

Guidance Notes for Candidates applying for Membership in Structural Discipline by taking the HKIE Structural Examination

(Candidates must read this leaflet in conjunction with M3 Routes to Membership)

Please read the following notes carefully and comply with all requirements.

1. Introduction

The HKIE Structural Examination consists of **TWO** parts:

- (i) Written Examination; and
- (ii) Interview.

Unless exempted otherwise, candidates applying via any route must pass both parts and meet the experience requirements under their respective membership routes to be eligible for Corporate Membership of the HKIE in the Structural Discipline (subject to meeting all other requirements in the HKIE Constitution). Passing the Written Examination is not a prerequisite for taking the Interview, or vice versa.

2. Requirements for taking the HKIE Structural Examination

To be eligible to take the HKIE Structural Examination, candidates must apply via one of the following routes and satisfy their respective requirements:

Formal Training Route

- (i) Candidates must possess an accredited/recognised engineering degree¹ or equivalent relevant to structural engineering.
- (ii) Candidates must have completed a three-year Scheme “A” Training in the Civil² or Structural Discipline by **31 October 2026**.³

General Experience Route

- (i) Candidates must possess an accredited/recognised engineering degree¹ or equivalent relevant to the Structural Discipline.
- (ii) Candidates must have accumulated at least five years of post-graduation relevant experience by **31 October 2026**.

¹ For the list of engineering degrees accredited by the HKIE, please visit:

<https://hkie.org.hk/membership/accreditation/accredited-recognised-programmes/>

For engineering degrees recognised by the HKIE under the Washington Accord, please visit the Washington Accord website at: <https://www.internationalengineeringalliance.org/accords/washington-accord>.

² Candidates wishing to sit for the Examination via the Formal Training Route (Scheme “A” Training in Civil Discipline) must submit a self-declaration confirming 1.5 years of structural design experience. Please refer to the “[Declaration on Experience](#)” form.

³ Regarding the submission of documentation after completion of Scheme “A” Training, candidates must:

- Ensure that a satisfactory Scheme “A” Final Training Report is submitted by their company by **31 October 2026**, followed by a certified true copy of the Training Completion Certificate by **31 March 2027**.

Mature Route

- (i) For candidates with an accredited/recognised engineering degree⁴ or equivalent:
- They must be over 35 years of age.
 - They must have acquired at least five years post-graduation relevant experience by **31 October 2026**.

Or

- (ii) For candidates without an accredited/recognised engineering degree:
- They must be over 35 years of age.
 - They must have obtained relevant experience in posts of increasing responsibility over a period of at least 14 years by **31 October 2026**.

Research and Development Route

Candidates must fulfil the academic, experience, and research and development requirements as specified in the “[Research and Development Route to Corporate Membership](#)”.

3. Application for the HKIE Structural Examination

(Applicable to candidates via the Formal Training Route, General Experience Route and Mature Route only)

- (i) First-time candidates must complete and return the Application for the Class of Member or Additional Discipline for Corporate Member ([Form 1/MD](#)) with the required fees (see Section 8 below) to the HKIE by **7:00 pm on 31 August 2026**.
- (ii) Resit candidates must observe the specific resit deadline stated in the result letter of their last HKIE Structural Examination. They are required to submit the “[Application for Resit](#)” to the HKIE **on or before the specific resit deadline or 7:00 pm on 31 August 2026, whichever is earlier**. Please refer to the resit form for detailed submission requirements.
- (iii) Any application submitted after the deadline will **not** be considered. Please submit the application in a sealed envelope addressed to the External Qualifications Section, and mark “*Application for the HKIE Structural Examination 2026*” on the envelope. If the application is submitted by post, please ensure sufficient postage is affixed to avoid delivery delays.
- (iv) Eligible candidates will be notified of their candidature and detailed examination arrangements **three weeks before** the Written Examination, which is scheduled for **19 November 2026**.
- (v) Mature candidates must follow the procedure specified in “[M3 Routes to Membership](#)”. Eligible mature candidates are required to take both the Written Examination and the Interview.
- (vi)

⁴ For the list of engineering degrees accredited by the HKIE, please visit:

<https://hkie.org.hk/membership/accreditation/accredited-recognised-programmes/>

For engineering degrees recognised by the HKIE under the Washington Accord, please visit the Washington Accord website at: <https://www.internationalengineeringalliance.org/accords/washington-accord>.

- (vii) Eligible candidates via the Formal Training Route and General Experience Route who wish to attempt the Interview must submit their assessment documentation to the HKIE by **31 March 2027**. They should refer to the attached “[Guidance Notes for Documentation](#)” for detailed submission requirements.
- (viii) The Interview, scheduled between May and July 2027, will be conducted under the competence-based system for all applications.
- (ix) All candidates will be notified of their results by mail. Under normal circumstances, the Written Examination results will be released in late April 2027, and the Interview results will be released in late August 2027. Results will not be available prior to the official mail notification, and telephone enquiries regarding results will not be entertained.
- (x) With effect from 2023, candidates are permitted to resit the Section(s) they have failed in the Written Examination (see Section 6 below). Specifically, candidates may: (i) resit Section 1 – Multiple Choice Questions only if they have passed Section 2 – Design Questions, (ii) resit Section 2 – Design Questions only if they have passed Section 1 – Multiple Choice Questions; or (iii) resit both Section 1 – Multiple Choice Questions and Section 2 – Design Questions if they have failed both Sections.
- (xi) Candidates who pass Section 2 – Design Questions but fail Section 1 – Multiple Choice Questions of the Written Examination will be invited to attend the Supplementary Written Examination (Multiple Choice Questions), typically scheduled for June at the HKIE Headquarters. The results are generally released in late July.
- (xii) Candidates who pass the Written Examination but fail the Interview will be invited to attend the Supplementary Interview, typically scheduled between December and January. The results are generally released in March.
- (xiii) Candidates who pass both the Written Examination and Interview, but have not yet fulfilled the experience requirements laid out in “[M3 Routes to Membership](#)”, must subsequently submit a report on their experience in a responsible position and their CPD record. They will be informed of these requirements in their result letter. Those who have already fulfilled the experience requirements will be notified of their results and subsequent admission as a Corporate Member of the HKIE in the Structural Discipline by separate mail.

4. **Application for the HKIE Structural Examination**

(Applicable to candidates via the Research and Development Route only)

- (i) First-time candidates must complete and return the Application for the Class of Member or Additional Discipline for Corporate Member ([Form 1/MD](#)) to the HKIE, along with the required fees (see Section 8). Candidates must also provide all supporting documentation as specified in the “[Research and Development Route to Corporate Membership](#)”. Applications are accepted all year round.
- (ii) Candidates who satisfy all the academic, experience, and research and development requirements will be eligible to proceed to the Interview, which complies with the membership requirements outlined in “[M3 Routes to Membership](#)”. The Structural Discipline Advisory Panel reserves the right to require a candidate to undertake the Written Examination if deemed necessary.

5. Key Dates for the HKIE Structural Examination (applicable to candidates via Formal Training Route, General Experience Route and Mature Route only)

Key Dates	Application Procedure	Documentation Submitted by candidates
31 August 2026	Application deadline	New application: Application for the class of Member or Additional Discipline for Corporate Member (Form 1/MD) and the form “Declaration on Experience” (if applicable) Resit application: Please refer to the form “Application for Resit”
Late September/ Early October 2026	Invitation to Preparatory Seminar by email	N/A
15 October 2026	Submission deadline for Supplementary Interview (for candidates who previously passed the Written Examination but not yet passed the Interview only)	Please refer to the “ Guidance Notes for Documentation ”
Mid-October 2026	Preparatory Seminar (The registration for the Seminar will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. A confirmation email will be sent to the successful applicants one week prior to the Seminar)	N/A
Late October 2026	Notification of details of the Written Examination to eligible candidates by post	N/A
Mid-November 2026	Notification of details of the Supplementary Interview by post	
19 November 2026	Written Examination	N/A
December 2026 to January 2027	Supplementary Interview	N/A
March 2027	Release of the Supplementary Interview result by post	N/A
31 March 2027	Submission deadline for Interview (for candidates via the Formal Training Route and the General Experience Route)	Please refer to the “ Guidance Notes for Documentation ”

Late April 2027	Release of the Written Examination result by post	N/A
May 2027	Notification of details of the Interview by post	N/A
Late May 2027	Notification of details of Supplementary Written Examination (Multiple Choice Questions) by post	N/A
14 May 2027	Application deadline for Supplementary Written Examination (Multiple Choice Questions) (for candidates who passed the Design Questions but failed the Multiple Choice Questions of the Written Examination only)	Please refer to the form " Application for Resit "
Mid/ Late June 2027	Supplementary Written Examination (Multiple Choice Questions)	N/A
May to July 2027	Interview	N/A
Late July 2027	Release of the Supplementary Written Examination (Multiple Choice Questions) result by post	N/A
Late August 2027	Release of the Interview result by post	N/A

6. Written Examination

The Written Examination will be held on 19 November 2026 at the Hopewell Hotel, Wan Chai, with a total duration of seven and a half hours. Eligible candidates will be informed of the detailed examination schedule three weeks before the examination date.

The Written Examination paper consists of two sections covering the following areas.

Section 1: Multiple Choice Questions (Answer ALL questions) (Duration – One hour)

- Structural Engineering Concept
- Construction skills
- Building Control
- Contract and Construction Management
- Aspects on economy, health, safety and statutory regulations

Section 2: Design Questions (Answer ONE question) (Duration – Six and a half hours)

- Design concept
- Identification of alternative schemes
- Choice of materials
- Presentation of design scheme, calculations and details

Candidates are required to pass both Section 1 Multiple Choice Questions and Section 2 Design Questions in order to obtain an overall pass of the Written Examination.

The examination paper for Section 1 will be collected at the end of this Section before the commencement of Section 2. A **FAIL** will be given if a minimum of 40% cannot be attained for Section 1.

For Section 2 – Design Questions, candidates have to pass both Section A and Section B. Section A typically requires the preparation of two distinct and viable superstructural schemes. Some questions may also require the preparation of a foundation scheme. In such cases, the question will set out the requirement for whether one or two foundation schemes should be prepared. If two foundation schemes are required, both schemes should be viable and distinct. Section B requires the preparation of design calculations, framing plans and structural details.

For Section A, a **FAIL** will be given if any one of the client's requirements is not fulfilled. With regard to superstructural and foundation schemes, a **FAIL** will be given if any of the following is applicable:

	No requirement for foundation scheme	Requirement for one foundation scheme	Requirement for two foundation schemes
Only one superstructural scheme is proposed (even if the scheme is viable)	Fail	Fail	Fail
Two superstructural schemes are proposed, but they are not distinct, or one of the schemes is not viable	Fail	Fail	Fail
The foundation scheme is not viable	N/A	Fail	Fail
Only one feasible foundation scheme is proposed (even if the scheme is viable)	N/A	N/A	Fail
Two foundation schemes are proposed, but they are not distinct, or one of the schemes is not viable	N/A	N/A	Fail

For Section B, a **FAIL** will be given if no properly drawn and dimensioned framing plans are provided.

If none of the above conditions are applicable, the answer will be marked. A **FAIL** will be given if a minimum of 40% cannot be attained for Section A or Section B.

Candidates are required to follow the Codes of Practice, Design Manuals, and relevant design guidelines accepted by the Hong Kong SAR Government in answering the design questions. The Code of Practice on Wind Effects in Hong Kong 2019 is adopted as the only acceptable Wind Code for the Written Examination.

Equipment:

Candidates are required to prepare their own pens, pencils, rulers, and other writing and drawing equipment. Reference books, notes, portable computers, and programmable calculators are permitted. While the use of computer-aided drafting is allowed to assist candidates in formulating structural framing arrangements, no outputs or printouts will be accepted.

7. Interview

The interview will be conducted under the competence-based system for all applications and will last approximately 45 minutes. Throughout the interview, Examiners aim to satisfy themselves that candidates have dedicated sufficient time to suitable work and self-reflection regarding their training and work experience. Examiners may question candidates to ascertain the extent to which they have leveraged the opportunities provided during their training and experience. Furthermore, candidates will be assessed to ensure that all the competences set out in the HKIE Competence Standard for Professional Engineers (Corporate Members) have been achieved to satisfy the recommendations for election to Membership.

Prior to the Interview, candidates are required to give a 15-minute presentation on the Project Section of their Professional Competence Portfolio. The objective of this presentation is to evaluate the candidate's presentation skills as a professional engineer.

The entire interview shall be conducted in English.

8. Application for Retrieval of Answer Scripts and Assessment Form

Candidates are permitted to retrieve the answer script and assessment form of their last Professional Assessment within six months from the date of the result letter. The application form is available for download on the HKIE website <https://hkie.org.hk/> under "Members Area" > "HKIE Membership" > "Download (HKIE Membership)". Provided that the application is in order and the administrative fee of HK\$500 has been settled, the applicant will be notified to collect the requested documents within 40 days from the date the application is received by the HKIE.

9. Fees

Candidates should refer to the attached [fee table](#) for the application fee and professional assessment fee required for the Structural Examination. The registration fee for the Preparatory Seminar will be announced in due course. All fees paid are non-refundable and non-transferable.

Candidates who are absent from any part of the HKIE Structural Examination will be deemed to have attempted the examination.

For ongoing updates regarding the HKIE Structural Examination, please visit the HKIE website (<https://hkie.org.hk/>) under "Newsroom" > "News from HKIE".

For any further enquiries, please contact the External Qualifications Section by phone at 2830 9098 or by email at eq@hkie.org.hk.

HKIE Structural Examination
Guidance Notes for Documentation
(For Candidates via the Formal Training Route and the General Experience Route)
(Candidates must read this leaflet in conjunction with M3 Routes to Membership)

Candidates are required to submit their assessment documentation to the HKIE **by 31 March 2027** to participate in the Interview part of the HKIE Structural Examination.

For candidates who passed the Written Examination but have not yet passed the Interview, and who wish to attend the Supplementary Interview in January 2027, the assessment documentation must be submitted to the HKIE **on or before the specific resit deadline stated in the result letter of their last HKIE Structural Examination, or by 7:00 pm on 15 October 2026, whichever is earlier.**

All documents must be the candidate's own work and must be verified by a Corporate Member of the HKIE.

All documents submitted will be treated as confidential and will be returned to the candidates. Candidates should, however, retain copies of all submitted items, as the HKIE does not accept responsibility for any lost or damage documentation.

The requirements of the documentation are as follows:-

1. Professional Competence Portfolio

a) Training and Experience

The objective of this report is to inform the Examiners about the candidate's training and experience. The report provides evidence to demonstrate that the candidate meets the HKIE Competence Standard for Professional Engineers (Corporate Members). It should be concise, between 1,600 and 2,000 words, in English, typewritten on single-sided A4 paper and submitted in **duplicate**. At the top of the report, candidates must set out the specific periods of training and experience that they have acquired in chronological order, giving inclusive dates in months and years.

The report must not be a mere inventory of work prepared and executed. Candidates should:

- (i) describe in chronological order the tasks in which they have been employed, state the precise position they have occupied in each case and describe clearly the degree of responsibility they have been assigned;
- (ii) use the first person (I, me, my) to show their personal contribution;
- (iii) indicate the size and cost of the works;
- (iv) elaborate on any particular problems they have encountered and how they arrived at viable solutions;
- (v) **provide evidence to demonstrate that the competences set out in the HKIE Competence Standard for Professional Engineers (Corporate Members) are achieved by adding notations in the right margin for the competences (C1, C2...etc.) next to the passage of text. At most four relevant competences should be quoted at a time.**

b) Project

The Project section should be prepared on A4 paper, supported with drawings of NOT greater than A1 size and submitted in **duplicate**.

The report shall highlight the technical background of the projects, including a general description of the scope of works, structural design assumptions and concept, design calculation and analysis, support with related drawings such as foundation, excavation and lateral support plans, structural framing plan and site record photos.

The total no. of pages of the report shall be within 100, and the total no. of drawings shall NOT be more than 15.

The Report should satisfy the following requirements:

- (i) use the first person (I, me, my) to show their personal contribution;
- (ii) **provide evidence to demonstrate that the competences set out in the HKIE Competence Standard for Professional Engineers (Corporate Members) are achieved by adding notations in the right margin for the competences (C1, C2...etc.) next to the passage of text. At most four relevant competences should be quoted at a time.**

Pre-interview Project Presentation

Prior to the interview, candidates will be allowed 15 minutes to make a presentation of the Project section of their Professional Competence Portfolio. Candidates should plan this presentation carefully to allow themselves to cover the scope of the Project section in the time allocated.

The Examiners will not normally ask questions until the presentation has been completed. The Examiners will, however, help a candidate who is clearly having problems due to nervousness.

Candidates will be able to use the supporting documentation, photographs and drawings submitted as part of the Project section of the portfolio and will be permitted to use flipcharts to illustrate the presentation. No visual aids such as slides or overhead projectors will be allowed.

The purpose of this part of the assessment is to ensure that candidates are able to present themselves orally as well as in writing.

2. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Record

Candidates should provide a CPD record to show that they have met the minimum required number of CPD hours.

A record of Continuing Professional Development up to **the time of submission** should be provided. Any projection of CPD activities after **the time of submission** will not be accepted. Nevertheless, candidates are expected to continue their CPD activities after that date.

Please refer to Section 4 of M3 Routes to Membership “CPD Requirement and Guidelines” for details.

3. Training Logbook

The submission of the Training Logbook applies to candidates under the **Formal Training Route only**.