

ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS TO THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION

If you feel that you are not ready for a four year degree in engineering at university, there are alternative pathways to the engineering profession:

- § You can become an Engineering Technologist by studying completing a three-year Australian Bachelor of Engineering Technology degree, or
- § You can become an Engineering Associate (Officer) by completing: a recognised two-year Australian (AQF6) Advanced Diploma or Associate Degree.

Once you have gained some work experience you can transfer from Associate to technologist and/or from Technologist to Engineer with additional study. In practice you may find that the distinction does not matter and many Associates and Technologists work alongside engineers doing challenging and fulfilling work.

The current guidelines for additional study are:

- § To transfer from being an **Engineering Technologist to Professional Engineer** you need to complete a study-based engineering Masters Degree program presented by a University offering accredited undergraduate engineering programs.

Management or Project Management programs are not recognised as suitable programs as they do not contribute sufficiently to the breadth of foundation knowledge in science, mathematics and engineering for the required levels of competency. For similar reasons graduate programs by research only and graduate degrees in Systems Engineering are also not considered appropriate. However within this framework, there is a wide choice of study units to suit your particular preferences.

- § To transfer from an **Engineering Associate to Engineering Technologist** you need to complete a Bachelor of Technology (BTech) program. Many of these programs give credit for Engineering Associate qualifications already held. You can also claim Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) beyond that allowed by the particular institution. These are usually with on a case-by-case basis and you would need to apply for these exemptions. Application may be made for up to 50% of an individual articulation program to the Articulation Committee, Engineers Australia.

The Master of Engineering Practice offered by the University of Southern Queensland has been developed specifically for transfer from Associate to Engineer and allows for credit for up to 50% of the program through the submission of written portfolios which provide evidence of prior learning on the job. Applicants must present tangible evidence that they have satisfactorily attained the learning outcomes

specified for the subject or unit for which RPL is sought. The learning outcomes are normally declared in University or TAFE subject/unit outline documents.

Evidence to support a claim for RPL would include, for example:

- § Specific work activities and units of study undertaken. These should be presented in the form of a portfolio specifically addressing the relevant learning outcomes and including copies of any certificates gained;
- § an oral assessment/interview that allows the applicant to demonstrate the achievement of the specified learning outcomes;
- § A challenge test to show that the applicant has met the specified learning outcomes.

If you are a member of Engineers Australia, as an Associate or a Technologist, you can apply for assistance and advice from the Manager, Education and Assessment on the best means of transferring from Associate to technologist and/or engineer.