

The three year degree in Design and Technology (hons) at Loughborough University, Design and Technology Department

Design and Technology at Loughborough has been developed specifically for those who wish to combine creative flair with the application of scientific knowledge in the field of Technological Product Design. The course shares many similarities with Engineering Design and Industrial Design degrees. The degree course at Loughborough develops a competence in electronics, mechanics, and computing as well as aesthetics and modelling. It develops in students the ability to communicate effectively through technical drawing, sketching, verbal presentations and a professional level of written work.

Undergraduates are actively involved in designing, making and evaluating prototypes in all three years. This may range from consumer product designs to hospital or research equipment. The department actively encourages contact with commercial clients, and the professional skills developed through this cooperation considerably enhance the candidate's position in the job market.

A short synopsis

Year 1

The first year provides a breadth of skills. Students undertake projects in a wide variety of materials and a sound understanding of technology is achieved through laboratory work in mechanics and electronics.

Other components develop skills in the manipulation of materials, graphical communication and aesthetics. Project management skills are extended within design practice. Such work develops important abilities such as physical, graphical and mathematical modelling. The social implications are considered through lectures and seminars.

Year 2

There is a demanding lecture programme to further develop knowledge in the areas of electronic and mechanical engineering, human factors, history and materials. Having developed safe working practices in workshops skills are applied and extended through projects such as the design and construction of furniture and injection moulding tools.

Skills in researching, planning, modelling, building and evaluating are

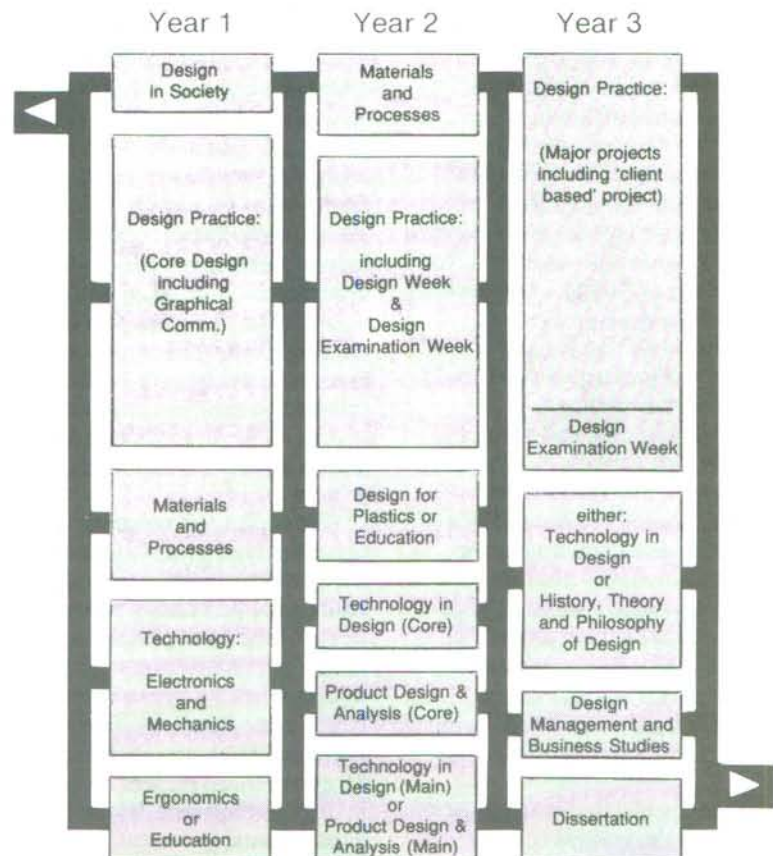
all required in the creative development of prototypes. Graphical and verbal presentation skills are seen as essential in preparation for client liaison in the final year. Short, intensive design projects are undertaken alongside the lecture programme and longer term project.

Year 3

In the third year the course brings together all aspects of the students' skills, knowledge and values through design and make projects. Usually at least one is client orientated. There are opportunities for students to work in groups or individually, undertake National design competitions or foster links that will assist them in the design profession.

Design management issues are considered with internal and visiting lecturers and the department runs a business studies course for students. A dissertation takes the form of an industrial study of product research

project and aims to provide an opportunity for students to examine in depth one aspect of design in industry.



Design and Technology 3 year BA Honours