

Joint Board of Moderators (JBM)

Improvements to the JBM 50% rule

The JBM has been considering for some time how to improve the 50% rule. As a result, the JBM will adopt the following as a way forward to help universities embrace participation in industry and engagement with the institutions in a way that is demonstrable and measurable by the assessment team.

Initially the 50% staff rule was introduced as a result of visiting teams commenting on the lack of JBM institution members within the university. This was particularly the case with structures staff. Several, slightly different, concerns were expressed at the time but rather than looking for different, bespoke solutions to each issue they all were merged under the heading of “professionally qualified staff”. The concerns included:

1. Lack of industrial input into the degree courses.
2. Lack of institution role models within the university – were students being encouraged to see the degree as a first step to professional qualification?
3. Lack of engagement with institutions in terms of student membership recruitment, support for Regional Group activities etc.

It was thought that having more institution members within the department would solve many of these problems. This remains the goal, and JBM visits will continue to look for there being at least 50% professionally-qualified staff on accredited degree programmes. Where this number is below 50%, an action plan will be required, monitored annually, to ensure that the target 50% is reached.

From October 2019 the JBM will, in addition, look for evidence during its visits that Civil Engineering departments are engaging with the industry across a range of activities. This will be based on the following questions, which apply to all JBM-accredited universities including those who already meet the 50% rule.

1. Do you have an SLO for each of the five JBM PEIs?
2. Do your IAB members collectively hold professional qualifications with at least two of the five JBM PEIs?
3. Do you have university representation on at least two of the local PEI committees?
4. Do you host PEI events, and do you encourage students to attend PEI meetings?
5. Do you bring industrial relevance to the course in every term or semester of the degree programme through professionally qualified staff?
6. Do the visiting lecturers offer site visits, vacation/year placements?
7. Do you operate a mentoring scheme from industry?