

Graduate careers

Graduate careers in building services engineering cover a vast range of different activities. They include **designing, installing, commissioning** and maintaining systems for heating, lighting, refrigeration, acoustics, air conditioning, ventilation, water and plumbing, energy, power and renewables, lifts, controls, and fire and security. Graduate building services engineers create sophisticated integrated systems linking these services, or become expert in one highly specialised area.



Excellent opportunities

Whichever branch of building services engineering you choose, you will be heavily involved in sustainability and **energy saving**, ensuring the carbon emissions responsible for climate change and global warming are minimised.

Currently, demand for qualified professional building services engineers far exceeds supply. This means that you can expect **excellent rewards** and **rapid promotion** in this fast-moving career.



How to get started

Building services graduates may move on to roles in facilities management, project management, construction management, maintenance and product design, as well as becoming consulting engineers, designers, academics and researchers. To **get started** in building services engineering you'll need:

- GCSEs in science and maths at grade C or above
- an interest in designing and making things work
- enthusiasm and creativity
- ambition and determination
- to enjoy travel
- the ability to meet deadlines
- to be a good team player
- to be a good communicator.



Reach the top

Graduates start at £20k+ per annum. The **top jobs** command salaries of £70k per annum and above. To get there you'll generally need to have achieved Chartered Engineer status (CEng MCIBSE). For this, you'll do further study to Masters' level, whilst working as a building services engineer to learn technical and managerial aspects of the job. This normally takes at least three years. Alternatively, you could register as an Incorporated Engineer (IEng ACIBSE).

CIBSE Factsheet Graduate careers



Considering university?

- BEng honours degree courses in building services engineering are offered by 10 UK universities.
- CIBSE **accredits** these and recognises similar degree courses throughout the world through the Washington Accord...
- ...and most **engineering and scientific degree courses** – for example, electrical, electronic or mechanical engineering, and IT – would be relevant to a career in building services.
- Often, there is less competition for places on science and engineering courses: this can improve your chance of getting a place at the most prestigious universities.
- Investigate **scholarships** and **bursaries** for studying building services engineering and related subjects. Bursaries managed by CIBSE support at least 20 students each year and there are many other sources.
- Some major employers **sponsor** students and offer **placements** in the vacations and sandwich years, to give you a taste of what the work will be like.
- Check whether the degree courses you are considering are accredited by the Engineering Council UK for IEng or CEng.



Not doing science or engineering?

- Degrees in business and management subjects, project management or any discipline within construction and the built environment can also lead to a career in building services.

Already studying?

- Become a **Student member** of CIBSE to get the monthly Building Services Journal, learn more about the profession and develop valuable networks in the industry.
- **Postgraduate** courses (MEng, MSc and Postgraduate Diploma) in various aspects of building services engineering are currently offered at 14 UK universities.



- Scholarships and bursaries are available to students on these programmes and most are available by **part-time study**, as well as full-time.
- Check the websites of some major building services engineering employers (via the CIBSE website). Many offer sponsorship and vacation **work opportunities**.
- If you successfully apply to become a graduate trainee with one of these firms you could start earning even before you leave university and continue to be paid while you study and gain practical experience leading to **professional registration**.
- You can apply to CIBSE for **Graduate membership** as soon as you get your degree.

A team of professionals

Building services engineers make a difference. The UK construction industry has an international reputation for world-class design, inspirational architecture and the highest quality building. You'll be joining a team of professionals to create something lasting, helping to shape the environment for future generations.