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## Degree Leads to Designing the Cars of the Future

Tom Boddington graduated from the Performance Car Technology degree at Glyndŵr University last year.

"I've always been interested in performance cars since I was really young and joining the course was a natural progression. The course is quite unique – it's primarily automotive based and there are some great cars to work on, like a blue Westfield which we had in the workshop. The lecturers are supportive and you get chance to build up a really good working relationship with them."

The Performance Car Technology degree is closely tied to an annual Formula Student competition. Backed by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, it challenges teams of university students from across the UK to produce their own single seat racing car. All of the cars then race against each other at Silverstone, the home of the British Grand Prix.

Tom was part of the Glyndŵr University team. "I designed the whole of the front suspension for the car as part of my third year project and it was brilliant – definitely one of the highlights of my course. The car had to be designed, built and then used so it was the perfect opportunity for putting into practice all of the theory which I'd learnt in lectures."

Tom is now working on his PhD, looking at active suspension for high performance hybrid electric vehicles. "There's a growing trend towards performance cars which are more ecologically friendly and my PhD is very much focused on this, looking at how cars of the future are going to develop."

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