



Douglas Phillips and Jonathan Kempzell,

Foundation degree in Motorsports - Automotive and Performance Technology



Doug had previously completed a national diploma at OCV. He decided to study the Foundation degree in Motorsport – Automotive and Performance Technology because he knew the tutors, and wanted the opportunity to study locally at the excellent facilities at the OCV Bicester performance engineering facility.

Doug feels there are many benefits to studying this Foundation degree, “it helps your learning, as you can put what you are taught into practice immediately. The national diploma students at the Bicester centre see us working on single-seater race cars and it is a good incentive for them to work towards progressing to a Foundation Degree for the opportunity to work with cars that have slicks and wings, and finding out how to improve performance, by altering the cars set up.”

Doug hopes to have his own race team in future, but initially would like to become a race engineer for a leading Le Mans team and feels that undertaking a Foundation degree has been an important first step to achieving this goal.

Prior to joining the Foundation degree Jonathan had worked for 8 years as the director of a security company after completing GCSE and A levels at school. Because he felt he had been out of the education system for some time Jonathon considered the Foundation Degree as a more personal option for learning.

“The personal tutor system and small class means that you get more out of the course. I can take a leadership role within the class and I am confident that what I have learned will help in a high pressure situation of a race”.

Jonathan has been impressed with the content of the Foundation Degree which includes management and business related units which follow industry requirements, as well as subject specific units such as aerodynamics.

“I would recommend this course to anyone as you get a taste of everything related to the motorsport industry, where as with other courses you have to specialise early and don't receive such a comprehensive background. Bicester is a very good venue. Students appreciate the opportunity to use the composite factory and CAD software”.

Both Jonathan and Doug hope to progress onto the final year of a bachelors degree at Oxford Brookes after completing their Foundation degree.

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