# 220036 - Lightweight Materials for Engineering Applications

**Coordinating unit:** 220 - ETSEIAT - Terrassa School of Industrial and Aeronautical Engineering  
**Teaching unit:** 702 - CMEM - Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy  
**Academic year:** 2015  
**Degree:** BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2010). (Teaching unit Optional)  
BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN AEROSPACE VEHICLE ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2010). (Teaching unit Optional)  
BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2010). (Teaching unit Optional)  
**ECTS credits:** 3  
**Teaching languages:** English

## Teaching staff

- **Coordinator:** MARCELO DE SOUSA PAIS ANTUNES  
- **Others:** DAVID ARENCÓN OSUNA - VERA CRISTINA DE REDONDO REALINHO - JOSÉ IGNACIO VELASCO PERERO

### Degree competences to which the subject contributes

**Specific:**
1. Applied knowledge of materials science and technology; mechanics and thermodynamics; fluid mechanics; aerodynamics and flight mechanics; navigation systems and air traffic; aerospace technology; structural theory; economy and production; projects; environmental impact.

**Transversal:**
1. THIRD LANGUAGE. Learning a third language, preferably English, to a degree of oral and written fluency that fits in with the future needs of the graduates of each course.

## Teaching methodology

- Attending classes of exposition of the contents.  
- Attending classes of practical work.  
- Autonomous work of study and preparation of written reports.  
- Autonomous work of study and preparation of oral presentations.  
- Preparation and fulfillment of group activities.  
- Visits to sector companies directly related to the subject matter.

In the attending classes of exposition of the contents, the teacher will introduce the theoretical bases of the subject, concepts, methods and results, illustrating them with convenient examples.

## Learning objectives of the subject

The main goal of this subject consists in offering to the students an opportunity to extend their academic and technical education concerning last generation lightweight materials, which have arisen as the result of new challenges and industrial requirements. These new requirements depend on one side on the research of new materials with pre-designed and controllable physical-chemical properties and, on the other, on the improvement of new processing and characterization techniques, which would enable to control and assess their properties. During the course of the subject, the students will gather new knowledge on the actual trends in the development of new lightweight cellular materials (foams), nano-structured and multifunctional materials for engineering applications, focusing on the improvement of their
specific mechanical properties, fire retardancy, optical and transport properties, among many others, and advanced processing techniques. It is foreseeable the existence of theoretical-practical seminars, as well as visits to sector companies directly related to the subject matter.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study load</th>
<th>Total learning time: 75h</th>
<th>Theory classes:</th>
<th>30h</th>
<th>40.00%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Self study:</td>
<td>45h</td>
<td>60.00%</td>
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## Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 1: Introduction to lightweight materials for engineering applications</th>
<th>Learning time: 2h</th>
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<td>Large group/Theory: 2h</td>
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<tr>
<th>Module 2: Novel composite and nanocomposite materials</th>
<th>Learning time: 27h</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Large group/Theory: 8h</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medium group/Practical: 4h</td>
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<td>Self study: 15h</td>
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### Description:

1. Introduction
   1.1. Overview: the concept of composite
   1.2. Nanocomposites
   1.2.1. Classification
   1.2.2. Types of fillers: spherical, layered and fibre-like
2. Lightweight composites and nanocomposites
   2.1. Lightweight metal and ceramic (nano)composites
   2.2. Polymer-based nanocomposites
   2.3. Natural nanobiocomposites
3. Properties and testing of (nano)composites
   3.1. Mechanical properties
   3.2. Transport properties
   3.2.1. Thermal conductivity
   3.2.2. Electrical conductivity
   3.2.3. Permeability/gas diffusion
   3.3. Flame retardancy of polymers
   3.3.1. Fundamentals of polymer burning
   3.3.2. Techniques to study the thermal stability and fire behavior of polymers
   3.3.3. Regulation and testing
   3.3.4. Strategies for improving fire resistance
   3.3.5. Practical cases

### Related activities:

- Activity 1
- Activity 2
- Activity 3
- Activity 4
- Activity 5
- Activity 6
Module 3: Cellular materials/foams

Description:
1. Introduction
   1.1. The concept of cellular material and basic cellular parameters
   1.2. Classification of cellular materials
   1.3. Main properties and applications
2. Stages in a foaming process
   2.1. Cell nucleation
   2.2. Foam growth: chemical foaming/physical foaming
   2.3. Foam stabilization
3. Main foaming processes
   3.1. Continuous/semi-continuous foaming processes
   3.2. Batch-foaming processes
4. Physical properties of cellular materials
   4.1. Mechanical properties: flexible/soft and rigid foams - impact absorption
   4.2. Transport properties: thermal insulation
5. Examples of recent developments
   5.1. Recent developments in materials
   5.2. New foaming processes and innovations
   5.3. Polymer nanocomposite foams

Related activities:
Activity 1
Activity 2
Activity 3
Activity 4
Activity 5
Activity 6
## Module 4: Recent developments in lightweight materials

**Description:**
1. Microcellular injection moulding and extrusion processing of lightweight plastic components. Lightweight sandwich structures
2. Liquid Crystal Polymers (LCP) for electro-optic applications
3. Lightweight metal alloys
4. Ultralight ceramics for high temperature applications
5. Aerogels
6. Novel applications of graphene

**Related activities:**
- Activity 1
- Activity 2
- Activity 4
- Activity 5
- Activity 6

**Learning time:** 20h
- Large group/Theory: 6h
- Medium group/Practical: 2h
- Self study: 12h
### Planning of activities

| Activity 0: Classes of exposition of the contents, and of practical work. | Hours: 10h  
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<tr>
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<th>Theory classes: 10h</th>
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| Activity 1: Report/Presentation about the selection of a lightweight functional material for a given application (Group work). | Hours: 14h  
| | Theory classes: 2h  
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<th>Self study: 12h</th>
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| Activity 2: Report about recent developments in lightweight materials (Individual work). | Hours: 12h  
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<th>Self study: 12h</th>
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| Activity 3: Material selection: Use of Edupack software. Report about the selection of a material or group of materials for a chosen engineering application. | Hours: 14h  
| | Theory classes: 2h  
| | Self study: 12h |

**Description:**
Each student will prepare a report about new developments in the manufacturing and production of lightweight materials, focusing on their main characteristics, differences/advantages with existing technologies and innovations.

**Support materials:**
- Recommended bibliography.
- Other sources: books, articles, internet, etc.

**Descriptions of the assignments due and their relation to the assessment:**
- Written report.

**Specific objectives:**
- To learn about the importance of processing on attaining functional lightweight components for engineering applications.

**Description:**
The students will prepare a report about the selection of a material or group of materials for a chosen engineering application using specific material selection software (Edupack software), explaining its characteristics, properties, processing methods and other applications.

**Support materials:**
- Edupack material selection software.

**Descriptions of the assignments due and their relation to the assessment:**
- Written report.
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**Specific objectives:**
To learn about the importance of an adequate material selection for a given application using a specific material selection software (Edupack software).

### ACTIVITY 4: VISIT TO A SECTOR COMPANY.

**Hours:** 2h
- Theory classes: 2h

**Description:**
Visit to a sector company directly related to the subject matter.

**Specific objectives:**
To get in touch with an industrial manufacturing company directly related to the subject matter.

### ACTIVITY 5: VISIT TO A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER.

**Hours:** 2h
- Theory classes: 2h

**Description:**
Visit to a research and development center directly related to the subject matter.

**Specific objectives:**
To understand the work behind the development of new functional materials for a given application.

### ACTIVITY 6: EXAMINATION.

**Hours:** 11h
- Theory classes: 2h
- Self study: 9h

**Description:**
Written test in which the student will have to show his/her knowledge of the contents learned in class.

**Descriptions of the assignments due and their relation to the assessment:**
- Written exam.

**Specific objectives:**
To develop the contents learned in the theoretical and practical classes and demonstrate the level of knowledge.

### Qualification system

The final degree of the subject will depend on four evaluation activities:
- Activity 1: 25%
- Activity 2: 25%
- Activity 3: 10%
- Activity 6 (exam): 40%
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Regulations for carrying out activities

Activity 1 - Written report/oral presentation in groups formed by a minimum of 2 students and a maximum of 4.
Activity 2 - Individual written report.
Activity 3 - Individual written report.
Activity 6 - Individual written exam.

Bibliography

Basic:


Complementary:

