



Registration

<p>1. What do I benefit from registering with ECSA?</p>	<p>The answer for this question is given on the ECSA website under "Register" - "Why Register".</p>
<p>2. Is there a minimum waiting period before one can register as a candidate?</p>	<p>There is no waiting period. As soon as you have the required educational qualification you can apply for registration as a candidate.</p>
<p>3. How will the new registration system affect Candidate Engineers?</p>	<p>The new system has to do with competencies required for full professional registration and as such does not affect registration as a candidate.</p>
<p>4. Will the New Registration System apply to Certificated Engineers and persons in Specified Categories?</p>	<p>In time it will apply to both certificated engineers and those in specified categories.</p>
<p>5. Does ECSA have any system to monitor the progress of candidates to ensure that they ultimately register?</p>	<p>ECSA has no intent on having a system to monitor the progress of the development of candidates towards full registration, as this would be impossible. What ECSA has is the Commitment and Undertaking agreement which is being revised, where a company/organisation signs such an agreement with ECSA in terms of which it undertakes to train candidates for registration through providing mentors etc.</p>

<p>6. How long will it take for me to register after submitting an application?</p>	<p>If you submit a comprehensively complete application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) for all candidate registrations, it should take between six to eight weeks to get registered b) for professional registration as a Technologist, it should be between three to four months, as a Technician, it should be four months, and as a Professional Engineer, it should be anything between four to six months to get registered. Poor applications will take longer.
<p>7. Why I should I pay the application fee when I upgrade from a category to another, i.e. Technologist to Professional Engineer?</p>	<p>The application fee helps to cover the costs of handling the assessment of the application.</p>
<p>8. If I am registered as a professional in a category and apply for a different category of registration do I have to start from scratch?</p>	<p>When you apply for registration you provide the documents concerned as required for the category of registration at that time. Once you are registered, your application remains on record. If at some later date you wish to apply for some other registration, then you must apply afresh and submit the documents as required for that registration. It is unlikely that the requirements will be the same given that it is a different category of registration, at a different time and many things could have changed including the forms. The only forms that may possibly be used could be the Training and Experience reports from an earlier application and that would depend on whether they meet the requirements for the new application.</p>
<p>9. When I renew my registration after five years, do I have to pay the registration fee?</p>	<p>There is no fee related to renewal of registration every five years. All you do is submit a completed and signed renewal application form and update your CPD record.</p>

10. What is the difference between the experience appraisal/professional review and the extended experience appraisal?

The procedure used for engineers is the Experience Appraisal/Professional Review. The EA stage is a documentary assessment of the applicant's evidence of competence to determine whether evidence presented indicates that he/she has achieved the level of competence specified in the prescribed standard for the category through evidence from work. Indications of competency from the EA stage must be confirmed at the Professional Review. The Professional Review (PR) is an integrative assessment of the applicant's competency via a comprehensive review of the applicant's evidence and an interview.

The process used for other categories is the Extended Experience Appraisal (EEA), which is an assessment of the applicant's record of training and experience to determine whether the applicant has demonstrated that he/she has achieved the required level of competence specified in the prescribed standards. This process may include an interview and additional tests in cases where competency cannot be determined fully from documentation supplied or confirmation of evidence is required.

11. Why are essays being removed in the assessment process for Pr Eng candidates in the civil discipline?

Council has resolved that the standards and processes within a category are the same for all disciplines. The other eight disciplines were against the essay requirement, hence its removal.

12. Does ECSA recognise experience obtained outside the country?

Yes. The supervisors signing off your TERs should be preferably professionally registered practitioners and should give their qualifications, registration and professional memberships where possible.

13. I have obtained an engineer's educational qualification in a certain discipline. Can I do training for professional registration in a different discipline?

No. Graduates must get their training in the discipline of their degree, otherwise they will not be able to register. Your degree and your experiential training must complement one another in order for you to meet the educational and competency requirements to register via that discipline as a Pr Eng.

Once you are registered, you can branch out into the area of another discipline provided you remain within the code of conduct, viz. that you only undertake work for which your education, training and experience have rendered you competent to perform. If you decide to get another degree in a different discipline, you cannot get a second registration as a Pr Eng as you already are one. But it will enable you to more easily practice in that new discipline, provided you adhere to the code of conduct.

14. I accumulated my initial experience in a different industry from my current employer, can I still register?

Candidates are assessed against the 11 Outcomes to determine whether they have developed the competence required for registration. Experience gained in all industry sectors contributes towards the development of the 11 Outcomes. Your training should be as broad as possible, so moving from one sector to another should not be a disadvantage.

15. Does my supervisor have to be registered?

ECSA prefers supervisors to be registered if possible. However, if a supervisor is not registered, with certain categories the qualifications of the supervisor should be given.

R-01-P defines a supervisor as a professionally registered person who oversees, controls and takes responsibility for engineering work performed by a candidate. Clause 7.8 states that supervision may not be direct, but the supervisor must take responsibility for the candidate/trainee's work from a fully informed position. This means that your direct supervisor need not necessarily be registered, but there should be a registered person in the hierarchy who takes overall responsibility for his or her engineering team.

<p>16. What happens if the companies I have worked for have closed down, and I cannot get signatures of supervisors for my TERs?</p>	<p>Where you cannot get the signature of a supervisor, you need to annotate accordingly in the appropriate block and submit an affidavit to the effect that the information provided is true and correct, and the reasons why you could not contact the supervisor.</p>
<p>17. Can I still submit my application using the old legacy forms?</p>	<p>All applications lodged currently must be in terms of the new registration system and its forms.</p> <p>The only legacy form that ECOSA will accept with an NRS application, and then only in specific circumstances, is an old TER form. In such a case, if the applicant has had the legacy form signed for a period and it would be impossible for the applicant to get the signature of the supervisor on a new NRS TER form for that period, then the old form would be admissible. In such a case however, any information required in terms of the NRS not on the legacy form would need to be provided on a separate sheet.</p>
<p>18. My work does not entail design, I am in construction, how can I overcome this?</p>	<p>What sector you are employed in has little or no bearing on your registrability. The 11 outcomes must be met in order for you to achieve registration. One must look at the competencies given in R-02-PE/PT/PN and the guide given in R-08-PE/PT/PN. Provided you can get exposure to develop a competency then that is fine. If that is not available with your current employer, then you need to make a plan with your employer for secondment to an organisation that can provide the required exposure.</p>
<p>19. What avenue do academics have to register as they are not in practice?</p>	<p>Essentially, all applicants must meet the competencies required for registration, irrespective of the sector in which they are employed. It has been recognised that those in academia may not have the same opportunities as those in industry, so in R-08-PE/PT/PN there are some advisory notes to help such applicants.</p>

20. How can officials in the public sector be assisted to gain the diverse experience in order to meet the competency standards for registration?

We have had similar situations in the past where graduates were not able to get specific training that was needed for registration with their employer. In such cases it was common practice for staff to be seconded to another company/organisation to get that experience. By signing a Commitment and Undertaking agreement with ECSA, providing mentors etc., an employer can also make provisions for secondment as is covered in the C&U Guidelines.

21. What is the difference between the TERs and the TEOs?

A Training and Experience Report (TER) is written every time the type of work you are involved in changes, the work becomes more complex, the level of responsibility changes, or when you change organisation. During the first few years after graduation, there will be many incremental changes in the type of work, complexity or responsibility. When one has had 10 or more years of experience, the incremental changes in the earlier years will be small by comparison with range of experiences built up over the years. A Training and Experience Outline (TEO) is the form of report which may be used to capture early experience in bulleted form, listing the range of activities covered over groups of periods which were similar. TERs must be written to describe at least three years of experience when working at responsibility level E i.e. at performing level. This need not be the last three years of experience.

22. Do the TERs need to be compiled in an outcomes/competency-based way or just the Engineering Report?

Essentially the TERs are a record of what you did in each period as described in R-03-PE/PT/PN. There is no reference to the outcomes or competencies in the TERs, except in the case of technologists where you list the outcomes and criteria applied in the right hand column. The Engineering Report, however, is focussed on the competencies and how they were developed by reference to training periods described in the TERs.

23. If I am a registered professional technologist and have studied further, can I apply for registration as a professional engineer?

In order to apply for registration as a professional engineer, you need to meet the education requirements for that category. The policy governing the recognition of educational qualifications is E-17-P. Your case would be considered as an individual assessment, case (iv) in that document. You will need to apply for an educational evaluation. Table 1 column 3 gives the criteria your qualifications will be assessed against.

24. I've recently become a mentor to two Technologists who've been working for several years, one with a National Diploma and the other a National Diploma and a B-Tech. They are both registered as candidate Technicians. Can they apply to be registered as Technologists?

To be registered as a Technologist an applicant requires an accredited BTech degree. The applicant must have a minimum of three years' experience post BTech of which one year is in a position of responsibility performing as a technologist as referenced in the Policy Document R-03-PT. The applicant can then apply for registration as a Professional Engineering Technologist. In the event that the applicant does not have the three years of post BTech engineering experience, then his or her engineering experience post National Diploma will be taken into consideration.

If applicants do not have a BTech degree, but believe they are working at the level of a technologist, they can apply using the alternate route. Extended periods of engineering experience apply to applicants with lower level educational qualifications. Applicants must have for instance at least 8 years post National Diploma experience of which at least five years must be in a position of responsibility performing at the level of a technologist.

<p>25. What criteria apply to your referees with regard to them being registered, their category of registration and discipline?</p>	<p>Generally referees must be professionally registered in the same category in which you are applying for registration. Each category has specific requirements for referees, and the acceptability of other categories are shown in Table 3 of R-04-P or are noted on the information sheets in the registration packs for each category. Given the function of the referees, they must be in your discipline in order to be able to provide an informed opinion for all the competencies required for registration.</p>
<p>26. Will ECSA recognise an international referee?</p>	<p>Yes, if that referee comes from one of the countries who are signatories to the International Accords and Competency Agreements.</p>
<p>27. How does ECSA guard against referee bias?</p>	<p>Each application will require a number of referees, depending on the category. Referee reports are just one tool that is used by the assessors to establish your competencies for registration. Referee bias is usually picked up quite quickly. The assessors will usually probe directly with the applicant any areas of deficiency alluded by a referee.</p>