

# ACostE Accreditation

## **What is the Association of Cost Engineers?**

What are their objectives?

## What is the Association of Cost Engineering (ACostE)?

**Cost Engineering** is the science, art and application of professional skills, knowledge and judgement to the estimation and management of financial and material resources and to facilitate the creation of products and services that meet the customer need at a cost that ensures value for money and a return on investment.

### **Objectives of the Association**

include ...

- The promotion and development of Cost Engineering as a recognised discipline of engineering technology
- A means of developing, sharing and disseminating standards, methods and data relating to Cost Engineering
- The provision of recognised standards of attainment in the practice of Cost Engineering
- The provision of opportunities for continuing professional development

## Who does the ACostE represent?

- Represents the professional interests of those with responsibility, at all levels, for the prediction, planning and control of resources and cost for activities that involve engineering, manufacturing and construction. This covers a wide and diverse range of disciplines
- The main membership base is centred in the UK, Ireland, Hong Kong and Russia. However, there are members in 44 different countries

Cost Engineers

Project Controllers

Quantity Surveyors

Planning Engineers

Accountants

Industrial Engineers

Value Improvement Engineers

Cost Estimators

Commercial Managers

Risk Managers

Business Managers

Contracts Engineers

## **ACostE Accreditation Portfolio**

Company Accreditation

Tiered Accreditation

Course Accreditation

## ACostE Accreditation Portfolio

ACostE offers a portfolio of Accreditation Programmes in Cost Engineering and the related disciplines of Cost Estimating, Planning and/or Project Controls

There are four levels of accreditation in each programme

### **Company Accreditation**

- Assesses an organisation's ability to develop the competence of its staff

### **Tiered Accreditation**

- Allows Professionals to become accredited based on their knowledge and competence in their chosen discipline
- Benchmarked against the National Occupational Standards and the Engineering Council's Accreditation programme

### **Course Accreditation**

- Allows organisations or Training Providers to have courses or suites of courses accredited

## Benefits of Accreditation to the Business

There are benefits of Accreditation to the business and to the individual

### **Provides a level of Quality Assurance**

- External accreditation provides a 'quality of assurance' measure on staff competence, and promotes professionalism
- It provides assurance that the employee has satisfied a rigorous assessment of their competence in the activities in which they are engaged
- It provides a means of satisfying requirements of the Quality Management Systems standards such as ISO 9001:2008
- By promoting and supporting accreditation of professional staff, businesses are improving their technical credibility with customers
- Creates a level of confidence in the calibre of a supplier's staff

## Benefits of Accreditation to the Business

### Continuous Improvement

- Stimulates the sharing of knowledge and best practice
- Provides a clear career path for the professional development of staff
- Brings an external perspective on the skills required across other sectors and industries

### Investment in ongoing Staff Development

- Defines the standards expected of our staff at all levels (now and in the future)
- Provides recognition of a person's ability to perform to an agreed standard



## Benefits of Accreditation to the Business

### **Aid to Resource Planning, Recruitment and Retention of Staff**

- Provides visibility of the depth and distribution of skills across the business – aids capacity and workload planning
- Improves retention in the short term (first in the market)
- Provides an independent measure of competency as an aid to recruitment (i.e. it provides an objective means of down-selecting prospective candidates for interview)
- Is an aid to recruitment as it signals that the business values the development of its staff
- Indicates where staff have transferable skills to support other roles

## Benefits of Accreditation to the Individual

### Self Esteem

- Raises the profile of Estimators Cost Engineers and Project Control Professionals across their businesses – provides parity with other professions such as Finance, Project Management and Engineering

### Career Development

- Provides recognition of a person's ability to perform to an agreed externally recognised standard
- Encourages personal development and widens the choice of career pathways open to an individual

## **ACostE Company Accreditation**

... of an Organisation's Skills Development Framework

## Company Accreditation

ACostE's Company Accreditation scheme provides an opportunity to compare an organisation's ability to develop the competence of its staff in Cost Engineering and the related disciplines of Cost Estimating, Planning and/or Project Controls

An organisation can choose to limit the scope of the Accreditation assessment and any subsequent award to:

- One or more of the relevant disciplines
- One or more geographically organised groups, or by one or more lines of business

Any Award will be accompanied by a report detailing observations of good practice and areas for potential improvement

## Company Accreditation

The ACostE Company Accreditation Framework covers eight elements:

	Element
1	Occupational Skills Requirements
2	Skills Development Delivery process
3	Access to associated courses, training and other development
4	Level of Skills Development Maturity across Sites
5	Level of Skills Development Maturity through the Supply Chain
6	Level of maturity of processes and management
7	Project Control, Estimating, Planning or Cost Engineering Credentials (Qualifications, Experience, Continuous Professional Development)
8	Professional Body Profile (not necessarily ACostE)

The elements have differential weightings in their contribution to the overall score

## Company Accreditation

The ACostE assessment will review an organisation's process and practices in developing its staff against what is perceived to be good practice in the ACostE Company Accreditation Framework

It does this in two ways:

1. By assessing the aims and intent of the organisation as reflected in the documented process and systems
  - This could be a paper trail audit of the processes, procedures etc, or a presentation by the internal governance authority
2. By reviewing what staff report as actually happens
  - This is achieved either through Survey Monkey questionnaires of all staff (preferred), or through interview panels with randomly selected staff
  - Staff are considered in four groups Practitioners, Senior Practitioners, Coaches/Mentors and Managers (these groups can vary depending on the role profiles and responsibilities of the organisation)

**There is no requirement to access or view personal staff records  
as part of the assessment process**

## Accreditation Award Levels

At the end of the Assessment, an organisation will be rated as one of the following:

Platinum	Achieved $\geq 90\%$ of the Framework's Maximum Score
Gold	Achieved between 70% and $< 90\%$ of the Framework's Maximum Score
Silver	Achieved between 50% and $< 70\%$ of the Framework's Maximum Score
Bronze	Achieved between 30% and $< 50\%$ of the Framework's Maximum Score
No Award	Achieved less than 30% of the Framework's Maximum Score

## ACostE Tiered Accreditation

Four levels of Professional Accreditation for individuals

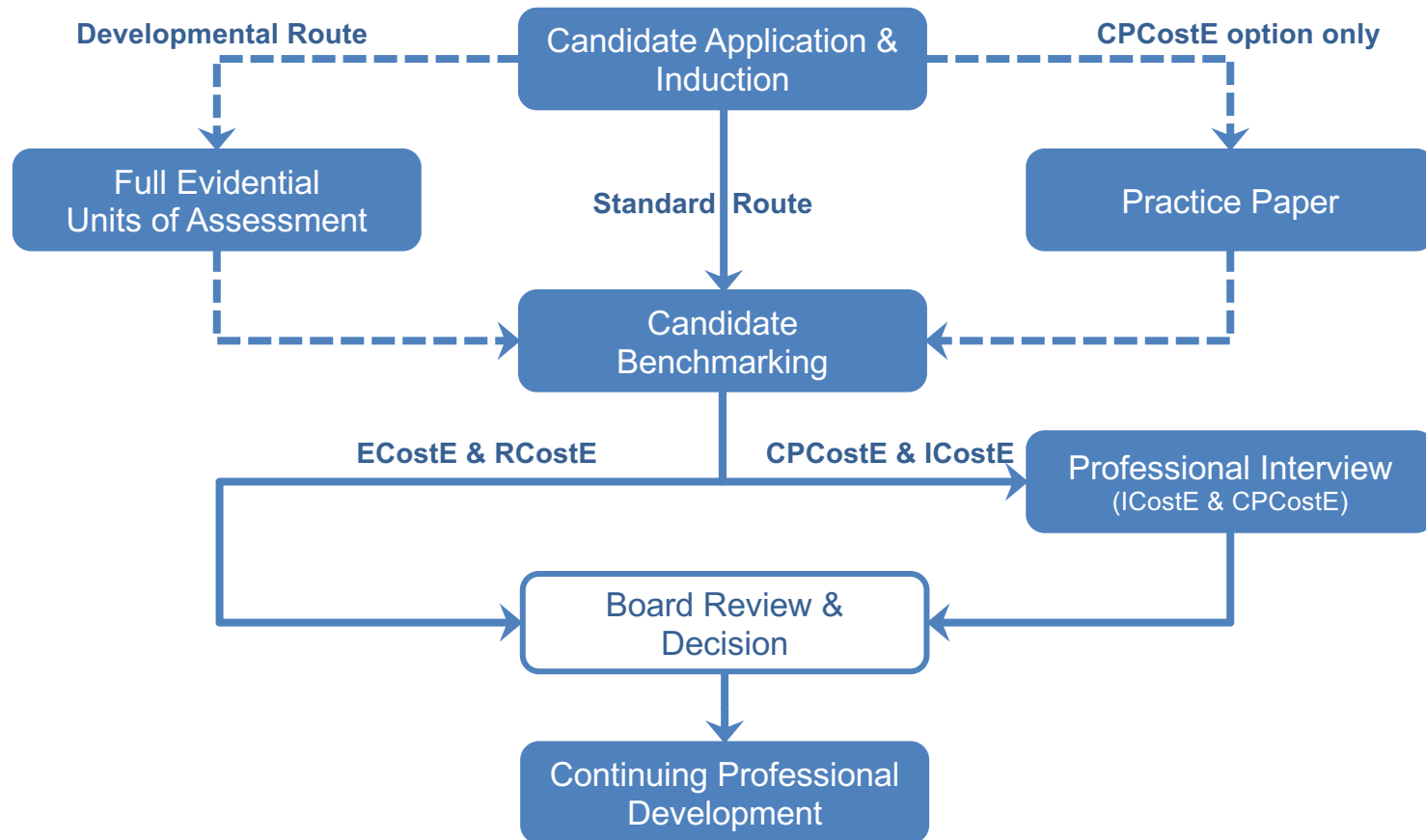
... recognised by the Engineering Council 

... recognised by International Cost Engineering Council (ICEC)



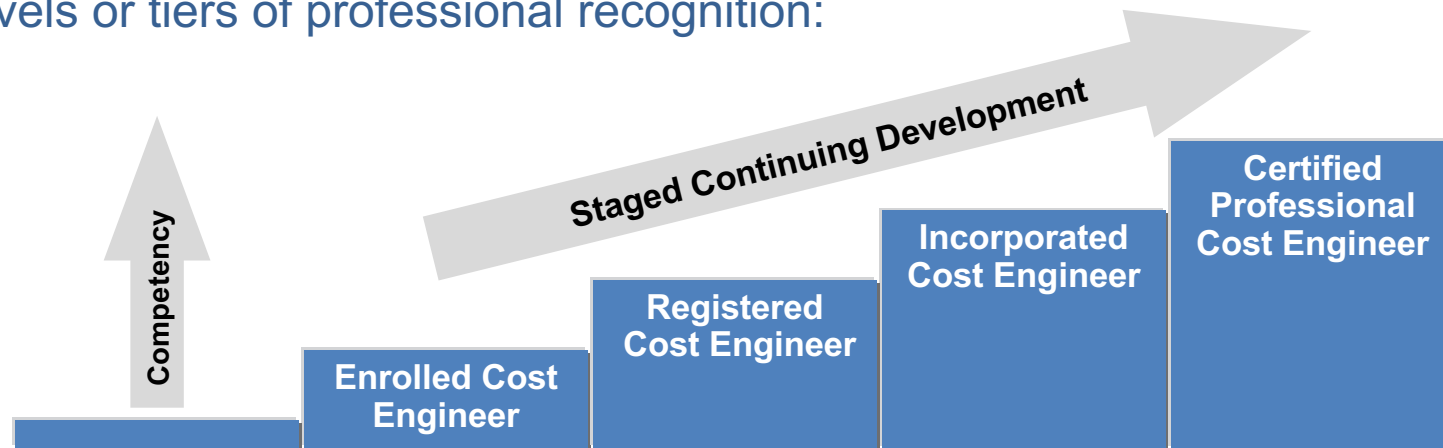


## Assessment Process and Options



## ACostE Tiered Accreditation

Practising professional can apply to become accredited by the ACostE at one of four levels or tiers of professional recognition:



- Anyone can join the programme if they are working in a Cost Estimating, Cost Engineering, Planning/Scheduling or Project Controls role, and are Members of the Association
- Entry Level is dependent on prior qualifications and experience
- Development Programmes can be agreed to allow individuals to progress to higher levels of accreditation

## ACostE Tiered Accreditation – External Recognition

ACostE is an affiliate of the Engineering Council 

- Tiered Accreditation has been benchmarked against the Engineering Council's Professional Accreditation:

Enrolled	ECostE		no equivalent
Registered	RCostE	≡	EngTech
Incorporated	ICostE	≡	IEng
Certified Professional	CPCostE	≡	CEng

- ACostE can also offer a route through to Engineering Council Accreditation by partnering with the Institute of Highways Engineering, a full member of the Engineering Council

ACostE is a founding member of the International Cost Engineering Council

- Successful candidates can also use the post-nominal of ICECA to denote that they are International Cost Engineering Council Accredited



## National Occupational Standards

In Project Control, Estimating, Planning & Cost Engineering



## National Occupational Standards (NOS)

Company Accreditation and the Tiered Accreditation programmes are underpinned by the **National Occupational Standards for Project Control, Estimating, Planning & Cost Engineering**



The National Occupational Standards cover a number of units of competence in each of:

- Cost Estimating, Management and Control
- Schedule Planning, Management and Control
- Engineering related skills
- Commercial Support activities
- Working with People
- Managing your own Personal Development
- Other general professional practices e.g. Ethics

There are 74 standards in this NOS suite covering levels 2-6 in England's academic & vocational qualification framework.

The ACostE Tiered Accreditation uses the 40 that are Levels 5 and 6

*There are equivalent mappings to the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish Qualification Frameworks*

## Indicative Qualification Levels of ACostE Accreditation Tiers

Level	Example Qualification		
8	Doctorate		
7	Masters Degree		
6	Bachelors Degree		
5	Foundation Degree	HND	
4		HNC	
3	Key Stage 5	A-Level	BTEC L3 Diploma
2	Key Stage 4	GCSE	BTEC L2 Diploma
1			BTEC L1 Diploma
Entry	Key Stage 3	ESOL E3 Diploma	

Note: There is no direct read across of Qualifications to Accreditation. Each applicant is assessed based on the relevance of qualifications and practical experience obtained

Plus Relevant Practical Experience or Sustained Practical Experience in the absence of formal Qualifications

- CPCostE
- ICostE
- RCostE
- ECostE

Qualifications provide knowledge but are not mandatory

*There are equivalent mapping to the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish Qualification Frameworks*

## National Occupational Standards (NOS) used by ACostE

Unit	Title
1	Oversee the application of information technology (IT) to Estimating, Planning & Cost Engineering
3	Identify, analyse and evaluate risks, opportunities and uncertainties, and evaluate options for their control
5	Monitor and evaluate the implementation of risk, opportunity and uncertainty control measures
6	Assure and control the quality of Estimating, Planning & Cost Engineering activities
9	Acquire and handle information needed for Estimating, Planning & Cost Engineering
10	Provide advice and support to maintain progress
11	Manage the team – agree objectives with teams and individuals
12	Manage the team – allocate work
13	Manage the continuing development of your personal and professional skills
15	Develop the skills of your professional team members

## National Occupational Standards (NOS) used by ACostE

Unit	Title
16	Develop and maintain effective working relationships
18	Observe and apply professional ethics and values
19	Plan and implement the continuous improvement of your Estimating, Planning & Cost Engineering operations
20	Determine the requirements for Estimating, Planning & Cost Engineering
21	Estimate the cost of resources
22	Develop the project schedule including requirement definition
23	Establish project procurement requirements
27	Establish Estimating, Planning & Cost Engineering procedures, methods and systems
29	Develop commercial control procedures
30	Develop the breakdown coding structures



## National Occupational Standards (NOS) used by ACostE

Unit	Title
31	Establish budgets for control purposes
32	Establish schedules for control purposes
35	Monitor, control and report on exposure commitment and expenditure
37	Monitor, control and report on progress
39	Select potential suppliers and obtain estimates, bids or tenders
40	Evaluate bids or tenders and make recommendations on potential suppliers
41	Prepare the commercial aspects of bid or tender offers
42	Conclude contractual arrangement for the supply of sub-contracts, goods, materials and services
43	Forecast the cost of resources used
44	Forecast and review schedule achievement

## National Occupational Standards (NOS) used by ACostE

Unit	Title
47	Evaluate the information and prepare claim submissions
48	Provide commercial, estimating, planning or cost engineering support to the agreement of claims
49	Identify and quantify emerging changes
50	Ensure the completion of Estimating, Planning & Cost Engineering tasks
51	Evaluate Estimating, Planning & Cost Engineering performance, information and data
52	Analyse and interpret statistical data
54	Develop and calibrate learning curve models for recurring tasks
56	Identify and promote cost or time savings during the concept and definition phases
58	Optimise the production or construction method
60	Apply financial controls and techniques

## ACostE Company Membership

What is it?

## ACostE Company Membership - Benefits

- Help to **shape** the direction of the Association and **influence** the content of future professional qualification development
- **Access** the International Cost Engineering Council (ICEC) for overseas contacts
- **Application Fee** for individual membership **waived** for applications from staff of company members.
- Company Members' staff will pay **half membership fee** for the first 2 year
- Company Members' staff who are in Cost Engineering or related disciplines but do not choose to become members will be treated as **Affiliate Members**
- Company Members, who have successfully attained a Company Accreditation Level of Silver or above for their Skills Development Framework, can be offered the opportunity to benchmark staff internally at ECostE and RCostE level (subject to appropriate training and scrutiny by the ACostE Accreditation Board)

## Company Membership - Fees

Cost Engineering or Project Control Team Size	Application Fee	Annual Fee	Complimentary Journal Copies	Representatives on CMC
1-10	£300	£500	3 copies	1
11-250	£300	£1,000	5 copies	2
251-1,000	£500	£1,500	7 copies	3
1001 +	£1,000	£3,000	10 copies	4

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