

Mechanical engineering @ UK unis - quick facts

Top 20*

1 Cambridge	A*A*A	11 Exeter	AAB
2 Oxford	A*A*A	12 Bath	AAB
3 Imperial	A*AA	13 Bristol	AAA
4 Leeds	AAA	14 Manchester	AAB
5 Glasgow	AAB	15 Loughborough	ABB
6 Strathclyde	AAA/ABB	16 Newcastle	ABB
7 Southampton	AAA	17 Queen's Belfast	AAA
8 UCL	AAA	18 Birmingham	AAB
9 Edinburgh	AAA	19 Aberdeen	BBB
10 Nottingham	AAA	20 Lancaster	ABB

You can usually apply for a BEng (3 years) or an MEng (4 years). These entry requirements are for BEng, other than Imperial and Bath which are for the MEng. The entry requirements for MEng degrees are usually one or two grades higher than those for BEng. If you take a BEng you can usually switch to an MEng later in your degree provided you meet the academic requirements. At Cambridge and Oxford you apply for a general engineering degree and specialise later.

* Complete University Guide April 2020

Must haves

Maths A Level and, at many universities, physics A Level. Other science subjects and FM are favoured.

Other degrees to consider

General engineering, maths, physics, design technology, computer science. Degrees with a year in industry or apprenticeship degrees are worth considering.

Example course modules

A typical mechanical engineering degree will cover engineering concepts, materials & manufacture, dynamics & control, circuit theory, solid mechanics, thermofluids, mathematics & control, materials under stress, and systems modelling.

Contact hours per week: 17 (Average all subjects 14.)

Career prospects

Mechanical engineer graduates are in high demand for the manufacture & design of a range of products including cars, trains, turbines, space rockets, satellites, mobile phones and components that power medical equipment. You could also find work in other areas such as the oil and energy industries or in the fields of medicine and sport. Graduates not only work as engineers and technicians but also as consultants. You will be numerically and computer literate too, so could find work in finance, banking & investment.

Average starting salary: £26,000