School of Mechanical and Systems Engineering

Undergraduate Admissions Policy

The aim of our Undergraduate Admissions Policy is to select the most appropriate students and provide them with the very best mechanical engineering education, so enabling them to become some of the most effective chartered mechanical engineers for the future.

Principles of Admissions Policy

To succeed on such demanding courses, two main qualities are required: proven academic ability (in relevant subject areas) and proven motivation. Both academic ability and motivation are essential to make sure of success, even in the most demanding and stretching parts of the courses.

Application of Admissions Policy

The principles above mean that our Admissions Policy needs to ensure that our students are very able in maths and the relevant sciences and, wherever possible, they have taken the opportunities to learn from the world of engineering around them.

Applicants

We consider applications from the UK, the EU and all areas of the World. We consider all applications including those from mature students and those with less traditional qualifications. We are especially pleased to consider applications from those less certain of their own abilities or who may not have previously considered a university course.

Local applicants

We consider it very important to enable all with suitable ability and motivation to have the chance of gaining high quality degrees, regardless of their background. To this end the University operates the Partners programme and other schemes to bring the benefits of a high quality degree education to a wider group. The various schemes cement the ties with local schools and, if appropriate levels of ability and motivation are shown in the extra-curricula activities organised by the University, it may be possible to reduce the A-Level grades required, although we do not accept less than grade B in A-Level Maths.

Selection criteria

Whatever the qualifications, our selection criteria are based around attempting to select those students most likely to do well on our courses, whatever their background or history. We only select students who we believe will do well on our courses.
Proven motivation

We believe that motivation to engineering can be a major factor in the successful completion of an engineering degree. All our degrees are stretching and to make the best of the courses it is very helpful to have a real interest in or love of the subject, perhaps even clearly formed aspirations of working in the engineering industry. A typical engineering work experience of one or two weeks, often organised through school, is good. However, longer times of engineering work and an inquisitive mind leading to the disassembling, designing or building of machines, are all indicators of your motivation.

Proven academic ability

There are many ways in which academic ability can be demonstrated. We are willing to consider a wide range of UK, EU and overseas qualifications. However, the ability to express ideas accurately in maths is essential and a good maths qualification is required, typically A-Level grade B (or equivalent).

Typical entry requirements

Our selection criteria are based around attempting to select those students most likely to do well on our courses. We are willing to consider any type of qualification, but the majority of our students have three or more UK A-Levels. The four A-Level subjects most relevant are Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry. We believe that these subjects prepare our students in the most appropriate ways for our courses. We also accept other A-Level subjects. We normally consider the three best A-Levels, not including General Studies.

For extra information about qualifications, see BEng Entry Requirements and MEng Entry Requirements. Please feel free to contact the Admissions Team to discuss qualifications.

Pre-university maths course

A pre-university maths course, called the Newcastle University FE to HE Maths Course, is available. While this is not necessary for those taking A-Level Maths, it is appropriate in a variety of circumstances, particularly for those who:

- have an appropriate maths qualification but who are concerned that their maths may be "rusty" or in need of refreshing
- are in doubt as to whether their maths qualification is sufficient

The course is available as a PDF file from mse.admissions@ncl.ac.uk and there is no charge for the course materials (the PDF file). If necessary, the course can be used to demonstrate sufficient maths understanding. In that case an exam is needed and a fee will be charged to take the exam. At least one month's notice is required to arrange the exam.

The maths qualifications of some applicants may not provide sufficient preparation for entry into our First Year. In this case Foundation Year entry may be offered. However, for some of these applicants with considerable ability, it may be possible to offer First Year entry subject to passing the Newcastle University FE to HE Maths Course alongside their current course. In these circumstances, the offer made may be for Foundation Year and also, if the FE-HE Maths Course is passed, for First Year.
**Normal application sequence**

Applications are made through UCAS. The applications are received by the University centrally, checked for administrative details and finance, and then passed to the Admissions Team in the School. We then carefully consider all aspects of each application. At this stage in the process we are unlikely to make an offer of a place to study with us.

Because we believe that it is important for applicants to see the University and meet the staff, we invite all appropriate applicants to one of our UCAS Days, assuming that they can make the journey to us without difficulty. On these days, you will have the chance to see the University and the School, take part in a lab activity, meet current students and staff and have an informal interview.

Once all information about our applicants has been gathered and considered, we make offers of course places to the appropriate applicants through the UCAS system, usually well before the end of March.

It is not necessary to apply for more than one of our Mechanical Engineering based courses; all of our applications for entry to First Year are considered together regardless of which Mechanical Engineering course has been applied for. If you have been offered an MEng degree place, should you miss your offer grades, you will automatically be considered for our BEng courses. The higher MEng grades tend to be better preparation for the degree courses: the BEng grades represent the minimum acceptable.

**Engineering Foundation Year**

Mechanical Engineering with Foundation Year courses are available (referred to as Stage 0). These are only for applicants who have not studied appropriate mathematical or scientific courses.

**INTO Foundation Year**

Our partners INTO run a variety of courses to prepare (usually) overseas students to study at Newcastle University, especially the International Foundation in Physical Sciences and Engineering.

**Course selection and transfer between courses**

We have a wide range of BEng (3 year) and MEng (4 year) Mechanical Engineering courses, including courses with specialisations in Design and Manufacturing, Low Carbon Transport Engineering, Bioengineering and Mechatronics.

At the end of Second Year (Stage 2), regardless of the course on which you entered, you have the chance to change to any other Mechanical Engineering degree in the School. This includes transferring from BEng to MEng, provided that you achieve at least 60% average in the Stage 2 exams. The system of needing to achieve 60% in Stage 2 to pass on to, or continue on, the MEng courses is a requirement of the Engineering Institutions, common to all accredited engineering degrees.

**R I Davidson, Admissions Selector and Senior Lecturer**