



## JOINT BOARD OF MODERATORS

### GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING DEGREE AND FURTHER LEARNING PROGRAMMES

#### GENERAL STATEMENT

All educational institutions are encouraged to develop their degree programmes in ways that make best use of their strengths and provide stimulating and relevant education experiences. Graduates will follow varying career paths and the educational base should provide for such opportunities. A well-balanced degree programme is widely recognised as providing an educational platform for careers in widely varying fields. Nevertheless, the professional bodies that constitute the Joint Board of Moderators (JBM) are licensed by the Engineering Council UK (EC<sup>UK</sup>) to accredit degree programmes and must ensure that the requirements as defined in the UK-SPEC (2004) are met for all courses approved for accreditation. All accreditation visits from 1 September 2005 will be conducted in accordance with UK-SPEC (2004) and this version of the JBM Guidelines.

There is no wish on the part of the JBM to impose uniformity on educational establishments about the content of degree programmes appropriate for those seeking registration as Incorporated Engineers. To this end, these guidelines are presented to encourage informed debate during both the formative and operative phases of the degree programmes.

The educational base for both Chartered and Incorporated Engineers has a number of similarities although not necessarily at the same level. Both will need awareness of the historical and current developments and technologies and engineering principles of their own branch of engineering and related mathematics, science and other subjects.

Standards of academic achievement for entry into degree programmes will continue to form an important criterion for accreditation (see Annex A – Achievement Levels for Entry onto Degree Programmes). However, the Guidelines reflect the need for accreditation to be focused more upon the standards of achievement that are attained during the programmes and the standards reached upon completion of the programme (see Guidelines for Checking Output Standards of Degree Programmes).

The educational base for a Chartered Engineer is either an accredited integrated MEng degree programme of four years duration (or equivalent sandwich or part-time) or a three year accredited BEng(Hons) degree programme that is supplemented by an approved period of Further Learning (see Guidelines for Further Learning Programmes).

Transfers of students in both directions between BEng(Hons) and MEng degree programmes will be acceptable at any time over the first three years. Provided that the standards of academic achievement at entry of the BEng(Hons) cohort are broadly compatible with those of the MEng entry cohort, there should be no restrictions upon such transfers.

The qualifications that exemplify the required knowledge and understanding for an Incorporated Engineer are an accredited Bachelors degree in engineering or technology; or a Higher National Diploma or Foundation Degree in engineering or technology, plus appropriate Further Learning to degree level (see Guidelines for Further Learning Programmes).

There is no requirement by EC<sup>UK</sup> for the institutions to accredit HNC/D and Foundation Degree programmes. They are acceptable to EC<sup>UK</sup> as the educational base for EngTech registration and require Further Learning up to the standard of an accredited Bachelors degree to meet the educational base for IEng registration.