

FAQs for UoSM Mech/Aero 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 Wednesday, 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. The number of hours spent on lectures in the 3rd and 4th year will also depend on the optional modules that you take.

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

The numbers on Mech. Eng. programmes are about 150 students. Aero programmes have about 200 students

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

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 a 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 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.

In general, most lecturers give out sufficient resources through lecture notes and often having a textbook is more of an individual preference.

4. What is the normal workload for an engineering 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 10%. 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 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 Academic Tutor or transition buddy.

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

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

We would suggest you to first filter out what is your area of interest that you wish to research on and find the email contact of the professor through the university's website. Some professors will still take in 1st and 2nd year students if the students expressed genuine interest to learn. Besides that, there are two other ways that a student can look for research opportunities. One is through the Excel Southampton Internship programme website -- some are in term time, some are during breaks. Another is the UniWorkforce, which every student can register themselves at Building 26 -- there are regular part-time jobs for students but occasionally there will also be research opportunities (if suitable skillsets are met for the job).

Make also sure to keep an eye on the Career Destinations website for more information about Easter and summer placements.

6. Are there any clubs or societies which you would recommend for Engineering & Physical Sciences students to join? Have you any personal recommendations on 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 that 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 Us. website for details.

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/campus/students-union.page>

SUES or Southampton University Engineering Society is always a useful Society to join. Go to their book sales and grab the chance to talk to some of the older undergraduate students.

'Engineers without Borders' is a society that will help students to learn how technology can help in underdeveloped countries and is open to all Faculty students. See

<http://www.ewb-uk.org/ewb-southampton>

With regards to Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Southampton branch, all members of EWB are encouraged to become a "STEM Ambassador". There are also trainings to help you become one. In the UK, "STEM Ambassador" are people who promote STEM to the public and is widely recognised by the society. Many engineering companies encourage their

employees to take the test and become a STEM Ambassador. It is a good way to know industry experts and professionals across the UK. In short, good for CV. For the long term, good for building network and expanding your industry knowledge.

Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) Southampton student chapter. IET is the largest international engineering institution in the world. Good platform to meet people from a variety of engineering disciplines. Student membership is free.

Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) Wessex region. IMechE is a global institution for mechanical engineers. If a student is pursuing a mechanical engineering degree, a membership with IMechE is essential. Student membership is free.

Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) Solent Branch. RAeS is a global institution for aerospace engineers. The activities and industry professionals involved are not only focused on aeronautics, but also astronautics (outer space). If a student is pursuing aerospace-related engineering degree, a membership with RAeS is essential. Student membership is free.

Southampton University Spaceflight Society (SUSF). Unlike RAeS, this is a university society and only does space-related activities. Whoever is interested in space can join regardless of their background. It is an affiliated branch of UK Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (UKSEDS). SEDS is a global non-profit organisation that is run by university students to

promote space exploration and development through educational and engineering projects. Largest community is in the US, other SEDS includes Canada, Turkey, UAE, India, etc.

There are other university-based engineering and physical sciences societies that are not related to global institutions/organisations such as HackaSoton, Human Powered Submarine, Human Powered Aircraft (SUHPAC), Formula 1 Student team, Robotics Society (RoboSoc), Chemistry Society, Optics and Photonics Society, and many more. Majority of the 300 clubs & societies can be found from the university's website or during "BunFight"

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 and the role will develop your confidence and skills <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentambassadors/>

There are jobs available in the catering outlets and to find these look on the university and Student 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 the Comedy or Karaoke evenings. The events can be found under the 'Today's Events' section on <https://sussed.soton.ac.uk/>

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 each student.