

Proposed changes to the Institution Bye-Laws: a summary for members

IStructE Deputy Chief Executive, **Darren Byrne**, explains how the changes are intended to recognise competence, improve clarity and increase inclusivity within the structural engineering community.

Demonstration of individual competence is a fundamental requirement of the Institution as a Licenced Chartered Body. IStructE additionally places great emphasis on ensuring that candidates, from whatever background, have the opportunity to find a grade of, and route to, membership that recognises their competence and offers them a place within our Institution.

The Institution has several membership grades, which are set out in **Figure 1** for ease of reference.

A review through Committee, Council and Trustee Board has recently been undertaken to ensure that competence is properly recognised at appropriate stages on the professional qualification journey and that there is clarity in the grade titles and associated designations.

The review has highlighted three areas where there is an opportunity to recognise competence and improve inclusivity/clarity in the membership grade structure. These are:

- recognising graduates who have satisfied the Engineering Council CEng standard as Associates (AIStructE) of the Institution
- differentiating between the Associate (AIStructE) and Associate-Member (AMIStructE) grades
- including the grade of Affiliate within the Institution membership structure.

Associate (AIStructE) – recognising competence

Consideration has been given to a pathway to allow suitably qualified graduate members to be admitted to the professional grade of Associate (AIStructE), and subsequent Chartered Engineer (CEng) registration with the Engineering Council.

The pathway to AIStructE has several measurable benefits to Institution members and to the wider structural engineering community. It will:

- provide better recognition of the competence of those graduates who have satisfied the Chartered academic requirements and passed the Chartered Professional Review Interview (PRI)
- create a more inclusive route to professional membership for those candidates with non-traditional backgrounds (e.g. non-research-

FIGURE 1: Membership grades

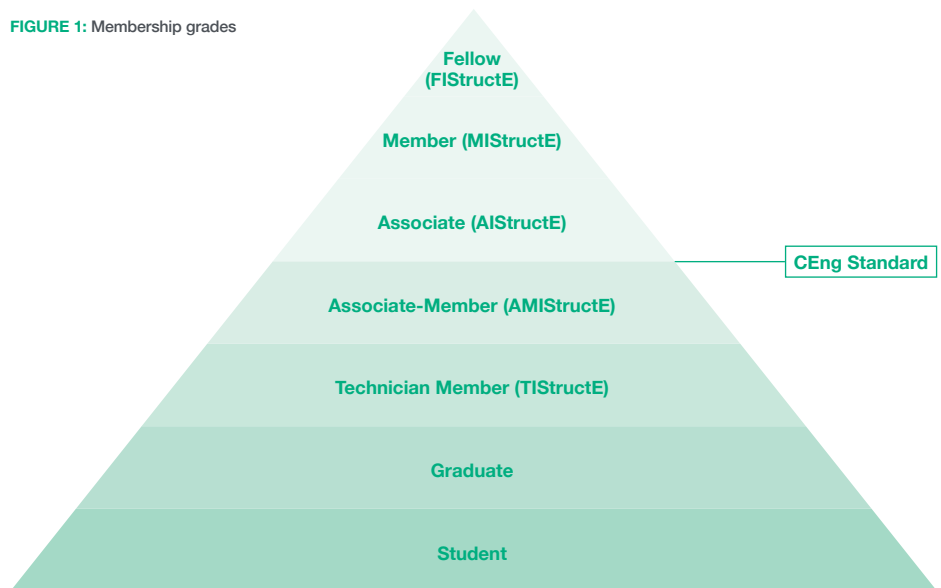
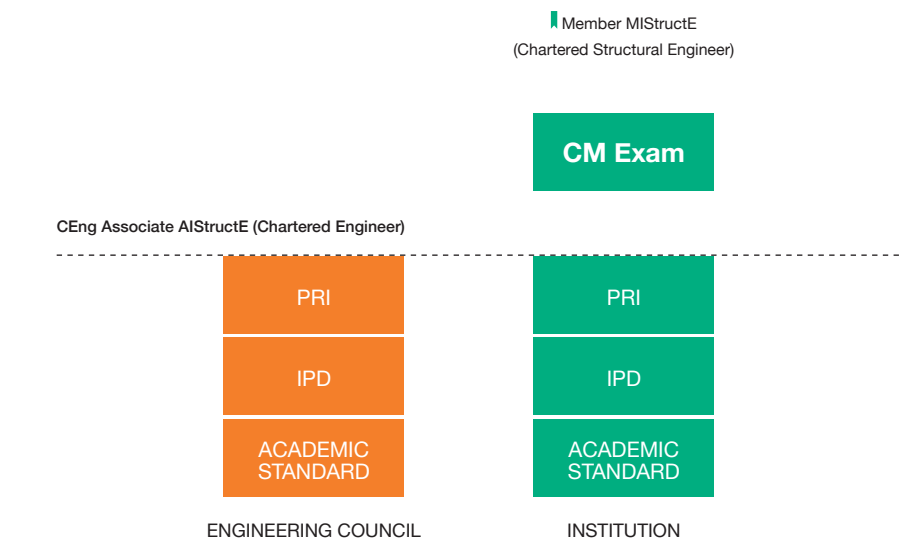


FIGURE 2: Pathway to professional membership





A REVIEW HAS RECENTLY BEEN UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE THAT COMPETENCE IS PROPERLY RECOGNISED AT APPROPRIATE STAGES

active academics) and for some international candidates

- improve retention of graduates who may otherwise leave the Institution for an alternative Professional Engineering Institution that awards CEng after the PRI but without the requirement for an examination
- reinforce the message that the Institution's Chartered *Structural* Engineer grade (MIStructE) is set at a higher level than CEng.

Adoption of this pathway will *not* change Institution standards. Candidates progressing to Associate (AIStructE) will still be required to satisfy the Chartered academic standards and pass the Chartered PRI. Candidates can then be elected to the grade of Associate (AIStructE) and will be eligible for CEng registration with the Engineering Council in the same way as candidates from other Professional Engineering Institutions.

In order to register for the MIStructE grade (Chartered *Structural* Engineer), which is set at a higher level, Associates will be required to pass the Chartered Membership Exam (**Figure 2**).

Differentiating between Associate (AIStructE) and Associate-Member (AMIStructE) grades

The similarity between the Associate-Member (AMIStructE) and Associate (AIStructE) titles has been recognised as problematic for some time, and it is important that our Incorporated Engineers (AMIStructE) are able to be clearly identified and recognised as such.

The review proposes that the title and designation Associate-Member (AMIStructE) is changed to Incorporated Member (IMIStructE) to reduce confusion in respect of these distinct

grades. This aligns with the Institution's title of Incorporated Structural Engineer which is offered to this grade of membership.

Including the grade of Affiliate within the Institution membership structure

For several years, the Institution has operated an Affiliate scheme for professionals with interests relating to structural engineering. Individuals who register as Affiliates are not entitled to designations or professional titles but wish to access Institution services and network with members.

It is proposed to add Affiliates to the list of membership grades to ensure all members, and those affiliated with the Institution, are recognised within the Bye-Laws and Regulations. As is the case for student members, Affiliates will be non-voting members and will be subject to the Institution's Code of Conduct.

Further details

These proposals require approval at an Institution General Meeting and details of changes to the Institution Bye-Laws are set out in the AGM Notice on **page 8**.

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