

Looking for a career change?

There is a shortage of building services engineers across the UK at all levels, which makes it an attractive industry to

enter if you are looking for a change of direction.

Building services are *'what make a building come to life'*. It's probably the most diverse of all the engineering professions so qualifications and experience in a huge range of different subjects are welcomed by employers in

our sector. And because building services is all about working in multi-disciplinary teams, transferable skills such as organising, project management and effective communication will always be especially sought after.

The building services trades include: **plumbing, electrical, mechanical, heating, lighting, refrigeration and air conditioning** which offer excellent earning potential and the opportunity for good work-life balance to people who enjoy work that combines practical skills with intellectual challenge. Retraining is available to gain a nationally recognised qualification (NVQ) at level 2 or 3. Don't sign up with a commercial training provider until you have checked with the Summitskills advice line on 0800 068 8336, or the relevant **trade association** (see details overleaf).



CIBSE Factsheet A career change to Building Services?

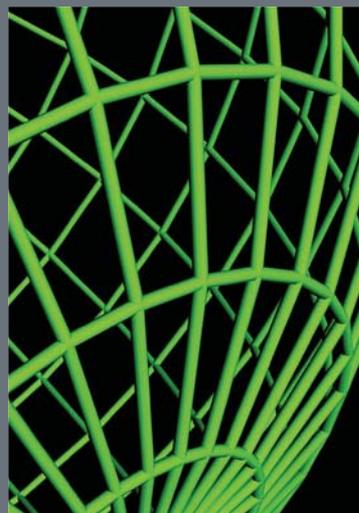


Transfer your skills to building services

If you are currently in facilities management,

health and safety, logistics, quantity surveying or any management role which involves co-ordinating the work of people and systems within tight time constraints, these skills will be relevant to building services employers, especially those engaged in **contracting and installation**.

Graduates from virtually all scientific, technical and engineering subjects are welcome in the building services profession. Due to technology changing so fast there are always opportunities for engineers, researchers and innovators in the building services core disciplines, as well as for experts and specialists in areas like **controls engineering, CAD, designing integrated systems** and many other fields.



Exciting new professions are emerging, for example in the areas of **renewable energy, sustainability, low carbon technologies and energy management**. Graduates of environmental and earth science subjects including geography are increasingly employed in these roles. With buildings accounting for around 50% of all carbon emissions,

building services engineers have an unparalleled opportunity to **combat climate change**.

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Progress your career to one in building services

Building services must be designed in harmony with the structural, aesthetic and operational demands of both new and refurbishment projects. New processes and materials, together with increasing regulation and legal controls, demand **multi-skilled professionals** who can integrate knowledge and skills from several previously separate disciplines. This means that people who qualified initially as, say, architects and interior designers are now moving on to become **façade engineers** and **lighting designers**.

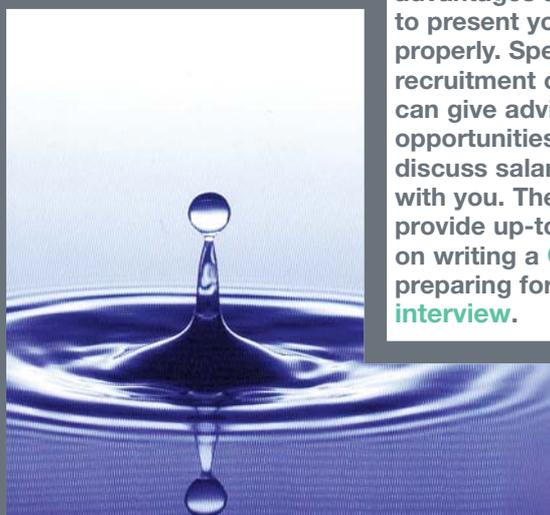
CIBSE can advise on the opportunities for **postgraduate study** on Masters courses in building services engineering and the newly emerging specialist disciplines. Most are available by part-time study and grants and bursaries are available to help.



Get the right job for you

Employers in our sector compete for the best candidates, and actively encourage applications from all sectors of the community. As a mature candidate, you will have substantial knowledge and experience to offer a potential employer, so make the most of these advantages and take time to present yourself properly. Specialist recruitment consultants can give advice on suitable opportunities and can discuss salary expectations with you. They can also provide up-to-date advice on writing a **CV** and preparing for a successful **interview**.

Maybe it's time for **you** to **make a difference?**



Useful contact details:

Heating and Ventilation	HVCA	www.hvca.org.uk
Plumbing	IPHE	www.iphe.org.uk
	SNIPEF	www.snipef.org.uk
	APHC	www.competentpersonsscheme.co.uk
Electrical	ECA	www.eca.co.uk
Refrigeration	IOR	www.ior.org.uk
Professional Qualifications	CIBSE	www.cibse.org
Recruitment	Building Services Journal	www.bsjonline.co.uk
	Hays	www.hays.com/buildingservices

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