

**Question and Answer Sheet produced following the JBM WebEx briefing for MSc admission tutors, held on the 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2013.**

**Presenters were Professor Bob Lark, Chair of the Further Learning Sub-Committee of the JBM and Mr Ian Whyte, Chair of the Academic Qualifications Panel of the ICE.**

What is the JBM policy in regard to staff teaching on specialist MSc programmes do they also have to be Chartered with ICE as well?

*The JBM policy document that outlines the need for academic staff to hold appropriate professional qualifications relates to the undergraduate programmes. However, Universities will also be expected to provide information on professional qualifications of staff that deliver MSc programmes as well and this will also be monitored during accreditation visits.*

What is the recognition status for those students that join our accredited bachelor degrees directly into the second or third year?

*The Engineering Council has advised that the requirement that overseas students complete two years of study at a UK university before being awarded an accredited degree no longer exists. The Regulations and Standards Committee felt that a blanket rule of this sort could not be sustained once accreditation was linked to output standards. A university would presumably have admitted someone to the final year of a programme on the basis that their prior learning together with that final year would enable them to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme. This would not necessarily stop institutions from saying that accredited status only applied to those who had completed two years of a particular programme, but that would have to be done on a programme by programme basis, rather than as an overall rule. The university would have to demonstrate how those who only did one year actually achieved the outcomes. It would certainly be reasonable for institutions to look closely at any programme, which seemed to have a large number of such graduates*

What is the difference between a specialist MSc and a Technical MSc?

*Candidates may decide to complete a specialist MSc as they have developed a particular interest in this subject area whilst studying for their bachelor degree and it allows them to cover this area in more depth than staying on to do the MEng degree. A specialist MSc can be in a technical or a non-technical subject area such as Concrete Structures or Project Management.*

*A Technical MSc is one where the balance of the programme in terms of module content and the dissertation will be in a technical subject area*

Is it 50% of the taught programme which must be technical?

*No – it is a combination of the units for the dissertation being equal to 60 and then half of the 120 units for the MSc (also being 60) which added up to 120 credits. Please refer to the JBM guidance document on Non-Technical and Technical MSc programmes for more information.*

Can you clarify about the Washington and Sydney accords?

*The Sydney Accord operates at IEng level and covers programmes that are accredited as meeting the educational base for an Incorporated Engineer.*

*The Washington Accord operates at CEng level and covers UK programmes that are accredited as meeting the educational base for a Chartered Engineer i.e. MEng degrees or accredited packages (BEng (Hons) accredited as CEng partial together with an accredited MSc).*

Can a PhD count as Further Learning?

*A PhD can count as Further Learning but the JBM are unable to accredit these programmes due to the bespoke nature of the research topics. Candidates with such awards should proceed via the Individual Case option for institution membership and CEng registration.*

If a student has a construction engineering degree and then does a construction PhD what would their recognition status be?

*Such students will need to apply to one of the JBM member Institutions for an academic assessment of their package of qualifications and it will be for the Institution to assess whether this package satisfies the educational base for progression to Institution membership and registration with the Engineering Council.*

What is the issue for overseas students entering onto an MSc, what do we do to check that their degree is at an appropriate level and that their package of qualifications will be acceptable for CEng registration when they graduate?

*It is recommended that such students apply to one of the JBM member Institutions as soon as possible for an academic assessment. Some MSc students have done this via the ICE's Academic Qualifications Panel before they have enrolled on the MSc and we believe that the other JBM member Institutions also offer this facility. For the ICE in some cases this assessment has resulted in the recommendation that they need to undertake a technical MSc.*

Is there a case where a BSc + MSc (technical) could be automatically accredited without going through an Individual Case Procedure via the Academic Qualifications Panel?

*We assume that this question relates to an IEng degree and at the moment this is not allowed for under UK-SPEC and candidates must be assessed via the individual case options.*

There are currently technical MSc's with 50% technical modules and no technical project. When is the new requirement for a technical project is going to be implemented?

*This has been implemented for visits autumn 2012 onwards and visiting teams are currently checking for this on visits.*

The IStructE would never automatically recognise a Mathematics BSc and a civil engineering MSc?

*The recognition given by professional bodies to packages of qualifications is a matter for the Engineering Institution. Remember, that all candidates coming forward for a professional review will still need to have appropriate practical experience and demonstrate that they meet the competence standards for professional membership and Engineering Council registration.*

Do only candidates with a cognate degree need to take a pre-qualifying year?

*Some candidates with a cognate degree have chosen to take a pre-qualifying year or one of the conversion programmes available at University College London or the University of Southampton. Such students must apply for an academic assessment.*

Is the MSc the only route you can follow to meet FL requirements?

*No there are a number of options open to graduates to meet Further Learning requirements: -*

- *Completion of a specific accredited taught educational programme provided by educational providers **A list of those university courses that are currently accredited as Further Learning is shown on the JBM website, [www.jbm.org.uk](http://www.jbm.org.uk)***
- *Programmes of further learning provided by an employer (a number of employers are **currently putting together proposals for an Employer Managed Scheme and graduates should check with their employer regarding the current status of their scheme**)*
- *Self-managed programmes of Further Learning*
- *Use the Technical Report option. Information on the Technical Report option can be downloaded from the various websites of the four JBM member institutions. (Institution of Civil Engineers (<http://www.ice.org.uk>), Institution of Highways & Transportation (<http://www.iht.org>) Institute of Highway Incorporated Engineers (<http://www.ihie.org.uk>) and the Institution of Structural Engineers (<http://www.istructe.org>).*

*Or any combination of the above. For more detailed information on the Further Learning options, please refer to the JBM website at [www.jbm.org.uk](http://www.jbm.org.uk) .*

Is this information available on websites?

*Information on Further Learning can be found on the JBM website and this includes guidance on cognate qualifications. If you have any queries following your review of this documentation please contact the JBM secretariat by email – [jbm@ice.org.uk](mailto:jbm@ice.org.uk).*