

Automotive Studies

Highbury's light vehicle and motorcycle maintenance courses provide you with an introduction to mechanics. Newcomers will learn what it is like to work in the industry while those with experience will benefit from advanced study to develop their skills.

You will study a range of modules that provide you with a thorough grounding in the practical skills you need to pursue further courses and/or employment.

You will learn in modern automotive workshops that are among the largest in the south. Facilities include a garage with four-wheel alignment

equipment and ramps, a motorcycle workshop and the latest diagnostic equipment.

As an Institute of the Motor Industry Award (IMI) ATA Approved Centre, our hands-on courses cover everything to do with vehicle maintenance, to provide you with the skills needed to become an automotive mechanic or automotive technician.



Entry Level

Introduction to Vehicle Technology IMIAL Award/Certificate/Diploma

1 year Highbury Campus

Is it for me?

Want to work as a car mechanic? Then this is a terrific way to learn the basics.

What will I study?

There are practical workshop tasks where you will work in teams and there are trips to enable you to find out about different aspects of the motor trade.

Extra info

Within the course you will also improve your Maths, English and IT skills and may gain additional qualifications in these.

Entry requirements

No formal entry qualifications are required. You should be able to demonstrate a desire to work in the automotive industry.

Leads on to...

You could progress to the Institute of Motor Industry course at Level 1.

Level 1

Vehicle Maintenance IMIAL Award/Certificate/Diploma

1 year Highbury Campus

Is it for me?

If you want to learn how to perform practical tasks that will enable you to carry out a full service on a light vehicle then this course is for you.

What will I study?

The course covers vehicle construction and routine maintenance, how engines operate and basic electrical and electronic systems.

Extra info

You could enter the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Automotive Challenge and compete against other colleges and the military. You will also improve your Maths, English and IT skills and may gain additional qualifications in these.

Entry requirements

You will need 4 GCSE grades A*-E, including English and Maths, or a full entry level qualification with literacy and numeracy at an appropriate level.

Leads on to...

You could move onto a Level 2 qualification or find work in the industry.

Level 2

Light Vehicle Maintenance & Repair Principles / Light Vehicle Fitting Principles

IMIAL Diploma

1 year Highbury Campus

Is it for me?

These courses cover mechanical repairs and diagnostics, communication skills and dealing with customers.

What will I study?

You will learn how to identify component faults and carry out repairs and services.

Extra info

You could enter the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Automotive Challenge and compete against other colleges and the military. You will also improve your Maths, English and IT skills and may gain additional qualifications in these.

Entry requirements

You will need 4 GCSE grades A*-D, including English and Maths, or a Level 1 qualification with literacy and numeracy at an appropriate level, or relevant work experience.

Leads on to...

You could progress to a Level 3 qualification or go into employment.



Level 3

Light Vehicle Maintenance & Repair Principles

IMI AL Diploma

1 year Highbury Campus

Is it for me?

This course covers mechanical repairs with a strong emphasis on diagnostics and electrics, communication skills and dealing with customers.

What will I study?

You will learn how to identify component faults and carry out repairs and services.

Extra info

You could enter the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Automotive Challenge and compete against other colleges and the military.

Entry requirements

You will need 5 GCSE grades A*-C, or a Level 2 qualification, or relevant work experience, and successfully complete a set entry assignment.

Leads on to...

You could progress to an advanced level qualification or go into employment.

Entry Level

Introduction to Motorcycle Technology

IMI AL Award/Certificate/Diploma

1 year Highbury Campus

Is it for me?

If you want to learn to repair and fix motorcycles this is the course for you.

What will I study?

This course gives you hands-on experience of working on bikes in an engineering workshop. It covers topics such as motorcycle construction, general repairs, routine maintenance, how engines operate, and basic electrical and electronic systems.

Extra info

Within the course you will also improve your Maths, English and IT skills and may gain additional qualifications in these.

Entry requirements

No formal entry qualifications are required. You should be able to demonstrate a real desire to work in this area.

Leads on to...

You could progress to the Institute of Motor Industry course at Level 1.

Level 1

Motorcycle Maintenance & Repair Principles

IMI AL Award/Certificate/Diploma

1 year Highbury Campus

Is it for me?

This is a great course if you are mad about motorbikes.

What will I study?

This course covers topics such as motorcycle construction, general repairs, routine maintenance, how engines operate, and basic electrical and electronic systems. The course is around 50% hands-on, and you will work on some of the latest equipment and bikes.

Extra info

You will gain experience from local businesses and have the chance to enter the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Automotive Challenge competing against other colleges and the military. You will also improve your Maths, English and IT skills and may gain additional qualifications in these.

Entry requirements

You will need 4 GCSE grades A*-E, including English and Maths, or full entry level qualification with literacy and numeracy at an appropriate level.

Leads on to...

You could progress to an intermediate level qualification or go into employment.



Level 2

Motorcycle Maintenance & Repair Principles

IMIAL Diploma

1 year

Highbury Campus

Is it for me?

This course covers mechanical repairs and diagnostics, communication skills and dealing with customers.

What will I study?

You will learn how to identify component faults and carry out repairs and services.

Extra info

You could enter the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Automotive Challenge and compete against other colleges and the military. You will also improve your Maths, English and IT skills and may gain additional qualifications in these.

Entry requirements

You will need 4 GCSE grades A*-D, including English and Maths, or a Level 1 qualification, or relevant work experience.

Leads on to...

You could progress to an advanced level qualification or go into employment.

Level 2

Cycle Maintenance

EAL Certificate

1 year

Highbury Campus

Is it for me?

Do you love tinkering around with bikes and fixing things? This one-year course is for students who have an interest in cycle maintenance and would like to work in the cycle industry or progress to another engineering course.

What will a study?

The course covers cycle frame technology, gear and brake systems, principles of cycle hubs, wheel tuning and much more. You will also learn the essentials of customer care and working safely in a cycle maintenance environment.

Extra info

Within the course you will also improve your Maths, English and IT skills and may gain additional qualifications in these.

Entry requirements

You will need 4 GCSE grades A*-D, including English and Maths, or a Level 1 qualification with literacy and numeracy at an appropriate level, or relevant work experience.

Leads on to...

You could progress to a Level 3 qualification, an apprenticeship or go into employment.



What next?

Further studies

A Level 2/3 Diploma enables you to progress onto a Level 3 National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) within the workplace. With sufficient experience you could eventually work towards the IMIAL Automotive Master Technician Diploma, which is a university level qualification.

Career opportunities

There are hundreds of garages, dealerships and maintenance depots in the Hampshire area and beyond that need well-trained mechanics and engineers. The Automotive Studies centre acts as a 'job shop' for employers looking for apprentices or trained technicians. We currently work with over 20 small to medium size employers within this sector.

Wages in the automotive industries start at around £15,000, rising to about £20,000. Experienced technicians can earn over £25,000 a year.

Apprenticeship in Motor Vehicle

Earn a real wage while gaining the benefits of high-quality training. Apprenticeships are offered in this area for anyone aged over 16. See page 20 for more details.

- Motor Vehicle Fitting
- Motor Vehicle Repair



Stuart Hobbs says...

I chose Highbury because they offered me the best qualification that suited my needs. They've got an excellent reputation and the facilities are really good: the garage is very realistic. *Advanced Motor Vehicle Apprenticeship*

