

Further learning: frequently asked questions

These are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about further learning. If you have a question that is not answered here, please get in touch with your institution. You can find their contact details on the [JBM website](#).

You should also read the relevant supporting guidance, which you can find on the JBM website.

1. Is my degree accredited at IEng or CEng level?

You can find a list of accredited courses on the [JBM website](#) and in the accreditation database on the [Engineering Council website](#)

2. What is further learning?

Further learning ranges from improving your on-the-job knowledge to getting another qualification.

It helps you top-up your academic qualifications and experience (educational base) to incorporated (IEng) or chartered (CEng) engineer level.

3. Do I need to do further learning?

The educational base for CEng-level is a four-year accredited MEng degree. So, for example, if you have an accredited BEng (Hons) and you want to get the educational base for CEng level, you'll need to do some further learning or equivalent. You should contact your preferred institution to confirm exactly what they expect of you.

For IEng-level, the educational base is an accredited IEng degree (a BSc/BEng), or equivalent. So, if you have a HNC, HND or Foundation Degree, and want to achieve the educational base for IEng level, again you'll have to do some further learning or equivalent.

4. My accredited BSc degree meets the educational base for IEng level. What further learning do I need to reach CEng level?

Your further learning will need to include some technical aspects that weren't covered in your degree. This will give you the technical, MEng-level background that's needed for CEng. Refer to Q9 for how you can undertake further learning. Your institution will also need to assess that this learning is at the required level. Get in touch with your preferred institution to find out more.

5. I have a Higher National Certificate (HNC). Can I do IEng-level further learning?

You can, but you'll need to do more further learning than someone who has a Higher National Diploma or foundation degree. This is because HNCs don't include as many modules as HNDs or foundation degrees.

6. I have a HND/HNC/Foundation Degree. Can I do further learning to CEng level?

Yes, by doing work-based further learning. You can find further information on this option on the [JBM website](#)

7. Why do I need to do further learning, but someone who studied the same course does not?

Over time, the Engineering Council has raised the educational base standards for CEng-level. When these changes were made, certain courses that previously met the educational base for CEng level, no longer did.

If you had already enrolled on the course when the changes came into effect, they wouldn't have affected you. In other words, you would've met the educational base for CEng level after graduating.

However, if you enrolled after this point, would need to do further learning to achieve the educational base for CEng-level.

Because of this, some people who started certain BEng courses between 1999 and 2002 will need to do further learning, but others don't.

If you did an accredited BEng degree, you can find out if you need to do further learning by checking the list of dates on the accredited programmes list on the [JBM website](#).

8. I graduated in 1998 with an accredited BEng (Hons) degree. I've heard that the educational base standards for CEng level have changed, and that I now need to do an MSc as further learning. Is that true?

No. You don't need to do further learning if you enrolled on an accredited BEng degree before 1999.

If you enrolled in 1999 or after, it depends on the BEng course whether you'll need to do further learning. On some courses, the 1999 intake will need to do further learning, on others it applies to later intakes.

If you're unsure, check with your institution.

9. How can I do further learning?

There are a number of ways:

- Study another accredited academic qualification. You can find a list of courses that are accredited as further learning on the [JBM website](#) under the accredited programmes section.
- Do a further learning programme provided by an employer. Employers sign you up to a programme (approved by JBM) and give you the support of a supervisor. You'll need to check whether your employer runs a programme.
- Do further learning which you manage yourself. Like the employer-managed programme, this is also work-based but graduates have minimal support from a supervisor – usually because a further learning programme isn't on offer.
- Technical Report Route. This option involves writing a technical report and having an interview. For more information, check your institution's website.
- A combination of the above.

This list is not exhaustive, so to find out more information about further learning options refer to the JBM website at www.jbm.org.uk and/or talk to your preferred institution.

10. How long does further learning take?

It depends what programme you choose.

A full-time MSc would normally take one year to complete, but studied part-time, it usually takes three years.

If you chose an employer-managed or self-managed programme, or the Technical Report Route, it depends on the opportunities available to you in the workplace. Typically this would be two to three years.

11. Can I do further learning at the same time as my initial professional development (IPD)?

Yes. The work-based experience you'll need for further learning and IPD is often the same, or similar. However, these activities must be recorded separately, because each part of your further learning has to be assessed.

12. Is there any information to help companies develop their own further learning programme?

You can find detailed information in the employer-managed further learning guidance.

The JBM also runs seminars to train supervising engineers, who support graduates throughout their programme.

13. I'm thinking about doing an NVQ at Level 4 or 5. If my portfolio is assessed as satisfactory and I'm awarded an NVQ, will I need to do more further learning?

Level 4 or 5 NVQs can contribute significantly to further learning. You'll find out how much it will contribute once you've drawn up your learning plan, because this will highlight any gaps in the learning outcomes you've achieved.

14. What do I need to do if my bachelor's degree in civil engineering is not accredited?

Graduates with a non-accredited bachelor's degree in civil engineering will need to apply for an academic assessment.

This involves sending details of your bachelor's degree qualification to the JBM member institution of your choice. You will then be advised of any additional further learning that you are required to complete. You can find out more about this procedure on the relevant Institution's website.

15. I want to study a master's as further learning. I've checked the list of accredited courses but my university's not on it. What should I do?

There are two options.

The university can formally apply for its master's courses to be accredited as further learning, or you can ask your institution if the course meets their requirements, before you start.

16. Should I study a technical or non-technical MSc for further learning?

If you have an accredited IEng-level bachelor's degree, we recommend that you do a technical MSc. For example, this might be an MSc in Structural Design or Geotechnical Engineering, rather than Construction Management.

This is because of the differences in the content of the bachelor's degree programme at BSc and BEng (Hons) level.

You should also get your course approved by your institution before you start to make sure it includes the required content.

If you have a bachelor's degree that's accredited at CEng-level with further learning, you can study a technical or non-technical MSc. This is because you will already have covered the required technical content in your bachelor's degree.

You can find a list of accredited master's degrees on the [JBM website](#) under accredited programmes.



17. The further learning guidance talks about ‘assessing’ and ‘verifying’ further learning. What’s the difference?

Your further learning evidence is assessed to find out if you’ve achieved the required standards.

That assessment is then verified to check that the process was carried out properly. The assessor and the verifier must be different people.

18. What’s the difference between a supervising civil engineer and a supervising engineer?

A supervising civil engineer supports a graduate through the IPD stage of their professional qualification. A supervising engineer provides support through a further learning programme.

The same person can carry out both roles.

19. I did my BEng (Hons) degree in the UK and I have now returned to Hong Kong. Can I do my further learning in Hong Kong?

Yes. There’s no geographical restriction on where further learning can be done. A number of MSc programmes are available at universities in Hong Kong, and have been accredited for further learning at CEng-level.

You can find a list of accredited MSc programmes on the [JBM website](#). For non-accredited MScs, see Q15.

20. I’ve completed my employer-managed further learning programme. What evidence do I need to submit to show that I meet the educational base for CEng/IEng registration?

You need to send a copy of your portfolio summary to your institution. It must be signed by the supervising engineer and the internal verifier to confirm that you have achieved all the appropriate learning outcomes.

Your JBM institution may also ask you to send your full portfolio of evidence as part of this approval process.

21. What is a further learning plan and what’s in it?

Before starting your further learning programme, you have to produce a plan. Your colleagues can help you produce your plan, which has to be approved by your supervising engineer or mentor.

The plan must show how you will achieve the learning outcomes (through courses, projects etc.), how long the programme will take, what evidence you aim to submit for assessment, and how assessment will be arranged.

Your learning plan may change and develop along the way. Depending on the opportunities you get to achieve the learning outcomes, the plan can be developed in stages or phases – of six or 12 months, for example. It should be reviewed periodically to identify any gaps in your learning and to agree future learning priorities.

You can find an example learning plan under the Accreditation Guidance section of the [JBM website](#)