

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Engineering)

Course Overview

This course is designed for 19+ learners who for a range of reasons would not normally qualify for Higher National Diploma (HND) or degree entry. It offers an alternative route to Higher Education. Successful completion of the Access to HE programme will allow entry to most university degree courses at year 1, in Engineering and related fields. All students will undertake an induction period for the first six weeks of their programme. During this time, attendance, attitude, attainment, and application towards study will be monitored. If you are 16-19 years old these activities will be timetabled as will work experience and placement. You can also choose to take part in other activities. For other age groups, activities will be tailored to your needs.

What you will learn

The course covers the main university requirements for the study of engineering at degree level. You will study four main subject areas, mathematics, mechanical science, electrical science, and study skills, all at level 3. These are comprised of 60 credits at level 3 including 24 credits of maths, 15 credits of mechanical science, 12 credits of electrical science and 9 credits of study skills.

Entry Requirements

Applicants should be 19 plus by no later than the 31 August prior to starting the course. You will typically need to have five or six GCSEs at grade C or above (grade 4/5), including English and maths, depending on the degree course you wish to apply for. It would be preferable if one of the GCSEs is a science subject. A satisfactory reference will be required. In order for you to progress on to an undergraduate degree at a British university, it is essential to have achieved a minimum of a grade 4 (C) in maths and English. It is your responsibility to check the GCSE grade profiles of the universities that you are interested in applying to and to attend a number of university open days.

Course Fees

There are no course fees if you are under 24 on 31st August of the year in which you start the course AND you do not possess a full Level 3 qualification. If (a) you are under 24 and already have a full level 3 qualification, OR (b) you are over 24 (irrespective of any qualifications you have achieved), then course fees are applicable. However, you may be eligible for an Advanced Learner Loan to cover these.

Course Progression

On successful completion of this course, you could continue your studies at most UK universities on a range of the engineering programmes offered. If you have a particular university and course in mind please check with them to ensure the Access to HE programme will allow progression to that course.

What Happens Next

Apply online via the College website. You will need details of your qualifications and employment history, a reference, and a personal statement to complete your application. Once your application has been successfully processed, you will be invited to an interview at the College to meet your tutors, learn more about your chosen course of study and tour the facilities. You will then be offered a place on the programme, you need to confirm your acceptance of the course offered to you.

Course Details

Course Code	P00230
Start Date	30/09/2026
Study Hours	Full Time
Duration	1 year
Campus	Abbey Park Campus
Level	3

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