

Frequently Asked Questions about the EAC/BEM Engineering Programme Accreditation Policy

1. What is accreditation?

EAC accreditation is to ensure that graduates of the accredited engineering programmes satisfy the minimum academic requirements for registration as a graduate engineer with the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM) and for admission to graduate membership of IEM.

2. Why EAC Accreditation is important?

- *Accreditation helps students and their parents to choose quality college programmes.*
- *Accreditation enables employers to recruit graduates they know are well-prepared.*
- *Accreditation gives colleges and universities a structured mechanism to assess, evaluate, and improve the quality of their programs.*

3. Is it true that BEM do not recognize three (3) year degree programmes and only four (4) year programmes are recognized?

All institutions of higher learning in Malaysia have been informed since 2000 that no engineering programmes with 3 years duration of study would be acceptable for BEM's recognition or accreditation. Only a four year (or more) programme is accreditable by the EAC. The BEM however provides a pathway for unrecognized engineering degree holders, but they would only be considered upon completing Master programmes (taught mode) in related engineering discipline, on a case to case basis. It must be noted that the 3 year programme will still remain as unrecognized despite the holder having achieved the Master degree.

4. Where do I check whether my engineering programme is accredited by Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM)?

There is in our official website, www.eac.org.my, the link for "List of Accredited Engineering Programme (Malaysia)"

5. Is getting accreditation the responsibility of the graduate or the faculty of engineering of the Institution of Higher Learning (IHL)?

It is the responsibility of the Institution of Higher Learning (IHL).

6. What is the requirement to register with BEM as Graduate Engineer and how can I apply?

The main requirement to register with BEM as Graduate Engineer is that the person must graduate from a recognized / accredited degree by the BEM. The list of accredited degree for local IHL is provided in the EAC and BEM website. Please visit the www.eac.org.my and www.bem.org.my. You can make an application to register as Graduate Engineer by filling up the Borang A at the BEM website. The procedures for the application is stated in the Borang A.

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- 7. What is the status of Bachelor of Engineering from Malaysia before June 2009?**
After June 2009, degrees accredited by the BEM will be deemed as equivalent to all WA signatories and therefore recognised by those WA members. However, it is the prerogative of other WA signatories to accept BEng degree from Malaysia prior to Malaysia's accession to WA in June 2009.
- 8. Is it true that if I did not graduate with ABEEK (Accreditation Board of Engineering Education of Korea) accredited programme, I cannot register with BEM. Does this mean that students who do not follow ABEEK accredited programmes in South Korea are still able to work as an engineer, and register as a Graduate Engineer with BEM?**
Registration with the BEM requires that the degree programme have been accredited and recognized by EAC/BEM. For graduates from South Korea, EAC/BEM adopt the list provided by ABEEK for recognition purpose. If a programme is not in the list, graduates can register with BEM after "topping-up" with a Master Degree (coursework) in the relevant field of engineering from a recognized university. EAC/BEM only recognized 4 years undergraduate engineering programmes.
- 9. Are all the engineering programmes that are conducted by the UniKL recognized by BEM?**
All Engineering Technology programmes conducted by UniKL are not accredited by BEM for the purpose of registration with BEM.
- 10. Does Board of Engineer Malaysia recognized degrees obtained via online?**
Presently, the BEM does not recognized nor accredit any distance learning programme. It is a standing policy.
- 11. Is it true Master of Engineering (MEng) degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Cardiff University, Wales UK does not qualify as a Master's degree but is only equal to a Bachelor's degree in Malaysia?**
Yes, it is true. MEng degree is the minimum requirement to register with the BEM to practise engineering in Malaysia. MEng is an enhanced bachelor degree as far as Malaysia is concerned.
- 12. Is the part time course, Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Hons) in Electrical from UniKL accredited by BEM?**
BEngTech at UniKL is not accredited by BEM. BEM only accredits 4 year Bachelor of Engineering programmes.
- 13. What will happen to our graduate engineer status if the list of accredited degrees changes after BEM joins Washington Accord?**
Status quo remains with all accredited programmes by EAC.

Frequently Asked Questions about the EAC/BEM Engineering Programme Accreditation Policy

- 14. Are the Master degree holders entitled to register with the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM)?**

Minimum requirement to be registered with the BEM is having a Bachelor Engineering Degree. Master is for topping up if you are having a non – recognised degree.

- 15. If a person has recently graduated with (2+2)/ 3+0 twinning programme BEng (Hons) and also a 1 year Master in engineering (coursework) from the same local Malaysian college, will he be allowed to register with BEM?**

Provided the twinning programme fulfils the residential requirement in the UK (2 years) and the degree is recognised by ECUK as partially fulfilling the Chartered Engineers (CEng) requirement. Master by coursework in a related discipline is still required for registration.

Note: EAC does not accredit twinning programmes. Only registration with the BEM requires graduates to have an accredited degree from EAC or recognised by EAC. For twinning programmes of UK, the residential requirement of 2 years in the UK is necessary. It must be an MEng 4 year programme accredited by ECUK.

- 16. If a student enrolled in any accredited programme, but later on during the programme the accreditation status is withdrawn, then what will be the status of the degree that a student gained?**

Accreditation with the BEM is voluntary. However, MQA requires all programmes in Malaysia to be accredited. If it happens that the programme is not accredited, there is not much recourse except the graduate may sue the University for not maintaining the standard to such an extent that accreditation is withdrawn. That is why it is the best that you look for universities with good track records.

- 17. I would like to know the equivalence of French Diplôme d'Ingénieurs in Malaysia.**

The BEM only accredits engineering programme at the Bachelors level. Our recognition with regard to the Diplome Engr qualification accredited by Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur (CTI) is for the purpose of registration as Graduate Engineers. The Dip Engr qualification is considered as meeting the minimum qualification for registration as Graduate Engineer that allows progression to become a Professional Engineer.

- 18. What is the Status of Compulsory Industrial Training**

Industrial training is compulsory for the purpose of exposure to industrial practice. It shall be for a minimum of two months continuous training. (It should not take one semester from an existing 8-semester programme). The industrial training must be conducted before the final semester.

- 19. I would like to enquire about the accreditation of 3.5 years Bachelor of Engineering from Germany.**

You must do a MSc (by taught course in a related engineering discipline) from recognised universities (those with UG programmes accredited by BEM) that are considered for now by the BEM, or complete the MEng in Germany in the same discipline.

Frequently Asked Questions about the EAC/BEM Engineering Programme Accreditation Policy

- 20. What is the maximum Credit Exemption required by EAC for the Bachelor of Engineering programme?**
The EAC requirement for credit exemption or transfer is NOT exceeding 30% of the total credit for the programme. The University has to ensure that this is adhered or the programme will not be accredited.
- 21. Where can I check on Provisional Approval for Bachelor of Engineering programmes?**
Please be informed that all new programmes will have to complete a cycle before accreditation can be undertaken by EAC/BEM. However, these programmes must obtain provisional accreditation by the Malaysia Qualification Agency (MQA) and approval to conduct the programmes by the Ministry of Higher Education. Please refer to MQA list for provisional accreditation.
- 22. What is the difference between MSc and MEng ?**
MSc can be engineering or non-engineering. MEng should usually be engineering.
- 23. Can 4 years UK sandwich degree course be considered as recognised?**
No, sandwich course resulting in a MEng must be 5 years.
- 24. I am a student, currently pursuing my Bachelor of Engineering at Curtin University in Miri, Sarawak. I am planning to transfer my studies in Australia. I understand that both the degrees are accredited by the BEM. But I am not sure whether an Engineering degree which is done at two different universities i.e. Curtin (Malaysia), then Curtin (Perth) would be accorded the same recognition.**
Curtin Miri is not Curtin Perth. BEM will have to evaluate your transcript once you have completed. Further, it is Engineers Australia that has to accredit Australia's Programme. You need to check with Engineers Australia on the requirement. The Programme may be accredited but a graduate may not fulfil all the requirement, despite the university being willing to accept the transfer.
- 25. What is BEM's Policy on Recognition for Overseas Programme?**
(a) *If the country is a signatory member of the Washington Accord, EAC will recognise the programme based upon the recognition given by the accrediting body of that particular country.*
(b) *If the country is a provisional member of the Washington Accord, EAC will recognise the programme on a case by case basis based upon the recognition given by the accrediting body of that particular country.*
- 26. I would like to know the BEM's policy on a 3 years degree level of engineering with one year top up?**
EAC only accredit or recognise 4 years programmes. It is better that you take the 4 years programme. There is no guarantee that a 3+1 (BSc + MSc) would enable one to register

Frequently Asked Questions about the EAC/BEM Engineering Programme Accreditation Policy

with the BEM. It is a case to case basis. There is always a chance that you may not be able to register. Further this pathway may be withdrawn to reduce public misunderstanding that the 3 years programme is an engineering programme. It was introduced to cater for the UK problem. The decision may not last forever.

27. Does the BEM/IEM Part II Graduate Exam Certificate have the same level of standards as all the accredited local engineering bachelor degree?

The Examinations only allow for registration as an engineer. It is the alternative pathway through the IEM, but it has no equivalency to academic qualification. If a university want to consider it as equivalent then it is their prerogative. Except for those who have registered in 2010, for now the Examinations have been discontinued.

28. Since BEM joined the Washington Accord in 2009, will anyone who graduated in or after 2009 meet the educational base for Chartered Engineer (CEng) or should 2009 be the start date of the course?

All programmes accredited by BEM are for CEng (Washington Accord standard). BEM does not accredit Incorporated Engineer (IEng) program (technology). From 2008 accreditation is based on graduation date. Before that it was based on intake date. Malaysia gets into Washington Accord in June 2009.