

Dual (IEng and CEng) accreditation of Bachelors with Honours degrees

Background

1. In 1999 the Engineering Council established a precedent that Bachelors programmes accredited as partially meeting CEng learning outcomes could be assessed for IEng registration in the same way as an applicant holding a degree accredited for IEng.
2. From 2009 this precedent was replaced by a policy whereby all honours degrees accredited from intake year 1999 were deemed to automatically have 'dual accreditation' for IEng and be eligible for recognition under the Sydney Accord¹.
3. This policy was reviewed during 2021 when it was decided to revoke the policy of automatic dual accreditation and revert to a precedent that allows for someone applying for IEng with a degree accredited for CEng to be assessed for IEng registration in the same way as a candidate who holds an IEng accredited degree.
4. This means that an honours degree accredited for CEng (with further learning required) will, for intakes of students following implementation of this change:
 - a. continue to be treated by professional engineering institutions (PEIs) licensed by the Engineering Council to assess candidates for IEng registration as a qualification that demonstrates knowledge and understanding for IEng
 - b. not be automatically accredited for IEng, and will therefore not be recognised as an engineering technology degree internationally (ie under the Sydney Accord)
5. The policy was reviewed and revised to more clearly differentiate between IEng and CEng accredited degrees, and in doing so protect the international standing of CEng accredited UK honours degrees. Internationally qualifications recognised under the Sydney Accord are referred to as qualifications for 'technologists' rather than 'engineers'. The Engineering Council is keen to emphasise that bachelors (honours) degrees are professional engineering degrees and believes that automatic dual accreditation risks devaluing UK bachelors (honours) degrees. It was noted that demand for IEng accreditation appeared to be very low, and there was little evidence of an international market for IEng or use of IEng accredited degrees to facilitate international mobility.

¹ A voluntary international agreement recognising 'engineering technology' programmes accredited by the signatory organisations as leading to substantially equivalent outcomes.

Implementation period

6. All Honours degrees accredited for CEng registration (with further learning required) from intake September 1999 until the expiry of the accreditation period applicable as of the end of August 2022 will continue to be considered to have automatic dual accreditation. This means that in effect a Bachelors (re-)accredited for CEng in the 2021-22 academic year, which most likely covers intakes 2022-2026 would continue to be considered to have
7. automatic dual accreditation until its next re-accreditation, but one accredited in the 2022-23 academic year (or later) would not.
8. For accreditations in progress at the effective date of the policy² change the accrediting PEI will invite the provider to state whether or not they wish to retain dual accreditation. If so, dual accreditation will be automatic and should be formally recorded in the accreditation decision. This is to allow a transition period for the change of policy to be communicated and for professional engineering institutions (PEIs) to put in place procedures to enable providers to apply for both IEng and CEng accreditation for their honours degrees in the next accreditation cycle if they wish to do so.

Future requests for accreditation

9. For accreditations commenced after the effective date providers will be able to apply for both IEng and CEng accreditation for their honours degrees if they wish. The accrediting PEI(s) will need to verify that the programmes deliver both sets of learning outcomes. As a minimum this will require the HEIs to submit module mapping matrices against both IEng and CEng learning outcomes.

Information on the Engineering Council course search database

10. Programmes on the Engineering Council's [course search database](#) are usually listed as recognised (approved or accredited by a PEI) towards one professional title (i.e. CEng or IEng). Also, where applicable, programmes may be recognised by one international accord recognition for any given recognition period.
11. Where dual accreditation has applied automatically this is not recorded on the course search database.
12. If a programme is explicitly accredited for both IEng and partial CEng both will be listed on the database as separate recognitions on the same programme record.

² 1 September 2022