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CASE STUDY

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Dear Sirs,

As someone who is still considered a young engineer (just), I'd like to share my experiences in becoming Chartered and how it has affected my career so far.

I have read a few letters from young engineers who appear disenchanted with the profession and their careers to date, and wonder why they should bother with becoming chartered. After all, your subs go up and do you really command a higher salary because of it? I achieved chartered status in 2002 and apart from a pat on the back and a bonus from my employer not much changed. I didn't have an epiphany and suddenly find myself able to command enormous respect around the office, nor did my salary increase.

No, the value of becoming chartered is in the journey getting there. In order to achieve those four letters you have to go through some of the longest, wide ranging and in depth training of any professional. By the time you complete the training you will have earned a good bachelors degree*, spent at least 2 years on accredited or assessed training covering all aspects of an engineering business and then at least a further 2 years gaining relevant and responsible experience in your chosen field. That's a minimum of 7years – well done! By the time you've achieved all this you should understand the engineering profession as a professional and your responsibilities within it, both to the profession and society. More importantly you will have gained experiences that your non-chartered peers will not.

I have left the UK and I now live and work in Melbourne, but I've also worked for a short while in the USA and come into contact with engineers from all over the world. What I have come to realise is that without this training and the resulting experience I would never have been able to drop into the different systems and requirements of each country and work the way I can. The training I received was second to none; I have yet to meet an engineer from anywhere, other than the UK, who received this type of experience. Less tangible than the training is what you gain from having the personal goal to become chartered.



It will be different for each individual, but, to achieve your goal you have to commit to achieving certain standards. This is what sets you apart from the rest.

So, to anyone who is wondering if they should bother with CEng, the answer is yes. You might not get the benefits straight away and they might not be in the form you expected – but I guarantee you'll be better for doing it.

Regards,
Matt Robinson BEng(Hons) CEng MIET
Project Manager
Registered 2003

*Note that Matthew graduated in 1996. He would have needed an MEng - or evidence of additional learning - if his degree had been awarded after 1999. For your own position, check with your Institution.

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