

Water engineer

Water engineers are responsible for the supply of clean water, the disposal of wastewater and sewage and the prevention of flood damage.

As a water engineer, your main concern will be the provision of clean water, but you may work with a variety of other liquids as well. Asset management will also play a major part in your work, and you'll be involved in the repair, maintenance and building of structures that control water resources. Examples include sea defence walls, pumping stations and reservoirs.



Skills:

You'll need to show:

- sound engineering knowledge
- experience of project management
- communication and negotiation skills
- good teamwork and people management skills, for working with colleagues and clients
- problem-solving ability

Qualifications:

University

You'll need a first degree, and often postgraduate training, to get into hydrology. Degrees include: environmental science/geography/civil engineering/environmental engineering/Earth sciences/ecology. After finishing your degree, you could complete a postgraduate course. You can find postgraduate courses through the [British Hydrological Society](#). Entry requirements you'll usually need: 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree/a degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study.

Apprenticeship

You could apply for an Environmental Practitioner Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship before specialising in hydrology. This can take up to 5 years to complete and is a mix of learning on the job and studying at an approved university. Entry requirements: Employers will set their own entry requirements.

Work

You could start as an assistant hydrologist or technical officer if you have a degree in a science or environmental subject. Your employer may encourage you to take a postgraduate qualification while you're working, like a master's degree in hydrology.

Working hours:

Unsocial working hours may be a feature of some jobs, especially when meeting deadlines. Site work, particularly, can involve long hours as well as travel. Staff with operational responsibilities or flood-monitoring duties may be on a call-out rota for out-of-hours emergencies.

Salary:

- Starting salaries range from £20,000 to £30,000.
- Average salaries for engineers with experience can reach £24,000 to £32,000, rising to between £30,000 and £45,000 for senior engineer positions.
- Water engineer positions with a high level of management responsibility can attract salaries of up to £60,000 and above, depending on qualifications and experience.

