



Ergonomist

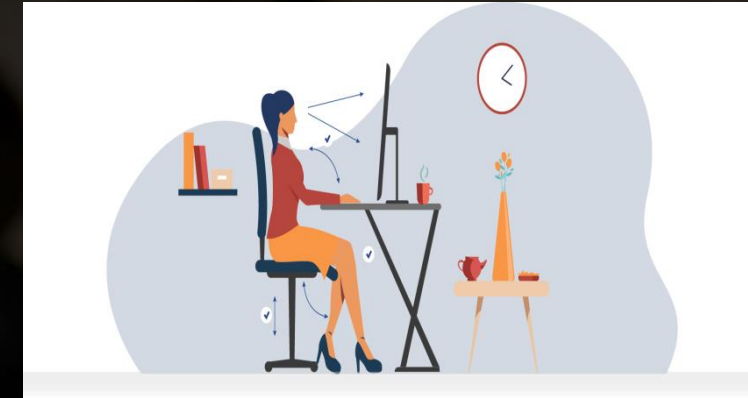
Ergonomists, or human factors specialists, are concerned with the relationship between people and their surroundings, and the equipment they use. They use knowledge of physiology and anatomy to design or improve objects, systems or people's working or leisure environments. Alternative job titles include usability professional, human factors engineer or health and safety specialist

What does the job involve?

- visit workplaces and speak with clients to find out about issues that need solving
- work with teams of professionals to develop ideas
- design office layouts and advise on suitable furniture and equipment
- advise on the organisation of production lines and workstations
- design equipment and improve access for people with disabilities
- develop equipment and systems that are easy to use and less likely to lead to problems
- change transport design to increase the safety for the driver and passengers
- design signs that are easy to understand
- carry out user trials to test new designs, and provide feedback to the manufacturer or client
- act as an expert witness in cases of industrial injury

Routes and choices while at school:

You will need to try to get at least five GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent qualifications. These should include English, maths and science. Other relevant subjects include PE, Design and sports science.



Skills You'll need:

- knowledge of psychology
- maths knowledge
- analytical thinking skills
- knowledge of English language
- complex problem-solving skills
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- thinking and reasoning skills
- excellent verbal communication skills
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages confidently



Ergonomist

How to get into this role:

You can get into this job through:

- a university course
- an apprenticeship

Apprenticeship

You may be able to get into this job by doing a Human Factors Specialist Level 7 Degree Apprenticeship.

It can take around 3 years to complete this apprenticeship.

Entry requirements

To do this apprenticeship, you'll need:

- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) and A levels, or equivalent, for a degree apprenticeship

Work

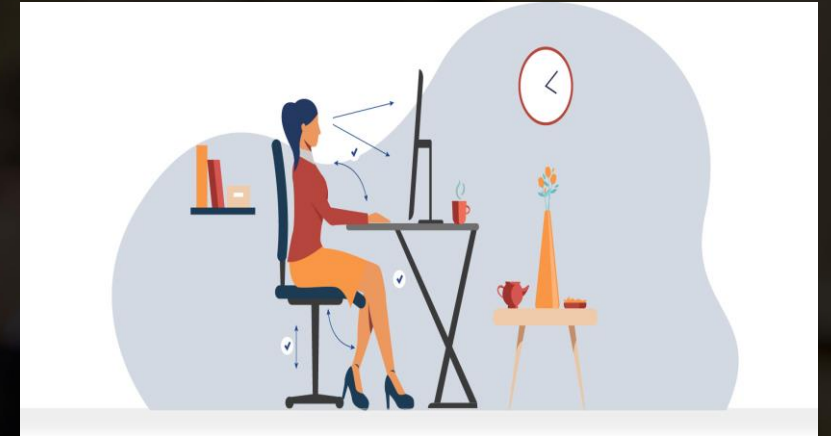
If you work in industries like transport, healthcare or health and safety you may be able to complete short courses in ergonomics that will give you an insight into the field.

You can find out more from the [Chartered Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors](#).

Further information

Career tips

Ergonomists work in a wide range of fields including healthcare, transport, retail, sport and leisure, process industries, agriculture and forestry, construction, architecture, education, technology and defence. You can find out more about the diverse choices a career in ergonomics on the [Ergonomics4schools](#) website.



Career path and progression

With experience, you could progress into line management or project management.

You could move into consultancy work, or provide specialist services like workplace design or health and safety.

Rates of Pay

Recently qualified ergonomics graduates start earning around £20,000 to £25,000 a year. With experience, they can earn around £30,000 to £40,000 a year or more. Senior ergonomists can earn over £60,000 a year.