



**"Engineering, for a prosperous, safe and sustainable Canada  
Le génie pour un Canada sûr, prospère et durable".**

## All You Need to Know About Getting a Job in Engineering

You've done the studying, the exams, the work experience. But what happens when it's time to face the real world of engineering? Besides trawling through a thousand job ads every day, here are a few things to help you on your way in the next step to your career.

Place a resume on [www.EngineeringCareers.ca](http://www.EngineeringCareers.ca)

## Find Out Who to Follow on Twitter

Social media knows no bounds when it comes to opening up avenues in your career and can be a great way to connect with employers and organizations. You never know when a certain tweet can open the door to your future. Here are some good examples:

**@RIMstudents** – Managed by the campus programs team leader, follow for the latest news, tips and updates.

**@SuncorCareers** – this energy firm posts about student and graduate opportunities for every kind of engineer.

**@ImperialOil** – a great account to find out about the industry as well as jobs and recruitment.

**@JobsatIntel** – often tweets about how graduates can get involved with the company.

**@EngineersCanada** – the organization which regulates the profession of engineering in Canada and licenses 250,000 members in the country's industry.

**@ewb** – Engineers Without Borders addresses the root causes of poverty in Africa through the eyes of engineers. Follow to find out how engineers are helping to make the world a better place and how you can get involved.

## Starting Salaries

Considering the financial climate, now is a good time to be an engineering graduate in Canada. Entry level engineers earn among the top starting salaries of all new graduates in the country and this trend is set to continue as employers compete for the very best engineers.

Here are some basics about engineering salaries, but just so we have [protection from indemnity](#), this is only a rough guide...

- Mining engineers can earn the most, with \$91,000 per annum for workers with zero to three years experience.
- Engineers earn more in Calgary due to the proximity to Alberta's oil and gas operations.
- Wages in Vancouver are also on the higher end of the scale thanks to the higher cost of living.
- Generally all types of engineers earn on average the mid \$60,000s, however chemical engineers are paid significantly higher – usually about \$80,000.

## **Top 25 Companies**

Research into the companies engineering students most would like to work for has been conducted by DECODE and Brainstorm Consulting. Energy, technology, aerospace firms and government organizations make up the bulk of [the list](#).

Bombardier, Apple, Google, Government of Canada, Boeing, SNC Lavalin, Microsoft, Hydro Quebec, GE, Shell, IBM, Research In Motion (RIM) / Blackberry, Toyota, Suncor Energy Inc., Provincial Government, Pratt & Whitney, Exxon Mobil, 3M, Ontario Power Generation (OPG), Petro-Canada, Imperial Oil, Air Canada, BC Hydro, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and Honda

## **Going on an International Exchange Program**

Packing your bags and heading abroad for an internship can be an exciting opportunity and many students count their experiences as priceless. It can develop your education and outlook, give your confidence a boost and help to focus your ambitions. When prospects in your own area are bleak, it can also be another way to get vital practical expertise.

But what value do employers put on these exchange schemes? Amy Lee, co-ordinator for [Simon Fraser University](#) (SFU) International Co-op, says she believes so. "Local employers value international experience because companies are becoming more international. The workforce is becoming more diverse. An international experience is becoming more and more of an asset to local employers."

There are challenges if you're considering going abroad though. Motivation is a hurdle, although if you have it, there shouldn't be a problem. It takes extra work to arrange things like visas and the logistics of relocating. There's also the culture shock and the realities of moving to a new country alone, away from loved ones and home comforts. Preparation and research is the key and members of the organization abroad can help with the transition.

## **What it Means to Gain a P.Eng. Certificate**

If you hold a P.Eng. you are licensed to practice engineering in the province or territory where it was granted, and in Canada the title 'professional engineer' is restricted by law. It remains debatable whether it is a vital part of an engineering career when it comes to working within the industry. Gaining the certificate also means you can use the letters P.Eng. after your name.

To obtain a P.Eng. you must: get a degree from an accredited engineering program; register as an engineer in training with your provincial or territorial engineering licensing body; spend two to four years getting internship experience; and write the professional practice exam or professional examination. Once these steps are completed, you receive your licence to practice and a seal to stamp your own designs and drawings.

Upon deciding whether to go for the certificate, it really depends on what kind of career you aspire to and whether you think the time, effort and fees are worth it. Recent graduates should keep in mind that although you can work in engineering without a licence, you must work under the supervision of a P.Eng. who will take responsibility for your work. You can only take public or private responsibility for your own work when you have the certificate yourself. You are not legally an engineer or a professional until you have a P.Eng.