

**Maintain airfield support vehicles and equipment used by the RAF to support aircraft and ground operations.**

#### KEY POINTS

- Producing engineering excellence on specialised airfield support equipment for RAF missions.
- Travel the world helping support RAF operations in peace and war.
- Maintaining state-of-the-art equipment from specialist airfield vehicles to aircraft arrestor systems.

The official specialisation name of a RAF Vehicle & Mechanical Equipment Technician is General Technician Mechanical (GTM). They are specialist engineering technicians that repair and maintain a diverse fleet of Airfield Support Equipment (ASE) and airfield specialist vehicles that are essential to the smooth running of the RAF and ensures that aircraft can take off and complete their missions.

You will work on a vast range of equipment including aircraft ground power units, airfield arrestor systems which catch aircraft from overshooting the runway, specialist aircraft and support vehicles, aircraft refuellers, aircraft equipment loaders or RAF Regiment specialist patrol vehicles. You will be employed in specialist engineering facilities, where you will carry out equipment servicing, investigate faults and make repairs when you find them. These facilities are equipped for extensive maintenance, rectification and use technically advanced test equipment for fault diagnosis and analysis of a wide and varied range of engine management systems.

Like Regular RAF personnel, Reservists can be mobilised on expeditionary operations. These mobilisations can vary in length and can be a deployment to a UK, overseas or temporary base which includes pre-deployment training and post-deployment relaxation. During your deployment you could be travelling with your unit, filling-in for another member of the RAF, or working alongside regulars and reserves from other Services. You could be part of a small team dedicated to a particular task, or a large-scale disaster relief mission.

#### Profession

The specialisation of General Technician (Mechanical) is part of the Engineering Profession within the RAF, which also includes General Technician (Electrical). Professions in the RAF are distinct areas of defence expertise where common skills and attributes are required to deliver on demand. Service Personnel may be employed within any of the specialisations in their Profession depending on their aptitude, qualifications, career aspirations and the Service need.

#### Recruit Training

Your training will start with a Basic Recruit Training Course consisting of 4 weekends at your chosen Royal Air Force Reserve Squadron, followed by a 15-day residential training course at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire. This training course will prepare you for Service life in one of the most respected military forces in the world. It is also designed to help you adapt to the military environment and way of life. As well as military training, you will learn about the core values, code of conduct and history of the RAF, as well as its unique lifestyle.

#### RESERVES ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

##### General Technician (Mechanical)

**Age:** 18-54 (Must attest before 55th birthday)

##### Qualifications:

GCSEs at Grade C or equivalent in English Language, Mathematics and an approved Science/Technology-based subject (**Grade 4 to 5 WEF Aug 17**), or SCE Standard Grades at Grade 2/Scottish National 5 in English, Mathematics and an approved Science/Technology-based subject.

Level 3 Qualification in a Mechanical Engineering discipline with relevant experience.

(If the candidate does not hold a qualification in an approved Science or Technology based subject, they can still apply as a qualified General Technician Mechanical provided, they have the required Level 3 in a Mechanical Engineering, English language and Mathematics grade).

Further information and advice are available from your local Armed Forces Careers Office (AFCO) or Royal Air Force Reserve Squadron.

**Residency:** Whether or not you were born in the United Kingdom, you should have resided there for the 5 years immediately preceding your application but candidates with a minimum of 3 years will be considered.

## Specialist Training

The next step is a specialist training course (Basic Trade Training (BTT)) at RAF Benson in Oxfordshire, which lasts for one week. The course is designed to provide you with the basic knowledge required to be an RAF General Technician Mechanical (GTM).

Further training and practical experience, combined with the completion of the Trade Competency workbook, will make you an assimilated GTM, meaning that your skills can be utilised across the range of vehicles and ASE, akin to your Regular counterparts.

## Additional Training Opportunities

Once mobilised, during pre-employment training you will receive the necessary instruction in order to fulfil the requirements of the position that you will be holding.

## Ongoing Training/Development Opportunities

As your service progresses, we will continue to train you in new skills, and you will develop fault diagnosis techniques. You may be mobilised into specialist areas, such as Tactical Supply, Convoy Support or the Expeditionary Airfield Squadron, where you will build temporary engineering accommodation both in the UK and abroad; you could also have opportunities for management and leadership training. The qualifications and experience you will gain as a RAF Reservist may be used to meet the joining criteria for relevant civilian professional associations.

## Your Future Career Prospects and Progression

As a Reservist you will be expected to commit to a minimum of 27 days each year split between Annual Continuous Training (ACT) and Additional Training/Non-Continuous Training (AT/NCT). ACT is a maximum of 15 consecutive days and AT/NCT is a minimum of 12 days.

After completing one year's service, you will be eligible for promotion to Leading Aircraftman, providing that your BTT has commenced. The rank of Senior Aircraftman can be achieved at the 2-year point. As you gain experience and complete your Specialisation Training, you will achieve 'Technician' status. Further promotion to the rank of Corporal and beyond is by competitive selection. As you advance through the ranks, you will have the increased opportunity to lead and direct people, managing resources to deliver the required outputs whilst maintaining and instilling the highest standards expected within the Royal Air Force.

## Transferable Skills

The experience and skill-sets that you develop as a specialist Mechanical Technician are recognised and are as highly-regarded in civilian industry as they are in the RAF; if you decide to further your career outside the Royal Air Force Reserves, your skills should mean that you are better placed to find employment.

**Nationality:** Personnel who wish to be considered for entry into the RAuxAF must be British at the time of their application (including candidates who have naturalised, as well as those British by birth). Applications will also be considered from candidates who are Commonwealth, Irish, British Protected or dual national (British/other) from birth. In certain Specialisations there may also be appointments that are not open to non-British nationals on security grounds, and such individuals may need to formally acknowledge that should they not naturalise as a British citizen their ability to deploy could be constrained, potentially inhibiting their career progression and the opportunities available to them.

### Selection:

A CV will be requested as part of the Selection Process. You will be required to successfully complete a Selection Interview, Medical Assessment and a Pre-Joining Fitness Test.

**A Modern Force:** The RAF recognises the value of a person's ability no matter their ethnicity, social background, religion or belief, gender identity, sexual orientation or marital status/civil partnership.

**Pay:** For current information visit:

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/technical-and-engineering/vehicle-and-mechanical-equipment-technician>



**Register your interest in this role:**

**Online:**

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/technical-and-engineering/vehicle-and-mechanical-equipment-technician>

**Or**

**Telephone: 0345 606 9069**

This information was last updated on 01 Oct 21 but may have changed since. If you have any queries, please check with RAF staff at any Armed Forces Careers Office or RAF Reserve Squadron.

**Search online for other specialisations both Regular and Reserve** <https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment>



**NO  
ORDINARY  
JOB**