

EIGHT COURSES RUNNING OVER TWO DAYS VACUUM TECHNOLOGY TRAINING COURSES

Date: Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th June 2026

Venue: Harwell Campus, Didcot, OX11 0QX

INTRODUCTION

Vacuum is a central commodity in the technology for manufacturing a host of products which are now part of everyday living, such as microelectronic and optoelectronic devices, TV screens, photovoltaic panels and pharmaceuticals, as well as in scientific research. Producing and maintaining a vacuum and knowing its properties therefore concerns a large number of people who work in these areas. Although these activities span a wide field there is a relatively small body of basic underlying knowledge that is common to all of them.

The purpose of these courses is to present this basic knowledge in a straightforward and accessible way. The principles and practice that are involved in creating and measuring a vacuum will be dealt with and illustrated by worked examples from various applications. Ultra-high vacuum, important in many applications, will be discussed only briefly in courses VTC1 and VTC2, however they will serve as a good introduction to the course "Clean Vacuum & UHV" VTC3 which addresses the matter of UHV in more detail.

These courses are aimed at newcomers to the field, those who wish to refresh their knowledge, and those who wish to go further into UHV practicalities.

They will be appropriate for new graduate students in physics, chemistry and engineering for whom vacuum techniques will be a working tool. After attending any of these courses participants should be able to analyse the behaviour of their own vacuum systems with increased understanding, and have the basis for evaluating the effectiveness of proposed designs.

There are five specialist application courses: VTC4 on "Leak Detection", VTC5 on "The Design and Fabrication of Vacuum Chambers", VTC6 on Introduction to Residual Gas Analysis (RGA), VTC7 on "Practical Training on Pump Maintenance and Troubleshooting" and VTC8 on "An Introduction to Cryopumping". Places on each course are very limited, so you are encouraged to register early.

The material is presented in an informal/tutorial style with an effort to address participants' needs. Download access to a copy of the Training Slides + a Certificate of Attendance will be provided.

Delegates may choose to attend one or more courses, but it is not possible to attend all due to overlap.

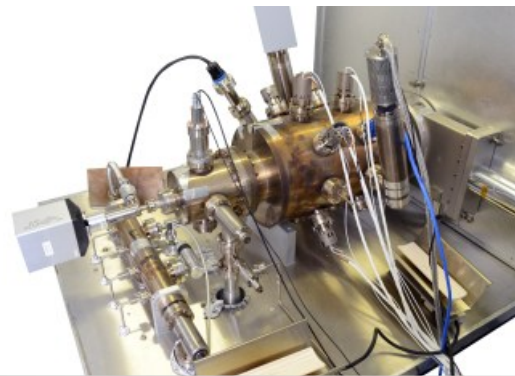
Advanced Vacuum Training

The VTC Training Courses at Vacuum Symposium provide the perfect introduction for medium to high level courses run by the IOP Vacuum Group. The Institute of Physics runs a week long Training Course biennially - check out www.iop.org for next event.

MEETING ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

Vacuum Symposium Secretariat

Email: info@vacuum-uk.org



TRAINING at VACUUM SYMPOSIUM
costs £35* per course



16 & 17 JUNE 2026 Harwell Campus UK

www.vacuum-uk.org

A MEETING AT THE 15th VACUUM SYMPOSIUM

Please watch out for updates on the website

Eight courses will be running
(please register well in advance to attend courses—places are limited.)

- **VTC1** Vacuum - The Basic Principles
- **VTC2** Vacuum in practice - Atmosphere to High Vacuum
- **VTC3** Clean Vacuum and UHV
- **VTC4** An Introduction to Leak Detection
- **VTC5** The Design & Fabrication of Vacuum Chambers
- **VTC6** Introduction to Residual Gas Analysis (RGA)
- **VTC7** Practical Training on Pump Maintenance and Troubleshooting
- **VTC8** An Introduction to Cryopumping



Co-located with



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VTC1 (morning, running on Tuesday — Diamond G59)

Vacuum - The Basic Principles

Time: 10:30 to 12:30

The trainer is **Dr Stuart Astin, University of Salford**

This course will deal with the principles involved in creating and maintaining a vacuum. The various aspects of gas behaviour that are important for this purpose will be described, together with the characteristics of flowing gas and how they change as pressure falls. On the basis of this analysis flow can be specified quantitatively and performance predicted.

- Schematic representation of a typical vacuum system
- Specifying a vacuum – pressure and partial pressures
- Air, water vapour and rarefied gas
- The molecular description of a gas. Mean free path
- Fluidic and molecular states of gas, Knudsen number
- Gas flow – viscous and molecular
- Specifying flow – throughput, pumping speed and conductance
- Sources of gas in a vacuum vessel. Outgassing. The pumping process.

VTC2 (afternoon, running on Tuesday — Diamond G59)

Vacuum in practice - Atmosphere to High Vacuum

Time: 14:00 to 16:00

The trainer for VTC2 is **Dr Richard Pilkington, University of Salford**

The subject of this course is how vacuum is produced and measured in a few typical devices whose operation reflects the application of the principles described in the VTC1 course. A representative selection of simple systems will be described and analysed.

- Pumps: working principles and operating range of oil-sealed rotary, dry scroll, turbo-molecular, cryogenic and ion pumps.
- Pressure gauges: classification and operating range. Working principles of Pirani, capacitance diaphragm and ionisation gauges.
- Residual gas analysis. The quadrupole instrument.
- Examples of systems at low and high vacuum.
- Sources of further information.

VTC3 (morning, running on Wednesday - Diamond G53)

Clean Vacuum & UHV

Time: 09:00 to 10:30

The trainer is **Dr Keith Middleman, STFC Daresbury Laboratory**

The course is primarily aimed at those who need to use equipment operating at vacuum levels of 10^{-9} mbar or lower and is approached mainly from the physics aspects of vacuum science. Therefore, the

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TRAINING IS SPONSORED BY:



The full VS15 programme is available on the website at www.vacuum-uk.org/training/.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

1. Decide which courses will be most useful to attend.
2. Send this information to colleagues and associates who may be interested.
3. Register yourself to attend the event as soon as possible.

ATTENDEES

To register as an attendee and for training for the Symposium and the Vacuum Expo exhibition please go to **WWW.VACUUM-UK.ORG** and register.

STUDENTS: Qualifying students will receive a [50% discount](#).

Once registered you will be sent regular updates.



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course will emphasise the physical principles of equipment and processes.

Any mathematics or advanced physics presented during the course will be at a level suitable for people with a general technical background. The topics to be covered will include:

- a general introduction to vacuum and UHV in particular;
- the measurement of total and partial pressures in UHV;
- Outgassing and related phenomena;
- processing; elements of system design and operation and quality assurance matters

VTC4 (morning, running on Wednesday — Diamond G54)

An Introduction to Leak Detection

Time: 11:00 to 12:30

The trainer is **Marleen Mannemann, Leybold Vacuum**

This course discusses the various uses and ever increasing requirements for leak detection, describing and defining what a leak is and the methods of detection, with practical demonstrations of finding leaks using a helium leak detector.

Discussions will include, modes of operation, such as Vacuum Mode vs Sniff Mode; Integral and local leak detection methods; description of various types of leaks that could be encountered and also various applications for Helium leak detection.

Finally, with time permitting, getting some audience participation to find leaks on some components.

VTC5 (afternoon, running on Wednesday — Diamond G53)

The Design & Fabrication of Vacuum Chambers

Time: 13:00 to 15:00

The trainer is **Mitchell Leonard & Paul Hawes, Kurt J Lesker Co**

This presentation gives an introduction to the basic requirements and properties of UHV chambers. The main focus will be the design and fabrication of chambers with regards to material choice and surface finish, together with a brief introduction to special-purpose solutions such as NEG Coatings.

- Chamber design
- Fabrication techniques
- Materials for UHV applications
- Surface finishes
- Measurement of UHV
- Special Purpose / Application Specific solutions

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16 & 17 JUNE 2026 Harwell Campus UK

Vacuum symposium UK aims to address cutting edge issues associated with Vacuum Science Technology and Applications. This two-day event fosters a multidisciplinary environment that cuts across traditional boundaries between disciplines and features:

- Technical Sessions
- Poster Sessions
- Training Courses
- Exhibition
- Tours—ISIS
- Tours—Diamond
- Tours—Space



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VTC6 (afternoon, running on Wednesday — Diamond G54)

Introduction to Residual Gas Analysis (RGA)

Time: 15:30 to 17:00

The trainer is **Dr Graham Cooke, Hiden Analytical**

This short course will introduce participants to the principles of RGA as used to determine the partial pressures of gases in high ultrahigh vacuum (i.e. pressures below about 10^{-5} mbar.)

Concentrating on the most common form of instrument used for this technique - the small mass spectrometer - we will discuss the physics of ion sources, mass filters and detectors and how these affect the results obtained.

Finally, we will look at how a mass spectrum can be used to analyse the residual gases in the vacuum.

The course will be of interest to those science and engineering graduates or technicians who wish to gain an understand of this important technique. The level of physics involved will be elementary.

VTC7 (afternoon, running on Wednesday — Diamond G53)

Practical Training on Pump Maintenance and Troubleshooting

Time: 13:30 to 15:00

The trainer is **Adam Ross & Raj Das, Leybold Vacuum**

This course will deal with the principles of how vacuum pumps operate. Good pump practice to maximise the life time of the pumps whilst maintaining optimum performance. It will cover maintenance guidance and how to do basic maintenance. Highlight on how to do fault diagnostics when the pump is not working as expected. The pumps that are covered are as follows:-

- Rotary Vane
- Scroll
- Turbo
- Ion

VTC8 (afternoon, running on Wednesday — Diamond G54)

An Introduction to Cryopumping

Time: 15:30 to 17:00

The trainer is **Johannes Benninghoven, Leybold Vacuum**

This course will deal with the principles of cryogenics for vacuum pumping including some kinetic energy theory, sticking coefficients and transmission probability. A brief history of cryogenic vacuum will also be presented. The main topics include:-

- Elements of Cryopumping (cryo-sorption, cryo-condensation & cryo-trapping)
- Cryopumps (History, Types, Thermal Load)
- Cryocoolers
- Applications

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- Tours—Vacuum Processing Lab



More at: www.vacuum-uk.org

** Training is VAT exempt.*

Training fee is reduced to £35 per course + £20 VS15 event administration fee.

50% discount for Students

