

Mechanical Engineering HTQ Higher National Diploma

Course Overview

This is a two-year, part-time programme. In year one, you will study for the Higher National Certificate (HNC) and then complete the Higher National Diploma (HND) in year two. This course offers pathways in both mechanical and electrical/electronic engineering. This level 4/5 course is designed to enable engineers within full-time employment to continue their studies at a higher level whilst maintaining a career path.

You will be studying over one full day plus one evening per week. This course currently runs on Monday evening, 6pm to 9pm, and all day Tuesday, 9am to 5pm although this may be subject to change.

What you will learn

To achieve the Higher National Certificate in year one, eight units must be completed. Both pathways will study engineering design, engineering mathematics, engineering science, and manage a professional engineering project.

The electrical/electronics pathway will also study electrical and electronic principles; automation robotics and PLCs; instrumentation and control; and electronic circuits and devices.

The mechanical engineering pathway will also study mechanical principles; fundamentals of thermodynamics and heat engines; materials properties and testing; computer-aided design; and manufacture.

After successful completion of the HNC in year one, you will study a further eight units for the HND in year two.

Electrical/electronic units include research project (double unit); professional engineering management; further mathematics; industrial power electronics and storage; industrial systems; further electrical, electronic and digital principles; utilisation of electrical power.

Mechanical engineering units include a research project (double unit); professional engineering management; further mathematics; advanced mechanical principles; virtual engineering; further thermodynamics; advanced manufacturing techniques.

Entry Requirements

This course is aimed at students who already have a level 3 qualification (i.e. a level 3 National Diploma/Certificate, level 3 NVQ/VRQ, T-level or similar in related subjects, relevant Access to HE qualification, and GCSE English, maths and science at grade C or above).

We welcome applicants who do not match standard entry requirements but who can demonstrate the ability to study this subject at university level, and who can evidence relevant experience.

All potential candidates will have to complete an initial assessment (English, maths and science).

Course Progression

On successful completion of the HND you will be able to apply to study for a further year to obtain a full degree at university. The Higher National Certificate could provide an exemption for the first year of a degree at a range of universities. Career opportunities could include managerial and technical positions in the mechanical or electrical sectors of the engineering industry.

What Happens Next

Apply online via the college website, and if you meet the entry criteria you will be invited in for an interview or meet your tutors.

Course Details

Course Code	P00266
Start Date	05/10/2026
Study Hours	Full Time
Duration	1 year
Campus	Abbey Park Campus
Level	5

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