

Railway Maintenance Engineering Technician - Track

Railway maintenance engineering technicians (track) inspect, assess, maintain and renew the track to keep trains running smoothly and safely.

The Work

You could be:

- inspecting the track (both visually and using measuring equipment) for signs of damage or deterioration
- checking that the rails are stable and properly aligned to cope with the speed and weight of the trains using them
- testing the rails using ultrasound
- prioritising work and organising appropriate materials, equipment and staff to be onsite
- finding faults and repairing them using techniques such as welding, grinding or stressing the metal
- fitting sleepers and fasteners
- dealing with track problems caused by changing weather conditions, overgrowing trackside plants or drainage issues
- checking and repairing level crossings
- assisting with site surveys.

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

- You spend a lot of time walking beside the track, with a lookout to warn you when a train is approaching.
- You work mainly outdoors in all weathers, day and night.
- You work in a wide range of locations, including inside tunnels.
- You travel to different sites wherever a fault occurs or a repair is needed.
- You work shifts, including evenings, nights, public holidays and weekends.
- You are sometimes on call for emergencies and may 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
- an eye for detail to notice small defects
- good manual skills
- good concentration
- awareness of health and safety procedures
- an understanding of engineering principles
- good problem solving skills.

You need to be able to:

- meet deadlines
- deal with emergencies quickly and calmly
- work in isolation 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

- 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).

- Whatever your specialism, there are opportunities to move on within the organisation and become a team leader. With further experience, you could work on larger projects as a project engineer or manager.

Contacts

Network Rail

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Website: www.networkrail.co.uk

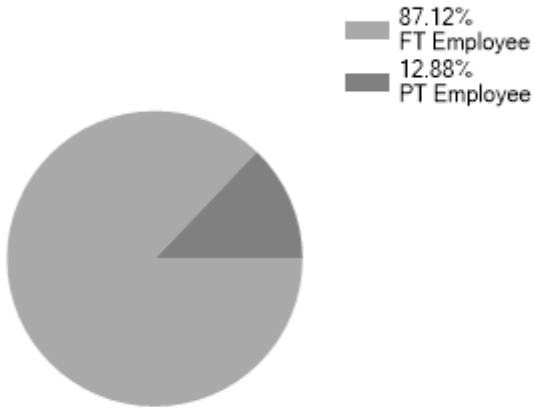
Website (2): www.networkrail.co.uk/careers

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 Statistics : Not available this career.