IHEEM Policy for the Registration of Engineers with qualifications gained in European Union Member States.


Eligibility:

The Directive applies to:

- EU professionals who wish to practice the same profession in another member state.
- Any national of another EU member state who is recognised as a professional engineer or technician in that state or a third EU member state who is seeking to gain the corresponding regulated title in the UK.

1. Main principles of Directive 2005/36

1. Persons having acquired their professional qualifications in a Member State must have access to the same profession and be able to pursue it in another Member State with the same rights as nationals. Any host Member State in which a profession is regulated must take account of the qualifications obtained in another Member State and assess whether they correspond to those which it requires.

2. For the purposes of this guidance, the host Member State is the UK and the competent authority is the Engineering Council. The home Member State is the country in which the applicant is legally established to practise as an engineer.

- If the profession of engineer is regulated in the home Member State, they must be registered with the relevant professional title and have the right to practise that profession in the home Member State, i.e. they must not be prohibited from practising there at the time of making an application to the host Member State.
- If the profession of engineer is unregulated in the home Member State, they must possess formal qualifications which enable them to practise as an engineer there and they must have pursued the profession of engineer on a full-time basis for at least 1 out of the last 10 years in the home Member State.

3. The Directive does not guarantee automatic recognition in the host Member State, as there may be a difference between the formal qualifications and professional experience of the applicant and those required for registration with the host competent authority. The competent authority is entitled to ensure that the applicant’s formal qualifications (academic and professional) satisfy its own standards and criteria for registration.

4. The level of regulated professional title for which the applicant is eligible is determined by the level of their formal qualifications. These are defined by article 11 of the Directive:

- 11 (c) is equivalent to EngTech,
- 11(d) is equivalent to IEng
- 11(e) is equivalent to CEng

5. Where the equivalence is unclear, the level of the qualification will be individually assessed by IHEEM.
6. The applicant’s professional achievement will then be assessed against The Engineering Council’s required standards of professional competence and personal attributes for the title for which they are applying (UK-SPEC).

7. The applicant must possess the level of English necessary to practise the profession of engineer in the UK.

2. Applicants eligible to apply under the Directive

a) Where the Engineering Profession is regulated in the home Member State

Applicants –
Who wish to pursue the profession of engineer in the UK and be registered with the Engineering Council,
and
Are an EU or EEA national, or have the legal right to be treated as such,
and
Are qualified to practise as an engineer in their home Member State,
and
The profession of engineer is regulated in their home Member State,
and
Are currently legally established, with the relevant professional title, to practise as an engineer in their home Member State,
and
Do not have UK qualifications or UK professional experience before gaining the relevant professional title in their home Member State.

- Are eligible under this scheme.

b) Where the Engineering Profession is not regulated in the home Member State

Applicants –
Who wish to pursue the profession of engineer in the UK and be registered with the Engineering Council,
and
Are an EU or EEA national, or have the legal right to be treated as such,
and
Are qualified to practise as an engineer in their home Member State,
and
The profession of engineer is unregulated in their home Member State,
and
They hold relevant formal qualifications awarded by a Member State other than the UK and have pursued the profession of engineer on a full time basis for 1 years during the last 10 years in their home Member State or
Have completed regulated education and training for the profession of engineer as certified by the relevant competent authority in their home Member State

- Are eligible under this scheme
3. The application process

1. All applications are considered on an individual, case-by-case basis by IHEEM’s Membership & Registration Committee.

IHEEM will confirm that the application is complete or advise of any missing documents within one month of receipt of application. The assessment of the application will not commence until IHEEM has given formal acknowledgement that all the necessary documentation and any fee has been provided.

2. The Directive requires that a reasoned decision is given by IHEEM within four months of the formal acknowledgement outlined above.

3. Once eligibility to apply under the Directive is confirmed the relevant application form is completed and submitted.

4. In addition to the completed application form, applicants must provide:
   
   a) Copies of the evidence of the formal qualifications giving access to the profession of engineer in the home Member State.
   
   Examples of this evidence are:

   **Copies of post-secondary academic qualifications/diplomas.**

   Please note that it may be necessary to request certified copies and certified translations of qualifications, and in some cases the course transcripts will be required.

   **From a regulated profession:** Proof of regulated title or registration with the relevant competent authority.

   **From an unregulated profession:** Certified proof of completion of regulated education and training from the competent authority in home Member State or proof of full time professional experience as an engineer of at least 1 year in the last 10 years.

   On receipt of this evidence IHEEM will contact the competent authority, via the UK competent authority, or national contact point for the home Member State in order to check the content and authenticity of the formal qualifications.

   b) Proof of nationality (certified copy of passport or identity card)

   c) The application fee

5. The following documents may assist the Committee in their assessment of the application:

An independent statement from a senior professional engineer in support of the application, describing how they believe the applicant has demonstrated the required level in each of the attributes. For applicants from an unregulated profession, this would be in addition to the declaration requested on the application form.

A copy of a Development Action Plan outlining the intended development activities for the next 12 months

Continuing Professional Development record of the last 5 years.
6. If the application is successful the applicant will be informed of the Committee’s decision.

7. If the applicant needs to undertake a compensation measure, see below, they will be advised.

**Compensation Measures**

1. The Committee will not approve an application if the applicant has not satisfactorily demonstrated how they meet the required attributes for the chosen professional title.

2. If the Committee finds a substantial difference between the knowledge, experience or competence demonstrated and the required attributes for that title, the applicant will be advised what those specific differences are. There is a choice to undertake a compensation measure, as prescribed in the Directive, which can be either an “aptitude test” or an “adaptation period” (see below).

3. Compensation measures can only be undertaken in the UK. If the applicant is resident outside of the UK when the application is made, the compensation measure can only begin once resident in the UK.

**Aptitude Test**

1. The purpose of the test is to enable demonstration that the applicant possesses the required knowledge, experience and competence which were not demonstrated in the application, through a face-to-face interview with two experienced IHEEM Members. It will be arranged at a mutually convenient date and location. There will be a fee charged for the aptitude test.

2. The aptitude test will last up to 75 minutes, and questions will be asked only about the attribute(s) that have not been demonstrated adequately in the application. There may be the option to make a short presentation at the beginning of the test in which aptitude in the attributes can be demonstrated.

3. If the applicant does not pass the aptitude test, they will be advised in writing of the reasons for this. Another test may be taken at a later date for a further fee.

**Adaptation Period**

1. The purpose of the adaptation period is for the applicant to acquire the necessary knowledge or competence in order to meet the required level of competence for the chosen title.

2. This will usually take the form of a period of supervised practice of work as an engineer in the UK. However it may alternatively be a recommendation that the applicant undertakes further learning or education, if that is the most suitable way for the required knowledge or competence to be acquired.

3. For a period of supervised practice, a qualified IHEEM Member will be appointed to monitor and assess the progress and provide a written report to IHEEM on the skills or knowledge that have been acquired to confirm when the applicant has reached the required level of competence in the relevant attribute(s). There will be a fee charged for this type of adaptation period.

4. The adaptation period may last up to three years, depending on the extent of the knowledge and skills the applicant needs to gain.
Fees

Application Fee £50

Aptitude test £159.60

Adaptation period £159.60

This Policy was approved by the IHEEM Council on 5 November 2019