University of Hertfordshire

Fancy a job in the fast lane?

There is a University of Hertfordshire graduate in every British Formula One team

By Howard Ash, Programme Leader for Automotive Engineering with Motorsport at the University of Hertfordshire, shares his top tips for working in the industry.

"I travelled to Silverstone with the University’s Formula Student racing team to take part in Formula Student 2017 and we were extremely proud to see the team come away with four awards. The competition also made me consider advice for people interested in working in the industry:

- Work hard: Formula Student is Europe’s most established educational motorsport competition. Backed by industry and high-profile engineers, it aims to develop enterprising and innovative young engineers and encourage more young people to take up a career in engineering. It’s hugely competitive, and each year more than 100 student teams take part.

- With the stakes high, the University’s team UH Racing worked tirelessly, with each participant putting in an average of 1,800 hours into researching, designing and building the racing car (UH30) and making sure it was ready for competing at Silverstone – all while studying full-time for their degrees.

- Be bold: The Formula Student competition included static events where engineering design, cost and business presentation were all judged. Dynamic events including acceleration and fuel efficiency, and a gruelling endurance and fuel efficiency race. The UH Racing team threw themselves into all these rounds with dedication and professionalism.

- Persevere: The team did not go without its challenges for UH Racing. A battery fire during one race led to the ‘driver being pulled from the car and Silverstone marshals running onto the track to extinguish flames. The team were stopped in their tracks unable to compete. Not to be deterred, they set about making repairs to the damaged wiring and replacing the battery so they could take to the track again. The team showed enormous grit and determination to get their car out so quickly, and it was impressive to watch.

Stay positive: Despite these setbacks, the UH Racing team did not lose faith in their ability or talent and were voted the prestigious and highly coveted award for Design but also topped the table for the fastest lap. A strong social media presence throughout the year and national media coverage about our lone woman on the team, UH Racing was also awarded with the Most Effective Communications Strategy award.

Aim high: UH Racing came away from Silverstone with four well-deserved prizes and six trophies, and we definitely need a larger trophy cabinet!

The team is now preparing for two European Formula Student competitions in the Czech Republic and Germany I couldn’t be more proud.

Want a career in motorsport? Visit herts.ac.uk/courses/motorsport-tech to find out about courses available at the University of Hertfordshire.

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