

Guidance Information for the Accreditation of Academic Programmes by the Energy Institute

Version 6 – April 2025

Contents

- 1) The Energy Institute
- 2) The Engineering Council
- 3) Types of accreditation available with the Energy Institute
- 4) What are the benefits of accreditation?
- 5) Output Standard Matrices
- 6) Compensation and Condonement - Engineering Council
- 7) Learning Affiliate Membership
- 8) Energy Institute - Conditions for accreditation
- 9) Accreditation – Information required
- 10) Overview of the Accreditation Process
- 11) MEI and Chartered Energy Manager accreditation visits
- 12) International Agreements
- 13) Risk Based Policy – Engineering Council
- 14) Frequently Asked Questions
- 15) KIS Statements
- 16) UK Qualifications
- 17) Appendices - EngC Guidance

1) The Energy Institute

Energy defines modern life. It lights, heats, and cools our businesses and homes, it gets us from A to B, and it is increasingly safe, sustainable, reliable and affordable.

But the story of energy is only part told. Achieving net zero at the same time as opening up access for the world's growing population is one of the most pressing challenges facing humanity. More than ever, we need ingenious people - innovators, entrepreneurs, scientists, and engineers – to make all of this possible and shape our energy future.

The Energy Institute (EI) is the professional membership body bringing global energy expertise together. Our mission is to create a better energy future - for our members and for society - by accelerating a just global transition to net zero. We're a unique network with insight built over a century and spanning the world of energy, from conventional oil and gas to the most innovative low carbon and energy efficient technologies.

If you offer a programme that you are proud of, that's designed to deliver the energy professionals of the future, and if you are passionate about delivering quality of learning experience and delivery, it makes sense to apply for EI accreditation.

2) The Engineering Council

The Engineering Council (EngC) operates under a Royal Charter and is the regulator of the engineering profession in the UK. It works with and on behalf of the profession to ensure that the standards set are maintained as these standards are internationally recognised and industry relevant. They provide employers, their customers and wider society with confidence that professionally registered engineers and technicians have met the standards set by the profession and will act in society's best interests. The standards focus on outcomes and what individual engineers and technicians can do.

The standards individuals must meet to become professionally registered are set out in the [UK Standard for Professional Engineering Competence and Commitment](#) (UK-SPEC) and the [Information and Communications Technology Technician](#) (ICT-Tech) Standard. Society can have confidence that professionally registered engineers and technicians have been independently assessed as meeting these standards and have committed to exercising their responsibilities in an ethical and sustainable manner.

The Engineering Council also publishes the educational criteria required for the [different levels of professional registration](#), known as learning outcomes. The learning outcomes to be met by degree programmes for them be recognised by the Engineering Council can be found in [The Accreditation of Higher Education Programmes](#) (AHEP) and those to be met by non-degree programmes (including apprenticeships) can be found in [The Approval and Accreditation of Qualifications and Apprenticeships](#) (AAQA).

The competences must be demonstrated by applicants to be eligible for award of these titles are set out by the Engineering Council in the document UK Spec, which can be downloaded from the [Engineering Council's website](#). Applicants must demonstrate their competence in an energy context.

3) Types of accreditations available with the Energy Institute

The EI can offer accreditation for a wide range of academic qualifications, whether they are offered by Higher Education Institutions (HEI), Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) Colleges.

We can accredit programmes in relation to EI unique standards – Member of the EI (MEI) and Chartered Energy Manager.

The EI has an Engineering Council licence to accredit programmes under the fourth edition of the Accreditation of Higher Education Programmes (AHEP4) for Chartered Engineer (CEng) and Incorporated Engineer (IEng) where the qualification or programme of learning is recognised as fully meeting the learning outcomes or partially meeting the learning outcomes at the requisite level.

We see our relationship with our accredited providers as one of partnership, bringing close connections with the energy sector, opportunities to network and progress for your students, staff and graduates, and promotional opportunities for you, your institution and the programmes and quality learning experiences you offer.

Accreditation indicates that your programme delivers a foundation from which your students can go on to demonstrate professional competence once they have gained experience and applied their knowledge to an appropriate standard in the workplace.

AHEP is concerned with the recognition of programmes for levels 5-7 in relation to Chartered Engineer (CEng) and Incorporated Engineer (IEng). AHEP ensures the knowledge and learning content of these programmes and where appropriate, the competence development element meets the set requirements.

The process of accreditation seeks to ensure that qualifications meet the knowledge and understanding requirements. They include the following qualifications: -

- Higher National Diploma – Level 5
- Foundation degrees – Level 5
- Bachelors degrees – Level 6
- Bachelors degrees with honours – Level 6
- Masters degrees including the Integrated Masters – Level 7
- Doctoral degrees – Level 8

Accreditations awarded by the EI under Licence from the Engineering Council

CEng Registration: -

- BEng degree (with / without Honours): considered for meeting the **requirement in part (Level 6)**
- MEng degree: considered for meeting **the requirement in full (Level 7)**
- MSc degrees: considered **for meeting the further learning requirement (Level 7)**

IEng Registration: -

- BEng/BSc ordinary or Honours degree: considered, normally, for meeting the **requirement in full (Level 6)**
- Foundation Degree (FD): considered for meeting the **requirement in part**. ****Applicants with a FD have to demonstrate further learning to bring them to first degree standard** (Level 5)**
- HND: considered for meeting the **requirement in part**. ****Applicants with a HND have to complete further learning to bring them to first degree standard** (Level 5)**

Accreditation unique to the EI

- Member of the Energy Institute (MEI) - A qualification focused on any aspect of energy **(Levels 5-8)**
- Chartered Energy Manager - A qualification focused on energy management and efficiency including the development of energy policies in organisations **(Levels 6-8)**

4) What are the benefits of accreditation?

Accreditation indicates that your programme delivers a foundation for your students to go on to build successful careers in the energy sector. It also starts your students on the path to achieve professional titles which are recognised globally.

Accreditation is a peer review showing that your programme delivers the outputs expected by industry. It helps students select the appropriate degree programme(s), which have been reviewed and formally recognised by the energy sector, and which offer clear pathways for progression for professional registration in the future.

The Energy Institute grants accreditation to programmes on an individual basis, we **do not** accredit departments or institutions.

Show your programme meets the energy sector standards

- EI accreditation gives independent assurance that your programme has met the rigorous quality standards and outcomes set by the energy sector. It also provides you with ongoing support in the continuing development and evolution of your programmes to meet the sectors' changing needs.

Boost your students' employability

- EI accredited programmes are widely respected, and graduates are sought out by employers all over the world.

Programme(s) will stand out from the crowd

- Accreditation acts as a kitemark for students looking for a quality learning experience which will be the starting point for their energy career. If your programme is granted accreditation status, you will be able to use the EI's accredited course logo in your promotional material and your programme will receive a free listing on the EI's directory of accredited courses.

There are opportunities for your institution to raise its profile as part of the EI community through getting involved in our committees, volunteer network and contributing to our magazine and knowledge resources.

Help your students on the pathway to professional qualifications

- As a Learning Affiliate member your students will get free Student membership for the duration of their studies, and opportunities to connect with the energy sector, internationally and locally. Students completing an EI accredited programme have an easier progression route towards becoming Chartered and/or Incorporated Engineers.

Access to knowledge resources

- Gain full access to our information services covering every aspect of the energy sector, including the library and e-library services on our Knowledge website to supplement your students' studies.

5) Output Standard Matrices

One of the most important areas of an accreditation visit is the assessment of the students and whether they are meeting the Output Standards as prescribed by the AHEP4 standard.

The HEI should complete a separate Output Standard Matrix for each programme under consideration and demonstrate how the desired learning outcomes are met through teaching and assessment methods, indicating that graduates have reached the desired threshold level of the learning outcomes.

When completing the Output Standards Matrices, the HEI should indicate the module(s), in which the stated Learning Outcomes are assessed. Please also refer to the Appendices.

6) Compensation and Condonement - Engineering Council

The EngC defines **compensation** as: "The practice of allowing marginal failure (i.e. not more than 10% below the nominal pass mark) of one or more modules and awarding credit for them, often on the basis of good overall academic performance."

The EngC defines **condonement** as: "The practice of allowing students to fail and not receive credit for one or more modules within a degree programme yet still qualify for the award of the degree."

The following requirements will apply to students joining the first year of an accredited undergraduate and postgraduate degree programme from September 2022: -

- Evidence that all AHEP learning outcomes are met by all variants of each programme must be provided before accreditation can be granted.
- No condonement of modules delivering AHEP learning outcomes is allowed.
- A maximum of 30 credits in a Bachelors or integrated Masters degree programme can be compensated, and a maximum of 20 credits in a Masters degree other than the integrated Masters degree.
- Major individual and group-based project modules must not be compensated.
- The minimum module mark for which compensation is allowed is 10% below the nominal module pass mark (or equivalent if a grade-based marking scheme is used).

The key consideration in the rules above is to ensure that graduates of accredited engineering degree programmes have met all the programme learning outcomes specified in the EngC AHEP4 standard.

Please click on the following link for further guidance [EngC Compensation and Condonement Policy](#)

7) Learning Affiliate Membership

Before applying for accreditation, your department will need to become a Learning Affiliate (LA) member. LA membership provides a simple way for your staff and students to begin their relationship with the EI and enables them to get the benefits from day one. The EI also provides LA membership for two staff members, ensuring communication is flowing and allowing wider connections to be made.

LA status includes free student membership for the duration of their studies; access to our Energy Student Newsletter, New Energy World, local branches and networks; reductions on publications and training courses; discounts on events, plus exclusive access to some member only events.

Staff will have access to news and discounted services at our group member rate. There are opportunities for your institution to raise its profile as part of the EI community through getting involved in our committees, volunteer network and contributing to our magazines and knowledge resources.

8) EI - Conditions of accreditation

The points listed below are a condition of accreditation with the Energy Institute and must be adhered to: -

- Learning Affiliate membership must be maintained for the duration of the accreditation period
- The course(s) must have been running for at least 6 months
- Actively promote EI membership to staff and students
- Use the 'Accredited Course' logo on promotional materials and website
- Ensure that there are the appropriate number of individuals holding professional qualifications on your staff, we require a minimum of two professional members of the EI (TMEI, MEI or FEI) per department. If applying for accreditation in relation to Engineering Council standards i.e. IEng or CEng you need to have at least two members of staff holding registration at the same level or above, which can be held with any Professional Engineering Institution (PEI)
- Appoint two Learning Affiliate representatives to act as points of contact for the EI
- Notify the EI of any significant changes to the programme for review to ensure that any proposed changes remain compliant to the requirements and standards set

Terms and Conditions of accreditation are provided on the EI website [here](#)

9) Accreditation - Information required

The EI's Accreditation and Approvals Panel will look at a range of evidence when reviewing the accreditation application, including, the learning outcomes of your programme and whether they meet the relevant standard, currently AHEP4, all of which are clearly outlined in the Main Submission. Please also refer to the Appendices.

There are key considerations which are crucial to the accreditation process and the Visiting Panel (VP) will need to see clear demonstration of the elements below: -

- **Industry engagement** - we want to see there is clear connection and active engagement with the energy sector and employers
- **Commitment to evolution** - the world of energy is moving fast and we want to see there are clear mechanisms in place for consultation, discussion and review to ensure that programme content continues to evolve to meet the ever changing needs of the energy sector as well as evolving technologies and practices
- **Staff** - we want to see you have a highly qualified team who have the expertise in place to deliver your programmes. We will look for the following from your team: -
 - are qualified to the appropriate standards

- have the necessary background and ability to teach/train to the required level
 - are suitably vocationally motivated
 - are committed to quality
 - have appropriate energy knowledge, skills and understanding
 - have time to support their students appropriately and are supported in their own professional development
- **Facilities** - we want to see facilities to ensure students receive a great learning experience including appropriate laboratories, library, IT facilities as well as opportunities for site visits where appropriate.
 - **Commitment** – we want to see a clear and active commitment to equality of opportunity, diversity, inclusivity and accessibility.

During the visit, we will want to:

- meet with staff, including the Head of Department, programme leaders and senior staff
- meet with students at a variety of stages in the programme, and graduates
- tour facilities, including laboratories and equipment (if relevant)
- view the virtual learning environment, to which you will need to arrange access

As part of the report, you may see commendations, recommendations, and requirements: -

- **Commendations** - where we find that there is good practice or notably high standards or innovation
- **Recommendations** - suggestions for ways in which we think that your programme(s) could be developed or enhanced or even ways we could work together. Recommendations are not mandatory, but we will expect you to demonstrate you have considered implementing the suggestions we at the next accreditation visit.
- **Requirements** - are conditions that need to be met before the full accreditation period can be awarded for up to five years. In these cases, deadlines are set and accreditation may be reduced or suspended if the requirements are not met within the stated timeframes.

10) Overview of the Accreditation Process

The process can take anything between 6 months to a year. Please note that this may vary if it is a joint visit.

1. The department signs up as a Learning Affiliate member, (if not already a member).
2. The Initial Submission (IS) form should be completed and returned along with the Programme Specifications. **Note: programme(s) must have been running for at least six months before it can be considered for accreditation.**
3. Once the IS has been ratified by the Accreditation and Approvals Panel (AAP), you will be asked to complete the Main Submission (MS), along with the relevant output standard matrix, energy mapping form and supplementary documentation as listed in the MS.
4. Once the MS has been noted at the AAP, a date will be scheduled for the visit, which usually takes place over two days. The Visiting Panel will usually be made up of two academics, an industrialist and EI Secretariat.
5. At the conclusion of the visit, the HEI will be provided with informal feedback as well as details of any recommendations and requirements.
6. Once the visit report has been completed, it will be sent to the HEI for fact checking.
7. The report will be reviewed, discussed and noted at the next AAP. The HEI will be sent a decision letter detailing the length of accreditation along with an action plan detailing the requirements and associated deadlines.

8. If requested, a certificate will be sent out, once accreditation has been formally awarded.

All of the information should be provided to the Accreditation Team in an electronic format

The majority of accreditation visits for CEng and IEng are carried out in person, however, HEIs can on occasion request to waive the requirement for an in person visit. For further information, please contact the Accreditation Team and refer to the Regulations for Registration, (Paragraph 57) (See Appendices below), as well as the Risk Based Accreditation Policy (Section 14)

A fee of £1,300 will be charged for all accreditation visits. We endeavour to limit visit panel expenses but if they exceed this amount, an invoice for the difference will be sent to the HEI.

Note: This fee is separate to the Learning Affiliate membership fee, which is payable on an annual basis.

The EI reserves the right to cancel an accreditation visit if the initial expense payment has not been settled one week in advance of the visit.

11) MEI and Chartered Energy Manager accreditation visits

The initial visit will be carried out in person, usually over 1 day and will follow the same format as described in Sections 9 and 10.

The re-accreditation process for MEI will take place virtually and meetings will take place online with meetings taking place between the Visiting Panel, Heads of Department, Industrial Advisory Board and students. The Accreditation Team will liaise with the HEI to arrange these meetings. The Visiting Panel will consist of 1 academic and 1 industrialist. ****Please note this is subject to change, i.e. the Visiting Panel may feel an in person is required****

The re-accreditation process for Chartered Energy Manager will either be done in person or virtually, this will be a decision made by the Visiting Panel.

12) International Agreements

The Bologna Agreement - this is an agreement between European governments, signed in 1999 in Bologna (Italy), which aims to place higher education on a more 'European' level through constructing a European Higher Education Area. The Agreement also aims to set up a Europe-wide system of comparable degrees to establish a system of transferable academic credits, to develop European cooperation in quality assurance, to promote student mobility and to improve training opportunities for them.

The Washington Accord was signed in 1989 to provide the recognition at CEng level of accreditation systems of organizations holding signatory status and the engineering education programmes accredited by them. Current members include Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, the UK and the USA.

The Sydney Accord was signed in 2001 to provide joint recognition of academic programmes accredited at IEng level. It operates in a similar way to the Washington Accord. Current members include the national engineering organisations of Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the UK and the USA.

The Dublin Accord was signed in 2002 by the national engineering organisations of UK, Ireland, South Africa and Canada to mutually recognise the qualifications that underpin the granting of EngTech titles in the four

counties. It operates in a similar way to the above.

For more information on these agreements visit: www.ieagreements.org

13) Risk Based Policy – Engineering Council

On occasions there may be situation where accreditation visits are not able to take place due to unforeseen circumstances or are waived, please see the link to the Engineering Council guidance. [Risk based accreditation](#)

14) Frequently Asked Questions

a) How long does the accreditation process take?

The application process normally takes between 6 – 12 months. This may vary due to a number of factors including: -

- Whether the visit is taking place in conjunction with other PEIs
- The standard of the application form and additional documents
- The dates of the AAP meetings

b) Can accreditation be backdated?

Accreditation can be backdated to allow cohorts whose work has been reviewed as part of the accreditation process to benefit from the decision.

If the HEI would like to request backdating, they must complete the relevant section on the initial submission.

Note: Programme(s) can't be backdated once the decision-making process for the current accreditation has been completed.

c) Is the EI able to accredit programmes run outside the UK?

The same standards, level and learning outcomes will apply wherever the programme(s) is/are delivered.

d) Is the EI able to undertake joint visits with other PEIs?

We are able to carry out visits with other PEIs, this should be made clear in the IS form.

e) What happens if a programme is being run at several campuses?

If programme(s) is/are run at different campuses a visit will need to be made to each of the campuses.

The HEI need to make it clear on their degree certificates and transcripts the location of the taught programme.

Note: Students will only be considered to have completed an accredited programme if they have completed the programme at a campus for which accreditation has been confirmed.

Further details can be found in Regulations for Registration, (Paragraph 42) (See Appendices below).

If you require any further information, please contact the Accreditation and Approvals Manager at accreditation@energyinst.org

15) KIS Statements

MSc/EngD (or other non-integrated master's or doctorate) Accredited by the Energy Institute on behalf of the Engineering Council as meeting the requirements for further learning for registration as a Chartered Engineer (CEng). When combined with a CEng accredited bachelors (Hons) degree applicants demonstrate in full the underpinning knowledge and understanding required for CEng registration.

MEng (or other integrated master's) Accredited by the Energy Institute on behalf of the Engineering Council for the purposes of demonstrating in full the underpinning knowledge and understanding required for registration as a Chartered Engineer (CEng).

BEng/BSc (Hons) (or other bachelors with honours)¹ Accredited by the Energy Institute on behalf of the Engineering Council for the purposes of demonstrating in part the knowledge and understanding required for registration as a Chartered Engineer (CEng). Applicants for CEng registration must also demonstrate the further learning required, this may be through achievement of an accredited masters or doctorate, or other learning including in the workplace.

BEng/BSc (with or without Hons) (or other bachelors with or without honours) Accredited by the Energy Institute on behalf of the Engineering Council for the purposes of demonstrating in full the underpinning knowledge and understanding required for registration as an Incorporated Engineer (IEng).

BEng/BSc (with Hons) top up degree (or other bachelors top up degree) Accredited by the Energy Institute on behalf of the Engineering Council for the purposes of demonstrating in part the knowledge and understanding required for registration as a Chartered Engineer (CEng). When combined with a foundation degree, Higher National Diploma or other qualification that is IEng accredited or approved applicants demonstrate in full the underpinning knowledge and understanding required for IEng registration. Applicants for CEng registration must also demonstrate the further learning required, this may be through achievement of an accredited masters or doctorate, or other learning including in the workplace.

BEng/BSc (with or without Hons) top up degree (or other bachelors top up degree) Accredited by the Energy Institute on behalf of the Engineering Council as meeting the requirements for further learning for registration as an Incorporated Engineer (IEng). When combined with a foundation degree, Higher National Diploma or

¹ Note that bachelor's with honours programmes accredited as demonstrating in part the underpinning knowledge and understanding required for registration as a Chartered Engineer are no longer considered to have automatic dual accreditation for IEng, although professional engineering institutions licensed by the Engineering Council will recognise CEng accredited bachelors as demonstrating the underpinning knowledge and understanding required for IEng registration.

other qualification that is IEng accredited or approved applicants demonstrate in full the underpinning knowledge and understanding required for IEng registration.

Foundation Degrees, Higher National Diplomas and other equivalent qualifications Accredited by the Energy Institute on behalf of the Engineering Council for the purposes of demonstrating in part the underpinning knowledge and understanding required for registration as an Incorporated Engineer (IEng). Applicants for IEng registration must also demonstrate the further learning required, this may be through achievement of an accredited top-up degree, or other learning including in the workplace.

16) UK Qualification Levels

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Level 1 qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE (grades D, E, F or G) Level 1 functional or essential skills Level 1 awards & diplomas Level 1 certificates Level 1 National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Music grades 1, 2 and 3 Level 1 ESOL 	Level 2 qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE (grades A*, A, B or C) O level (grades A, B or C) Grade 1 at CSE level Level 2 functional or essential skills Level 2 awards & diplomas Level 2 certificates Level 2 NVQ Music grades 4 & 5 Intermediate apprenticeships Level 2 ESOL 	Level 3 qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A level (grades A, B, C, D, E) Advanced subsidiary level Tech level Applied general Level 3 awards, diplomas and certificates Level 3 NVQ Music grades 6, 7 and 8 Advanced apprenticeships Access to HE diploma International Baccalaureate diploma Level 3 ESOL 	Level 4 qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher national certificate (HNC) Certificate of higher education (CertHE) Level 4 awards Level 4 diplomas Level 4 certificates Level 4 NVQ Higher apprenticeships
Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8
Level 5 qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundation degree Higher national diploma (HND) Diploma of higher education (DipHE) Level 5 awards, diplomas and certificates Level 5 NVQ 	Level 6 qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor's degree (with or without honours) Graduate diploma Graduate certificate Level 6 awards, diplomas and certificates Level 6 NVQ Degree apprenticeship 	Level 7 qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master's degree Integrated master's degree Postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE) Postgraduate diplomas and certificates Level 7 awards, diplomas and certificates Level 7 NVQ 	Level 8 qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doctorate or PhD Level 8 awards, diplomas and certificates

17) **Appendices**

Engineering Council Guidance and forms

- [Accreditation of Higher Education Programmes \(AHEP – 4th Edition\)](#)
- [Approval and Accreditation of Qualifications and Apprenticeships \(AAQA – 1st Edition\)](#)
- [Engineering Council - UK SPEC](#)
- [Engineering Council - Regulations for Registration](#)
- [Information and Communications Technology Technician](#)
- [Professional registration levels](#)
- [Engineering Council's website](#)
- The [CEng](#) and [IEng](#) e-books Information