

# A typical week at university

The following first year university timetable and accompanying notes were written by a current student studying **Mechanical Engineering at Heriot Watt University** in Edinburgh. They are intended to provide school pupils with a realistic picture of what a typical week at university is like for a first year student studying this subject at this particular university. It's worth remembering that every university student will have a different first year timetable depending on their degree subject, university and student lifestyle.

- Mechanical Engineering is applying maths and science to solve real-life problems covering motion, power, and structures which can be applicable to industries such as automotive, renewable energy, manufacturing, and aerospace.
- There is an emphasis on group projects which go through the complete product development cycle from computer-aided design to building and testing in the workshop.
- In first and second year, the course consists of mostly lectures, building your theoretical knowledge, and a few tutorial sessions and practical labs, applying your learning to systems and practical designs.
- It's roughly 15-20 hours of face-to-face classes with little individual study and will be assessed through exams and coursework. During third, fourth (and fifth) year, there are fewer lectures and you will have to juggle multiple group projects at a time. These projects can range from a few weeks to a year and will be guided by your supervisors.
- Group projects cumulate at the end of semester as a large technical report or presentation and will involve a lot more independent study/research.
- We didn't have an industrial placement built in, so it was important for us to gain work experience during the summer.
- What surprised me the most is that your skills are highly transferable which means you are not restricted to careers just within engineering.
- To bust some common misconceptions: mechanical engineering requires a great deal of creativity and good communication skills, and is becoming a much more inclusive industry. This is a demanding but rewarding degree and perfect for anyone who loves puzzles and solving problems.

**University:** Heriot-Watt University  
**Course:** Mechanical Engineering  
**Year:** First

## A typical student week...



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8-9.00				Kitchen Cleanup			Gym
9-10.00	Electrical Lecture	Workshop lab	Physics Lecture		Maths Lecture	Work - Argos	
10-11.00	Electrical Lecture		Electrical Lecture			Work - Argos	
11-12noon		Library Study	Maths Lecture	Practical lab		Work - Argos	Walk with friends
12-13.00	Maths Tutorial	Library Study	Electrical Tutorial			Work - Argos	Walk with friends
13-14.00				Physics Lecture		Work - Argos	Walk with friends
14-15.00	Group project	Maths Lecture	Travel	Physics Lecture	PC lab	Work - Argos	Walk with friends
15-16.00	Mechanic Lecture	Library Study	Football match		PC lab	Work - Argos	
16-17.00	Mechanic Lecture	Library Study	Football match				
17-18.00			Travel				Laundry
18-19.00	Football Training			Gym	Food shop		Study
19-20.00			Movie night				Study
20-21.00			Movie night	Flat Dinner		Socialising with flatmates	Study
21-22.00				Pre's			Study
22-23.00				Pre's			Study
23.00...				Silk Thursdays			