



University of  
**BRISTOL**

Erasmus+ Study Guide  
2019/20  
Mechanical Engineering

## Department of Mechanical Engineering

### GUIDE FOR INCOMING ERASMUS STUDENTS 2019-20

#### Welcome to the Department

The Department of Mechanical Engineering is the oldest and one of the largest Departments within the [Faculty of Engineering](#). The quality of the teaching in our Department is graded as 'Excellent' by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). This places us in the top 10 percent of mechanical engineering departments nationally for the standard of teaching. We are consistently ranked in the top five for Mechanical Engineering by The Times Good University Guide, and have been ranked first in the latest National Student Survey for overall satisfaction. A degree in Mechanical Engineering from Bristol is ideal preparation for starting a career in the automotive, aerospace, building, process, medical and marine industries, or other areas such as accountancy and the city. Many of our graduates go on to careers that make an important contribution to society in terms of wealth generation, safety and environmental sustainability. Our graduates are in high demand by industry and often promoted quickly to senior positions around the world.

#### Our Exchange Partners

The Department of Mechanical Engineering has Erasmus agreements with a number of European Universities. These are all long-standing agreements that have resulted in successful exchanges for many students. We look forward to welcoming more students from our partners:

<b>Austria:</b>	Technische Universitat Graz
<b>France:</b>	Arts et Métier Paris Tech Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Saint-Etienne Université de Lorraine (Ecole Nationale d'Ingenieurs de Metz)
<b>Germany:</b>	Leibniz Universitat Hannover
<b>Netherlands:</b>	Delft University of Technology
<b>Spain:</b>	Universidad Politecnica de Valencia
<b>Sweden:</b>	Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg Kungl Tekniska Hogskolan, Stockholm

#### Academic Calendar and Structure

**Welcome week** (or Week 0) starts on **23 September 2019**. This week allows you to finalise your program, familiarise yourself with the campus and to attend introductory events. The **academic year** starts on **30 September 2019** (Week 1) By this date you should know what your study programme is. A meeting will be organised where you will be able to ask any questions concerning your study programme.

The **term dates** are: (See <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/academicregistry/office/almanac/> )

- Welcome week: 23 September – 27 September 2019
- Teaching Block 1 (TB1): 30 September - 20 December 2019
- Teaching Block 2 (TB2): 27 January – 8 May 2020

- a) The **exam dates** are:
- TB1 assessment period: 13-24 January 2020
  - TB2 assessment period: 18 May – 5 June 2020
- a) There is an exam session at the end of each teaching block in January and May-June. Units taught in TB1 only will be assessed in January. All other units will be assessed in the Summer Exam period. There are **NO resits** for Erasmus students. If you fail a unit, you will **NOT** be allowed to take a supplementary examination.
- b) All 4<sup>th</sup> year units will run either in TB1 or TB2. Note that there are some 4<sup>th</sup> year ‘fat’ (ie, intensive delivery) units, which are delivered in 1 or 2 weeks. Please be aware that if you select any 4<sup>th</sup> year fat unit you may be unable to take other units from level 3 (or 2, 1) because of clashes in the timetable.
- c) If coming for a full year, for lecture courses and/or research projects, you must arrive at the start of the autumn term, see below. If you are coming for a research project only then you may start any time between October and March, subject to negotiation. If coming for only one teaching block you will need to check the appropriate start dates.

## Units and Credits

**The list and descriptions of 2019/20 Engineering units (Years 1-4) are available at:**

<https://www.bris.ac.uk/unit-programme-catalogue/OrganisationDepartmentsForUnits.jsa?orgCode=FENG&ayrCode=19%2F20>

Please avoid selecting units which require as a pre-requisites any material taught in the previous years at Bristol and which you have not covered at your home university and remember to select **a maximum of 120 credits** (equivalent to 60 ECTS). No exceptions.

For more detailed information, please contact [came-erasmus-studyabroad@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:came-erasmus-studyabroad@bristol.ac.uk) (email address for Erasmus and study abroad students from all Queen’s School of Engineering Departments).

The Department also welcomes Erasmus students from other Departments, but for taught courses only, not for project work.

Students should aim to take units in year 3 or year 4, in order to study at the appropriate level and to avoid any clash in the timetable. Students cannot study an advanced unit, together with its pre-requisite, eg Systems & Control Engineering 4 **and** Systems & Control Engineering 3.

The Department accepts students for a complete year (2 semesters with a requirement for study to commence in September and be completed by the end of June), or for a single semester (Autumn to Spring) provided the student takes units which last only 1 semester. Units that are purely taught in Teaching Block 1 (TB1) will now be examined in the new Winter examination period in January. Units that are taught in TB2 or over both teaching blocks will be examined in the Summer examination period running in May/June 2020. Students must attend their examinations. Erasmus students are not permitted to take resits for any units they take.

The choices made in the initial learning agreement are subject to confirmation by the Department, which may require changes for both learning and administrative reasons. Students may request changes to their initial choices at the start of the year, but these are subject to approval by the Department.

*Please note: Erasmus students are expected to take the majority of their credits in the Queen’s School of Engineering.*

## Research project

The 4th year Group Industrial Project unit, MENG5000 is **NOT** available to ERASMUS students. You may however take the 3rd year Individual Research Project, MENG35000. This project is normally taken as one of a pair but each student must write up an individual report. If you want to take a research project **you must let us know in advance** so that we can find out your preferred research areas and arrange a project area before you arrive. This unit **must** be listed on the initial learning agreement form in order for the necessary arrangements to be made.

In exceptional circumstances, a student may enrol for one semester to study for a project, but only if he or she has made an arrangement, **in advance**, with a member of the Department who is prepared to act as supervisor. The appropriate maximum is 60 Bristol credits (30 ECTS credits).

## Information for Undergraduate Students Using Exchanges with other Bristol Departments

You can **select any unit within the School and across the University**, as long as you meet the academic pre-requisites for the unit and the course is approved by your home institution and the Erasmus co-ordinator. If you intend to choose a unit offered by another Department, please contact the relevant unit director and ask them to register on that unit. It is your responsibility to make all the necessary arrangements. Note that any non-Mechanical Engineering units need to be registered in our system.

## Information for Postgraduate Students

We do not accept postgraduate exchange students, but note that our undergraduates are working towards a Master's degree and year 4 courses are at Master's level.

## English Language Skills

Students must have a good standard of both written and spoken English before arriving in Bristol - minimum B2 level or equivalent. Students must be able to converse freely with native English speakers and in addition must be able to read and write extended pieces of technical writing. Experience has shown that it is not possible for students to improve their English to the required level and at the same time reach the required level in technical studies; attempts to do so have resulted in failure.

If you need to develop your academic English language skills, you can take optional units at CELFS (the Centre for English Language and Foundation Studies). These units focus on listening and speaking, reading and writing, and advanced grammar. Visit the CELFS website to register for these units: [www.bristol.ac.uk/english-language/study/current-students/for-undergraduate/open-units/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/english-language/study/current-students/for-undergraduate/open-units/)

## Timetabling Issues

Please also note that the timetable for the academic year starting in September/October is not usually finalised until a few weeks before the start of the year. The Department cannot guarantee that selected courses will not clash on the timetable.

## Arrival in Bristol

1. First you will need to follow instructions given to you by our Global Opportunities team for your arrival. They are responsible for supplying you with a starter pack, your library/security card etc.
2. You should then attend the recommended events on the Week 0 timetable which will be emailed to you along with information on how the Department and the Academic year are organized. You should read all the material carefully as it will help you to understand how our systems work.
3. You will be given the name of your project supervisor if appropriate and advised when the ERASMUS coordinators are available, if you need to see them.

## Useful Contacts and Links

You only need to contact us directly before arrival if you are doing a research project or the design project.

### **Department**

Address: Erasmus Coordinators  
Department of Mechanical Engineering  
University of Bristol  
Queens Building  
University Walk  
Bristol BS8 1TR  
England

E-mail: [came-erasmus-studyabroad@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:came-erasmus-studyabroad@bristol.ac.uk)

Tel: + 44 117 39 40400

Website: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/engineering/departments/mecheng/>

### **International Office**

Tel : +44 117 39 40207

E-mail: [global-opportunities@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:global-opportunities@bristol.ac.uk)

Website: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international/>

### **University**

Maps: <http://www.bris.ac.uk/university/maps/>

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Q: How do I apply?*

A: You must apply online and then email a PDF copy of your completed Learning Agreement to the Global Opportunities team. Do not send paperwork to the Department directly.

*Q: How do I arrange accommodation?*

A: When the Global Opportunities team receives your application they will send you information including accommodation information.

*Q: What should I do when I arrive in Bristol?*

A: First you will need to follow the arrival instructions from the Global Opportunities team. They will supply you with a starter pack, which includes your Ucard. You should then come to the School Office to meet co-ordinators and confirm unit choices.

*Q: Can postgraduate students come on the exchange?*

A: No

*Q: Are fees payable?*

A: No, under Erasmus no fees are payable for students from universities with which Bristol has a formal exchange agreement.

*Q: My University does not have an agreement with the University at present. Can a new agreement be arranged?*

A: No. The Department has exchange agreements with a number of European Universities and we fill all available exchange student places from these institutions. We will not make any new exchange agreements.