

ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION LOCATION OF STUDY.

Institution of
**MECHANICAL
ENGINEERS**

Following consultation with Professional Engineering Institutions (PEIs) throughout 2017 the Engineering Council has published new guidance which outlines the requirements placed on universities to ensure the location of study is clearly identifiable where an accredited degree programme is delivered at multiple campus locations. This guidance has been developed in response to the growing number of UK universities having arrangements with external organisations, which has made it increasingly difficult for PEIs to determine the location of where a degree programme has been completed when an applicant comes to apply for membership and professional registration.

Where a university seeks accreditation of a degree programme which is delivered at multiple campus locations – including through franchise or partnership arrangements – the IMechE must be invited to visit all locations involved in the delivery of the programme, or otherwise be informed of all campus locations for which accreditation is not being sought. An accreditation visit is usually required to each campus location for which programme accreditation is sought to enable the IMechE to consider evidence from a range of indicators including human, physical and material resources, and meeting(s) with students. Should the programme be delivered at more than one campus location then students will only be considered to have completed an accredited programme if they have completed it at the campus location for which the accreditation has been confirmed.

Equally, universities involved in the delivering and/or awarding of degree programmes delivered on multiple campus locations must either secure accreditation of their degree programmes in all locations, or make it absolutely clear in any material referring to the programmes where such programmes have not been accredited. It is especially important for degree programmes which share the same title and which are delivered on multiple campus locations to be clearly differentiated from one another should accreditation not be sought at all locations. If the IMechE believe that a university is not being sufficiently clear in regards to the non-accredited status of franchised degree programmes and/or degrees delivered through collaborative partnership(s) and/or at different campuses, then accreditation may subsequently be withdrawn or refused.

To ensure the location of study of an applicant's degree programme is clearly identifiable the IMechE has updated its processes for reviewing academic qualifications. Effective immediately, any university seeking IMechE accreditation will now be required to clearly present the location of study of each degree awarded on the degree transcript. The degree transcript, in addition to an authenticated copy of their degree certificate must then be supplied by the applicant when seeking IMechE membership and professional registration. Applicants seeking IMechE membership and professional registration who hold an IMechE accredited degree, but cannot provide satisfactory evidence of the location of study will no longer be automatically recognised as accredited and will instead have their academic qualifications assessed by the Institution's Academic Assessment Committee (AAC).