

## Frequently Asked Questions from University Briefing Sessions

### A General Questions

1. Does a graduate with a UK accredited BEng (Hons) degree and an accredited MSc complete the educational base for registration as a Chartered Engineer (CEng)?  
Yes.
2. Does a graduate with an accredited CEng level BEng (Hons) degree and a non-accredited MSc complete the educational base for CEng?  
No they have to make an application via the individual case procedure (ICP) option. You should refer to the JBM member Institutions' websites for guidance on this process.
3. Does a graduate with an overseas degree accredited in their country and recognised under the Washington Accord and an accredited MSc degree meet the educational base for CEng?  
Yes. Currently, degrees covered by the Washington Accord satisfy the educational base for a Chartered engineer.
4. Does a graduate with an overseas degree which is NOT accredited in their country under the Washington Accord and an MSc have to go through ICP?  
Yes.
5. Which type of MSc should a BEng (Hons) graduate take? Would their choice of MSc restrict them?  
BEng candidates can do either a technical or non-technical MSc but technical, broadening MScs are aimed more at IEng level graduates so that they can also satisfy the educational base for CEng level.
6. Does the University have to distinguish between technical and non-technical MScs in their submission?  
From October, 2009, the JBM will accredit MSc programmes as either technical or non-technical awards and so these should be included in the submission as such. A broad, technical masters degree has to be clearly identified for graduates as Further Learning for an IEng level graduate to reach CEng. This could be done by giving this course a separate course code and giving a descriptor in brackets, e.g., MSc Civil Engineering (for holders of first degrees at IEng level), ECP09x
7. Should only one MSc be presented by the University at a JBM visit?  
There is no limit to the number of MScs which can be presented for accreditation.
8. What is the procedure for gaining accreditation for our HNC/D/FDs?  
Details of these programmes should be included in your submission document; these programmes will be accredited as contributing towards the educational base for an Incorporated Engineer but they will also fully meet the educational base for an Engineering Technician. Graduates will need to complete a period of Further Learning to meet the educational base for an Incorporated Engineer. We need this information (a change for previous years) as this will enable the JBM to monitor the development of these programmes and make it easier to understand transfer arrangements between programmes.
9. We are in the process of developing a new degree programme but information on this degree will not be available when you make you visit. Should we include the information on the programme developed so far, or would you prefer a separate paper submission when the course has been internally validated?

We would prefer to receive information on this degree programme once it has been internally validated. This can be in the form of a paper submission and would not normally require a separate accreditation visit.

10. Can combined degrees (for example, Engineering with French) be accredited and if so, what is the stipulated amount of engineering content required for these?  
These degrees can be accredited as long as the engineering content is around two thirds of the programme time to deliver the required engineering outcomes. However, this is not a fixed requirement; whether a course holistically delivers the required learning outcomes is still the ultimate criterion in awarding accreditation.

11. Can a degree be accredited for both IEng and CEng registration?  
The learning outcomes for IEng degrees differ from those for degrees leading to CEng registration and UK-SPEC envisages that degrees will be accredited for one or the other but not both. Any institution considering dual accreditation must discuss the matter with ECuk first.

12. Can someone who only follows the final year of an accredited programme still get an accredited degree on graduation?  
Yes. Historically, students had to spend at least two years on an accredited programme but this rule does not exist under UK-SPEC. A university will have made the decision to admit a candidate to the final year of a programme on the basis that their previous academic experience enables them to achieve the necessary outcomes and so a blanket rule cannot be justified. However, the JBM may ask universities to demonstrate how those graduating after one year would achieve the required learning outcomes and decide whether to limit accreditation in light of this response.

10. What does "compensation" mean across the range of academic establishments?  
How strong is this guidance?  
We understand you have programme regulations and university regulations but you must refer to the JBM guidance on this, which can be found in the JBM Guidance on the Accreditation Submission Document on the JBM website.

11, What is the current situation in regard to the Gateways project?  
We are currently in negotiation with the ECUK regarding the regulations for the implementation of this new degree programme.

12. Why are there no separate degree guidelines for MSc programmes?  
We have specialist guidance material that has been developed by the Further Learning Sub-Committee that relates to the differences between technical and non-technical Masters degrees but we have not developed a document that gives guidance to the university on course content. This is because there are a huge range of MSc programmes that have been developed by universities to support the needs of the construction industry and it would not be practical to develop guidelines that cover all possible specialist options.

## **B The Accreditation Submission Document:**

1. Why is the Threads diagram important to the JBM Team?  
This gives the Team an overall view of how the programmes are taught and how the threads are embedded. This should then be confirmed when the Team meet the students.

2. How much detail should there be in the Threads diagram? Can the diagram be the same for MEng as for BEng? Is it necessary to have a diagram for a taught Masters programme?

An MEng diagram can be based on a BEng diagram. It is not necessary to have a separate diagram for a taught Masters programme but it is still important to show how the threads are embedded. Departments should record both the module title and the module reference number in the threads diagram.

3. How many members of staff should have professional qualifications? Is it necessary to include staff qualifications in the submission?

It is very important to include details of professional qualifications. From June, 2009, JBM members' professional qualifications will also be listed in the JBM composition listings, to encourage visibility. There is currently no set number of staff who should be professionally qualified but a proposal has been put forward that by 2015, 50% of designated staff should be professionally qualified with one of the JBM Member institutions. The number can also include part-time visiting lecturers.

4. What staff should be referred to in the Submission Document?

All teaching staff should be mentioned in the Submission. At least a quarter or half of a module should be taught by them.

5. How should the Submission best be presented, as this can be a complex document if several programmes are being submitted for accreditation?

This should be a combined report from members of staff, with perhaps one person to check that all content is correct. It is important to follow the headings and sub-headings given in the Submission template.

6. What information is needed to cover a period when students are studying overseas?

The following information should be included for periods of study abroad which are assessed (therefore, not if it is an industrial placement): the list of names of the universities that they studied at, where any formal exchange system is in place and the marking and QA process followed. Where possible, this should be in electronic format. Information on the syllabus and modules studied can be made available in the Team's base room.

7. Which documents should be submitted on CD?

From October, 2009, the new Submission guidance document will list all documents which should be submitted on CD. As a guideline, all bulky appendixes, such as examination papers, should be on CD.

8. What is the difference between a JBM and an EAB visit?

The ECUK organises joint visits that are undertaken by a number of professional engineering Institutions at the same time. However, the current JBM policy is to only take part in an EAB visit where this is to look at the accreditation of integrated engineering programmes such as the ones at Aberdeen, Bristol, Durham, Oxford and Cambridge. However, as the JBM submission document is now based on the EAB submission template, if a University has an EAB visit around the same time as the JBM visit, they can use their EAB documentation as the basis for the JBM submission. However, they will still need to add the extra information that relates to the JBM threads of design, health and safety risk management and sustainability.

10. Are cohort diagrams still required?

Yes, the JBM team find these helpful.

## **C The Visit**

1. Is a shorter meeting than scheduled with senior staff at the end of the visit a bad sign?!

No. This is often because the Team have now resolved any issues there may have been (or perceived to have been) earlier in the visit and are unable to tell staff what recommendations they will make to the Board as this is JBM policy.

2. If the campus is large, how should the tour of facilities be organised?

Often, the Team Leader will have already decided to divide the Team so that two view the laboratories, lecture rooms, etc, and two view the library, study areas and other resources.

3. How much emphasis does the Team place on future intentions?

There should be an indication in the submission of what future plans the Department has. A major change, such as, in semester mode or new laboratory accommodation, may result in a Review Visit to see how this has settled in. The Team can also be used as a sounding board for possible future plans and these can be discussed informally over the dinner after the first day.

4.. Is it possible for the university to contact the Team Leader to discuss any concerns they have or any issues they are unclear on prior to the Visit?

This can be done through the JBM Secretariat and the responses included in the Team briefing files so that everyone is kept informed.

5. Should recent graduates be invited to the meeting between the JBM and members of the Industrial Advisory Board?

Yes, as long as they do not outnumber other members. At this meeting there should be no staff or visiting professors.

6. How can support facilities for distance learning programmes be assessed during the visit?

The University can provide log-in details for the Team to view the process and facilities these students can access. Examples of students' work must be provided during the visit and the label must indicate if they are completing the module for CPD purposes only or to obtain the full MSc degree.

#### **D Accreditation of MSc Programmes**

1. We have not run an accredited MSc before and our programme is just going through our internal validation system. As our visit is in January 2010, what information will the JBM Team require and when should we submit it?

JBM require the following:

1. Brief outline of the programme and its aims
2. An outline of the contents
3. Links to any other programmes
4. Brief details of staff delivering the programme
5. Facilities available
6. Examples of coursework briefing sheets, project descriptions and exam papers
7. Examples of coursework, exam papers and projects

If the programme is yet to run then only 1-4 should be available and there will be a review visit when the first students graduate. If the JBM visit takes place in January then it can be submitted as part of the documentation; if the programme starts in September then a paper submission is needed now.

2. We are looking at offering a Technical MSc to top-up the educational base for an Incorporated Engineer. How much of the course content should be technical? Would you expect my colleagues to be undertaking research in these areas?

There are details on the website. Some 80% of the programme should be technical and to 'M' Level. There should be an element of research-led content which means students should be exposed to the latest developments in the field. This means that the university does not need to be researching into those areas but it does mean that staff are up to date.

#### **Remember:**

Ensure enough evidence is provided to show Learning Outcomes are achieved and that threads are clearly shown;

Ensure aims and objectives of BSc/BEng/MEng courses are clearly differentiated, especially if there is a joint intake;

***That the JBM team is there to support you and your colleagues and offer constructive criticism.***