

Engineering craft machinist

Engineering craft machinists use lathes, cutters and grinders to make parts used in manufacturing and engineering



Your day-to-day duties may include:

- choosing and fitting the correct machine tool for the job
- planning the different job stages following engineering instructions
- setting the tolerance levels on the machine
- working out cutting speeds
- placing a pre-formed 'blank' part in the jaws of the lathe, or on the bed of a mill or grinder
- monitoring the job's progress
- checking the quality of finished items

These university subjects are related to this career:

General engineering

Manufacturing engineering

Mechanical engineering

East Midlands growth: +6.2% from 2014 to 2024, creating 2,473 jobs

Derby jobs: 1,496 (38th of 214 UK LEAs)

East Midlands median earnings: £26,834

Career path and progression

With experience, you could progress to supervisor of a production section or workshop.

With further training, you may be able to move into engineering technician roles.

Qualifications and grades

You could get into this job through an **apprenticeship**.

You could also take a college course in engineering to learn some of the skills needed for the job.

You'll need a good level of fitness.

Working hours, patterns and environment

You'll usually work 39 hours a week, Monday to Friday. You might work on a shift system to cover 24-hour production, and overtime may be available.

Your employer will provide you with overalls, protective boots, ear defenders and safety goggles

Skills You'll need:

- the ability to work accurately
- practical skills
- the ability to read engineering drawings and follow instructions
- good maths skills to work out cutting speeds
- basic IT skills
- the ability to concentrate for long periods