

## **Path to Chartered Engineer post 2012**

From 2013 the educational standard for the professional title of Chartered Engineer will be an accredited Masters Degree in engineering or equivalent. This change has implications for all accredited engineering qualifications and non-accredited engineering and cognate qualifications.

Though graduates of level 8 accredited engineering programmes (post 2012) can apply for the professional title of Associate Engineer they will be categorised as 'Further Learning to Chartered Engineer'. This is not a title but an internal classification to distinctly identify such graduates so that they can be encouraged to acquire the required further learning.

A task force to consider the paths to Chartered Engineer was established in 2012 and the main recommendations are included below.

### **Accredited Masters Programme**

At the outset, it should be noted that the formal educational requirement for the title of Chartered Engineer post 2012 is an accredited engineering Masters degree. These programmes are provided exclusively by the Higher Education Institutes (HEIs). The intention is that these Masters programmes will be accredited by Engineers Ireland to demonstrate that they meet the specified learning outcomes. While a number of these programmes currently exist, it is expected that over time a greater number will become available and that these programmes will be flexible to accommodate different categories of learner. Examples here are:

- Full-time taught masters programmes
- Part-time taught masters programmes fully within a HEI
- Part time programmes, run by the HEIs, that include a work based project.

The success of this route will rest on close cooperation with the Third Level sector to provide a range of programmes attractive to members and on Engineers Ireland maintaining a level of flexibility over the coming years as applications are received. It

is expected that the majority of applicants for Chartered Engineer will hold one of the above.

### **Assessment of Equivalence to an Accredited Masters**

This section addresses the paths to Chartered Engineer for holders of accredited engineering level 8 qualifications who undertake some further learning and have work experience BUT these have not been subject to assessment by a third level institution. Instead the assessment in this case will be undertaken by Engineers Ireland.

Engineers Ireland has recognised that it is important that a pathway to title exists for those level 8 graduates who do not attain an accredited masters qualification. However, holders of accredited level 8 engineering qualifications awarded from 2013 must gain some additional qualifications before the equivalence to Masters level qualification can be established. Typical examples might include:

- A taught masters in engineering from another country
- A higher diploma in engineering from an Irish Higher Education Institution coupled with an MBA
- A research masters or PhD in engineering
- A higher diploma in engineering or a non-engineering masters coupled with a work based engineering project or peer-reviewed published technical paper(s)
- A combination of academic credits and a work based engineering project.

Such a path may be particularly relevant for engineers who are working in a variety of locations (e.g. defence forces, multinationals) and therefore cannot read for a Masters in one location.

The onus is on the candidate, supported by guidance from Engineers Ireland, to demonstrate that the learning outcomes equivalent to an accredited masters have been achieved in an appropriate manner – essentially establishing the equivalence. The assessment of equivalence in this case is undertaken by Engineers Ireland.

Candidates undertaking this path to the title of Chartered Engineer will have to register their intent with Engineers Ireland in advance so that the necessary guidance and mentoring can be provided. This is to avoid a situation where candidates will submit an application for Chartered Engineer after several years and list a range of potentially non-suitable material. The intent is not to tie a candidate to a particular option, but rather for the candidate to consciously decide that they are embarking on

the Chartered Engineer process and in so doing, any academic credits, work related project or training etc will contribute towards their formation.

An 'Experiential' route will also be provided to level 8 graduates who wish to meet the educational requirement for Chartered Engineer but have not undertaken any further study i.e. the candidate submits detailed report on his significant work experience. This process will be operated by Engineers Ireland. The experiential route for level 8 graduates requires further study, and will be addressed once the details of the other alternatives are finalised.

### **Continuing Professional Development**

Chartered Engineers need to maintain a minimum of 5 days relevant CPD per annum.

### **Revision of learning outcomes and competence framework**

A process has commenced to review the learning outcomes and competence framework to support the paths to professional titles.

Once these updates are in place the intention is to provide a set of learning outcomes and competences in tabular form so that the requirement for progression to a professional title is clear and unambiguous.

**Updated: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012**

**Damien Owens**

**Registrar**