

Structural Engineering Technician

Structural engineering technicians provide support to structural engineers working on all sorts of structures including bridges, sports stadia, masts, tower blocks and coastal and offshore oil platforms.

The Work

You could be:

- working closely with structural engineers and other professionals
- producing engineering drawings using computer aided design (CAD) software
- investigating different materials, such as concrete and steel to assess their suitability for use in projects
- calculating the load and stresses that all components of the structure will be subject to
- helping to survey sites and buildings
- ensuring the project stays within budget and runs to schedule
- examining unsafe buildings and structures and advising on improvements and repair.

Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the size of the company or organisation you work for
- the demand for the job.

Starting salaries for structural engineering technicians range from £18,000 to £25,000 a year. With experience this rises to around £30,000 and more senior technicians may earn £35,000 a year or more.

Conditions

- You work from an office, but spend time outdoors on construction sites, in all weathers.
- You have to wear protective clothing, including a hard hat, safety boots and overalls when visiting sites.
- You travel to different locations and on some projects you might work away from home.
- You may have to work overtime, including evenings and weekends when getting close to a deadline.

Getting In

- You can study full time or part time for a qualification, such as an NC (SCQF Levels 4-6), HNC (SCQF Level 7) or HND (SCQF Level 8) in Civil Engineering, or an approved SVQ such as Construction Site Supervision (Construction): Building and Civil Engineering at (SCQF Level 7).
- You can also train through a Modern Apprenticeship in Construction: Civil Engineering at (SCQF Level 6) with an employer or training organisation. The apprenticeship includes a combination of on the job and off the job training.
- You could study the Foundation Apprenticeship in Construction (SCQF Level 4 or 5) in S3-S6, which can help to get into a relevant Modern Apprenticeship.

- Studying for a Foundation Apprenticeship at SCQF Level 6 while in S5 and S6 year at school could give you entry to an HNC or HND in Civil Engineering. It may also give entry to second year of the Modern Apprenticeship in Construction: Civil Engineering. For entry you would require 3 subjects at National 5 including English and Maths. You would be expected to have Higher Maths by the end of sixth year.
- Entry requirements for apprenticeships and college courses vary from 2 or more subjects at National 5 to 1-3 Highers. You may need particular subjects, such as English, Maths and a science or technological subject.
- Experience using AutoCAD software and experience of BIM (Building Information Modelling) is usually necessary.
- You need to have a Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card or equivalent to work on sites.
- You need good knowledge of, and sometimes a qualification in, health and safety.
- A full UK driving licence is useful.

Jobs can be with industrial companies, contractors, water boards, local government or in a research organisation.

What Does It Take

You need to have:

- excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- excellent analytical and numerical skills
- good planning and organisational skills
- good IT skills including experience using CAD software.

You need to be:

- self-motivated and able to plan ahead
- able to read and work from technical drawings
- a good team member
- able to work to a deadline.

Training

- If you enter through a Modern Apprenticeship, you would train on the job while in employment, and attend college on a day or block release basis.
- Once you have finished the academic qualifications, you should aim towards registering as an Engineering Technician (EngTech) with the Engineering Council.
- Structural engineering technicians can register with the [Institution of Structural Engineers](http://www.institutionofstructuralengineers.org) as a Technician Member. See their website for details.

Getting On

- Once you have finished the academic qualifications, you should aim towards registering as an Engineering Technician (EngTech) with the [Engineering Council](http://www.engineeringcouncil.org).
- As a member of any of the professional engineering bodies, you have to complete a certain number of hours continuing professional development (CPD) each year.

More Information

The Engineering Council is the regulatory body for the UK engineering profession, and sets and maintains internationally recognised standards of professional competence.

Tomorrow's engineers website <http://www.tomorrowseengineers.org.uk> provides further information.

Contacts

GoConstruct

Website: www.goconstruct.org

X: @GoConstructUK

Facebook: www.facebook.com/goconstructuk

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

100.00%
FT Employee



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

Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

Predicted Employment Statistics : Not available this career.