

Take responsibility for the full range of RAF technology – from our aircraft to our communications equipment.

The RAF is a technically focussed organisation and the Engineer Branch plays a central role in managing the design, maintenance and operation of technology to enable the RAF and wider Defence to deliver its outputs. As an Engineer Officer, you will be a leader as well as a technical decision maker, required to balance resources and risk by exercising professional engineering judgment in direct support of military operations. You will be given world class training, equipping you with the skills to lead and manage large teams of highly skilled technical personnel from the outset; accountable for your team's technical output, you will also be responsible for the management of their welfare and efficiency.

You could work in either our AeroSystems (AS) or Communications-Electronics (CE) specialisation. AS officers are responsible for our aircraft and weapons, including avionics and propulsion systems, airborne communications and ground support equipment, ensuring they are available at all times, combined closely with assuring their airworthiness and integrity. The role of CE officers is equally diverse, with responsibility for RAF & MOD cyber defence, global communications and information systems, as well as aircraft mission planning & support systems, information assurance and ground-based radar.

Initial Officer Training

RAF officers begin their career by completing Modular Initial Officer Training Course (M)IOT at the RAF College Cranwell in Lincolnshire. You will complete a challenging modular 24-week course, split into 4 distinct terms designed to develop your robustness, fitness, leadership and academic skills through a number of indoor and outdoor exercises across the UK.

Specialist Training

On graduation from IOT, you will move to RAF Cosford and complete either the AeroSystems Specialist Engineer Training (ASET) or the CE Engineer Officer Foundation Training (EOFT) course. The CE course is 19 weeks and ASET is 21 weeks. Both prepare you further for your role as a military leader, technical manager and professional engineer. You will begin to learn about military technology, for example, weapons engineering or cyber defence, depending upon your AS or CE choice. On successful completion of this training, you will become a productive leader and will be assigned a post.

Junior Officer Tours

As a Junior Officer (JO) you will lead across the Military Air Environment and electromagnetic/cyber domain. This includes managing the maintenance of aircraft, systems or equipment on flying stations (with several squadrons of aircraft) or on other delivery stations which provide non-flying equipment capabilities such as communications operations, explosives maintenance and support equipment.

You will be operationally focused, leading teams of skilled non-commissioned officers and technicians, managing and directing their work as well as looking after their welfare with each posting lasting typically 2-3 years.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Engineer

Minimum Age: When completed professional/education qualifications.

Maximum Age: 47

Must have entered IOT before 48th birthday.

Qualifications:

An accredited Bachelor's or Master's degree in an appropriate engineering or scientific subject, eg: aeronautical engineering; IT/IS engineering; mechanical engineering; electrical engineering; or electronic engineering.

Degrees must be accredited by one or more of the 4 professional engineering institutions most closely aligned to the RAF's needs: the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS); the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE); the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET); or (for CE officers only) the British Computer Society (BCS). Degree accreditation status can be determined via the Engineering Council (UK) website www.engc.org.uk.

Other engineering degrees might be accepted at the discretion of the Engineering Branch & Trade Advisor (EBTA). Applicants must also have a GCSE at Grade C (Grade 4 to 5 with effect from Aug 17) **or** Scottish Certificate of Education (SCE) at Grade 2 **or** Scottish National Equivalent (SNE) at Grade C in English Language.

CE engineers will normally be responsible for the development, operation and cyber defence of the diverse range of digital systems that are essential for air warfare in the information age. They may find themselves posted to a Signals Unit in support of operations, at the MOD's Global Operations Security Control Centre, or leading a team of technicians supporting the information systems on some of our latest aircraft platforms such as Typhoon or F-35.

AS officers support the delivery of flying hardware either leading a shift of maintainers on a flying squadron, leading a maintenance flight (maintaining aircraft, weapons or support equipment). AS engineers gain a broad range of skills working with industry on new and existing equipment, for instance as a key decision maker as part of a large technical programme such as F-35.

To broaden you as an officer, regardless of your AS or CE specialization you will also be encouraged to become involved in wider station activities, typically as the Officer in charge of a club or society, or in furthering the engineering profession for example by becoming a STEM Ambassador.

Your Career Prospects

You will join the RAF on an Initial Commission of 12 years and may be selected to serve on a pension earning commission of 20 years' service or age 40 (whichever is the later), during this time. Promotion to the rank of flight lieutenant is on a time served/satisfactory service basis 2½ years from completing IOT, or 1½ years if you have a technical Master's degree. Further promotion to squadron leader and above is by competitive selection.

Ongoing Development

You will have all the personal development opportunities and career prospects of your civilian counterparts - and possibly more - together with the chance to work around the world, gaining unique engineering experiences in the process. As well as RAF training packages and courses linked to outside professional bodies, we actively support individual study programmes at every level. You could have opportunities to take on Masters' degree courses, either full-time or part-time while you remain on full salary. We have special agreements with a number of Professional Engineering Institutions to attain professional status and the RAF currently has the funding to be able to pay members annual renewal fees from year 2 onwards.

Transferable Skills

Ex-Serving RAF Engineers are highly employable with a broad and useful range of leadership and technical skills which can be applied to engineering and non-technical industries both in the defence sector and beyond. Qualification-awarding bodies and professional institutions recognise our in-house training and work experience. Engineers typically leave as professionally registered engineers with a wealth of further civilian qualifications. With a focus on personal and professional development, engineers are often rounded and capable individuals.

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.

Pay:

For current information visit: <https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/engineering-roles-officers>

Selection:

You will be invited to the Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre (OASC) at RAF College Cranwell for the one-day selection process where we will assess your potential for training.

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.

Lateral Entry and Re-joiners:

The RAF is working hard to provide a more flexible career pathway across the organisation and will consider applications from both those who have previously Served in a technical Branch or Trade, as well as those with relevant industry experience.

Lateral entry to the Branch will be considered based on education, experience and professional registration. Each application will be reviewed on a case-by case basis by the EBTA. Please contact your local AFCO for further information.

To register your interest in this role online:

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/engineering-roles-officers>

or Telephone:
0345 605 5555

This information was last updated on 27 Jul 2021, but may have changed since. If you have any queries, please check with RAF Staff at any Armed Forces Careers Office.