

Mechanical Engineering HTQ Higher National Certificate

Course Overview

This two-year part-time Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Mechanical Engineering is designed for those looking to develop their engineering knowledge and skills while balancing study with work or other commitments. The course provides a strong foundation in core mechanical engineering principles, combining theoretical understanding with practical application. You will study essential topics such as engineering design, mathematics and manufacturing processes before progressing into areas including mechanical systems, fluid mechanics and thermodynamics. Throughout the course, you will apply your learning through practical activities and project-based work, developing problem-solving, teamwork and communication skills. This ensures you are well prepared for progression to higher-level study or employment within the engineering sector. This flexible pathway is ideal for those already working in engineering or looking to up skill. On completion, you can progress to the HND (Level 5) or apply your skills within sectors such as manufacturing, automotive, energy and production engineering.

What you will learn

In Year 1, you will focus on fundamental engineering skills, including engineering design, mathematics, project work and production engineering for manufacture. These units provide the essential knowledge required to understand and apply engineering concepts in practice. A project or suitable industry visit may also be undertaken to develop industry-based knowledge and skills.

In Year 2, you will develop your understanding of mechanical engineering through topics such as mechanical principles, fluid mechanics, thermodynamics and quality improvement. These areas reflect key industry practices and technologies.

Entry Requirements

Standard entry to this course requires a recognised level 3 qualification in a relevant subject, such as a T-level, BTEC National or A-levels. Applicants with a higher-level qualification in an unrelated subject area may also be considered. You are expected to have GCSE English and mathematics at grade 4 (C) or above, or an equivalent qualification. We welcome applications from individuals who may not meet the standard entry requirements but can demonstrate the ability to study at level 4 and have relevant experience. All applicants could be invited to attend an interview to assess suitability and prior achievement.

Course Fees

For certain practical activities, you may be required to provide your own personal protective equipment (PPE).

Course Progression

This course provides a clear pathway into both further study and employment within the engineering sector. On successful completion of the Higher National Certificate (level 4), you can progress to the Higher National Diploma (Level 5) in your chosen engineering specialism, further developing your technical knowledge and skills. You may also choose to enter employment, with opportunities across industries such as manufacturing, energy, aerospace, automotive and automation. Typical roles include engineering technician, maintenance engineer or junior design engineer. The course is designed to equip you with the knowledge, practical skills and professional behaviours required to support your progression within the engineering industry.

What Happens Next

Apply online via the College website, and if you meet the entry criteria you will be invited for an interview/audition.

Course Details

Course Code	P00264
Start Date	27/09/2027
Study Hours	Part Time
Duration	2 years
Campus	Abbey Park Campus
Level	4

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