

# Engineering Accreditation Board (EAB)

## EAB guidance summary 2006 - 2008

A summary of guidance from EAB on accreditation-related issues follows:

- 1.1 **The accreditation of joint engineering programmes**

It was agreed that, in general, two-thirds of a programme should comprise core engineering content for it to be considered for accreditation. However, ultimately, delivery of the required learning outcomes would justify accreditation.
- 1.2 **The framing of accreditation - backdating and how to denote accreditation periods**

Accrediting by output date was considered but rejected; it was agreed that accreditation should continue to be by entry date. The backdating of accreditation was supported, principally in order to cover students on the programme at the time of the visit. The accreditation of part-time and distance learning courses was supported.
- 1.3 **Accreditation vs. approval of Masters degrees**

Accreditation was recommended instead of approval, but it should be made clear to students that an accredited Honours degree would be required in addition to the accredited Masters degree in order to fulfil the exemplifying academic requirements for CEng registration.
- 1.4 **Masters degrees**

The QAA qualification descriptors and the UK-SPEC competence statements should be the principal reference points when considering Masters degrees other than MEng degrees. There should be no more than 25% (or 30 out of 180 credits, in line with the Burgess proposal) of non M-level content in accredited MSc programmes.
- 1.5 **Postgraduate diplomas**

Postgraduate Diplomas are not exemplifying qualifications under UK-SPEC and should not be accredited as such. They may be accepted on an individual basis as meeting part or all of further learning requirements, or as part of an integrated package of further learning and professional development. Those accredited before 1 February 2007 will retain accredited status until the end of their accreditation period.

## 1.6 **Compensation**

The following guidance statements were approved by EAB, to be used by accrediting PEIs:

- That compensation should be allowed
- That the project should not be compensated
- That normally only up to 20 out of 120 credits, in the final year, could be compensated
- That compensation should not undermine the overall learning outcomes of the programme(s)

## 1.7 **Charging for accreditation**

There would be no common policy on charging - Institutions that already charge for accreditation would continue to do so, some Institutions would look to introduce charges, others would continue to offer accreditation at no charge. However, if members wished to introduce charges, an annual affiliate scheme was recommended to be best practice. The cost of any overseas visits should be met by the HEI in question