

Engineering Gateways

Individual's learning contract and development plan: IET requirements (April 2012)

In principle the IET position is to offer advice rather than prescribe. Therefore in principle any reasonable format would be acceptable. In practice, those learning contracts approved to date have followed a similar format based on a template shared between the HEIs.

The IET requires: Personal details qualifications and career history. Sufficient detail of career achievements is required for us to estimate the current extent of underpinning knowledge and competence.

- A “gap analysis” identifying what further learning and experience are needed to develop CEng or IEng competence. The analysis should be self-critical.
- An agreed programme designed to address the identified needs. We expect to see strong technical/engineering content relevant to the career path. This is particularly important where a relevant strongly technical academic background is not clearly evident.
- Confirmation that the university's own regulations and internal approval mechanisms are being applied. The mechanisms should include the application of any admission criteria and APL/credit arrangements.
- The student's IET membership details or an application for membership.

The IET offers:

- An acceptance of the programme as demonstrating suitable Underpinning Knowledge and Understanding for professional registration. Assurance that a Professional Review Interview will be held where sufficient evidence is presented that the person is working in an appropriate professional role. In practice this places the applicant in a very similar situation to someone holding an accredited exemplifying qualification. However as the academic qualification is not accredited, the Engineering Council regulations require a slightly different process defined as the ‘individual route’ to be applied
- IET support.
- If in future academic accreditation is sought, the programme would be scrutinised by peers and expected to demonstrate similar standards to other programmes at the same level that are currently accredited.

Unfortunately it is impossible to be certain in advance about a person's work experience and career progression. Therefore in the context of a programme of work-based learning some flexibility may be necessary in order to achieve the defined learning outcomes. This is largely an internal HEI matter under the programme regulations. However the IET position is that an overall assessment of competence can only take place by peer review at the point of application for professional registration.

If you would like further information from the IET please contact Julie Weaver (jweaver@theiet.org)