



ECSA message to 2010 graduating class

You are on the brink of completing your accredited engineering degree programme, which is the educational standard for registering in one of the three categories of registration, namely Professional Engineer, Professional Engineering Technologist or Professional Engineering Technician.

This means you have acquired the theoretical knowledge and understanding of your chosen discipline. The next phase is the development of engineering competences you learn in your degree or diploma to solve engineering problems.

The training phase which is approximately three years, which commences immediately after obtaining employment, is called the '**Candidacy Phase**' and it is vital in the development of any engineer, technologist or technician in his or her quest to become a fully fledged professional engineering practitioner.

During this phase, you need to obtain acceptable work experience with the skills required to perform the functions of an engineering professional.

As you enter this phase, ECSA advises the following:

- Register as a Candidate in the respective category (BSc (Eng)/BEng graduates as candidate engineers; BTech graduates as candidate technologists, and three year National Diploma graduates as candidate technicians);
- Ensure that the employer has signed a Commitment of Undertaking to train candidates in accordance with Policy Statement R2/1A, R2/1B, R2/1C and discipline specific guidelines
- During your time at the said employer, a mentor, should be appointed where ever possible who must be professionally registered in the appropriate category;
- Together with the mentor and supervisor, the candidate should develop a structured training programme covering all the features listed in the policy statements and discipline specific guidelines;
- Project work must be undertaken, and this should increase in complexity as the training progresses. Your level of responsibility must increase as your training progresses. The ideal situation would be that you obtain a variety of work activities at the various stages in the lifecycle of an engineering activity: conception, planning, design, commissioning/construction, implementation, operation and closure; and
- The candidate should grow during his training period, from learning the company, observing work being done, low level practical work, investigations as part of a team, leading a team, to ultimately operating completely on his own and taking full responsibility for their work.

We wish you well in your engineering career!