



CONFIDENTIAL

TO INSTITUTION COMMITTEES

ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

END OF YEAR REPORT FOR THE SESSION 2021 – 2022 for HEIs

(Prepared by Sarah Odong, Academic Accreditation Manager)

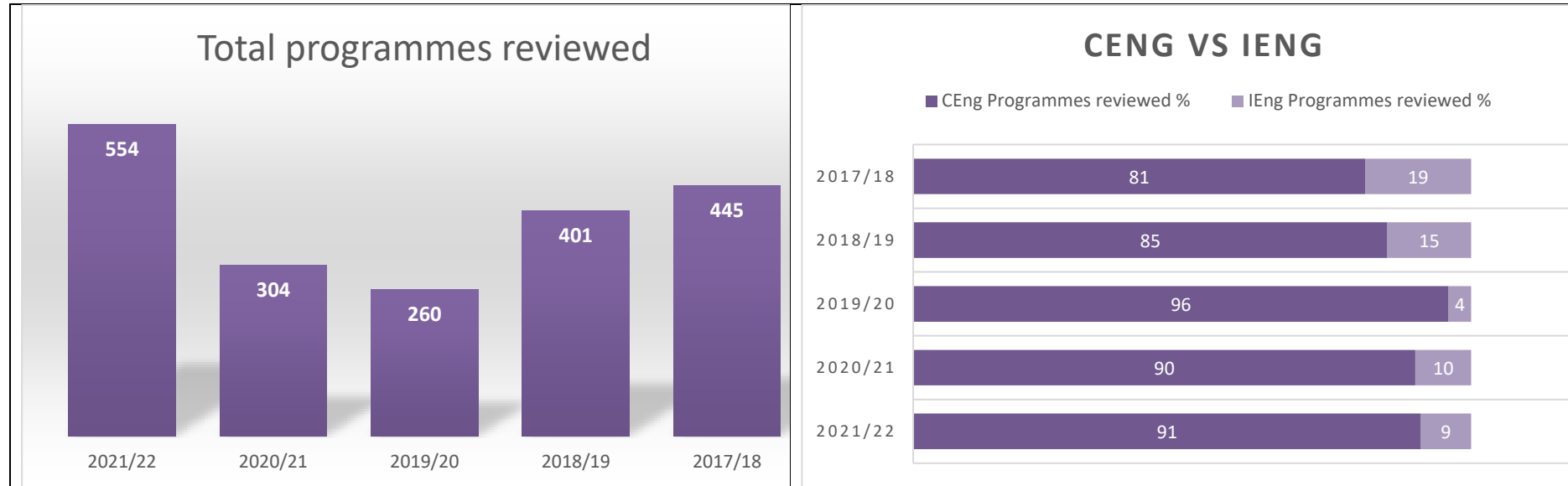
Contents

Introduction	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Programme Statistics	3
Period of accreditation awarded	4
Visit date to Ratification timescales	4
Visit Report Data	5
Immediate Requirements	5
2021 / 22	5
Total number of Requirements, Recommendations and Commendable Aspects:	5
Requirements per criterion section	7
Analysis of requirements	9
Policy, guidance, and key activities summary	9
Academic Accreditation Committee	9
AHEP 4	9
Engineering Council updates	10
AHEP 4	10

Risk based approach to accreditation	10
Dual Accreditation.....	10
International activity.....	10
Accreditor profile	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Training.....	11
Annual Accreditor Conference	11
HEI surgeries	11

Programme Statistics

The statistics and graphs below show the profile of the programmes we have accredited in the last 5 academic years. The total number of programmes being accredited spiked as predicted following the catch up from the lower numbers during the pandemic. Whilst the proportion of CEng programmes remain high, it appears that the portion of IEng accredited degrees is in decline.



IEng accreditations:

The trend with IEng accreditations has been in decline until the 2020/ 21 academic year. There has been little interest from HEIs to accredit at IEng level. This may be in part due to the Engineering Council dual accreditation policy whereby a partial CEng accredited programme automatically meets the educational requirement for IEng in full.

In 2020 / 21 we saw a slight rise in the number of IEng programmes put forward for accreditation, we did expect this to rise further since the introduction of AHEP 4 as it brings with it the possibility to accredit top-up programmes as standalone qualifications at partial IEng (further learning) level of accreditation. In theory, this will make it more attractive to HEIs, particularly in connection to partnership arrangements and degree apprenticeships. Previously the level 5 qualification has had to be presented with the top-up programme. However, the reality in 2021 / 22 the proportion of IEng accredited programmes remains stable. This may be because although we have had more departments requesting accreditation for top-up programmes they tend to be for a single programme and not a suite of programmes.

Period of accreditation awarded

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Full 5 years Accreditation %	45	60	78	71	61	59
Monitoring Review/Visit required (2- or 3-years accreditation) %	41	18.5	16	29	38	39
First output required %	4	7	1	0	1	2
Not Accredited %	10	3	3	3	0	0

The proportion of visits resulting in 5 years accreditation has declined, whilst monitoring visits and reviews are becoming more frequent. There was no particular pattern identified previous to 2021/ 22, however the vast majority of reasons for less than 5 years being awarded during the 2021 / 22 academic year has been down to AHEP 4 transition issues regarding cognitive level adjustments, re-mapping requirements and alignment of programme and module documentation.

Visit date to Ratification timescales

The table below shows the time taken for visit reports and action plans to be presented to the Committee for ratification. The target is 16 weeks.

In 2020 / 21, the timescales were stable at an average 18 weeks from visit to ratification. When removing the extremities (exceptional cases) for the 2021 / 22 academic year it takes the average to 18 weeks.

Completed within:	16 Weeks or less	17 to 20 weeks	21 to 25 weeks	More than 25 weeks	Average & Range
2021 / 22	13	9	2	7	A: 16 (18 if <10 and >25 not included) R: 3 to 44
2020 / 21	12	8	0	2	A: 18 (12 if <10 and >25 not included) R: 4 to 65
2019 / 20	11	3	2	5	A: 18 (16 if <10 and >25 not included) R: 4 to 36
2018 / 19	23	5	3	1	A: 15 (remains 15 if <10 and >25 not included) R: 4 to 38

2017 / 18	19	1	3	4	A: 18 (13 if <10 and >25 not included) R: 2 to 83
-----------	----	---	---	---	--

Visit Report Data

The next few sections cover the number of action points from accreditation visits. These all relate to reports from the 2021 / 22 academic year which have already been presented to AAC.

Immediate Requirements¹

In total 9 immediate requirements were set in the 2020/ 21 academic year compared to 20 in the 2019/20 academic year. All 9 immediate requirements were exclusively for the HEI to revise their AHEP mapping documents.

For 2021/ 22 visits, the way in which we require HEIs to provide the mapping information both for AHEP 3 and AHEP 4 visits has changed significantly to help improve the useability of the documentation. It is hoped that this will significantly decrease the number of immediate requirements in this area. The results of this change in approach remains to be seen until the next end of year report.

Whilst the numbers varied from the above in 2017/18 and 2016/17 the 3 main areas where Immediate Requirements were set in past years (AHEP mapping, confirmation on AHEP coverage and accreditation wording) remained the same.

2021 / 22

In 2021/ 22 academic year a total of 37 immediate requirements were set. 17 of these were for revising the AHEP 3 module mapping. 1 HEI received 6 immediate requirements which is unusual. 3 AHEP 4 visits had immediate requirements for revising the AHEP 4 module mapping before AAC agreed to deal with AHEP 4 transitional issues via the usual action plan process, although these requirements turned into 'time bound' requirements.

Other immediate requirements included alignment to various IET requirements and QA issues, all relatively unique with no pattern emerging.

Total number of Requirements, Recommendations and Commendable Aspects:

Year	Requirements	Recommendations	Commendable
2021 / 22	215	288	237

¹ Immediate requirements are set when an issue needs to be resolved before a programme is accredited and therefore before the report and action plan can be considered by the IET's Academic Accreditation Committee.

2020 / 21	111	153	152
2019 / 20	117	162	174
2018 / 19	201	237	283

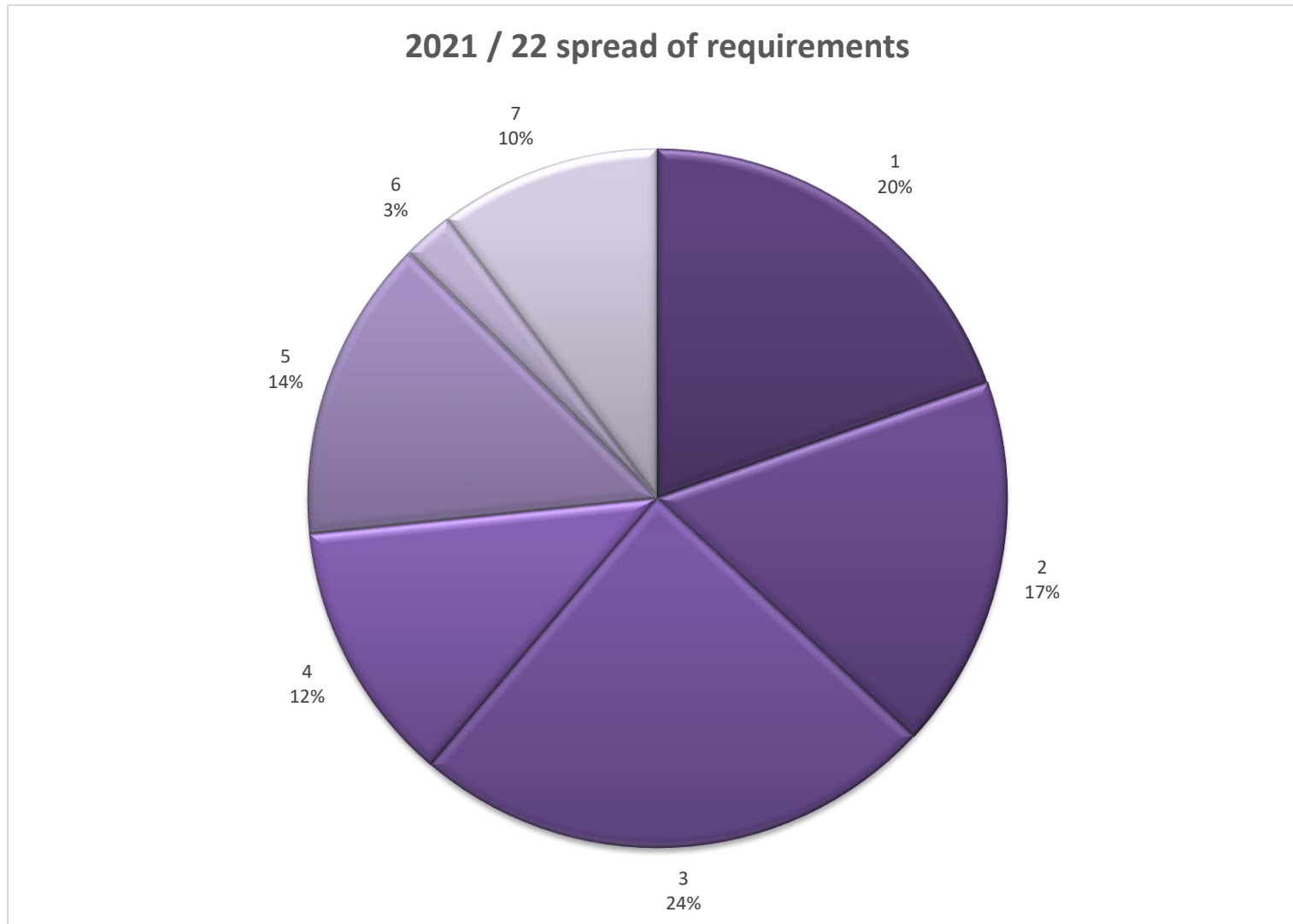
2018/19 was the first year we started to record the total number of recommendations and commendable points raised in reports in addition to requirements.

The dip in the number across the board in 2019 / 20 is down to significantly less visits conducted in 2019 / 20 compared to 2018 / 19, the same goes for 2020/ 21.

2021/ 22 marks the 4th year that these statistics have been collated. Relative to the number of visits the number of Requirements and Recommendations being set are stable, whereas the number of commendable items has declined.

Requirements per criterion section

Full details of what is included in each Criterion can be found in the IET's Information Pack. EAB visits reports have also been mapped to the IET criteria for the purpose of this report.



Criterion Section	% of Requirements overall from that year				
	2017 / 18	2018 / 19	2019 / 20	2020 / 21	2021 / 22
Criterion 1 ²	31%	27%	26%	22%	20%
Criterion 2 ³	9%	16%	9%	12%	17%
Criterion 3 ⁴	28%	18%	29%	30%	24%
Criterion 4 ⁵	9%	13%	15%	13%	12%
Criterion 5 ⁶	13%	14%	11%	13%	14%
Criterion 6 ⁷	1%	2%	1%	3%	2%
Criterion 7 ⁸	10%	11%	9%	10%	10%
Total (number)	193	195	117	111	215

In 2021 / 22 we see a blurring of requirements set in sections 2 and 3 (AHEP coverage and Teaching and Assessment). Requirements set in these two sections are all regarding alignment to AHEP, both in documentation (programme and module specifications and the AHEP mapping itself) and the actual coverage of AHEP itself. Almost all AHEP 4 related requirements are largely regarding the coverage of the AHEP 4 LOs at the appropriate cognitive level and the coverage of the new learning outcomes in Security, Risk, ED&I and life-long learning.

² Programme aims and content

³ Coverage of AHEP learning outcomes

⁴ Assessment and Teaching

⁵ Projects

⁶ Student support and staffing

⁷ Resources and facilities

⁸ Quality Assurance

Analysis of requirements

The biggest sub section for requirements in the previous academic years was 1.3. This has largely consisted of HEIs who's documentation did not reflect the delivery/assessment of the AHEP Learning Outcomes and therefore revisions needing to be made, rather than any major concerns that the AHEP Learning Outcomes were being met. However, in the 2020 / 21 academic year criterion 1.3. was the second highest scoring in terms of number of requirements set. The highest scoring was for criterion 3.5. This is exclusively down to the requirement regarding the implementation of the Engineering Council Compensation policy. This requirement is also part of the visit report template, so unless the HEI is already compliant with the incoming policy, the requirement is automatically set.

Criterion 3.1 (standard and appropriateness of exam papers etc) and 3.5 (assessment regulations) have consistently been high scoring on requirements in previous academic years, however in 2020/ 21 for criterion 3.1 this is not the case. The third highest scoring on requirements for 2020/ 21 was criterion 4.5 which is marking and moderation of the individual project, with most of these requirements set to align with the IET's 'blind double marking' policy.

The same can be said for 2021 / 22.

Policy, guidance, and key activities summary

Academic Accreditation Committee

During the 2021-22 session AAC meetings continued online via Microsoft Teams on the last Thursday of every month with 1 hybrid meeting taking place at Savoy Place. Attendance continues to be at an excellent level.

From October 2022 AAC meetings, due to resource constraints meetings will reduce in frequency but the shorter length meetings will increase from 1 hour to 1.5 hours in length. This significantly decreases the administrative burden of the monthly AAC meetings but allows for the same amount of business to be conducted. We will continue to offer a hybrid meeting once a year in December.

AHEP 4

The 2021-2022 academic year has been a transitional year where HEIs were able to choose to be accredited against either AHEP 3 or AHEP 4 in consultation with the IET. HEIs submitting under AHEP 4 also had the fall-back position of re-applying against AHEP 3 if serious concerns were identified at the go-no-go stage of the submission review.

12 out of the 40 accreditation visits that took place in the 2021 academic year were assessed under AHEP 4. 2 of these visits were granted 5 years accreditation under AHEP 4. The remainder were awarded 2- or 3-years accreditation with some time-bound actions set regarding further alignments to AHEP 4.

The IET has developed extensive AHEP 4 training material and contributed to the edited version of the guidance that accompanies AHEP 4 that clarifies the minimum level at which each AHEP 4 learning outcomes should be assessed. The Accreditor Conference 2022 had a significant session on AHEP 4 to boost understanding and provide an opportunity for discussion for our Accreditors.

Engineering Council updates

AHEP 4

Engineering Council issued an updated supplement to the AHEP framework which indicates the minimum expected level that an AHEP learning should be assessed.

Risk based approach to accreditation

In November 2022 the risk-based approach to accreditation guidance was issued which outlined a few revised policies; the parameters under which virtual visits could continue to take place, a revised backdating of accreditation policy, policy for accreditation of new programmes which included the IET commonality review procedure and new proposal for a 'major change review' for programmes that have had significant changes between visits (up to 50%). This new process will not require full accreditation visit documentation or in-person visit.

Dual Accreditation

This year Engineering Council withdrew the automatic award of Full IEng accreditation for Partial CEng accredited programmes to help better the status of the UK's BEng qualification in the Washington Accord. HEIs will now need to apply separately for IEng and CEng accreditation.

International activity

7 accreditation visits have taken place in the 2021/22 academic year in China (2), Bahrain (2), Kuwait, Sri Lanka, Mauritius. 6 of these were virtual visits, 1 of the China visits was a hybrid visit where a China based accreditor was able to travel to the University. 5 were new accreditations. 3 virtual advisory visits have taken place in India, Bahrain and Jordan. One of the universities progressed to a successful accreditation visit, the other two universities are due to have accreditation visits in 2023.

12 HEIs with visits scheduled in the next academic year or requiring AHEP 4 training were able to join the HEI surgeries held in September and June.

In 2021/22 new leads were received from China, Malaysia, Greece, Egypt, India, Jordan, Thailand and Singapore. Three of these have progressed to the first stage of the accreditation process.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion information

This information has been collected since 2019/ 20 academic year.

The percentages shown are based on the total number of accreditors and trainee accreditors at the time this report was produced. The trainee accreditor statistics include those recruited before the stated academic year.

In August 2022 as part of the IETs ED&I strategy the IET launched an ED&I Volunteer Survey and results have been made available to the teams that work with volunteers. During 2023 we will be defining the priorities for our volunteer ED&I action plan based on these results.

Accreditors

Year	Female	International
2021/22	11 (11%)	9 (6%)
2020/21	11 (11%)	9 (6%)

2019/20	10 (9%)	7 (23%)
----------------	---------	---------

Trainees

Year	Female	International
2021/22	4	6
2020/21	3 (15%)	7 (35%)
2019/20	4 (14%)	12 (41%)

Training

Each year we are committed to provide training events for both HEIs seeking accreditation / re-accreditation and for our team of Academic Accreditors. It also offers us an important space to discuss accreditation and any upcoming possible changes as a cohort before the Academic Accreditation Committee refines the decisions. Since 2020/21 online training material has been made available via SharePoint for both Accreditors and for HEIs via the IETs SharePoint site. This is updated each year.

Annual Accreditor Conference

In 2019 and 2020 the annual accreditor training event has taken place online. In 2022 we held a hybrid event from Futures Place.

IET.tv facilitated a live stream to online participants via Teams. The morning focussed on AHEP 4 with a Q&A session, followed by facilitated hybrid break-out sessions. During the lunch break physical attendees had the opportunity to network and exhibition stalls were set up so attendees could learn more about other areas of the IET. In the afternoon we had 3 speakers covering The IET's Strategy, International activities, and ED&I strategy.

HEI surgeries

37 out of the 38 HEIs due a visit in the 2021/ 22 academic year attended consultations throughout the 2020/ 21 HEI surgery days. This included participation from 5 international universities. Each HEI had a 30-minute slot to ask questions and get advice, having reviewed the shared training materials in advance. HEIs also value the one-on-one time with their IET staff contact and an experienced accreditor. It is compelling evidence that suggests we should continue with this style of training for our HEIs going forward. Having the online training materials allows us to focus more time on upcoming changes and discuss more wider topics at our training events.

In 2021/ 22, 23 out of 38 HEIs invited attended consultations and accessed the online training materials provided. A further 28 HEIs attended consultations for AHEP 4 advice.

END