

Centre Universitaire Mila

Département des Sciences et Techniques

Spécialité: Hydraulique Urbaine

Module : Anglais technique et terminologie

Lecture 03

Civil Engineering

“The term civil engineering describes engineering work performed by civilians for non-military purposes. In general it describes the profession of designing and executing structural works for the general public and the communal environment. Civil engineering covers different areas of engineering, including the design and construction of large buildings, roads, bridges, canals, railway lines, airports, water-supply systems, dams, irrigation, harbour, docks, aqueducts, and tunnels.”

What do Civil Engineers do?

Civil Engineers design roads, bridges, dams, water supply schemes, airports, railways, factories and large buildings. They combine knowledge of material science, engineering, economics, physics, geology and hydraulics to create the physical infrastructure that is central to modern life. Naturally, there are numerous sub-specialties: surveying and mapping engineers identify the best sites construction. Hydraulics and irrigation engineers focus on dams, flood control wells and reservoirs. Environmental engineers deal with waste water products, garbage disposal and recycling plants. And traffic engineers specialize in designing people moving systems in the underground subways, commuter railroads or new or improved roads and highways.

Civil engineering is also about maintaining and adapting the infrastructure that we depend on every day –our roads, railways and bridges; energy and water supply; waste networks and flood

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defenses. Civil engineers have to keep this infrastructure running effectively and adapt it to meet challenges, such as population growth, climate change and natural disasters.

They must also find ways to deliver the infrastructure needed when there's little money in the pot to pay for it. Put simply, civil engineers have to come up with solutions to complex problems and implement them; they literally shape the world we live in.

Becoming a civil engineer requires a lot of work. But if you like the idea of being part of big complex projects to improve people's lives; it could be the suitable profession for you.

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