



Frequently Asked Questions – Completing the Educational Base, Further Learning

This document should be read in conjunction with the guidance material available on the JBM website, and answers some of the most frequently asked questions about the further learning requirements described in UK-SPEC.

This list is not exhaustive and should you not find your answer here, please contact your Institution directly. Contact details can be found on the JBM website on www.jbm.org.uk.

1. Is my degree accredited at IEng or CEng Level?

A list of accredited courses is given on the JBM website on www.jbm.org.uk or on the EC (UK) accreditation database on www.engc.org.uk.

2. What is Further Learning?

The educational base for a Chartered Engineer is a four year accredited MEng degree whilst that for an Incorporated Engineer is an accredited IEng degree (a BSc/BEng).

Candidates who have an accredited BEng (Hons) or HNC/HND/Foundation Degree and wish to top-up their qualification to meet the educational requirements of CEng or IEng registration respectively need to undertake a period of Further Learning. Further Learning is the learning that must be undertaken to demonstrate bridging of the educational gap between BEng (Hons) and MEng or HNC/HND/Foundation Degree and an IEng degree respectively

3. I understand that my BSc (ordinary) degree is currently accredited as meeting the educational base requirements for an Incorporated Engineer. What Further Learning do I need to become Chartered?

You will still need to complete a period of Further Learning but this will also need to cover some additional technical deepening to bachelor degree (Honours) level to give you the necessary technical background to complete a period of Masters level Further Learning. This would need to be assessed by the Individual Case Panel before you continue. Please refer to the Institutions' websites for further details.

4. I hold a HNC can I do IEng Further Learning?

You can undertake Further Learning but you will have to do more FL than a candidate holding a HND or a Foundation Degree (FD) because you will not have completed as many modules as someone completing an HND or FD. Please refer to the guidance chart on the JBM website.

5. I hold a HNC/HND/FD can I become a Chartered Engineer by completing Further Learning?

You can meet the educational base for a Chartered Engineering using this work-based learning option and you should refer to the chart on the JBM website for guidance on the number of hours you would need to complete.

6. Why do I need to complete a period of Further Learning?

The Engineering Council publication, SARTOR 1997 allowed for a transition period for graduates being required to complete Further Learning. If your course intake was accredited

under SARTOR 1990 regulations this accreditation period was allowed to run-out which is why some students who enrolled on BEng (Hons)/HNC/HND courses between 1999 and 2002 are required to undertake Further Learning and others are not.

Please refer to the JBM website on www.jbm.org.uk for a list of dates from when a graduate from SARTOR 1997 accredited programme is required to complete a period of Further Learning.

7. I graduated in 1998 with a BEng (Hons) degree and I understand that the educational requirements for a Chartered Engineer have changed and I now need to complete an MSc?

Incorrect, Further Learning is only required from 1999 onwards (although in some cases it is later. Check with the relevant Institution if you are unsure).

8. I started in 1998 with a BEng (Hons) degree and I understand that the educational requirements for a Chartered Engineer have changed and I now need to complete an MSc?

Incorrect, Further Learning is only required from 1999 onwards (although in some cases it is later. Check with the relevant Institution if you are unsure).

9. How can I complete Further Learning?

You may complete Further Learning in a number of different means

- 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***
- Programmes of further learning provided by an employer (***a number of employers are currently putting together proposals for an Employer Managed Scheme and you should check with your 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.

10. How long does it take to complete a period of Further Learning?

A full time MSc would normally take one year to complete, so a trainee on an employer managed or self managed programme or Technical Report Route may take longer depending on the opportunities available to them. Typically this would be 2-3 years. Please refer to the chart on the JBM website for more detailed guidance.

11. Can I complete Further Learning while doing my structured IPD?

Many candidates are likely to be involved in work experience that will enable them to develop their Initial Professional Development (IPD), incorporating Continuing Professional Development (CPD), whilst simultaneously enabling them to acquire further educational knowledge. These activities will usually complement and even overlap each other. Some experience may qualify for both FL and IPD. However, such experience must be recorded separately and the candidate must present each component of the FL experience for assessment of the learning that has been achieved.

12. What guidance is currently available to industry on developing an Employer-Managed programme?

Those companies wishing to operate a structured Further Learning programme should review the guidance documents on the JBM website. Seminars providing training for potential Supervising Engineers will be held annually and further training will be provided if there is a demand.

13. What guidance is currently available to industry on developing a Self Managed programme?

Those trainees that wish to follow a self managed route should review the guidance documents on the JBM website at www.jbm.org.uk.

14. I am considering completing an NVQ at Level 4 or 5. If my portfolio is assessed as satisfactory and I am awarded an NVQ, will I still need to complete Further Learning?

Level 4 or 5 NVQs can contribute significantly to Further Learning. The extent of this contribution will become clear when you draft your Learning Plan.

15. Guidance on educational Further Learning states that Masters courses are to be accredited, I have checked the JBM website and the University where I am intending to study my Masters degree is not listed?

In this case the University concerned will need to make a formal application for its Masters courses to be accredited as Further Learning. Or alternatively, you can seek approval of your intended Masters Degree through the Individual Case Committee of the various JBM member Institutions. Many such degrees are approved. Information on the individual case process can be downloaded from the websites of the various JBM member institutions.

16. I am intending to complete an MSc to meet the Further Learning requirements, but my MSc is not listed on the JBM website, how can I seek approval to study this MSc?

If the MSc is not listed on the JBM website, you may of course seek guidance from one of the JBM member Institutions prior to commencement of your proposed programme of study to ensure that it will meet the requirements.

17. Which type of MSc should I study, a technical or non-technical programme?

It is suggested that if you hold an IEng accredited bachelor degree then you should follow a technical rather than a non-technical MSc, for example an MSc in Structural Design or Geotechnical Engineering but not an MSc in Construction Management. This is because of the differences in the taught content of the bachelor degree programme at BSc and BEng (Hons) level. You should seek approval of the Individual Case Committee of the relevant Institution before embarking on your chosen MSc course to confirm that it has the correct technical content.

A graduate with a CEng level accredited bachelor degree can study a technical or a non-technical MSc. This is because of the acceptable technical content in the first degree.

A list of accredited Masters courses is on the JBM website.

18. I have read the Further learning guidance documents and I am not clear on the differences between assessment and verification. What are the differences?

In the world of vocational education and training these words have clear and different technical meanings.

Assessment means judging the candidate's evidence to decide whether the necessary standards have been met. (Concise Oxford Dictionary: "to estimate the quality of")

Verification means ensuring that the assessment process has been properly carried out. (Concise Oxford Dictionary: "to establish the truth of")

It follows that the assessor and the verifier must be two different people – you cannot verify your own assessment.

19. What is the difference between a Supervising Civil Engineer and a Supervising Engineer?

SCE is a technical term under the ICE's graduate training scheme, and is distinct from SE, a technical term under the further learning scheme. An SCE may or may not be a SE and *vice versa*.

20. I have completed my BEng (Hons) degree in the United Kingdom and I have now returned to Hong Kong. Will it be possible for me to complete appropriate Further Learning in Hong Kong?

There is no geographical restriction on where Further Learning can be completed. A number of MSc programmes available at universities in Hong Kong have been accredited as meeting the Further Learning requirements for a Chartered Engineer. Please see the list of accredited programmes available on the JBM website www.jbm.org.uk.

21. What is the difference between accredited and approved courses of MSc study?

Accredited: MSc programmes are only accredited as meeting the requirements of Further Learning for those graduates who also hold a CEng level accredited BEng (Hons) degree. Such MSc graduates will automatically satisfy the required educational base for a Chartered Engineer. Any graduate who obtains an accredited MSc *but does not have an accredited bachelor degree qualification at the appropriate level* will need to use the Individual Case Committee route to apply for an assessment, of their qualifications.

Approved: An individual application is made to the Individual Case Committee by the graduate to obtain approval, or otherwise, that the course satisfies the educational requirements for the grade of membership being sought.

22. I have completed my Employer Managed Further Learning programme. What evidence do I need to submit to the Institution so my details can be updated to show that I meet the educational base for CEng/Eng registration?

You need to submit a copy of your Portfolio summary sheet that has been signed by the Supervising Engineer and the Internal Verifier to confirm that you have met all the appropriate learning outcomes. As part of their audit processes the JBM institutions reserve the right to ask candidates to submit their full portfolio of evidence as part of this approval process.

23. What is a Further Learning Plan and what does this entail?

Each candidate shall, with the help of colleagues and the approval of their Supervising Engineer, produce a Learning Plan. This Plan will set out the means through which the learning outcomes are to be achieved (courses, projects, etc); the timescale for their achievement; and the proposed evidence and arrangements for assessment. The Learning Plan may change and develop along the way. Depending on experiences, the plan may be developed in stages or phases of perhaps six or twelve month duration and should be re-

assessed periodically to identify any gaps and agree future learning priorities. Further guidance and an example plan are given on the JBM website.