policy.

Jobs are with Network Rail, which is responsible for maintaining around 3,000 miles of track and related infrastructure in Scotland.

What Does It Take

You need to have:

- patience
- a logical approach to problem solving
- good manual skills
- good concentration
- a good head for heights
- awareness of health and safety regulations and practices
- an understanding of engineering and electrical principles.

You need to be able to:

- meet deadlines
- deal with emergencies quickly and calmly
- understand technical drawings and diagrams
- pay attention to detail
- work on your own as well as in a team
- work quickly and accurately.

Training

- Training is on the job combined with off the job training.
- All apprentice technicians must attend the Westwood training centre in the midlands region of England,

for their first 23 weeks of training. Accommodation, meals, work clothing and safety equipment is provided. The remainder of training is based at a depot close to your home address.

- In year 1 you study a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) in Performing Engineering Operations Level 2 and a Level 3 Engineering Award.
- In years 2 and 3 you study NVQ Level 3 in Railway Engineering and ILM Level 3 in First Line Management.
- Network Rail has a training centre in Larbert near Falkirk for training Scottish staff in new techniques and updating their existing skills.

Getting On

- With experience and suitable qualifications, you may be able to gain promotion to a senior technician post.
- There are also opportunities to move into technical support, new works testing or signalling design.
- Once you have qualified, you may be able to do further study and gain more advanced qualifications in engineering.
- With these advanced qualifications, you may be able to register as an Engineering Technician (EngTech) or as a professional engineer (IEng or CEng).
- There can be opportunities for further promotion to supervisory or management positions.
- There also could be opportunities to move into related technical posts within the rail industry.

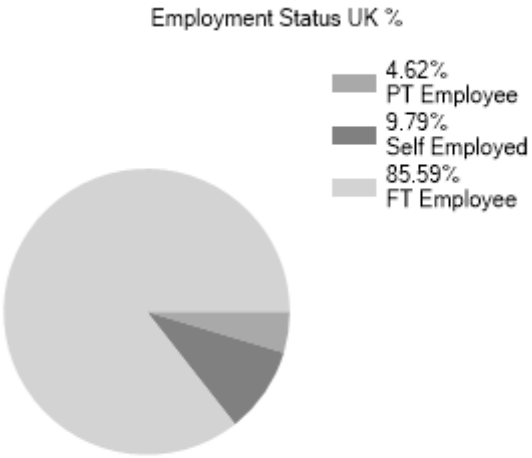
More Information

- The Engineering Council sets and maintains the standards of the engineering profession in the UK.
- The Tomorrow's Engineers website has more information on careers in engineering.

Contacts

Network Rail
Tel: 020 7557 8000
Website: www.networkrail.co.uk
Website (2): www.networkrail.co.uk/careers
Twitter: @networkrailJOBS
Facebook: www.facebook.com/networkrailcareers

Statistics



Past Unemployment - Scotland

No statistics available for Scotland.

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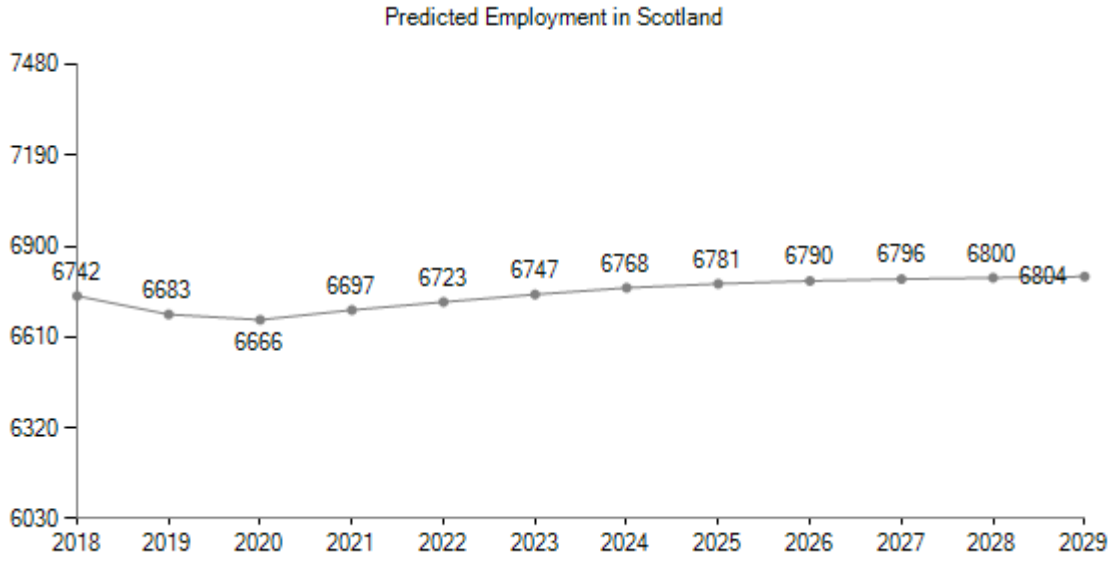

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