

ENGINEERING DEGREE ACCREDITATION



The mark of assurance that a degree programme meets the high standards set by the engineering profession

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 Engineering
Council

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Accreditation of an engineering degree programme is an important mark of assurance that the programme meets the high standards set by the engineering profession.

It is a rigorous endorsement of a key element of the pathway that a student is embarking on towards becoming a professionally registered engineer. Graduates from an accredited engineering degree programme will have achieved part or all of the underpinning knowledge for later professional registration as an Incorporated Engineer (IEng) or Chartered Engineer (CEng).

The standards

In the UK, the standards are set by the Engineering Council, the regulatory body for the profession, in consultation with the discipline-specific Professional Engineering Institutions (PEIs). These standards are published in the United Kingdom Standard for Professional Engineering Competence (UK-SPEC):

www.engc.org.uk/ukspec

The accreditation process

Universities submit an application to have their undergraduate degrees, MScs or EngDs accredited. Accreditation is undertaken by one or more of the PEIs that are licensed to do so by the Engineering Council, and to its standards set out in UK-SPEC.

A degree may be accredited by more than one PEI, particularly where it spans several engineering disciplines.

Engineering employers as well as academics are involved throughout the process: from the setting of standards, as members of panels that review degrees and finally in the decision-making process about whether to confer accredited degree status.

Requirements for accreditation include strong university - employer links, such as meetings between the university and industry to discuss the current and future content of degree programmes.

Degrees with accredited status are listed on the Engineering Council's accredited courses database, along with details about achieving IEng or CEng status: www.engc.org.uk/courses

Accredited degree logo

The award of accredited status permits the use of the logo, available in English and Welsh from the Engineering Council's website:



Universities are encouraged to use this logo alongside accredited degree details in their prospectuses and websites. The logo may be used in conjunction with the relevant PEI logo, to help those choosing degrees to make informed choices.

STAKEHOLDER BENEFITS

The public, potential students and their advisers, universities, government, regulators, HE funding agencies and the engineering and related professions all benefit in various ways from the accreditation system operated by the engineering profession.

The key benefits of accreditation and 'Engineering Council accredited degree' status to each stakeholder are outlined below.

Students, their parents and advisers

- Assurance that the degree programme
 - meets the high standards set by the engineering profession
 - provides a solid underpinning in the subject
 - meets the current and future needs of employers
- Graduating with an accredited degree
 - is a first step towards professional registration as it provides the exemplifying academic qualification for IEng or CEng status
 - confers a competitive advantage as some employers recruit preferentially from accredited degree programmes
- Accreditation demonstrates that the educational institution takes seriously the need to ensure its degree programmes are current, relevant and highly regarded
- Accredited degrees are recognised by some other countries that have signed international agreements

Universities

- External confirmation of the institution's reputation as a provider of quality engineering education
- A benchmark against internationally respected standards
- Access at little or no cost to advice from accrediting institutions that contributes to the continuing improvement of the degree programme
- A key marketing tool when recruiting students
- Demonstrates a strong commitment to the development of professionally registered engineers
- Confirms to senior university management a commitment to engineering education
- Provides a strong link to the profession



Employers

- Assurance that the degree has been reviewed by academics and industrialists, and meets standards set by the profession
- Graduates will
 - have met part, or all, of the underpinning academic requirement for professional registration as IEng or CEng
 - have experience of teamwork, design, presentations etc.
 - be able to make an immediate contribution to the business as well as developing skills to become major contributors longer term
- Provides employers with the means to
 - work with universities and their industrial advisory boards to help to shape degree programmes
 - have a strong voice in decisions about accredited degree status

Regulators and funders

- Largely carried out by trained volunteer members of relevant PEIs, at no cost to the public purse
- Provides international quality and learning outcome comparisons
- Complements QAA's institutional audit

The profession

- Provides an opportunity to promote to students the ethos of professionalism, PEI membership and professional registration
- Enables 'fast-tracking' of potential registrants who hold accredited degrees
- Provides a strong link with educational institutions, enabling dialogue, advice about the content and style of degrees, and encouragement of innovative provision

Useful information

The Engineering Council website provides a lot of useful information for anyone interested in accredited degree programmes: www.engc.org.uk

This includes a searchable database of accredited degree programmes: www.engc.org.uk/courses

Further information and hard copies of publications including the Accreditation of HE Programmes manual are available from info@engc.org.uk

“Lockheed Martin UK values accredited degrees that meet the standards set by our profession. These greatly assist the development of engineering graduates in gaining professional registration which benefits both the individual and the employer.”

Steve Burnage CEng CEnv HonFSEE FIMechE
Lockheed Martin Fellow
Lockheed Martin UK Ampthill

“I was keen to identify and apply for accredited degree programmes, as this backed my plans to become a professionally registered engineer and gave me assurance that the degree met the required standards.”

Mark Greaves
Graduate Mechanical Engineer
United Utilities

BECOMING A PROFESSIONALLY REGISTERED ENGINEER

Anyone serious about a career in engineering should be aiming to become professionally registered.

Achieving professional registration is a mark of recognition of an engineer's competence and commitment, that can lead to improved career prospects and higher earnings potential.

An accredited degree will provide an important part of what's needed to achieve registered engineer status as either IEng or CEng. Further skills and competences will need to be developed in the workplace, and a final assessment of competence and commitment, the professional review, is undertaken by one of the 36 PEIs licensed by the Engineering Council.

Joining a PEI whilst a student provides access to what's happening in engineering through the resources or employer networking events offered by the institution. Student membership is available at little or no cost, and as there are 36 PEIs, each covering specific engineering disciplines, it shouldn't be difficult to find the right one.

www.engc.org.uk/institutions



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