

Manufacturing

STEVEN HOLDEN - AEROSPACE ENGINEER

Steven Holden

Position:

Aerospace Engineer

Qualifications:

Engineering Degree

Company:

GKN Aerospace
Engineering Services Pty
Ltd

Location:

Port Melbourne, Victoria

A second option becomes Steven's first choice

For as long as he can remember, Steven Holden had his heart set on being a fighter pilot.

After high school, he started the Air Force's *Flight Screening Program*, a preliminary flying school which assesses your suitability as a pilot.

Steve didn't make it through the course so he decided to follow his second option - Aerospace Engineering - with the hope of re-applying for the Air Force at some later stage.

Steve enjoyed the first year of his engineering degree so much that he decided to see it through to completion.

A first job you could only dream about comes true

After completing 3 years of his degree, Steve wanted a change and decided to take advantage of the university's international program.

He spent 6 months working at MAN Technology in Augsburg, Germany, where his main role was working on the Ariane 5 rocket.

This allowed Steven to experience the practical side of engineering and it gave him the motivation to return and finish his degree.

What's so good about being an aerospace engineer?

Steven believes that his job offers heaps of variety and the chance to work on different projects that are both challenging and exciting.

"The nature of the work is such that we provide engineering capability for a wide range of customers within Australia and also abroad so my experience in engineering to date has been fairly diverse and most of the work I've seen has been a new challenge," Steven said.

"There is also a number of other benefits associated with this job such as travel opportunities and experience in dealing with a range of different people, work cultures and project requirements," he said.

Could you see yourself in a job like this?



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What do you need for success?

Steven believes there are a number of key factors which he's learned that have helped him succeed in his career.

"Aside from the technical aspects of engineering, organisation and communication are probably the most important skills to develop. This is probably true for most jobs," he said.

Steven's advice to anyone starting out:

"Make sure your goals are ones you set and not the expectations of others. If you enjoy what you do, you automatically have the motivation to do it well, and you will achieve anything you set your mind to."

"Make sure that any road blocks that you encounter along the way are treated as learning experiences, not a deterrent from your goals."

"Make the most of every opportunity that is given to you and don't be afraid to take on a challenge."

What income should you expect?

You can expect to earn \$45,000-\$60,000 per year as a graduate. This can increase to approximately \$100,000 as a technical specialist or project manager and increase even further as a contractor.

For more information:

Phone: 1300 798 199

Email: caa@aigroup.asn.au

This fact sheet was produced by:

National Industry Career Specialist
Manufacturing
Australian Industry Group 2008

Interested in aerospace engineering?

Companies in the aerospace industry like to 'grow their own' senior staff and managers. The sector has a tradition in providing long term career development opportunities for highly skilled personnel.

The most direct pathway is to complete a Bachelor Degree in Engineering from a University. There are several fields of study to choose from:

- Aeronautical
- Aerospace
- Aviation
- Mechanical
- Electronics
- Computer systems

You will need to complete your Senior Secondary Certificate with maths, science subjects and achieve the required university entrance score.

An alternative pathway is to become a trade qualified Aircraft Maintenance Engineer. This means undertaking an apprenticeship and attaining a Certificate IV in Aeroskills Qualification. Three streams are available:

- Avionics
- Mechanic
- Structures

Further training can then be pursued in a Diploma in Aeroskills qualification or apply to enter a Bachelor in Engineering at a university as detailed above.

Want more information?

ZOOM² Careers in Aerospace is an interactive multimedia CD-Rom filled with information and links to further detailed information online. Visit:

www.zoom2.aerospace.aigroup.asn.au

Disclaimer: Earnings are indicative as at May 2008.

WWW.CAREERSCONNECTED.COM.AU

Some facts about aerospace

- Aerospace is a global industry that is in a continuous state of growth.
- 20,000 new aeroplanes are required over the next 20 years.
- In Australia, over 30 million domestic passengers fly per year.
- Aircraft are critical for our defence forces.
- Over 60,000 people are employed and military aviation employs a further 15,000.

