

Special Route for Specific Disciplines (Environmental, Information and Materials)

1. Introduction

The Special Route for Specific Disciplines (former known as “Emerging Discipline”), namely, Environmental, Information and Materials Disciplines are available for conducting assessments on conversion of academic and experience formation in considering eligibility for professional assessment by applicants who are non-accredited degree holders.

2. Criteria

An applicant must possess a degree of applied science nature relevant to the applying Discipline with a minimum of 8 years post-degree experience in the applying Discipline in order to be eligible for professional assessment. Factors of consideration in determining whether a degree is a degree of applied science nature is enclosed in Appendix I.

On the assessment of experience formation of an applicant, the following key elements are required.

(i) Design

The applicant should have worked as part of a project team on substantial project tasks that must include system design elements for real-life applications in industrial/commercial companies or academia.

(ii) Specialist knowledge

The three Disciplines shall refer to their respective indicative areas of practice.

(iii) Technical broadening

Good understanding and fair judgment on issues related to the aspects of risk assessment, system reliability and scalability, information security and data privacy, health and safety, and energy and environment conservation, etc. in the projects involved.

(iv) Non-technical broadening

Good understanding on professional, managerial, legal and ethical issues.

3. Procedure

- (i) All applicants should submit a normal application using “FORM 1/M” or “FORM 1/D”, accompanying by the following documents:
 - Certified true copy of transcript of Degree
 - Experience report elaborating the following elements:
 - (a) Design
 - (b) Specialist knowledge
 - (c) Technical broadening
 - (d) Non-technical broadening
- (ii) Initial checking would be conducted by the Secretariat on the applications. All completed applications would be submitted by the Secretariat to the respective Discipline Advisory Panels (Environmental, Information and Materials) for assessment.
- (iii) The respective Discipline Advisory Panels would assess initially and make recommendations on whether the degree possessed by the Applicant is a degree of applied science nature and relevant to the applying Discipline.
- (iv) The Education and Examinations (E & E) Committee Representatives of the respective Discipline Advisory Panels (Environmental, Information and Materials) shall report the initial assessment to the Secretariat, who would then circulate the recommendations on the applications to E & E Committee for approval.
- (v) If no objection is received by the E & E Committee members, approval is deemed and the respective Discipline Advisory Panels would proceed to assess whether the applicants possess at least 8 years post-degree experience in the applying Discipline. If affirmative, the respective Discipline Representatives would inform the Secretariat who would arrange the Professional Assessments for the Applicants as appropriate.
- (vi) Successful and unsuccessful applications under this mechanism are to be reported to the Q & M Board for approval through the E & E Committee report and professional assessment results reports at a meeting.

Appendix I

Factors of consideration in determining whether a degree is a degree of applied science nature

1. The curriculum of a degree should not be of pure science in nature, i.e. the subjects in a curriculum should not focus on pure science which seek to support pure research with no application perspective.
2. The subjects within a curriculum of a degree which can exhibit application of science should not be less than 40% of the curriculum.
3. The title of a degree and whether a degree is offered within a faculty of science or applied science or engineering.