

Mutual Recognition Agreements

Engineers Australia has entered into many mutual recognition agreements with kindred organisations overseas. These agreements are intended to promote, facilitate and extend professional, social and commercial links; and to assist in advancing the mobility of engineering practitioners and the quality of engineering practice world-wide.

List of organisations

Engineers Australia currently has mutual recognition agreements in place with the engineering associations listed below.

Hong Kong

- Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE)

Ireland

- The Institution of Engineers of Ireland (IEI)

Malaysia

- The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM)

UK

- The Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE)
- The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
- The Chartered Institution of Building Engineers (CIBSE)
- The Institution of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST)
- The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE)
- The Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS)
- The Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA)
- The Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE)
- The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)

USA

- The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)
- The Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE)
- See what we are doing to support the professional mobility of engineers in Australia and the

US ([PDF 225kb](#))

[Canada](#)

- Engineers Canada

New Zealand

- Engineers New Zealand

Washington Accord

Involvement in international educational standards

Since 1965, Engineers Australia has undertaken an accreditation [program](#) for university programs and [courses](#). Every engineering school in Australia is reviewed on a five-yearly cycle and accreditation of each degree program is confirmed or withheld, as appropriate, and developmental advice is offered.

Engineers Australia looks upon accreditation as a community of interest between the profession and its educators, and is acutely conscious of the importance of international benchmarking. Australian engineering degrees are internationally benchmarked through the Washington Accord.

The Accord:

1. Recognises the substantial equivalency of accreditation systems of signatory organisations and the engineering education programs accredited by them, and
2. Establishes that graduates of programs accredited by the accreditation organisations of each member nation are prepared to practise engineering at the entry level.

More information including current members of the Washington Accord can be obtained from the Washington Accord website, www.washingtonaccord.org

Sydney Accord

The Sydney Accord was signed in 2001 and provides joint recognition of academic programs accredited at Engineering Technologists level. It operates in a similar way to the Washington Accord, which is relevant only to Professional Engineers.

More information including current members of the Sydney Accord can be found at: www.ieagrements.com/sydney

Engineers Mobility Forum / Engineering Technologist Mobility Forum

The Engineers Mobility Forum Agreement was signed by engineering institutions from Canada, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, Hong Kong, the United States, Japan, Malaysia, and Korea. Its purpose is to enable progress towards removing [artificial](#) barriers to the free movement of professional engineers among countries, while ensuring that qualifications are met.

Signatories have agreed to establish and maintain an EMF International [Register](#) of Professional Engineers as a basis for consultation within their respective constituencies. For a list of the signatories to this agreement please see the International Engineering Alliance website at: <http://www.ieagrements.com/APEC/signatories.cfm>.

The EMF International Register of Professional Engineers signatories aim to facilitate cross-border practice by experienced professional engineers by establishing a framework for their recognition, based on confidence in the integrity of national assessment systems. Each signatory will maintain its own register and will share information with other signatories.

The minimum standards for acceptance into the EMF Registry are:

1. To reach an overall level of academic achievement that is "Substantially Equivalent" to that of a graduate holding an [engineering degree](#), accredited by an organization holding full membership in and acting in accordance with the terms of the Washington Accord:
2. To gain a minimum of seven years practical experience since graduation,
3. To spend at least two years in responsible charge of significant engineering work,
4. To gain assessment within registrant's own jurisdiction as eligible for independent practice,
5. To maintain continuing professional development (CPD) at a satisfactory level, and
6. Be bound by the codes of professional conduct.

Acceptance to the EMF International Register does not exempt one from licensure or [registration](#) in a Host Economy, nor does it exempt one from supplemental assessment processes required by a Host Economy.

The Engineering Technologist Mobility Forum Agreement was signed by participating economies in 2003. It operates along the same lines as the EMF, focusing on Engineering Technologists.

More information on the EMF can be found at: www.ieagreements.com

Introduction

Members Login	
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Forgotten password?	<input type="button" value="Login"/>

There are six international agreements governing mutual recognition of engineering qualifications and professional competence. In each of these agreements countries/economies who wish to participate may [apply for](#) membership, and if accepted become members or signatories to the agreement. In broad principle, each country/economy must meet its own costs, and the body making [application](#) must verify that it is the appropriate representative body for that country/economy.

Agreements covering tertiary qualifications in engineering

There are three agreements covering mutual recognition in respect of tertiary-level qualifications in engineering:

[The Washington Accord](#) signed in 1989 was the first - it recognises substantial equivalence in the accreditation of qualifications in professional engineering, normally of four years duration.

[The Sydney Accord](#) commenced in 2001 and recognises substantial equivalence in the accreditation of qualifications in engineering technology, normally of three years duration.

- **Australia** - Represented by [Engineers Australia \(2001\)](#)
- **Canada** - Represented by [Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists \(2001\)](#)
- **Chinese Taipei** - Represented by [Institute of Engineering Education Taiwan \(2014\)](#)
- **Hong Kong China** - Represented by [The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers \(2001\)](#)
- **Ireland** - Represented by [Engineers Ireland \(2001\)](#)
- **Korea** - Represented by [Accreditation Board for Engineering Education of Korea \(2013\)](#)
- **New Zealand** - Represented by [Institution of Professional Engineers NZ \(2001\)](#)
- **South Africa** - Represented by [Engineering Council of South Africa \(2001\)](#)
- **United Kingdom** - Represented by [Engineering Council UK \(2001\)](#)
- **United States** - Represented by [Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology \(2009\)](#)

[The Dublin Accord](#) is an agreement for substantial equivalence in the accreditation of tertiary qualifications in technician engineering, normally of two years duration. It commenced in 2002.

Agreements covering competence standards for practising engineers

The other three agreements [cover](#) recognition of equivalence at the practising engineer level i.e. it is individual people, not qualifications that are seen to meet the benchmark standard. The concept of these agreements is that a person recognised in one country as reaching the agreed international standard of competence should only be minimally assessed (primarily for local knowledge) prior to obtaining [registration](#) in another [country](#) that is party to the agreement.

The oldest such agreement is the [APEC Engineer agreement](#) which commenced in 1999. This has Government support in the participating APEC economies. The representative organization in each economy creates a "register" of those engineers wishing to be recognised as meeting the generic international standard. Other economies should give credit when such an engineer seeks to have his or her competence recognised. The Agreement is largely administered between engineering bodies, but there can be Government representation and substantive changes need to be signed off at governmental APEC Agreement level.

The [International Professional Engineers agreement](#) commenced in 2001. It operates the same competence standard as the APEC Engineer agreement but any country/economy may join. The parties to the agreement are largely engineering bodies. There are intentions to draw IPEA and APEC closer together.

The [International Engineering Technologist agreement](#) was signed by participating economies/countries in 2003. The parties to the Agreement have agreed to commence establishing a mutual recognition scheme for engineering technologists.

he Washington Accord

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The Washington Accord, signed in 1989, is an international agreement among bodies responsible for accrediting [engineering degree](#) programs. It recognizes the substantial equivalency of programs accredited by those bodies and recommends that graduates of programs accredited by any of the signatory bodies be recognized by the other bodies as having met the [academic requirements](#) for entry to the practice of engineering.

Download: [The Overview of Washington Accord \(pdf\)](#)

Admission of New Signatories: June 2014

At its meeting on 13 June 2014 in Wellington, New Zealand, the Washington Accord admitted two accrediting agencies as signatories:

- The Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka
- National Board of Accreditation, India

In the case of the National Board of Accreditation (NBA), recognition of programmes by other signatories applies only to programmes accredited by NBA that are offered by education providers accepted by NBA as Tier 1 institutions.

Recognition of graduates of programmes accredited by any signatory by registering or licencing bodies in other signatory jurisdictions is subject to the following restriction. The graduate must have completed the programme:

- Later than the date of admission of the accrediting signatory; and
- During the period of validity of the accreditation (which may have commenced prior to the date of admission).

Recognition of graduates before the date of admission is not [required](#) under the Accord. Other signatories may, at their sole discretion, recognise graduates of accredited programmes from before the admission date.

Admission of a New Provisional Status Body: June 2014

At its meeting on 13 June 2014 in Wellington, New Zealand, the Washington Accord admitted Instituto de Calidad Y Acreditacion de Programas de Computacion, Ingenieria Y Tecnologia (ICACIT) - Peru to Provisional Status in the Accord.

Provisional status does not confer recognition on programmes nor is the Provisional Status Body required to recognise the programmes of other signatories.

Washington Accord

Members Login	
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Signatories have full rights of [participation](#) in the Accord; qualifications accredited or recognised by other signatories are recognised by each signatory as being substantially equivalent to accredited or recognised qualifications within its own jurisdiction.

- **Australia** - Represented by [Engineers Australia \(1989\)](#)
- **Canada** - Represented by [Engineers Canada \(1989\)](#)
- **Chinese Taipei** - Represented by [Institute of Engineering Education Taiwan \(2007\)](#)
- **Hong Kong China** - Represented by [The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers \(1995\)](#)
- **India** - Represented by [National Board of Accreditation \(2014\)](#)

(Applies only to programmes accredited by NBA offered by education providers accepted by NBA as Tier 1 institutions.)

- **Ireland** - Represented by [Engineers Ireland \(1989\)](#)
- **Japan** - Represented by [Japan Accreditation Board for Engineering Education \(2005\)](#)
- **Korea** - Represented by [Accreditation Board for Engineering Education of Korea \(2007\)](#)
- **Malaysia** - Represented by [Board of Engineers Malaysia \(2009\)](#)
- **New Zealand** - Represented by [Institution of Professional Engineers NZ \(1989\)](#)
- **Russia** - Represented by [Association for Engineering Education of Russia \(2012\)](#)
- **Singapore** - Represented by [Institution of Engineers Singapore \(2006\)](#)
- **South Africa** - Represented by [Engineering Council of South Africa \(1999\)](#)
- **Sri Lanka** - Represented by [Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka \(2014\)](#)
- **Turkey** - Represented by [MUDEK \(2011\)](#)
- **United Kingdom** - Represented by [Engineering Council UK \(1989\)](#)
- **United States** - Represented by [Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology \(1989\)](#)

Organisations holding provisional status have been identified as having qualification accreditation or recognition procedures that are potentially suitable for the purposes of the Accord; those organisations are further developing those procedures with the [goal](#) of achieving signatory status in due course; qualifications accredited or recognised by organisations holding provisional status are not recognised by the signatories

- **Bangladesh** - Represented by [Board of Accreditation for Engineering and Technical Education](#)
- **China** - Represented by [China Association for Science and Technology](#)
- **Pakistan** - Represented by [Pakistan Engineering Council](#)
- **Peru** - Represented by [ICACIT](#)
- **Philippines** - Represented by [Philippine Technological Council](#)

Accredited Programs

- **EA** - ([Engineers Australia](#))
- **Engineers Canada** - ([Engineers Canada](#))
- **IEET** - ([Institute of Engineering Education Taiwan](#))
- **HKIE** - ([The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers](#))

- **EngIRE** - ([Engineers Ireland](#))
- **JABEE** - ([Japan Accreditation Board for Engineering Education](#))
- **ABEEK** - ([Accreditation Board for Engineering Education of Korea](#))
- **IPENZ** - ([Institution of Professional Engineers NZ](#))
- **IES** - ([Institution of Engineers Singapore](#))
- **ECSA** - ([Engineering Council of South Africa](#))
- **ECUK** - ([Engineering Council UK](#))
- **ABET** - ([Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology](#))
- **Malaysia** - ([Board of Engineers, Malaysia](#))
- **MUDEK** - ([Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Engineering Programs](#))
- **AEER** - ([Association for Engineering Education of Russia \(2012\)](#))