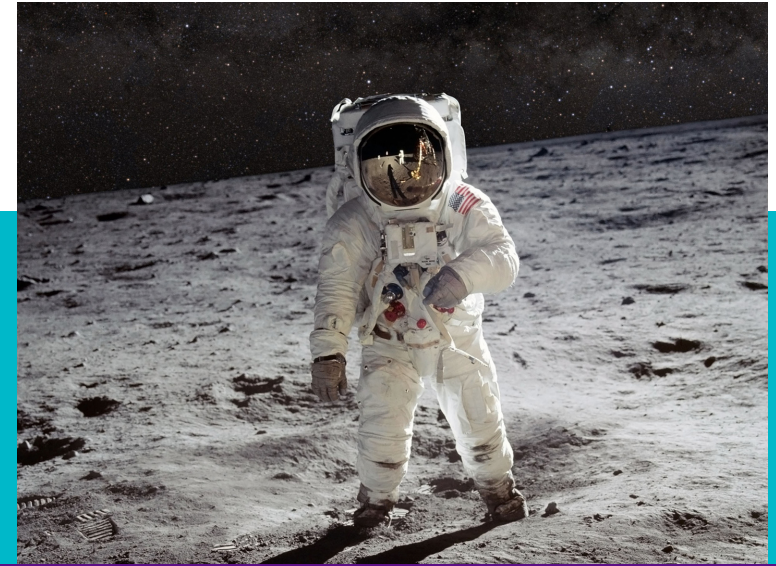


# Career of the Month: Astronaut



Minimum qualifications

a postgraduate degree



Typical salary  
(with experience)

£40-80K



Competition for  
places

High



Demand for this role

Medium

Astronauts travel in space for scientific research. They communicate with Earth via a satellite to transfer data and reports.

While on the aircraft, they are responsible for the upkeep of the systems as well as the other people onboard. This involves cleaning, testing and maintaining air filters, oxygen production systems, water systems and waste disposal. They also have to take blood samples from other astronauts to monitor and assess health.

Related interests:

Sciences

Useful skills and qualities:

Analytical

A good problem solver

A good communicator

A team player

Full of initiative

A natural leader

## Things to consider



### Distressing aspects

Due to the nature of the role, conditions can change rapidly and you could find yourself in a dangerous situation.



### Mentally or physically challenging

This role will be physically and emotionally demanding and you will have to maintain a high level of fitness.



### Travel and long time away likely

Space flights typically last between 6 months and 1 year.



### Well-paid

A senior astronaut can expect to earn up to £80,000.



### Short-lived career

Astronauts tend to only work between the ages of 27 and 37. However, there are opportunities for managerial roles and teaching after this.

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