

Mersey Gateway Project

THINKING ABOUT BEING A CAD TECHNICIAN?

WHAT DOES A CAD TECHNICIAN DO?

If you are interested in industrial design and enjoy using software, this job could be just right for you. A creative person would be well suited to this role. Computer aided design (CAD) technicians use software to create design plans for buildings and machinery.

As a CAD Technician you could work in a wide range of industries, such as engineering, construction and manufacturing. To be a CAD technician, you will need to have good maths and IT skills. You will need to understand how things are made and built.

You would normally work in a small team managed by a design engineer, with each person working on a different part of a project. Once you are working, you would receive further training from your employer in CAD software relevant to your industry.

Your duties may include:

- Using designs to help prepare cost estimates
- Working in 2D design and 3D design
- Producing a flat representation of a product
- Presenting design plans to the project team
- Creating a 3D display of a structure or component

As an experienced CAD technician you could register with the Engineering Council to gain Engineering Technician (EngTech) status, which could help your career prospects.

WHAT ARE THE WORKING CONDITIONS?

Work will be office based and generally Monday to Friday, 35 – 40 hours per week. For construction and engineering design work you might be asked to work on site for part of the project.

WHAT SALARY COULD I EXPECT TO RECEIVE?

Starting salaries can be around £15,000 per year, with Junior CAD Technicians earning up to £20,000 per year. Experienced Technicians can earn between £22,000 and £35,000 per year.

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WHAT SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE WILL I NEED?

- A knowledge of engineering design principles
- Good maths and IT skills
- Good communication skills
- Good presentation skills
- An understanding of manufacturing processes and construction methods
- Good problem-solving skills
- Creative ability
- Resilience to deal with critical feedback
- The ability to work as part of a team
- The ability to meet deadlines

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE WILL I NEED?

- **GCSE (or equivalent) Maths, English and Science subject**
- **You could train in CAD by taking a College course giving you a useful introduction to working in CAD**
- **Apprenticeship**
- **A Level 2 qualification in First Certificate in Engineering Technology, Award/Certificate in Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing, Diploma in Performing Foundation Engineering Operations**
- **A basic CAD qualification offered by City & Guilds**

FOR FURTHER INFO:

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

www.engc.org.uk

www.semta.org.uk

www.tomorrowseengineers.org.uk/home.cfm