

Prepare for an Apprenticeship in Engineering

If you are interested in working in Engineering via the apprenticeship route you may want to find out more about what you can do to strengthen your application. The following will help with this.

Where can you look for an Apprenticeship?

One of the first things to do is to register with the Government apprenticeship website. This will alert you to Engineering apprenticeships happening near you. Register [here](#).

Other national apprenticeship websites to register with include:

[Career Finder](#)
[Notgoingtouni](#)
[Getmyfirstjob](#)
[Ratemyapprenticeship](#)
[Indeed](#)
[Amazing Apprenticeships](#)
[Careers Wales Apprenticeships](#)

You can also register with local Colleges and Training Providers in South Wales who cover Engineering Apprenticeships.

[TSW Training](#)
[Cardiff And Vale College](#)
[Coleg Penybont \(Bridgend College\)](#)
[Coleg Ceredigion](#)
[Gower College Swansea](#)

Who offers Engineering Apprenticeships?

It is also worth approaching any Engineering companies that you would like to work for and ask if they are likely to take on apprentices when you are due to leave school.

Local Employers

[Atkins Realis: South West and Wales](#)
[Wales & West Utilities](#)
[Transport For Wales](#)
[Careers Wales: Employers who offer engineering apprenticeships](#)

You can also try engineering companies such as:

[Leonardo](#)
[Network Rail](#)
[Dwr Welsh Water](#)
[EDF](#)
[The Army](#)

Which area would you like to specialise in? [Engineering Maintenance Technician](#), [Energy Engineer](#), [Train Driver](#), [Electrical Engineering Technician](#) , [Civil engineering technician](#) or [Railway Engineer](#) ?

What should you check for?

What's the Level of apprenticeship?

Level 2 Intermediate, Level 3 Advanced, Level 4/5 Higher or Level 6 Degree

What are the entry requirements?

Will you need GSCE passes? How many? Or A-Levels or BTECs? Are there any grades and subjects needed?

Where is the employer's location?

How will you get there - by walking, bus, train? Will you need to move and find accommodation?

What qualifications will you gain with the apprenticeship?

For example, Utilities Engineering for Technicians Level 3

What training provider or college is linked to the apprenticeship?

Where are they based and how will you get there?

What will they be looking for?

Employers will look for:

- Practical skills, able to work well with your hands, are you good at Design Technology, tinkering with machinery or repairing things that will show your skills?
- Attention to detail, completing tasks well.
- Willingness to learn and train as this will never end with continuous developments in engineering.
- Problem-solving skills.
- A good team player and communication skills.
- Being Health and Safety conscious.
- Self-belief
- Good time management skills

How can I demonstrate I have the skills? How do I stand out from the crowd?

You will need an excellent CV to sell you and your skills and strengths.

For an example of a school leavers' CV see [here](#).

Look at industry websites to find out what they are discussing, for example

[Engineering Council](#)

[Energy Institute](#)

[The Institution of Engineering and Technology](#)

[Careers in Aerospace](#)

How can I prepare for interviews?

Employers will expect you to have a desire to work in engineering and want to learn about it.

For general advice on interviews please watch [this](#) and read these below:

[Careers Wales](#)

[Welsh Government Apprenticeships](#)

[Apprenticeships.gov](#)

[UCAS](#)

Be friendly and polite and remember to smile.

YouTube has lots of clips on the work of apprentices in engineering.

Where can a career in Engineering take you?

When qualified and with experience you could progress to become a supervisor. If you are prepared for more learning, you could go on to become a Chartered Engineer. You might also want to set up your own company and become self-employed. You could move to a more specialist role or move into training.

Anything else you should know?

Be well prepared, start your search early, and keep a list of where you have applied to. Practice interviews. Be confident in yourself.

Have a backup plan.