

## Employment prospects for chemical engineering graduates in the UK

### Do they get jobs?

Unemployment rates for graduating cohorts for engineering and technology students in the UK fell from 11% to 7% over the five years to 2015. Looking specifically at a sample of 1,060 chemical engineering graduates in 2015, 59% had secured full-time positions 19% were pursuing further study and 10% were unemployed six months after graduating.

For benchmark disciplines the figures for the 2015 cohort were civil engineering (5%), mechanical engineering (8%), and electrical engineering (8%).

### Where are they working?

The data show that for the 2015 graduating cohort of engineering and technology graduates, 69% were employed by 'engineering organisations'. The comparable figure for chemical engineering graduates was 66%.

34% of the employed chemical engineering graduates from 2015 obtained jobs in the 'manufacturing sector', followed by 'professional, scientific and technical activity' (20%), Mining and quarrying (11%).

### Are they going to the financial sector?

7% of the 2015 graduating cohort found work in the finance and insurance sector. This is two points higher than for the engineering graduate community overall. However, a significant number of IChemE members deploy their skill set in fields including risk management, underwriting and business assurance.

### And what about education?

7% of chemical engineering graduates secure employment in the education sector. This percentage is on a par with engineering graduates overall. At 19%, the number of chemical engineering graduates pursuing further study is higher than the benchmark disciplines; civil engineering (11%) mechanical engineering (12%) electrical engineering (12%)

### What are they being paid?

Chemical engineers remain, on average, the highest paid engineering graduates with mean salaries reported at £28,000 in 2015. IChemE's 2016 Salary Survey data reports a median figure of £30,000.

### How many graduates and where do they come from?

The graduate output from chemical engineering degree programmes (1,925 graduates in 2015) is smaller than that of benchmark disciplines. In 2015, 36% were domiciled outside the UK. The comparative figures for benchmark disciplines were:

Civil engineering: 4,305 graduates - 31% non-UK  
 Mechanical engineering: 6,610 graduates - 29% non-UK  
 Electrical engineering: 5,195 graduates - 44% non-UK