

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 first year salary for Network Rail Level 3 Engineering Apprentices as of 2025 is £19,838. Your salary will increase yearly.

Once you have completed the apprenticeship you can earn up to around £35,000 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 offers a three-year Level 3 Engineering Apprenticeship Scheme which trains Maintenance Engineering Technicians in areas such as: Signalling, Track, Distribution and Plant, Telecoms or Overhead

Line.

- Entry requirements: 4 subjects at National 5 including English, Maths and a science or engineering subject.
- Check the [Network Rail website](#) for information on when applications open.
- 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 an online assessment, consisting of some tests and a video interview. If you pass these then you will attend the assessment centre and complete activities.
- 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.
- On completion of the apprenticeship you'll have two Level 3 Diplomas in Railway Engineering Technician Knowledge & Competence, as well as leadership and management 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.

Contacts

Network Rail

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Website: www.networkrail.co.uk

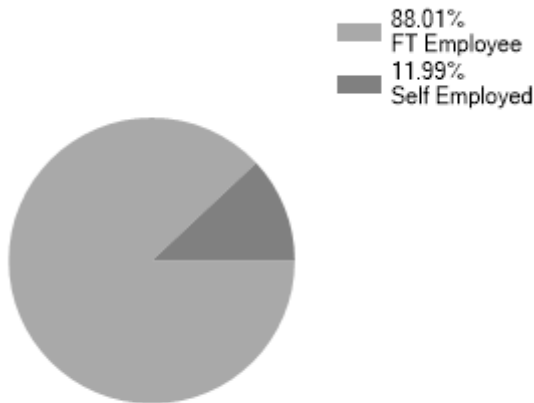
Website (2): www.networkrail.co.uk/careers

X: @networkrail

Facebook: www.facebook.com/networkrail

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

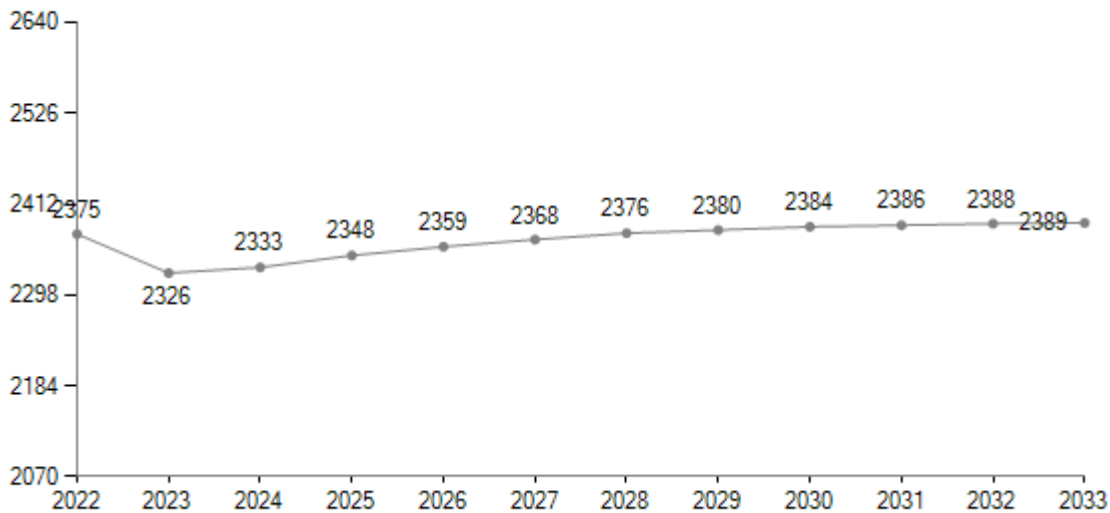


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)