

Nuclear Engineer

What is it?

A nuclear engineer works with the design, development, and operation of nuclear power plants and equipment. They are involved in ensuring safety and efficiency in nuclear energy production and the development of nuclear technologies.

Qualifications/Experience Required:

A degree in nuclear engineering, mechanical engineering, physics, or a related field is required. A master's or PhD may be needed for research or specialised roles. Some roles may require further certifications or qualifications specific to the nuclear industry.

What the Work Involves:

Designing, developing, and overseeing nuclear reactors and power plants.
Ensuring compliance with safety regulations and environmental standards.
Conducting research to improve nuclear technology or make it more sustainable.
Troubleshooting and solving technical problems in nuclear systems.
Collaborating with other engineers and technicians on projects.

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

With growing global energy demands, nuclear engineering has strong prospects, especially as countries look to reduce carbon emissions through nuclear power. Many nuclear engineers work for energy companies, government agencies, or private contractors in the energy sector. The UK has a **need for skilled nuclear engineers** due to projects like Hinkley Point C, and there's ongoing demand within the industry.

Average annual Salary - £25,000 - 60,000

Typical weekly hours – 37–40 hours

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

Strong problem-solving and analytical skills. High attention to detail and a methodical approach to work. Comfortable working with complex technology and safety-critical systems. A proactive and responsible attitude toward safety and risk management.

Money/Wage Guide:

Entry-level: £25,000–£30,000

Experienced: £35,000–£50,000

Senior roles: £55,000–£75,000+

Related Opportunities:

Mechanical Engineer
Electrical Engineer
Radiation Protection Specialist
Process Engineer

Further Information:

Institute of Engineering and Technology – Nuclear Engineering

Prospects – Nuclear Engineer Career Profile