

Overview of our Engineering Apprenticeship

The University of Exeter Engineering Apprenticeship Scheme will elevate your career as a professional engineer. Upon completion of the apprenticeship you will have gained qualifications in mechanical or electronic engineering and will have a diverse range of work experience within an engineering role in a Russell Group, UK top 10, University.

This is a perfect opportunity for you to learn engineering theory and be able to put it into practice in our well-equipped workshops. You will have an unrivalled engineering experience and will build a wide range of transferable skills.

You could be working in Technical Services where you will be supporting teaching and research within one of our STEM Colleges. You'll be working from one of our mechanical or electronic workshops and this will give you access to both teaching and research facilities, and our exceptional technical staff.

Mechanical engineers will be trained in the use of equipment such as pillar drills, lathes, milling machines, grinders, welding gear, CNC mills and lathes, 3D printers, hand tools, to name but a few. Our mechanical engineers will spend time in various workshop environments and could be supporting a wide variety of internal and external customers.

Electronic engineers will use oscilloscopes, multimeters, soldering irons, create PCBs, and surface mount components.

You will receive an excellent educational experience from our training providers, and will be immersed in real time on the job training at the University of Exeter whilst in your day to day role.

It's safe to say that you will have an extremely diverse range of jobs to do, and due to the University being a live research environment you will be working on ground breaking and world leading research projects. If you are practical, dexterous and have an inquisitive mind, this is the apprenticeship for you!

There will also be opportunities to develop yourself through our induction, mandatory training, and by undertaking learning and development at the University.

What are the entry requirements?

Applicants will need at least 5 GCSEs or equivalent. These should include grade B/5 in Maths, grade B/5 in Science, and a grade C/4 or above in English (desirable grade C/4 or above in ICT).

You will need to complete the Intermediate Apprenticeship (Level 2) before progressing to the advanced apprenticeship (Level 3). Applicants for HNC level apprenticeships must have completed appropriate level 3 training. You must have a strong interest in engineering if you are applying for this apprenticeship.

What is the duration of my apprenticeship?

Dependent on the role and level of study you apply for at the University, your Engineering apprenticeship could last between 24 to 36 months.

What topics could I study?

The Engineering apprenticeship is an in-depth, practical approach to engineering and provides a solid platform to becoming a qualified professional engineer. As an apprentice you will have a full time job at the University and attend one of our award winning training providers one day a week throughout the programme. You will work towards qualifications which make up your Apprenticeship.

This challenging, academic and work related scheme prepares you for employment or university level education. You will:

- Develop your specialist skills, knowledge and understanding of engineering principles, problems and solutions
- Study mechanical as well as electrical and electronic engineering units to get a good all round knowledge
- Carry out controlled practical work in our fully equipped workshops and laboratories
- Develop skills in maths, communication and Computer Aided Design (CAD)
- Attend masterclasses from industry experts and visit manufacturing sites
- Potentially undertake additional courses in CNC programming
- Learn about microprocessors and pneumatics

Assessment is through our training providers by internally or externally set coursework or examinations.

Part of your apprenticeship will be the NVQ qualification. The NVQ shows your competence, knowledge, and understanding of business tasks and procedures, and proves you are able to carry out your job to the NVQ standards.

You will cover one of the following Technical Certificates: National Certificate (NC), City & Guilds or Advanced Diploma. NVQ Units:

- Mechanical manufacturing engineering - actual engineering production
- Engineering maintenance - repair and servicing of engineering machinery
- Technical support - office based engineering support, draftsman, quality control, supervisory roles
- Fabrication and welding engineering

When on your college day-release, you will be supported by your Skills Trainer/tutors. You will spend the remainder of the week in the workplace. Whilst at work, your Training Officer will visit you and carry out assessments in a variety of styles: observing you; completing knowledge questions; setting practical tasks. They will also help you build your portfolio of evidence for your NVQ.

What is it like to study and how will I be assessed?

During your time studying with our training provider you will be taught by your tutor or skills officer and you will spend the remainder of the week working at the University of Exeter where you will put your new skills into practice. Whilst at work, your skills officer will visit you and carry out assessment in a variety of styles - observing you, completing knowledge questions and setting practical tasks.

What can my apprenticeship lead on to?

Your Engineering apprenticeship at the University of Exeter will help you progress in your career as a qualified professional engineer. On successful completion of your apprenticeship there may be opportunities to take up a permanent role at the University.

As your career develops, you may wish to continue your studies and enrol on an extended diploma apprenticeship. After successful completion of the extended diploma you will be qualified to work as an engineering technician or you may choose to progress to university level study.

This could lead your career towards studying for an Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering or Mechanical Engineering HNC with one of our training providers. Further studies could take you to university level training such as an FdSc Engineering.