

Aerospace engineering @ UK unis - quick facts

Top 20*

1 Cambridge	A*A*A	11 Swansea	ABB
2 Imperial	A*A*A/A*AAA	12 Manchester	AAB
3 Glasgow	AAB	13 Sheffield	AAB
4 Bristol	A*AA	14 Surrey	ABB
5 Bath	A*AA	15 Liverpool	ABB
6 Southampton	A*AA	16 Leicester	ABB
7 Leeds	A*AA	17 Queen's Belfast	ABB
8 Loughborough	AAB	18 Brunel	BBB
9 Nottingham	AAA	19 Coventry	ABB
10 Strathclyde	AAA/ABB	20 UWE, Bristol	BBC

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 most 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, either in industry or the armed forces.

Example course modules

A typical aerospace/aeronautical engineering degree will cover properties of materials, an introduction to aerodynamics, circuits, signals and systems, mechanics of flight, propulsion & turbomachinery, thermodynamics, control systems, aerospace vehicle design, structural dynamics, and the engineering industry and the profession.

Contact hours per week: 18 (Average all subjects 14.)

Career prospects

The UK aerospace sector is well established and dominated by large corporations that operate across the globe. There are also opportunities with regulators like the Civil Aviation Authority, armed forces, space programmes and airline companies. You could work as an aerospace engineer, design engineer, CAD technician, a maintenance or mechanical engineer, a manufacturer, a researcher, or you could use skills gained in your degree to take a different path and work in the corporate sector, management consultancy or finance.

Average starting salary: £25,500