

Nuclear Engineer

Keep reactors running safely, and design the next ones. A small field with long, stable careers.

TYPICAL PAY

\$95,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$62k to \$151k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 8 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Power stations, engineering firms,
research labs, the federal regulator**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Calculus, Advanced Functions, Physics and Chemistry. Physics is the core of this one.
- 2 Accredited engineering degree** 4 to 5 years with co-op
Nuclear engineering where it is offered, otherwise mechanical, electrical or chemical engineering with nuclear electives.
- 3 Get into the industry** Months
A co-op term or a first job at a station, a reactor vendor, an engineering firm or the federal regulator. Expect a security check.
- 4 Engineer-in-training** About 4 years
About four years of supervised work, plus a lot of station specific training on reactor systems and radiation protection.
- 5 P.Eng (professional engineer) licence** After about 4 years
Pass the law and ethics exam and submit your experience record. Some senior station roles also need extra certification from the federal regulator.

Pros and cons

- + Stable employer, strong pension, work that lasts decades
- + Low carbon power and medical isotopes are worth doing
- + Rigorous engineering with real depth to learn
- Almost all the jobs are in a few towns in Ontario
- Paperwork and procedure slow everything down
- Public opinion about nuclear swings, and so does government support

Good to know

Canada built its own reactor

The CANDU (Canada Deuterium Uranium) reactor is a Canadian design. It runs on natural uranium instead of enriched fuel and uses heavy water, and it can be refuelled while it is still generating power.

Ontario runs on it

About half of Ontario's electricity comes from nuclear reactors at Bruce, Darlington and Pickering. That is why nearly every nuclear engineering job in the country is within a couple of hours of Toronto.

Optional boosts

Safety analysis. Radiation protection. Outage and refurbishment planning. Small modular reactor work.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Nuclear engineer, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
Engineers Canada
Ontario Tech University

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/nuclear-engineer>



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