If you’re interested in a career in engineering, did you know it could launch you into the world of radio stations and podcasts, not to mention festivals and sporting events all over the world?

**ENGINEERING FOR RADIO STATIONS?!**

**Broadcast engineers**, sometimes called **Audio Engineers or Technicians**, are needed to make sure the audio reaches the listeners in the highest quality, and with no interruptions! As audio specialists, they can be found in related industries such as the music business, TV and film.

**IT engineers** install, maintain and fix office equipment at radio stations and in the studios, for everyone from the Managing Director to the presenters, to keep the station running smoothly.

Some engineers will do a mixture of the two types of job, especially when the station is smaller, others might specialise.

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**BROADCAST ENGINEERS**

- Purchase and install studio hardware such as microphones and audio processors
- Adjust processing to achieve the right sound for the station and keep it consistent
- Work with transmission companies to ensure the audio is carried to transmitters without interruption
- Install and maintain production and presentation software – known as ‘playout’
- Set up and operate links between studios and OB’s (Outside Broadcasts)

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**RADIO I.T. ENGINEERS**

- Purchase or make recommendations about office electrical equipment such as PCs, laptops, printers and mobile phones for the members of the team
- Install and maintain software, troubleshooting problems and fixing things when they go wrong
- Make sure the station has the connectivity it needs to the internet – such as wifi
- Write and develop software and applications to help the business run smoothly.

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Radio’s great because it’s not one size fits all – stations come in all shapes and sizes from community based to large national brands. Some stations are funded by the government (the BBC), others make money by advertising.

Enthusiasm and an understanding of the technology come first. That might be enough to get your first job in a local or community station, or in hospital radio. If you can show you’ve got experience as a volunteer, that can be really helpful to show you’re keen, when you apply for jobs.

Many professional engineers in radio have science based A Levels and may have a degree in Engineering or Computer Science, or a broadcast speciality.
WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Some companies run training courses and internships, which can help you get your foot in the door. These can be following A Levels or a Degree.

- **BBC Trainee & Apprenticeships**
  bbc.co.uk/careers
- **Bauer Academy**
  baueracademy.co.uk
- **Global Academy**
  globalacademy.com
- **The Radio Academy**
  radioacademy.org.uk
- **Creative Access**
  creativeaccess.org
- **The Young Audio Awards**
  youngaudioawards.co.uk

WHAT KINDS OF PEOPLE ARE RADIO STATIONS LOOKING FOR?

Because engineers in a radio station work across every department, one way or another, it’s important to be good at dealing with all sorts of people - from the big bosses to the presenters on air.

Radio stations HATE being off air - so if there’s a problem with the technology you might be under pressure to fix thing fast - so a cool head in a crisis is a must.

Engineers frequently work in teams, especially in larger radio stations so being able to work with others is an important quality to have.

GOT QUESTIONS?

- theiet.org/career/career-support/early-career
- prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/broadcast-engineer

You can find out about other jobs within the radio station at FunKidsLive.com/inside

QUICK CROSSWORD

Become a Broadcast Engineer and you’ll be hearing these words a lot more often!

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<tr>
<th>RACKS ROOM</th>
<th>ON AIR</th>
<th>MICROPHONE</th>
<th>TRANSMITTER</th>
<th>STUDIO</th>
<th>ENGINEER</th>
<th>PLAYOUT</th>
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