EASYJET OPENS APPLICATIONS FOR NEXT GENERATION OF ENGINEERING APPRENTICES

News / Airlines, Maintenance / Trainings



easyJet opened applications for its latest cohort of engineering apprentices for 2026, as the airline calls on the next generation to join them in shaping the future of aviation. The launch comes at a time when the UK Civil Aviation Authority estimates that 27% of the aircraft engineering workforce is set to retire inside the next decade. New research of 2,000 Brits aged 16-24 years old commissioned by easyJet suggests more is needed to encourage young workers to consider a career in engineering and fill these roles. A staggering 65% said they have never considered a career in the field, with many held back by common misconceptions about their suitability for the profession.

Over half of respondents (59%) believed that they didn't have the right qualifications, while 34% stated engineering was never put forward as an option at school, with a further 21% concluding it was too 'costly' to pursue. The research also shows a continued gender disparity, with only 36% of young females saying they've considered a career in engineering, compared to 52% of males

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aged 16-24. In reality, engineering is an option for many and an apprenticeship provides an accessible alternative route to gain the skills, experience and confidence needed to establish a long and successful career in the profession.

The research also uncovered an emerging trend in more 16-24 year-olds expressing a desire to pursue a purpose-driven career. Over half (52%) stated a desire to be in a role that benefits society, with more than two-fifths (44%) saying they aspired to a career that would help solve climate change. A further 43% highlighted engineering as a profession that could unlock these goals through activities such as developing lower-emission technologies.

To demystify misconceptions and support young 16–24-year-olds with their ambition of a purpose-driven career path, easyJet is opening its doors to its next intake of budding engineers – offering an apprenticeship programme that will provide essential skills while earning and learning on the job, without the barriers of traditional routes to access the profession.

Commenting on the call-out for more apprentices to join its ranks, Brendan McConnellogue, Director of Engineering and Maintenance at easyJet commented: “Today’s young people are motivated by purpose – they want to solve problems, travel, innovate and play their part in building a more sustainable future. Our engineering apprenticeships give candidates the chance to gain valuable experience working on our state-of-the-art fleet of aircraft while helping to deliver on aviation’s commitment to decarbonisation. This programme not only provides a pathway to grow professionally but also allows apprentices to make a meaningful contribution to the success of our operations throughout our network. We’re looking forward to opening the doors to applicants from all backgrounds who are ready to take their first step into a rewarding career in aviation.”

Aviation Minister Keir Mather, stated: “This engineering apprenticeship scheme marks an important step in continuing to build a highly skilled aviation workforce fit for the future. Initiatives like easyJet’s unlock exciting, flexible routes into aviation, backing an expanding sector whilst offering young people valuable opportunities and long-term careers – helping deliver our Plan for Change.”

easyJet engineer and former grad Emma Bailey, talks about her experience with the programme: “The best thing about the apprenticeship programme at easyJet was working with an amazing group of people.Even during exams, we would revise together in the common room and when we did our practical work at Kemble we would be together 24/7. It created a sense of community and I feel I have made friends for life through the apprenticeship programme.”

Applications for the 2026 intake are now open, with places available across all of easyJet’s major engineering bases across the country including Luton Airport, London Gatwick Airport, Manchester Airport, Liverpool Airport, Bristol Airport, Edinburgh Airport and Glasgow Airport. Anyone with a minimum of 2 GCSEs at grade 3 and above or equivalent (SCQF Level 4) Scottish Qualifications in English and Maths is encouraged to apply.

For licensed engineers interested in joining the easyJet team, visit www.careers.easyjet.com/career-areas/engineering-and-maintenance

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