

### Hydrologist

**Hydrologists collect and interpret data from natural and artificial waterways to solve environmental and sustainable problems.**

As a hydrologist, you'll be involved in the monitoring, management and protection of water and water resources in commercial, environmental and academic settings. They ensure the effective flow of water through channels and pipes for the engineering and control of water provision. Their work contributes to the efficient planning, development and sustainable use of natural and domestic water resources, ensuring water is supplied in the most cost-effective manner.



#### **Skills:**

- sound technical knowledge
- strong oral and written communication skills
- numeracy and a good understanding of mathematical modelling and IT programming skills (depending on the role)
- analytical skills
- people skills, for engaging with a range of different groups

#### **Qualifications:**

There are no undergraduate hydrology degrees in the UK, as hydrology does not exist as a subject in its own right. However, relevant degree subjects that cover elements of hydrology include: civil and environmental engineering/ecology/environmental management/environmental sciences/geography (with a physical science base)/geology/soil science. Detailed training in hydrology is usually covered at postgraduate level. Although not necessary for all jobs, a postgraduate degree is recommended - and increasingly required at senior level, due to competition for posts. Postgraduate courses vary in focus, so it's important you choose a course that matches your career aims. Subject areas include: aquatic resource management/environmental engineering/environmental management/flood risk management/hydrology and water quality/water management/water resources.

#### **Working hours:**

Working hours may include regular extra hours, but not usually shifts. Long hours, and working under pressure, may be required in an emergency, such as a flood. Flexible working is available at some companies, where there may also be some flexibility to allow occasional working from home. Part-time work and career breaks may be available with some employers.

#### **Salary:**

- Starting salaries typically range from £18,000 to £25,000.
- With experience, more senior hydrologists can earn £45,000.
- Principal hydrologists can earn more than £50,000.

Some employers provide performance-related pay schemes. Other benefits may include a car allowance and share-option schemes in private consultancies.