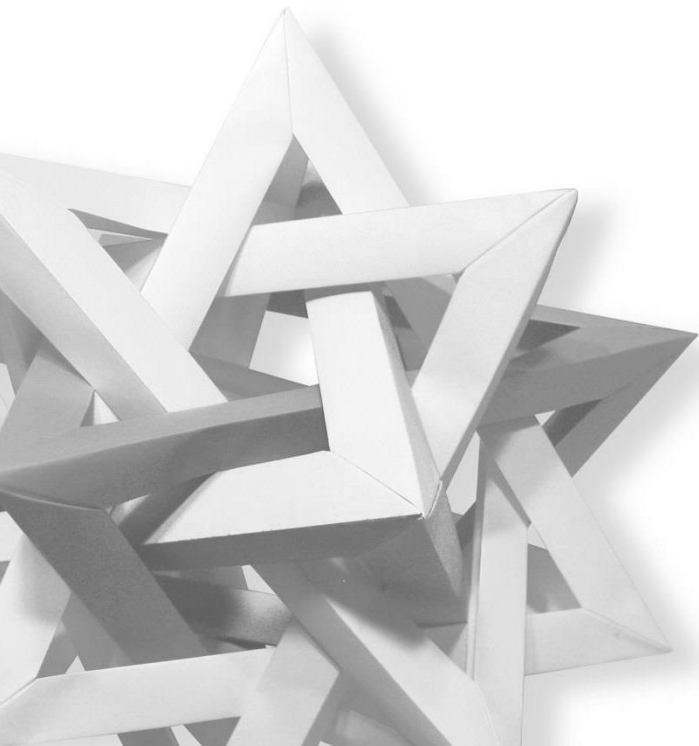


Accreditation of Engineering Degrees

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The Engineering Council as a setter of Standards

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As the regulatory body for the UK engineering profession, the Engineering Council sets and maintains internationally recognised standards of professional competence and commitment.

These are detailed in the UK Standard for Professional Engineering Competence (UK-SPEC) and the Information and Communications Technology Technician (ICTTech) Standard.

Areas of operation

- *Learning objectives for the formation of engineers and technicians*
- Thresholds of professional competence and commitment at which an individual may be recorded on the Register
- Codes of professional conduct
- Requirements for continuing professional development

Accreditation of Higher Education Programmes (3rd Edn)

Features of the Standard

- Clarity, brevity and emphasis on learning outcomes *rather than inputs*
- Developed in consultation with the profession, including employers
- Enabling the development of *diverse provision* of the required skills, knowledge and understanding
- Subject to international audit

Features of the Process

- Interpretive
- Developmental
- Delegated to domain experts to contextualise (Professional Engineering Institutions)
- Dependent on volunteers
- Subject to international audit

Accreditation – Scope

- The learning outcomes of the programme
- The teaching and learning processes
- The assessment strategies employed
- The human, physical and material resources involved
- Internal regulations regarding progression and the award of degrees
- Quality assurance arrangements
- Evidence that the programme is at the appropriate level of the relevant framework for HE qualifications
- Entry to the programme and how cohort entry extremes will be supported

- How previous accreditation recommendations and requirements have been dealt with

Accreditation – Learning Outcome Types

- Science and mathematics
- Engineering analysis
- Design
- Economic, legal, social, ethical and environmental context
- Engineering practice
- Additional general skills

All with exemplars for the relevant qualification (BEng, MEng & MSc)

Accreditation – Ongoing Review

- Recently closed, five-yearly review of all Engineering Council Standards
- Recent meeting of Engineering Accreditation Board (EAB) members to brainstorm the future of accreditation (at which the EPC was represented)
- New Engineering Council working group established to
 - address perceived inconsistencies in PEI accreditation practice
 - ensure that any non-conformities can be picked up during licensing of PEIs
 - look into provision of a feedback mechanism from HEIs
 - clarify the role, and quality assurance, of the EAB

Concluding Remarks

- There should be nothing in the Standards, nor the process, to hold back changes to educational content and delivery
- That said, there are areas of operation where individual experience and preference may 'contaminate' the accreditation process!
- The Engineering Council is always open to feedback
- A working group has been established to address any concerns about accreditation and will be seeking input from HEIs