

AUTOMOTIVE AT UNIVERSITY

WHAT DOES STUDYING AUTOMOTIVE AT UNIVERSITY MEAN?

University offers the chance to develop deep technical knowledge, analytical skills, and theoretical understanding of automotive systems, design, and engineering. It suits students who enjoy academic study and want time to explore ideas in depth before entering industry.

AUTOMOTIVE & TRANSPORT DESIGN

If you enjoy:

- Sketching
- Creativity
- Problem-solving
- Visualisation

Examples:

- BA/BSc in Automotive Design
- BA/BSc in Transport Design
- Short courses/workshops in vehicle styling and digital modelling

Future roles:

- Vehicle Designer
- Transport & Mobility Designer
- Concept Artist / CAD Specialist
- Industrial Designer (automotive/transport)

MSc/Advanced Automotive Programmes

If you enjoy:

- Engineering
- Research
- Innovation
- Problem-solving

Examples:

- MSc in Automotive Engineering
- MSc in Vehicle Dynamics, Powertrain, or Electric & Hybrid Vehicles
- Advanced automotive research programmes

Future roles:

- Senior Automotive Engineer
- R&D Specialist
- Technical Consultant
- Engineering Project Manager

SPECIALIST PATHWAYS (E.G., MOTORSPORT, ELECTRIC VEHICLES)

If you enjoy:

- Motorsport
- EV Technology
- Innovation
- Engineering

Examples:

- MSc or short courses in Motorsport Engineering
- MSc in Electric Vehicle Design & Technology
- Specialist modules in autonomous or high-performance vehicles

Future roles:

- Motorsport Engineer / Trackside Engineer
- Electric Vehicle Specialist
- Performance Tuning Engineer
- R&D Specialist

DEGREE QUALIFICATION LEVELS & LENGTH

- Foundation Degrees (Levels 4–5) and Higher National Diplomas (Level 5): typically 2 years full-time, often with a 1-year Level 6 “top-up” to a Bachelor’s degree
- Bachelor’s Degree (BEng/BSc – Level 6): typically 3 years (4 years in Scotland or with placement/year abroad)
- Integrated Master’s (MEng – Level 7): typically 4 years (5 years with placement or study abroad)
- Postgraduate Master’s (MSc – Level 7): typically 1 year full-time (or 2 years part-time) following a Bachelor’s degree
- Doctorate (PhD – Level 8): typically 3–4 years full-time (longer part-time), focused on original research



WHAT YOUR WEEK MIGHT LOOK LIKE

Most students:

- Attend scheduled teaching for 15-25 hours a week
- Scheduled teaching includes lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops
- Independent study of 15-25 hours per week consisting of coursework, projects, revision and assignments

Total study time can total similar to a full time job.

WHAT LEARNING LOOKS LIKE

- Teaching is often spread across the week and across your university campus in lecture halls, workshops and lab environments
- Timetables can change each term/semester with fluctuating levels of scheduled teaching and self learning across terms/years of a degree
- Sessions can be spread across the week with large gaps and sometimes evening or weekend attendance required
- Organising your time and learning is important

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Requirements vary by course and university, but most undergraduate degrees require:

- Age 17–18+ (no strict upper age limit)
- Right to study in the UK
- Residency requirements (for tuition fees and funding purposes)
- Academic qualifications, usually:
 - A-levels, BTEC, or equivalent qualifications
 - Maths and English at GCSE level (or equivalent)
- Extra curricular achievements can help you achieve your desired university/course

HOW DO UNIVERSITIES SELECT STUDENTS?

University courses can be competitive. Selection may include:

- UCAS application with personal statement and references
- Interviews, admissions tests, or portfolios (depending on the course)
- Demonstrating interest in the subject and commitment to study

Applying early and to multiple courses can increase your chances of success.

MONEY MATTERS

- Tuition fees are payable with various funding options whether student loan or scholarships
- Interest on student loans applies immediately, rate dependant on your loan plan which you repay when you earn above the threshold.
- You may need to budget for daily living expenses or take a part time job to sustain your cost of living as student loans often do not cover every expense you will encounter across your education.

SUPPORT & WELLBEING

As a university student, you're supported by:

- Your academic department and lecturers
- A personal tutor or academic advisor
- Student support services, including wellbeing, learning support, careers guidance, network groups and fellow students

If something isn't working, there are systems in place to help, should you wish to access these.

LIFE AFTER UNIVERSITY

Completing a university degree can lead to:

- Graduate-level employment
- Promotion and leadership roles
- Further study, such as a Master's or PhD
- Career changes or opportunities in new industries
- Academic opportunities such as lecturing, publishing research or working in Higher Education

IS THIS ROUTE RIGHT FOR YOU?

University study suits people who:

- Learn best through study, research, and independent thinking
- Want to explore a subject in depth before starting full-time work
- Are ready for the responsibility of managing their own learning and schedule