

# AVIATION TECHNICIAN: HANDS-ON CAREERS KEEPING AIRCRAFT SAFE AND FLYING HIGH

If you're passionate about aviation and enjoy hands-on work, a career as an aviation technician could be perfect for you. Aviation technicians play a crucial role in maintaining and repairing aircraft, ensuring they are safe, efficient, and ready for flight.

## QUALIFICATIONS AND PATHWAYS TO BECOMING AN AVIATION TECHNICIAN

1. **GCSEs:** Strong grades in Maths, Science (Physics or Chemistry), and English are helpful.
2. **College or Apprenticeship Programmes:** Many begin with Level 2 or Level 3 diplomas in aviation maintenance, engineering, or aeronautics.
3. **Apprenticeships:** The preferred path for most technicians, where you gain experience while earning a qualification, often in partnership with companies or the military.
4. **Licensing and Certification:** To work on certain aircraft types, you'll need certifications like Part 66 (EASA) or specific qualifications for commercial airlines.
5. **Continuous Training:** Aviation techs stay current through regular training to keep up with advancements in aircraft technology.

## TYPICAL DAY IN AVIATION MAINTENANCE

An aviation technician's day is filled with practical work and problem-solving in a dynamic environment:

- **Routine Inspections:** Checking systems, engines, and structures for wear and tear or potential issues.
- **Repairs and Replacements:** Fixing or replacing faulty parts to ensure everything is up to the latest safety standards.
- **Systems Testing:** Running diagnostics on electrical, hydraulic, and engine systems.
- **Record Keeping:** Meticulously logging all maintenance and repairs to comply with aviation safety standards.
- **Collaborative Work:** Working closely with other technicians, engineers, and pilots to keep aircraft in top condition.



## GOOD TO KNOW

A career as an aviation technician is rewarding for those who love working on complex machines, solving practical challenges, and contributing to air travel safety. With opportunities to specialise, travel, and advance, aviation maintenance is a career that can truly take you places.

## STEPS TO GET STARTED

1. **Find an Apprenticeship or Diploma Programme:** Look for recognised aviation maintenance training programmes or apprenticeships.
2. **Network at Aviation Events:** Attend air shows, aviation job fairs, and open days at maintenance organisations.
3. **Gain Practical Experience:** Volunteering or finding internships can give you a head start.
4. **Pursue Certifications:** Licences like the EASA Part 66 open opportunities for more senior roles and specialisations.



## LIFESTYLE AND BENEFITS

- **Job Security:** As air travel continues to expand, aviation technicians are in steady demand.
- **Hands-On Work:** This is a practical, hands-on career, ideal for those who enjoy working with their hands and solving real-world problems.
- **Good Earning Potential:** Competitive salaries with options to increase earnings as you specialise or gain seniority.
- **Variety of Work Locations:** Opportunities range from airport hangars and airfields to maintenance facilities and even travelling with aircraft as they're repositioned.
- **Shift Flexibility:** Aviation tech roles often operate on a shift basis, which can offer flexibility and allow for time off during the week.



## CAREER PROGRESSION AND SALARIES

- **Entry-Level Technician:** Starting salary of £20,000–£25,000, where you'll build foundational skills and work under supervision.
- **Junior Aviation Technician:** £25,000–£35,000. Technicians at this level take on more independent work and develop specialisations, such as working on specific aircraft types or systems.
- **Senior Technician/Lead Technician:** £35,000–£55,000. Experienced technicians handle complex repairs, supervise junior techs, and may lead maintenance teams. In supervisory roles, technicians oversee teams, manage schedules, and ensure quality and safety standards are met.
- **Specialist or Licensed Engineer:** £55,000–£65,000+. Those with advanced certifications, like a Part 66 licence, command higher salaries and may focus on specialised aircraft or high-responsibility areas like engine maintenance or avionics.

## CAREER PROSPECTS AND INDUSTRY GROWTH

The aviation maintenance field is evolving, with many new opportunities for technicians who keep up with the latest tech and certifications. Key areas of growth include:

- **Sustainable Aviation:** Aircraft with eco-friendly materials and fuel systems require specialised maintenance.
- **Advanced Avionics and Automation:** New technology means technicians are needed to maintain digital systems, autopilot, and navigation upgrades.
- **Diverse Sectors:** Besides commercial airlines, there's demand in private aviation, military aircraft, and cargo services, giving you a range of career options.



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