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# YOUR GUIDE TO THE WIND INDUSTRY



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# RENEWABLE ENERGY

## WIND INDUSTRY GUIDE



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### YOUR GUIDE TO THE WIND INDUSTRY

AIS Training and Survivex are the largest GWO training providers in the UK. We deliver specialist training for the wind industry to thousands of delegates each year from our GWO-endorsed centres in Newcastle upon Tyne and Aberdeen.

**Samuel Knight International** specialises in local and global manpower solutions for the wind sector, deploying talent across engineering, construction, project management, commercial, operation and maintenance, and technical field services to support the renewable energy industry.

AIS Training and Samuel Knight International have teamed up to deliver your guide to the wind industry. Our combined expertise allows us to provide unique knowledge and insight that we would like to share with potential wind industry personnel. Whether you are new to the wind industry, or you would like to upskill in your current role, we can provide advice and guidance on the steps to take.

#### EXCELLENT TRAVEL LINKS

-  PLANE
-  ROAD
-  RAIL
-  FERRY



#### PRIME LOCATIONS

Our strategically placed training locations around the UK and the North Sea Energy Sector.

**CHOOSE BETWEEN OUR ABERDEEN AND NEWCASTLE SITES.**

## INTRODUCTION TO WIND

As a 'boom' industry, renewable energy is certainly taking centre stage. With countries around the world committing to clean energy policies, greener thinking, and sustainable solutions, the renewables employment market is expanding at an astonishing rate.

A world powered by renewable energy will mean a phenomenal demand in skilled energy professionals to support the growth and development of the industry.

With a predicted demand for approximately 30,000 workers in the UK's offshore wind market in the next decade and with new wind farms emerging there is a clear need for skilled wind professionals to drive the industry forward and avoid a skills shortage.

As the wind industry grows so does the demand for talent to work within it, bringing exciting new career prospects. The industry is the perfect transition for individuals already working in other areas of energy production, and for those newly qualified in onshore or offshore training - the opportunities are endless.

With so many career paths available, the route you take in the wind industry will depend on your interests, overall experience, and qualifications.

## GWO CERTIFICATIONS

The first step to any career in the wind industry is ensuring you have the certifications required. The Global Wind Organisation (GWO) sets the international standard for safety training and emergency procedures in the global wind industry.

All offshore personnel in the wind industry are required to complete the minimum level of basic safety training which includes:

- ✓ [GWO Working at Height](#)
- ✓ [GWO Manual Handling](#)
- ✓ [GWO First Aid](#)
- ✓ [GWO Fire Awareness](#)
- ✓ [GWO Sea Survival\\*](#)

\*Onshore personnel are not required to complete GWO Sea Survival training.

The courses can be completed individually or as part of a GWO Basic Safety Training (BST) package which is offered by most GWO approved training providers. You can [book your GWO BST Package at AIS Training or Survivex](#) with 0% finance available.

Dependent on the role you would like, you will likely be required to complete additional specialist training to increase your chances of landing a job. GWO has developed training for all areas of the wind industry including blade repair and lifting operations. The full list of GWO training standards are available on [AIS Training's website](#).

Due to the skills shortage in the wind industry and the secluded locations of many wind farms, employers are often searching for potential employees with skills in multiple disciplines.

Wind personnel can therefore benefit from training in additional areas including [rigging](#), [banksman](#), [rope access](#) and [first aid](#).

It is also important to note that the certificates required by employers can vary according to which project they are working on and the standards they follow. You can check with individual employers to find out what their specific requirements are, and ensure you understand the skills required for the role you would like.

## TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

Having transferable skills from another industry is a distinct advantage in the wind industry, as many wind industry roles require engineering or construction skills.

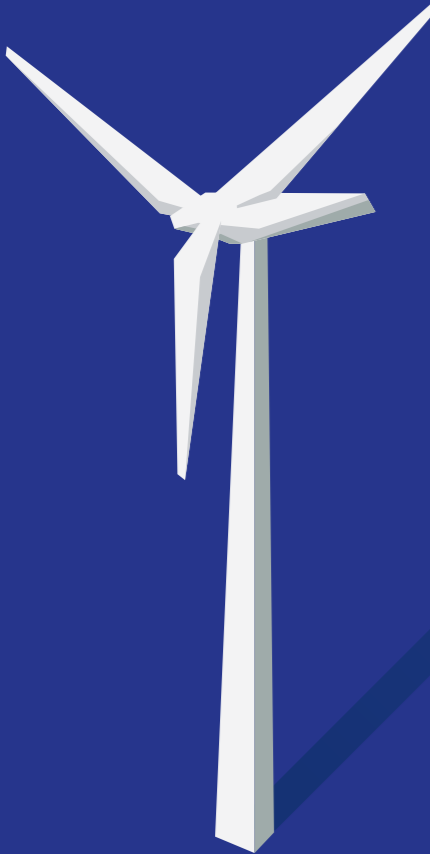
It is worth thinking about the role you have now or roles you have previously had, and how you could link that experience to a career in wind. If you are an electrician or a mechanic, you will find your skills are readily transferable to wind. Or if you are currently in the oil and gas industry, your offshore experience will be a bonus with potential employers.

## GLOBAL WIND PROJECTS

Future market predictions for both existing and emerging renewable energy markets are promising. In the UK alone, a 40 GW target is in place by 2030 with much of Europe expanding investment and scope for project development. Europe remains the largest offshore installation market.

Projection for wind development within new and emerging markets includes the US, South America and Asia-Pacific.

A pioneering industry, countries are looking towards wind energy to reach their net zero emissions targets, attracted by the falling costs of the sector.



### STATISTICS\*

#### Wind Energy

- ✓ Wind energy is one of the **fastest growing** industries in the world
- ✓ The number of wind jobs in the UK are **predicted to treble** by 2030 (Offshore Wind Industry Council)
- ✓ Approximately **11 million jobs** worldwide were held within the renewable energy market
- ✓ The emerging renewable energy market of China holds an employment figure of **44%** of wind jobs
- ✓ Global offshore market outlook, annual global growth rate **18.6%**
- ✓ The European Commission estimates that total offshore wind installations between **240 and 450 GW** will be required by 2050, making offshore wind a crucial pillar in Europe's power mix
- ✓ Over **60 GW of wind energy** capacity was installed globally in 2019 (a 19% increase from 2018)

\*Source provision:  
(Global Offshore Wind Report 2020)  
(IRENA – Renewable Energy Highlights)  
(Offshore Wind Council)



\*Map for reference only  
Not to scale and not an exhaustive list of current, ongoing and future projects.

## WIND INDUSTRY JOB ROLES

There are many career options within the wind industry, from transport, installation and logistics to operations and maintenance. Some jobs will be office based; however, most will be in the field either onshore or offshore.

The salary band you can expect to achieve will differ depending on the role and the company.

The top employers are often looking for:

- ✓ **Project Managers** (£120,000 - £150,000)
- ✓ **Environmental Advisors** (£40,000 - £60,000)
- ✓ **Wind Analysts** (£50,000 - £70,000)
- ✓ **Environmental Scientists** (£60,000 - £80,000)
- ✓ **Contract Engineers** (£50,000 - £70,000)
- ✓ **Contract Managers** (£80,000 - £100,000)
- ✓ **Geotechnical Engineers** (£80,000 - £100,000)
- ✓ **Procurement Specialists** (£50,000 - £70,000)
- ✓ **Production Managers** (£45,000 - £50,000)
- ✓ **Quality Inspectors** (£40,000 - £60,000)
- ✓ **Structural Engineers** (£65,000 - £85,000)
- ✓ **Site Managers** (£75,000 - £85,000)
- ✓ **Installation Managers** (£120,000 - £150,000)
- ✓ **Wind Turbine Technicians** (£40,000 - £55,000)
- ✓ **Electrical Engineers** (£50,000 - £70,000)
- ✓ **Mechanical Engineers** (£40,000 - £60,000)
- ✓ **Design Engineers** (£45,000 - £65,000)
- ✓ **Cable Jointers** (£35,000 - £45,000)
- ✓ **Operations Managers** (£65,000 - £85,000)
- ✓ **Field Service Technicians** (£45,000 - £65,000)
- ✓ **Blade Repair Technicians** (£40,000 - £55,000)
- ✓ **Service Managers** (£75,000 - £85,000)
- ✓ **Technical Analysts** (£40,000 - £60,000)
- ✓ **Performance Managers** (£45,000 - £60,000)
- ✓ **Training Coordinators** (£50,000 - £60,000)

### 1 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT



Planning a wind farm requires a combination of various experts to set out the requirements for building and operating the farm, as well as forecast the environmental and social benefits of its development.

### 2 PRE-CONSTRUCTION



A team of people are required to manage the process of pre-construction for a wind farm, including the preparation of the land and the manufacturing of the wind turbine components.

### 3 INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING



Installing and commissioning a wind farm requires a combination of technical experts in different areas of engineering.

### 4 OPERATION & MAINTENANCE



Wind farms require a continuous workforce to operate the wind turbines and provide regular maintenance to keep them in optimum working condition throughout their life cycle.

### 5 DECOMMISSIONING & RE-POWERING



A combination of personnel from the previous stages of the wind farm are required to reverse the construction process for decommissioning, or restart the process for re-powering.

## FINDING A JOB IN THE WIND INDUSTRY

The wind industry is continually innovating – it is exciting, lucrative and full of varying careers. The rapid development of renewable energy means there is plenty of opportunities for jobs in the wind industry.

Once you have qualified in a relevant wind qualification you might want to consider speaking to a specialist renewable energy recruiter such as Samuel Knight International to assist in your job search.

There is a wide range of roles and requirements across the wind industry – researching the type of company you want to work for is a good place to start!

## APPLYING FOR A JOB IN THE WIND INDUSTRY

Before you apply for your dream role in the wind industry, you need to ensure potential employers can verify your certifications.

The Global Wind Industry Training Records Database (WINDA) is an online portal that holds data on all personnel who have completed a GWO qualification. You will be required to register on WINDA before attending any GWO training courses. [View AIS Training's step-by-step guide to registering with WINDA](#) or [visit the WINDA portal](#) to find out more.

When you find the job for you and you are ready to apply, you should tailor your CV to the role. Emphasise the certifications, skills and experience you have that are relevant to the role, including any transferable skills.

## WIND INDUSTRY EMPLOYERS

There are hundreds of employers in the wind industry, from global wind energy companies to those providing services into the industry.

Researching specific companies will give you an idea of the types of roles they are currently recruiting for, and the skills and qualifications they would look for to fulfill those roles.

### SOME OF THE TOP WIND EMPLOYERS INCLUDE:

- ✓ GE Renewable Energy
- ✓ Siemens Gamesa
- ✓ Nordex
- ✓ EDPR
- ✓ Orsted
- ✓ RES Group
- ✓ Global Wind Service
- ✓ MGL Cables
- ✓ Muehlan Wind Service
- ✓ RWE Renewables
- ✓ Deep Ocean

## THE FUTURE NEEDS OF THE WIND INDUSTRY

With a renewable energy future now in reach, the industry must have access to the right skills. The energy industry as a whole is pivoting its approach to the changing landscape of energy production as the demand for cleaner energy intensifies.

The rate of innovation, change and advancement within renewable energy has been remarkable and as we look forward to the future of renewables, the predicted surge of demand within the industry for skilled workers over the coming years will be intensified as investment, projects and sector growth continues.

To target skills gaps, an overview of the existing and known future skills base within the renewables sector will enable the mapping out of the longer-term renewables skills matrix that both employers and suppliers can utilise for the succession of workforce needs.

One of the key challenges associated with renewable energy job creation is to find the right talent in an emerging market, which is leading to major skills shortages.

With the exponential growth of 'green' jobs worldwide - there are several solutions that will aid and facilitate the industry with the skilled manpower they need to be successful in the marketplace.

Renewable energy employers and suppliers working collaboratively will be a vital inroad to understanding and creating skills for the future.

- ✓ **Flexible training and specialist programmes:**  
Relevant qualifications matched to industry skill specifications.
- ✓ **Long term partnerships within academics:**  
Raising awareness and enabling greater understanding of the opportunities available.
- ✓ **Candidate attraction:**  
Access to talent, identifying skilled individuals for project requirements.



## WORKING IN WIND

*"I love working in the wind sector. The lifestyle suits me down to the ground as it's a bit like being in the military, spending spells away from home but also having quality time off afterwards."*

- Ray Richardson

*"I love working in the global wind industry, it's surpassed all my expectations!"*

- Caleb Comstock

*"At the moment I'm working in Texas repairing wind turbines and every morning I look out at the breath-taking views stretching for miles and thank my lucky stars. I've never regretted my decision to change careers for a moment."*

- Grant Young

*"Being a car mechanic definitely gave me a great head start for the wind industry as many of my technical skills were easily transferable. The global wind industry is seeing unprecedented growth and green energy is definitely the future."*

*"I'm really enjoying working in the sector and am so pleased I made the decision to change careers. Anyone thinking about retraining should take the plunge - you only regret what you don't do."*

- Chris Air

*"No regrets about transferring my skills to the wind sector. It's been amazing!"*

- Kyle Emmerson



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