

Maintain airfield support vehicles and equipment used by the RAF to support all aircraft and ground operations

KEY POINTS

- Producing engineering excellence on specialised airfield support equipment for RAF missions.
- Travel the world helping to support RAF operations in peace and war.
- Maintaining airfield support equipment from fire vehicles to aircraft arrestor systems.

TRADE OVERVIEW

The official trade name of a RAF Vehicle & Mechanical Equipment Technician is General Technician Mechanical. You will be a specialist engineering technician that repairs and maintains a wide and diverse fleet of specialist airfield support equipment and airfield vehicles that are essential to the smooth running of the RAF, and ensures that aircraft can take off and complete their missions.

You can work on a vast range of equipment including aircraft ground power units, airfield arrestor systems which catch aircraft from overshooting the runway, specialist airfield vehicles such as aircraft refuellers, snow clearing vehicles and aircraft equipment loaders and even RAF Regiment specialist light patrol vehicles. You will be employed in specialist engineering facilities, where you will carry out equipment servicing, investigate faults and make repairs when you find them. These facilities are equipped for extensive maintenance, rectification and use technically advanced test equipment for fault diagnosis and analysis of a wide and varied range of engine management systems.

Like most people in the RAF, you could 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 Mechanical 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 47 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 mechanical engineering principles. You will then put the theory into practice when learning how to service and repair airfield support vehicles and aircraft support equipment. On successful completion of this training course, you will receive your first posting. For courses starting from Sep 20, your specialist training, along with the experience you gain on the job, should lead to the award of an Advanced Apprenticeship Level 3 Engineering Technician - Mechatronics Maintenance Technician (Mechanical) with the additional qualification of a Level 3 Diploma in Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Principles by 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 (Mechanical)

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.

Pay: Visit

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/technical-and-engineering/vehicle-and-mechanical-equipment-technician>

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities exist for individuals to gain further training and qualifications in areas such as F-GAS, where they may be required to work on specialist air conditioning equipment and systems used worldwide in support of operations.

ONGOING TRAINING/DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

As your career progresses, we will continue to train you in new skills, and you will develop fault diagnosis techniques. You may be posted to a specialist area of employment, such as Air Defence Radar, Tactical Communications, Tactical Supply, or the Expeditionary Airfield Squadron where amongst other things you will build temporary engineering accommodation both in the UK and abroad. 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 be posted to an RAF station where you will work on a wide range of airfield support equipment and specialist vehicles in the RAF inventory. You will use and further develop the skills you learnt during training as you carry out inspections and servicing. Furthermore, you will also help experienced technicians carry out more complex tasks. 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.

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 AFCO 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/role-s-finder/technical-and-engineering/vehicle-and-mechanical-equipment-technician>

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**