

## Railway Maintenance Engineering Technician - Distribution and Plant

Railway maintenance engineering technicians (distribution and plant) install, inspect and maintain the systems which keep power flowing and trains moving.

### The Work

There are three areas:

- **Contact systems** – the overhead lines and tracks from which the train picks up electrical current
- **Distribution** – getting the power from the National Grid to the train
- **Plant** – the fixed trackside machinery which keeps the railway running.

You could be:

- inspecting and maintaining high and low voltage power supply equipment such as transformers, switchgear and cables
- identifying the cause of a fault and resolving it
- installing and maintaining electricity wiring for overhead lines or conductor rails
- measuring the current within a cable
- measuring the overhead line equipment (OLE) to make sure it is aligned properly
- isolating and earthing electrical equipment before starting engineering work to ensure workers' safety
- heating electrically operated points in winter so that they don't freeze
- checking and maintaining standby generators for back-up power for signalling equipment and control centres
- checking and maintaining track and tunnel drainage pumping systems.

### 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

- You would work outdoors in all weathers, day and night, and in lineside substations.
- You would work in a wide range of locations, including on the line, in signal boxes, in tunnels and on swing bridges.

- You would have to travel to different sites.
- You would have to work shifts, including evenings, nights, public holidays and weekends.
- You would sometimes be on call for emergencies 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 2019. 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
- the ability to solve problems
- good manual skills
- good concentration
- awareness of health and safety regulations and practices
- a responsible approach
- an understanding of engineering and electrical principles.

You need to be able to:

- meet deadlines
- deal with emergencies quickly and calmly
- 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

- Once you have qualified, you may be able to do further study and gain more advanced qualifications in engineering.
- Network Rail offer a range of programmes at all levels from NVQ to postgraduate.
- With these advanced qualifications, you may be able to register as an Engineering Technician (EngTech) or as a professional engineer (IEng or CEng).

Whatever your specialism, there are opportunities to move on within the organisation and become a team leader.

## 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](http://www.networkrail.co.uk)

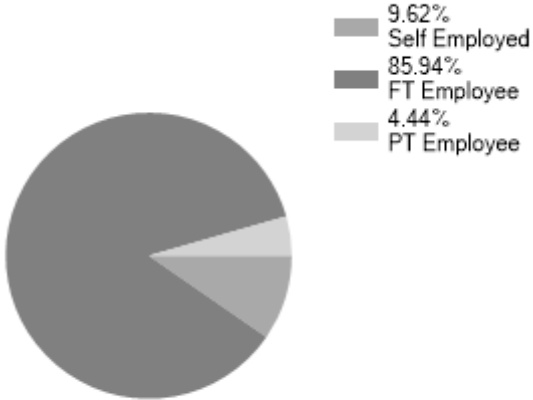
Website (2): [www.networkrail.co.uk/careers](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/careers)

Twitter: @networkrailJOBS

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/networkrailcareers](http://www.facebook.com/networkrailcareers)

Statistics

Employment Status UK %



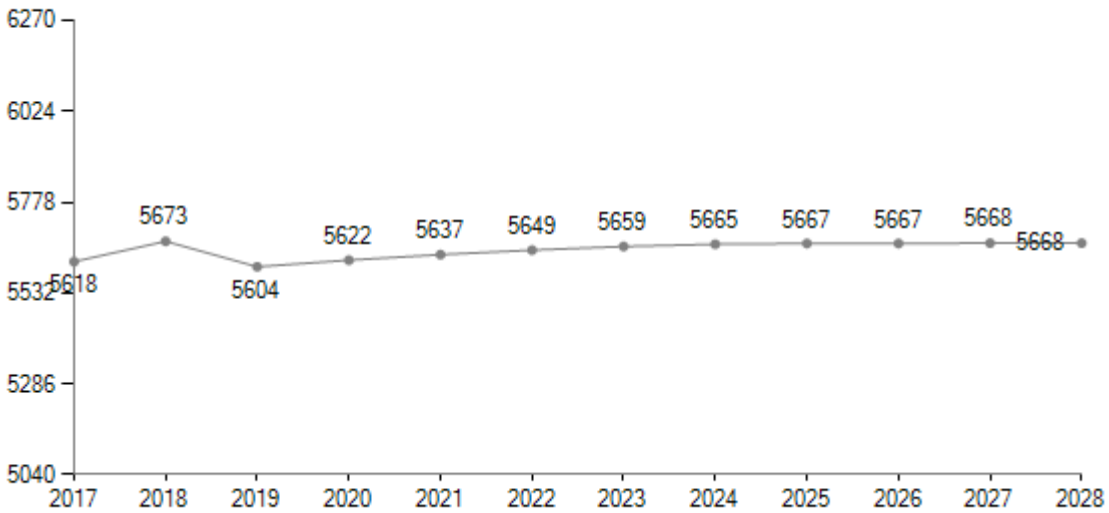
Past Unemployment - Scotland

Date	Unemployed
Dec 2018	0.11%
Jun 2019	0.11%
Sep 2019	0.07%

LMI data powered by [EMSI UK](#)

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

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [EMSI UK](#)