In 2020/21 there were 12,005 entrants studying mechanical engineering in higher education, comprised of 9,120 undergraduate students (first degree and other undergraduate) along with 2,885 postgraduate students.

**Undergraduate first degree entrants**

Mechanical engineering courses were the most popular choice for undergraduate degrees in engineering and technology in 2020/21, representing 22.5% of all engineering and technology entrants at this level. Of these:

- 11.6% were women
- 35.4% were from minority ethnic groups
- 10% had a known disability
- 9.9% were from low HE participation areas (POLAR 4 quintile 1)
- 73.7% were UK domiciled, 6.1% from EU countries and 20.2% from the rest of the World

**Postgraduate degree entrants**

Of the mechanical engineering postgraduate entrants, just 13.8% were women, compared to 26.2% of all engineering and technology entrants and 58.7% of postgraduate entrants studying any subject. 4.9% of mechanical engineering postgraduate entrants were known to have a disability which is similar to all engineering and technology entrants but remains lower than the overall average of 10%.

**Undergraduate first degree qualifiers**

46.1% of students qualifying with a first degree in mechanical engineering did so with first class honours. Additionally more than a third (35.2%) obtained upper second class honours. This is average compared to other subjects in engineering and technology.

**Graduate destinations**

71.7% of students who graduated from mechanical engineering degrees in 2019/20 were in paid employment 15 months after graduation. Of these, 63.3% were working in engineering companies. 13.7% of graduates from these courses had gone on to further education, and around 8.2% were unemployed and looking for work.