

IET/ACostE Project Controls Network
How to be recognised as a Project Controls professional
Webinar Online Discussion

Chat Admin: Hello and welcome to the IET's webcast; "How to be recognised as a Project Controls Professional"

Eric McKinnon (Speaker): Welcome, I'm the Project Controls Network Chairman and invite you to contribute your questions and thoughts to this presentation.

Bob H: What are the National Occupational Standards?

JR21: What proportion of the current workforce would you think are already accredited?

Alec Ray (Speaker): The Accreditation process has just recently started up, currently the ACostE have around 80 requests for Accreditation.

Tony: What is the process by a Learner to register on the Accreditation "ladder"?

Norman: What is the process to be submitted on the entry level?

Alex: So the accreditation is done through ACostE?

Pete: In terms of marketing, they are in trouble if they stick with "Cost Engineer" as the primary title.

Nigel Fine (Speaker): The National Occupational Standards were developed by the UK industrial sectors mainly in Petro Chem and Manufacturing sectors they were response to the industries demand for upping the capability in the project control community.

Nigel Fine (Speaker): Process for entry is to submit your CV we will then look at how you map into the framework and the best target level for you we will then agree the programme for you to get there.

Alec Ray (Speaker): Alex currently the ACostE appear to be the only Professional Society to offer Accreditation

Norman: Hi Nigel where do I send it, do you have details?

Alex: Are meetings regularly held such as those held by say The RICS?

Nigel Fine (Speaker): Accreditation is done through ACostE Accreditation Board with the support of ACostE Accredited Assessment Centre TASC.

Alec Ray (Speaker): Alex, meetings are regularly held by ACostE and the IET/ACostE Project Control Network. Please check the websites.

Nigel Fine (Speaker): Applications should be made to ACostE Office at Sanbach details on the <http://www.acoste.org.uk> all the application forms can be down loaded from the site.

John: Do you envisage any links with the association of Project Managers in the future?

Nigel Fine (Speaker): Working as contract staff is not a problem we already have contracting staff that have joined the programme the only issue is being allowed to use the evidence from the work place which so far has not been a problem.

Alec Ray (Speaker): Pete, good point about "Cost Engineer" title. A lot of discussion is currently taking place. Generally in manufacturing and some other industries the title "Cost Engineer" is still widely used, unlike the oil and gas industry

Alex: What universities are we talking about?

Nigel Fine (Speaker): We worked with the APM in developing and continuing all the various professional bodies, like APM, IET RICS etc. for the continuation of developing best practice

Julie C: I am a member of the IET and work as a cost engineer; who do I get my chartership with?

John: Is it a single university currently being worked with? Would an online accreditation be available?

Alex: Is the Accreditation recognised by other professional bodies i.e. CIOB, RICS?

Eric McKinnon (Speaker): Hi Julie you can achieve ICT/Tech,Eng/Tech IEng, CEng through the IET. The partnership between the ACosTE and IET is working towards providing a route for professional people like you.

JR21: I'll offer something, my background is purely experience based over 20years with only an NVQ Level 3 in Electrical Engineering. 15years experience in Estimating. But I have no degrees.

Sasyed: I have been working in Project Controls from last 18 months - which level do I enter?

Norman: What happens is they have worked through but never took any exams and companys no longer is around?

Nigel Fine (Speaker): RE Johns question, The Standards are in the QCF National Framework and Universities qualifications sit in that also the skill cannot be learned at University as it is practical as well. The process is done mainly on line apart from the Professional.

Norman: What if its experience but no exams taken?

Eric McKinnon (Speaker): Hi John experience and supporter references are balanced against the UKspec and the requirement for professional registration.

Nigel Fine (Speaker): Sasyed a lot depends on your prior learning but if that is all you have we would see you at ecoste level targeting rcoste (registered).

Gareth: If an NVQ Level 4 is equivalent to level 5 QCF is a level 3 NVQ equivalent to level 4 QCF ?

Alec Ray (Speaker): We are working with BCECA other Industry bodies, and companies to demonstrate the benefits of Accreditation.

RK: What Level should an individual with 4 years' experience and a 1st Class Hons Degree in relevant subject and also a QCF Level 3 look at entering/applying for?

Nigel Fine (Speaker): Gareth, the NVQ 3 in the QCF framework is at Level 3 in the QCF Framework which was established by OfQual the UK educational governing body NVQ framework had 5 levels now replaced by 8 under QCF.

Sasyed: I have a BEng and a PGDip and joined the company as a graduate...will ecoste be the starting point...thanks

Nigel Fine (Speaker): RK, I would say at least registered but could be incorporated depending on evidence

Aaron: Are these three separate methods of accreditation? Do they lead to three different accreditations?

Sasyed: Thanks Nigel, one last thing, could you please send me a link where I can do more reading on this

Alex: Nigel, who would be the focal point to discuss company accreditation?

Nigel Fine (Speaker): Norman, what if its experience but no exams: we would look at your experience and probably push you down the mature route/Certificate Cost route, it is best to send in your CV as a starter.

Nigel Fine (Speaker): Hi Alex I would be the first point of contact for Company Accreditation

Tony: Thank you for a very comprehensive explanation of the possibilities. I can identify around 20 people whom I would like to encourage to come aboard. Will there be a summary "booklet" available for them to grasp the basics, and what to do next?

Nigel Fine (Speaker): Sasyed the link is <http://www.acoste.org.uk> then the accreditation tab.

Gareth: Are these slides downloadable for further study?

S: What does SEE stand for?

Nigel Fine (Speaker): Gareth, the slides will be available to download at <http://mycommunity.theiet.org/communities/files/27> .

GW: SEE is the Society of Environmental Engineers, a licensed member of the Engineering Council. SEE process ACostE Engineering Council registrants.

Nigel Fine (Speaker): Tony, The accreditation website has a flyer for accreditation which shows the options including CCE and Eng Council Routes we see it as a holistic best fit for the individual there also slides I can send out that can help understanding.

Alex: Nigel, is there a chance of organising a meeting and having a high level review of the status (in terms of accreditation) of a group of project control personnel?

Aaron: I have an accredited BEng in Chemical Engineering, what additional qualification/evidence do I need to achieve CEng?

GW: Aaron - read the Engineering Council document titled UK-Spec which can be found on the Engineering Council website. Alt please contact the ACostE.

Nigel Fine (Speaker): Hi Alex what we usually do is have a batch of CV's sent so we can prepare for the meeting more effectively

Eric McKinnon (Speaker): Hi Aaron, if you go onto the IET website you will be able to review the requirements to meet the UKspec. It is then a case of documenting your experience, roles and responsibilities. Professional registration advisors are available to assist you.

Alex: Nigel, After a CV review a recommendation would be made as to the professional Level on application.

Nigel Fine (Speaker): Alex yes after the CV review we would share our findings, but sometimes a face to face is better with ones we are not sure about.

Alex: Nigel, what universities have accredited courses?

RK: Thanks Nigel. I am slightly confused; the AcostE brochure on page 3/4 shows the authorised abbreviation for Member as M.A. Cost E. But Slide 21 on today's presentation does not contain these or the "member" category, what's the difference?

BA: How can student at final year benefit from IET and get Real Experience in firms, as you know organizations looking to attract people that hold experience rather than certificates?

Eric McKinnon (Speaker): The IET will support graduates in their professional and career development. Go the IET website and take advantages or the resources available to you.

BA: I noticed that IET do not give Attendance certificate, why?

Nigel Fine (Speaker): Hi Alex at this stage only Cranfield and UCLAN are close, but course accreditation has not really started and none of the course are mapped back to the standards fully I am aware of other universities that have suitable course that could be considered.

IJ: A practicing Engr is able to obtain a CEng within 5 years of post-qualification however an Engr with 3 yrs. engr experience plus 3 yrs. project controls is unlikely to qualify for CEng. What are you doing to bridge this gap?

IJ: I'm referring to someone with MEng what about hte attendance certificate .by the way it was excellant thank you all

Ven: Regarding PMP certification from Project Management Institute, USA - would like to know for equivalent in membership.

Eric McKinnon (Speaker): Note this event on your CPD and cross reference it to the IET community's page

Nigel Fine (Speaker): Hi Jeoma this is why we created Tiered accreditation to overcome this problem for Cost Engineer/Estimators and Planners Generally we expect around 8 years of which 4 will be at senior level to get to Certified professional status.

RK: Thanks Nigel. I am slightly confused; the AcostE brochre on page 3/4 shows the authorised abbreviation for Member as M.A. Cost E. But Slide 21 on today's presentation does not contain these or the "member" category, what's the difference?

Chat Admin: Any questions that have not been answered during this webcast will be answered at the PCN community website. Many thanks for your questions this webcast is now coming to a close.