

Proposals for HEI consultation

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are asked to consider the three proposals set out below, which could be introduced individually or one or more combined, and give their formal view.

There are three main elements to the proposals:

1. The introduction of a new Accreditation Code of Practice

This would be primarily for the use of the individual Professional Engineering Institutions (PEIs) that are licensed to undertake accreditation, but it would also provide a single point of reference for others. Contents would be broadly based on existing documentation although it is likely that the working group will make recommendations for amendments to support understanding, consistency and communication.

2. The introduction of a compulsory accreditation template

This would clearly distinguish between Engineering Council requirements and any additional or different PEI requirements. This will make the process more transparent for HEIs and make it easier for PEIs to assess whether both sets of requirements have been met. The template should reflect a clear link between the Registration Code of Practice (or new Accreditation Code of Practice) and supporting guidance.

3. The introduction of a 2-stage licensing process

Accreditation visits cover two broad areas:

- a) generic data related to the Department/School/Faculty/University Quality systems and forward strategy
- b) specific data on the courses under consideration.

Most Departments run many courses under one School, and these can be accredited by a number of PEIs. Having to repeat the accreditation preparation for every visit to examine part of the course portfolio opens up the opportunity for inconsistency and is very burdensome for the HEI staff.

The proposal to address these problems is to decouple the two elements of the visit so that once the host School¹ had achieved accreditation for the areas outlined in “a” above, subsequent visits within the accreditation period might only consider course level information, outlined in “b” above. Whilst this would not necessarily decrease the frequency of visits by each PEI it would decrease the volume of information requested and reviewed. It would also decrease the range of HEI personnel required to be present and the duration of the visit on all but one occasion within the visit period.

Next steps

Findings from the consultation will be reviewed and proposals amended and/or refined as appropriate, before final recommendations made together with the development of an implementation plan.

¹ Where the term School is used this may instead refer to Faculty or University, depending on the structure of the HEI

What would we like HEIs to do now?

We are asking for the views of engineering departments on:

- 1) Which parts of the accreditation process are the most resource intensive for HEIs.
- 2) Whether, if implemented, each of the measures outlined above would be likely to improve the efficiency and consistency of the process.
- 3) Whether there are any specific questions they would wish to see answered as part of the implementation plan.

Responses should be submitted to accreditation@engc.org.uk as soon as possible, and by 4 May at the latest.