UNIVERSITY OF Southampton

FAQs for USMC EEE students

Your questions and your buddies' answers!

1. Approximately how many hours are spent on lectures, seminars, tutorials and labs a day? What time does the earliest class start and what time does the last class of the day end?

As a rough estimate you would be spending about four hours contact time a day, but each day is very different. Labs are generally about three hours long and for Engineering programmes you have about five per semester. The earliest class is at 9 am and the latest ends at 6 pm.

On Wednesdays, the last class ends at 1 pm as the afternoons are allocated to sports and other activities. Most league matches and tournaments are scheduled on Wednesday afternoons.

2. Do students have fixed classmates? Typically how many students are there in each cohort?

The numbers on EEE programmes are about 40 students, but depending on the optional module, you will be able to study alongside Electronic, Electrical and Electromechanical students, which is in total about 130,

The students you will have in your lectures in the 3rd year will vary depending on if it is a core module (where numbers are likely to be about 50) or an optional module (where numbers may be around 10).

3. Do most modules require students to purchase textbooks? If yes, how do you purchase second hand textbooks? Is the library normally stocked with enough copies of the required texts?

Most modules will have suggested core reading which the lecturer encourages you to buy. Usually your course student committee will organise a book sale near the beginning of the year whereby all 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students will bring their old textbooks to sell.

Some students prefer to borrow books from the library, in which case there are usually enough copies and very popular books have a short term loan system to encourage students to quickly return them for other students to access. The library will also have some books that cannot be loaned so they are always available.

4. What is the normal workload for an EEE student? Are there a lot of reading assignments, coursework (tests, reports, assignments) or do students have more time for independent studies?

Depending on the module, you will have a varying amount of assignments. For example, some modules have 30% coursework and some have 0%. You will have to invest time to prepare for tests and assignments.

As you progress through the course, you will find the workload increases but you'll find your own way of balancing work and independent studies.

It is important to constantly work during the semester in order to successfully complete all the required exams and coursework.

If you ever feel like you are falling behind it's important to talk to someone like your personal tutor or buddy.

5. Are there any undergraduate research opportunities for EEE students? If yes, are they during the semester or breaks?

There are opportunities for students and most of them are during breaks. There are some opportunities during the semester but those are mostly for 3rd or 4th year students. Undergraduates can apply to participate in research projects at the university by applying through the Professors who are responsible for them. These are mostly summer opportunities.

Also make sure to keep an eye on the Career and Employability Service website https://www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/careers-employability.page for more information about Easter and summer placements.

6. Are there any clubs or societies which you would recommend for EEE students to join? Have you any personal recommendations for non-engineering societies?

The 'bun fight' in the fresher's week is a good chance to begin to interact with all the clubs and societies. Make sure you go along to 'bun fight' and see what you like. The first few events for most clubs do not require membership, so you could have a shortlist of your top choices by going to a lot of activities in your first week. Keep checking the SUSU website for details. https://www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/campus/students-union.page

The Electronic and Computer Science Society (ECSS) and the Southampton University Engineering Society (SUES) are always useful societies to join. Go to their book sales and talk to some of the older undergraduate students.

'Engineers without Borders' is a new society that will help students to learn about how technology can help in underdeveloped countries and is open to all Faculty students. See http://www.ewb-uk.org/ewb-southampton.

Other useful societies may be the RoboGals Society, the Wireless Society, the Hacking Society and many more.

7. Are there any part-time jobs for students within the university setting other than being a Student Ambassador?

Do consider being a Student Ambassador at the university as the role will develop your confidence and skills. For more information see http://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentambassadors/

There are jobs available in the catering outlets etc. To find these, look on the University and Students' Union websites. There are also plenty of volunteering opportunities available with various societies. Do ensure that you have sufficient time for study before taking on a job.

Check the UKBA Regulations about the maximum number of hours that you may work http://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentambassadors/applicants/ukba_regulations.html

8. Which is the best day for a night out to meet new people?

The university holds a lot of events during the year where you might find more people with common interests as you – for example at the comedy or karaoke evenings.

Also, if you join a society (and there are many faith and international ones), you will be offered a range of different options for socialising. There is something to suit every student.