

BUILDING PLACES AND SPACES

Civil
engineer

Civil engineers build and support the facilities we take for granted – from water treatment to streets and airports. They also work to protect the environment, looking into more sustainable ways to generate power. The exciting thing is seeing a project through from first design to completion, plus there's lots of variety so it's not all building. You could be doing anything that improves people's quality of life. Relevant A-levels and degrees are useful, or you could do an apprentice scheme. Either way, you'll need to be a good problem solver and team player. A survey by the Institution of Civil Engineers shows high job satisfaction, with 75% of civil engineers happy at their work.

Degree needed


It is important to choose a degree that is recognised by the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) through the Joint Moderation Board (JMB). This makes it easier to gain a professional qualification once you have finished studying and begun work.

Prospective civil engineers can also opt for a more vocational route by undertaking an apprentice scheme. These allow people to learn, work, earn and get qualified all at the same time.

Good courses

- BEng Hons Engineering (Civil) (University of Aberdeen)
- BEng Hons Civil Engineering (University of Birmingham)
- BEng Hons Civil Engineering (University of Bristol)
- BEng Hons Civil Engineering (University of Leeds)
- BEng Hons Civil Engineering (University of Manchester)

This is just a small selection of accredited courses. Please see the ICE website for more courses.

 Pete Wilkie at work
Civil Engineer, Arup



ask:
what if?

Your career – our future

Facts and figures

Starting salary

Between £17,000 and £24,000.

Working hours

A typical working week is about 40 hours. Unsocial and long hours may sometimes be required.

Days' holiday per year

Usually 25 days per year.

Skills and experience

A-Levels in maths, physics, geography, design & technology and chemistry are all useful.

Would suit

This career would suit you if you enjoy a varied role and can work well in a team, but are also willing to solve problems on your own.

Likely employer types

- Construction contractors
- Local authorities
- Consultancies
- Specialist consultancies (focusing on a specific discipline)
- Clients with in-house civil engineers

How many jobs available

Many sectors within the industry are experiencing skills shortages. There is a high demand for good graduates with relevant qualifications.

Number of people employed in this field

The ICE has around 60,000 UK members, but this does not necessarily reflect the number of people working in the profession.



Meet the expert

Pete Wilkie,
Arup



“Think of all the facilities that allow you to get to work, switch on the lights or jump on a train. We provide the support networks to do all that. It's so diverse.”

Did you know?

In a salary survey carried out by ICE, civil engineers reported a high degree of job satisfaction with 71 per cent being satisfied with their employer and 75 per cent satisfied with their present role.

More information

- For more information about careers in civil engineering, visit The Institution of Civil Engineers' website www.ice.org.uk
- For a list of JMB accredited courses in civil engineering
- Find out more about engineering education visit www.ice.org.uk
- Visit the Royal Academy of Engineering website at www.raeng.org.uk
- For more about careers in the construction industry, visit the Construction Industry Council website www.cic.org.uk