At a glance
Aerospace
Changing the way the world thinks about flight

At the forefront of aerospace technology, addressing the challenges of digital aviation.

Rethinking the airports, airlines, airspace management and aircraft of the future.

Providing postgraduate education, professional development, research and consultancy for over 70 years.

Five-time winner

Cranfield is one of only eight institutions to have won the award on five or more separate occasions:

- soil science (2017)
- water and sanitation (2015)
- aviation safety (2011)
- humanitarian demining (2007)
- manufacturing management (2005)
Creating leaders in technology and management

UK’s top destination for aerospace engineering postgraduate students.

Unique environment of learners from across the world that mirrors the global workplace.

UK No.1

Largest number of aerospace engineering PhD students in the UK

World Top 40

for Engineering – Mechanical, Aeronautical and Manufacturing
(QS World University Rankings by Subject, 2019)

UK No.1

Largest provider of accredited aerospace postgraduate degree courses; helping graduates to qualify as Chartered Engineers
(Royal Aeronautical Society)

“Cranfield definitely helped me secure my current job. As a result of my master’s, I have managed to get a job in Germany, helping to fly the European Space Agency’s most exciting interplanetary missions.”

Robert Arthur, Flight Dynamics Engineer, European Space Operations Centre, (Astronautics and Space Engineering MSc 2016)
Transformational research impacting the world

World-leading research in collaboration with our strategic partners, directly contributing to the growth of the global aerospace sector.

A new concept in personal air mobility

Cranfield research is developing the Volante Vision Concept, in partnership with Aston Martin, Cranfield Aerospace Solutions and Rolls-Royce. Cranfield is leading work on the autonomous flight controls, connectivity and security of the Vertical Take Off and Landing (VTOL) aircraft, with digital aviation research also supporting how it fits into the wider transportation ecosystem.

Facility for Airborne Atmospheric Measurements (FAAM), based at Cranfield University

World-leading facilities

We are one of the few universities in the world to have and operate its own airport. The National Flying Laboratory Centre and its ‘flying classroom laboratory’ is also hosted at Cranfield.

Digital Aviation Research and Technology Centre (DARTeC): opening in 2020 to spearhead the UK’s research into digital aviation technology, including a state-of-the-art digital air traffic control centre.

Aerospace Integration Research Centre (AIRC): researching ways of integrating advanced technologies to reduce the time from academic innovation to industrial application.

UK No.1

Research income from industry per academic

81% of our research is world-leading or internationally excellent.

(Times Higher Education, 2017)

(Research Excellence Framework 2014)
Impact and influence
working with businesses around the world

Using our global research airport, we show how ideas are more than theories and work on the ground and in the air. We are creating tomorrow's air vehicles and businesses.

Aircraft design: together with Cranfield Aerospace Solutions Ltd, we have the unique capability and approvals to design, build and fly innovative aircraft systems.

Power and propulsion: our propulsion research and development on thermal coatings, with Rolls-Royce, has improved the thermal efficiency of gas turbines, reducing specific fuel consumption by over 1%.

“We have a lot of Cranfield alumni around our organisation. Some of our staff are doing degrees at the moment through Cranfield. They can bring their learning back to their roles, it’s something we really value and something we really want to continue with.”

Jessica Dawes
Second-year student, BAE Systems’ graduate scheme

10,000+ people come to Cranfield each year to benefit from our executive and professional development programmes

Top 10 in the UK for commercial research, consultancy and professional development

Cranfield students launched this de-orbit sail into space on the Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd’s Carbon-1 satellite on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket
Proud to work with over 1,500 businesses and governments based in over 40 countries

These organisations include:

- AIRBUS
- AWE
- BAE SYSTEMS
- BOEING
- BOMBARDIER
- dstl
- easyJet
- LEONARDO
- LOCKHEED MARTIN
- MBDA
- ROLLS ROYCE
- ROYAL AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY
- SAAB
- SIEMENS
- SNC LAVALIN
- ATKINS
- THALES
- THALES AEROSPACE
- Defence and Security
- Energy and Power
- Environment and Agrifood
- Manufacturing
- School of Management
- Transport Systems
- Water