Your Passport to Practice

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The Institution of Structural Engineers

Structural engineering is a dynamic, challenging career that blends creativity and technical expertise. For over 100 years, the Institution of Structural Engineers has been recognised as the world’s leading international membership organisation for professional structural engineers. It has over 28,000 members working in 105 countries worldwide.

The Institution is a leading source of expertise and information on structural engineering and public safety within the built environment. It sets and upholds quality standards, as well as supporting and protecting the profession.

The Institution of Structural Engineers

Our values

Professional standards
The Institution promotes technical excellence by advancing safety, creativity and innovation in the built environment.

Celebrating excellence
The Institution shares inspirational thinking with the public, students and young people, helping them understand the structural engineering profession.

Sustainability
The Institution encourages the profession to work sustainably, supporting structural engineers as they protect, influence, and advance responsible development of the environment.

One century down the line, we are still looking ahead, and our members continue to change the world.

This guide tells you about the different grades of Institution membership, the benefits of becoming a member, and how you can join.
Membership of the Institution of Structural Engineers is highly valued. More than any other professional structural engineering qualification, membership will give you an international passport to practice.

Why become a member?
Join an international network
When you become a member of the Institution of Structural Engineers, you join a worldwide community of professionals through your local Regional Group. Through conferences and events, you will be able to connect with like-minded people from industry and academia, from different disciplines within the profession.

Achieve your professional best
Membership is only achieved by the best creative engineering minds. Many engineers see membership of the Institution as their highest demonstration of professional achievement.

A way to make a difference
The Institution works at the highest levels to influence governments, shape regulations and campaign for safety, sustainability and technical standards.

Be a part of the way we shape the profession, drive forward activities and initiatives, raise standards, share information, campaign on engineering-related political issues, and support academic, technical and research initiatives.

Support throughout your career
Members have discounted or free access to Institution events and other knowledge services.

The Structural Engineer
All members receive a free copy of this leading international magazine, featuring industry news, exclusive peer-reviewed technical papers, and job opportunities. You will also have member-only access to a comprehensive archive containing over a century of technical thinking and research.

Technical meetings and seminars
You can attend these at our London headquarters, and/or in your region or country. Alternatively, you can access webinars to watch at a time that suits you.

Regional Groups
You will be automatically assigned a local Regional Group, where you will be warmly welcomed. Regional Groups run their own programme of events and provide essential support and networking opportunities.

Continuing professional development (CPD)
The Institution helps members keep their standards high and develop their knowledge by making sure they comply with regulations and monitoring their CPD annually. Online and in-person courses are available on a wide range of topics, including the Structural Behaviour course. www.istructe.org/resources-centre/structural-behaviour

Technical publications and resources
Members get discounted prices on the Institution’s technical publications. Featuring essential technical and regulatory information, from basic structural design concepts to design guidance, reports, manuals and codes, publications include the latest developments in Eurocodes and the Essential Knowledge Series.

– www.istructe.org/publications
– www.istructe.org/essential-knowledge

The Library
The library is one of the world’s leading centres for structural engineering research and technical information. All members enjoy free access and can choose from a large collection of books, journals, reports, standards and papers. Services include:

– Same day loans and E-loans
– Enquiry service and literature searches
– Support from two qualified librarians
– Partnership library arrangements

FindanEngineer
A comprehensive database of structural engineering practices across the UK, which helps clients find a structural engineer. Companies with at least one member can register or you can register as an individual.

– www.findanengineer.com

The Structural Awards
Celebrating the best in structural engineering worldwide, the Structural Awards are the ultimate recognition of ability for professional structural engineers and winning is a coveted mark of skill and creativity.

Ground conditions:
Ground level – 0.0m
-0.0m to -13.5m Dense silty sand

N.B. Native Iron 35 to 80
Membership grades

Membership of the Institution is open to professional structural engineers and structural technicians worldwide. Membership options reflect the diverse, inclusive nature of the international engineering community.

There are six membership grades:
- Student Member (see p9)
- Graduate Member (see p11)
- Technician Member (see p13)
- Associate-Member (see p15)
- Chartered Member (see p17)
- Fellow (see p19)

Professional membership grades (Technician Member, Associate-Member, Chartered Member) formally recognise your status with the designation TIStructE, AMIStructE, MIStructE or FIStructE.

Only the best thinkers, designers and innovators successfully meet our exacting entrance requirements. It’s a tough journey, but it has to be.

Structural engineers around the world study for different academic qualifications – and the Institution has taken this into account. If you have a recognised qualification in structural engineering, you will be eligible to join, but if you don’t the Institution will find a route for you. Please see page 21 for more information on alternative routes to membership.

To apply for professional membership grades you will need to sit a Professional Review Interview and/or examination.

Professional Review

Candidates must pass both the Interview and Examination but can choose the order in which they sit them.

Interview

The Professional Review Interview (PRI) is designed to test your ability and ensure that you have satisfied all the Institution’s Professional Development (IPD) core requirements for the grade of professional membership you have applied for.

The reviewers will ask you to make a presentation of no more than 15 minutes electronic aids will be allowed) with the interview lasting approximately 60 minutes. The length of the interview will vary according to the route you have taken and how long it takes for the reviewers to determine whether you have reached the required standard in each objective.

Examination

The examination is seven hours long, and you will answer one question from a choice of five. Find out more about the format of the examination, including past papers at www.istructe.org/membership/examination.

The Chartered Member examination takes place in January and July each year, and the Associate-Member examination takes place in July each year. You can sit the examination in a number of centres worldwide.

Please see page 21 for more information on alternative routes to membership.

To apply for professional membership grades you will need to sit a Professional Review Interview and/or examination.

Determined by the Academic Qualifications Panel

- Accredited as partially satisfying the academic base for Chartered membership

Professional Review

Professional Review Interview (PRI) covering IPD: Technician Member

Further learning:

- Technical Report Route
- Accredited MSc
- JBM Employer Managed Scheme

Or use the Chartered Member Examination to demonstrate you have met the academic base

Professional Review Interview (PRI) covering IPD: Associate-Member

Further learning:

- Technical Report Route
- Accredited MSc
- JBM Employer Managed Scheme

Professional Review Interview (PRI) covering IPD: Chartered Member

Further learning:

- Technical Report Route
- Accredited MSc
- JBM Employer Managed Scheme

Demonstration of responsibility in key structural engineering projects, research or teaching and at least five years professional experience
The Institution offers many pathways to membership and you can apply at any point in your career. It’s up to you to decide which grade of membership is right for you, but of course the Membership Team is on hand to offer guidance and support if you need it. Some members choose to stay at Technician or Associate-Member grade, while others choose to move on to Chartered Member or Fellow as their careers develop.

Student Members are aspiring engineers who are studying on civil and/or structural engineering courses, either full or part-time.

How to qualify
If you are studying or intending to study a course accredited or recognised by the Institution, you can apply to join as a Student Member.

Other options
If you have completed a vocational qualification (such as NC, ND, HNC, HND, Foundation Degree) or the equivalent, you can also become a paying Student Member.

Fees
Student membership is free if you are in full or part-time education.

How to apply
Visit www.istructe.org/studentmem

Being a Student Member of the Institution allows me to look deeper into the career options that will be available to me upon graduating, whether that be through the free access to the Institution’s magazine or the various other networking opportunities presented. The Structural Behaviour course in particular has allowed me to practice the skills I have learnt at University and really helped with the structural units that I have covered so far.

Tom Robertson, Student
Your Passport to Practice

Become a Graduate Member

How to qualify
To become a Graduate Member of the Institution of Structural Engineers, you should have completed one of the following:

**Accredited degree**
A degree in civil or structural engineering from a university accredited by the Institution through the Joint Board of Moderators (JBM) or an approved equivalent. You can find a list of accredited courses on www.jbm.org.uk

**Recognised degree**
An academic degree that is recognised by one of three international mutual recognition agreements:
- The FEANI register
- The Sydney Accord
- The Washington Accord

You can find out more about international mutual recognition agreements on the Engineering Council website www.engc.org.uk

**Non-accredited degree/qualification**
An academic degree/qualification that has not yet been accredited or recognised will need an academic assessment.

This assessment is not a reflection upon the quality of the degree/qualification that you have studied. The Institution’s Academic Qualifications Panel (AQP) will review all your academic qualifications and compare them against the learning outcomes required for Associate-Member or Chartered Member. They’ll then advise you on whether you need further study for your desired grade of membership.

**Fees**
If you join within one year of graduating, you will get a discount on the Graduate Member fee. Please visit www.istructe.org/membership for up-to-date information on Graduate Member subscription fees.

**How to apply**
Visit www.istructe.org/gradmem

Being a Graduate Member is truly rewarding. It has opened the door to meeting so many interesting Engineers in my region and from Headquarters. I hope to one day become MInstpE and with a Graduate Membership I am halfway there.

Tiffani Anton, Graduate
Technician Members are reliable, professional members of a design team, with a sound understanding of core structural engineering principles. As a Technician Member, you can also register with the Engineering Council, and use the designation EngTech. As well as being a professional qualification in its own right, it can be used as a stepping stone to other grades of membership.

Qualifying criteria
To become a Technician Member of the Institution of Structural Engineers, you need to:

- Have a recognised academic or vocational qualification: a National Certificate or Diploma in civil engineering or construction, or the equivalent.
- Complete the Initial Professional Development (IPD) programme. This includes 12 core objectives set to bridge the gap between education and becoming a qualified Technician Member.
- Pass the Professional Review Interview (PRI). There is no examination as part of the qualifying process.

Other options
If you’re a practicing engineering technician and you have the appropriate knowledge and skills, but no formal academic qualifications, you could still be eligible. Talk to the Membership team to find out more about becoming a Technician Member – membership@istructe.org

Fees
Please visit www.istructe.org/membership for up-to-date information on Technician Member subscription fees.

How to apply
Visit www.istructe.org/techmem

Becoming a Technician Member of the Institution has given me opportunities to work in different disciplines with many engineers and project managers. Having TIStructE on my CV shows potential employers I have the education, knowledge and experience to be part of their team.

Shelley Morgan, Technician
Becoming an Associate-Member was a goal I set myself some 13 years ago as a young draughtsman. That goal was to hopefully one day follow in the footsteps of my late father and become professionally qualified with the Institution of Structural Engineers. Passing the examination gave a great sense of personal fulfilment. Membership has given me more confidence as an engineer and more recognition with my seniors.

David Booth, Associate-Member

Associate-Members are an integral part of any design team. Through their ability to analyse and exercise independent technical judgement, they can help produce viable solutions to solve structural engineering problems.

As an Associate-Member, you can register with the Engineering Council and use the designation Incorporated Engineer (IEng).

How to qualify
To become an Associate-Member of the Institution of Structural Engineers, you need to:

• Have an accredited Bachelor’s (ordinary) degree, or the equivalent eg an HND plus further learning (eg the Associate-Member Exam).

• Complete the Institution’s Initial Professional Development (IPD) programme. This includes 13 core objectives that will bridge the gap between education and becoming a qualified Associate-Member.

• Pass the Professional Review Interview (PRI).

• Pass the seven hour Associate-Membership Exam.

Other options
Turn to page 21 to find out about other ways to become an Associate-Member.

Fees
Please visit www.istructe.org/membership for up-to-date information on Associate-Member subscription fees.

How to apply
Visit www.istructe.org/assocmem
Becoming a Chartered Member of the Institution has been a vital part of my professional development. To be recognised as having achieved the highest standard of examined professional attainment is both rewarding and important. However, the Institution provides much more – a network of interesting and learned structural engineers from around the world, and I have found it a very useful forum to further my knowledge and meet likeminded people interested in making the profession and the world a better place.

David Knight, Chartered Member

Chartered Members play a lead role in the design team. They can solve complex problems, and demonstrate the management and leadership skills needed to successfully guide a project from conception to completion.

Chartered Members can also register with the Engineering Council as a Chartered Engineer (CEng).

How to qualify
To become a Chartered Member of the Institution of Structural Engineers, you need to:

1. Have an accredited MEng degree or the equivalent, e.g. a BEng (Hons) plus an MSc or the Technical Report Route. If you have a BEng (Hons) degree, you can also use the Chartered Member Examination to show that you meet the necessary academic standard.
2. Complete the Initial Professional Development Programme. This training includes 13 core objectives to help you take the step to becoming a qualified Chartered Member.
3. Pass the Professional Review Interview.
4. Pass the seven hour Chartered Membership Exam.

Other options
If you have qualified in your home EU member country, you can also apply to become a Chartered Member.

Turn to page 21 to find out about other ways to become a Chartered Member.

Fees
Please visit www.istructe.org/membership for up-to-date information on Chartered Member subscription fees.

How to apply
Visit www.istructe.org/charteredmem
Fellowship recognises excellence in structural engineering achievement, and a significant contribution to the profession. Fellows have fully developed careers, with several years of experience and responsibility at a high level. It is the most senior grade of the Institution of Structural Engineers.

How to qualify
To become a Fellow, you should be a Chartered Member of the Institution and normally have at least five years’ experience at a senior level. You will need to demonstrate a commitment to Continuing Professional Development and be at least 35 years old.

You should be able to demonstrate responsibility for important structural engineering projects, or that you have made a significant personal contribution to research or to the teaching of structural engineering.

If you are a Chartered Member of the Institution you can nominate yourself, but you will need two supporters - who must be Fellows of the Institution of Structural Engineers - to endorse your application.

You will be asked to submit a CV, a 1,000 word report highlighting your achievements in structural engineering on five key projects, and five years of CPD records. The Institution may then invite you to a formal interview.

Fees
Please visit www.istructe.org/membership for up-to-date information on subscription fees for Fellows.

How to apply
Visit www.istructe.org/fellow

Becoming a Fellow means that you are a leader as recognised by your peers. It is a badge of honour but with it comes responsibility. It means leading by example and giving back to the engineering community in areas such as mentoring, training and the spreading of knowledge and good practice.

Mohamad Al-Dah, Fellow
1 Membership of other organisations

If you’re a member of another professional qualifying organisation you could be eligible to become a Technician, Associate-Member or Chartered Member. The Institution has mutual recognition agreements with:

Technician Members
- The Institution of Civil Engineers

Associate-Members and Chartered Members
- The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
- The Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE)
- The Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA)
- The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)
- The Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS)
- The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE)
- The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST)
- Engineers Ireland (IEI)
- Engineers Australia (EA)
- The Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ)

You will still need to satisfy the academic requirements and sit the examination, but you will not need to sit the Professional Review Interview.

Fellows
The Institution has a recognition agreement for Chartered Members of the Institution of Structural Engineers who are also Fellows of the Institution of Civil Engineers which is a more streamlined route.

2 Research and development
If you are undertaking research activities you could be eligible to follow this route. You’ll still need to meet the Institution’s academic and IPD requirements, and pass a Professional Review Interview and research and development review, but you will not be required to sit the seven hour examination.

Talk to the Membership team to find out more about the mutual recognition agreements and other routes – membership@istructe.org

Qualifications
- NC National Certificate or
- ND National Diploma in Civil Engineering or Construction
- Level 3 NVQ National Vocational Qualification
- HNC Higher National Certificate
- HND Higher National Diploma
- BSc Bachelor of Science
- BEng Bachelor of Engineering*
- MEng Master of Engineering**
- MSc Master of Science

* an accredited BEng(Hons) qualification will partially satisfy the academic requirement for Chartered Membership, however, some BEng qualifications are accredited to IEng level.
** an accredited MEng qualification will fully satisfy the academic requirement for Chartered Membership. It is advisable to check with the Membership Team if you are unsure of your academic eligibility for registration.

International mutual recognition agreements
- The FEANI Register: the European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI) maintains an index of courses in higher education institutions in member countries www.feani.org
- The Washington Accord: this is an international agreement among bodies responsible for accrediting engineering degree programmes. It recognises equivalency of programmes and recommends that graduates of programmes accredited by any of the signatory bodies be recognised by the other bodies as having met the academic requirements for entry into the practice of engineering www.washingtonaccord.org
- The Sydney Accord: this is an agreement between the bodies responsible for accrediting Engineering Technologist/Incorporated Engineer qualification programmes in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa and the UK www.ieagreements.com/sydney
- The Dublin Accord: this is an agreement which provides mutual recognition for the granting of Engineering Technician titles in Canada, Ireland, South Africa and the UK www.ieagreements.com/dublin

You will still need to satisfy the academic requirements and sit the examination, but you will not need to sit the Professional Review Interview.
Get in touch

The Institution’s membership department is your first port of call and the team are committed to supporting you along your membership journey. Get in touch to:

- Confirm your academic eligibility
- Find the most appropriate membership grade and the best route for you
- Learn how you can meet the requirements of the membership grade you aspire to
- Find out what training you need and how you can get it
- Get support with your Professional Interview and/or Exam

Email: membership@istructe.org
Call: +44 (0)20 7235 4535