

***Manufacture modify and repair components for RAF aircraft, airfield support equipment and vehicles.***

**KEY POINTS**

- **Producing engineering excellence in support of RAF missions.**
- **Helping to enable the Royal Air Force through engineering.**
- **Producing precision components to help sustain the worlds most formidable fighting machines.**

**TRADE OVERVIEW**

General Technician (Workshops) are specialist production engineering technicians that manufacture and repair aircraft components and parts for other equipment essential to the smooth running of the RAF and ensures that aircraft can take off and complete their mission.

Working in specially equipped workshops, you will make and repair components for aircraft, specialist equipment, vehicles; all in support of your station’s mission. Your specialist skills could even be called upon to repair or manufacture non-standard parts of equipment where replacement parts are no longer available. Some of the machinery you will use will be manually operated, and other machines will be computer controlled. You will learn how to use equipment such as centre lathes; machines for drilling, milling, metal cutting and forming, pipe-bending; and, various types of welding equipment, CNC lathes, Machining Centres and digitising software. With experience, and after a period of advanced training, you will handle more complex tasks. You could be tasked with the manufacture or modification of aircraft parts to very strict tolerances.

Like most people in the RAF, you will move jobs every 3 - 5 years as part of your ‘through service career management’ and have the opportunity to diversify and experience a wide range of jobs and equipment (each job is known as a ‘tour’). You will be able to set preferences for the type of tour you would like to undertake and there is also the opportunity to undertake roles outside of your trade. Within your first few years, you may get the opportunity to deploy overseas in support of the RAF’s mission.

**TRANSFERABLE SKILLS:**

The qualifications, experience and skill-sets that you develop as a specialist Workshops Technician are recognised and are as highly regarded in civilian industry as they are in the RAF, which means that should you ever decide to pursue a career outside the RAF, you will be well placed to find employment.

**RECRUIT TRAINING:**

Your career will start with a 10-week Basic Recruit Training Course at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire. The course is designed to help you adjust to a military environment. As well as fitness and military training, you will also learn about the RAF lifestyle.

**SPECIALIST TRAINING:**

The next step is a specialist training course, currently at MOD St Athan, near Cardiff, which lasts approximately 53 training weeks but is likely to reduce in the future. You will be enrolled on an Advanced Apprenticeship and a team of RAF and civilian instructors will teach you production engineering principles. You will then put the theory into practice when learning the 3 main disciplines of sheet metalwork, welding and machining. On successful completion of the training course, you will receive your first posting. For courses starting from Jan 21, your specialist training, along with the experience you gain on the job, should lead to the award of a Metal Fabricator Advanced Apprenticeship Level 3 at the 3-year point.

**REWARDS FROM RAF LIFE**

- Competitive pay and pension
- Training and lifelong learning
- Six weeks paid leave and public holidays
- Free medical and dental care
- Subsidised food and accommodation
- Free gym and sports facilities
- Adventurous training opportunities

**REGULAR ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

**General Technician (Workshops)**

**Age:** 16–47\*

\*Must attest before 48th birthday. (If you are under 18 years of age, you will need consent from a parent or guardian before you apply however you may commence your application from 15 years and 9 months)

**Qualifications:**

GCSEs at Grade C (Grade 4 to 5 with effect from Aug 17) or equivalent in English language, Mathematics or SCE Standard Grades at Grade 2/Scottish National 5 (Grade A – C) in English, Mathematics and an approved Science / Technology-based subject.

### ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Following the completion of the Advanced Apprenticeship, and on gaining experience in your new trade, opportunities will arise, through additional courses, to gain further qualifications in advanced Milling, Welding and Advanced Turning.

### ONGOING TRAINING/DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

As your career progresses, you will develop your production engineering techniques and we will continue to train you in new skills. You will learn many processes and use a much wider range of equipment than you might come across outside the RAF. You will receive advanced training in welding, turning, milling and sheet metalwork using computer numerical controlled applications. There are also opportunities to gain a degree with the foundation degree BEng program in either General Engineering or Engineering Management and also opportunities for management and leadership training; in addition, the qualifications and experience you will gain in your RAF career can be used to meet the joining criteria for civilian professional associations to attain EngTech, IEng or CEng.

### YOUR FIRST TOUR

For your first tour, you will probably be posted to an RAF base, where you will be involved in production engineering and the repair and manufacture of equipment essential to the support of RAF activities; you will have a key role in supporting the station's mission and you will form part of a professional team.

### YOUR FUTURE CAREER PROSPECTS AND PROGRESSION:

After completing one year's total service, you will be eligible for promotion to Senior Aircraftman, providing you pass a Trade Ability Test and Basic Trade Training. Further promotion to the rank of Corporal and beyond is by competitive selection. As you gain experience and complete your Advanced Apprenticeship, you will achieve Technician status. As you advance through the ranks, you will have the increased opportunity to lead and direct people, managing resources and manpower within your area of work to deliver the required outputs whilst maintaining and instilling the highest standards expected within the RAF.

**Pay:** Visit

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/technical-and-engineering/general-technician-workshop>

**Selection:** You will be assessed on physical fitness and medical eligibility. Additionally, you will also be required to complete the Airmen's Selection Test at your local AFCCO to a standard appropriate to your choice of trade.

**Residency:** Whether or not you were born in the United Kingdom, you should have resided there for the 5 years immediately preceding your application but candidates with a minimum of 3 years will be considered.

**Nationality:** You must be a citizen of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, holder of dual UK/other nationality or have been a Commonwealth citizen since birth.

**A Modern Force:** The RAF recognises the value of a person's ability no matter their ethnicity, social background, religion or belief, gender identity, sexual orientation or marital status/civil partnership.



**Register your interest in this role:**

**Online:**

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/technical-and-engineering/general-technician-workshop>

**or**

**Telephone:** 0345 605 5555

This information was last updated in 03 Aug 21, but may have changed since. If you have any queries, please check with RAF Staff at any Armed Forces Careers Office.

Search online for other trades both Regular and Reserve  
<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment>



**NO  
ORDINARY  
JOB**