

# Imperial College London

## Regulations for the award of the Degrees of Bachelor of Engineering (BEng), Master of Engineering (MEng), Bachelor of Science (BSc) and Master in Science (MSci) in the Faculty of Engineering<sup>1</sup>

### 1 General

- 1.1 The degree of Bachelor of Engineering, Master of Engineering, Bachelor of Science or Master in Science will be awarded to any student who has completed the appropriate programme of study and passed examinations as a student at the College in accordance with the following Regulations and with such other Regulations for students of the College as may be applicable.
- 1.2 The same courses and examinations are taken for the degree and for the Associateship of the City and Guilds of London Institute (ACGI) or of the Royal School of Mines (ARSM). Both the degree and the appropriate Associateship will be awarded to successful students provided that they have satisfied the requirements of the College.
- 1.3 The College provides programmes of study for the BEng/BSc and MEng/MSci degrees in branches of engineering as determined by the Senate.
- 1.4 Students registered for the BEng/BSc degree who achieve a sufficient standard will be awarded Honours for the degree. A successful student will therefore receive an award classified in one of the following ways: First Class Honours, or Second Class Honours (Upper Division), or Second Class Honours (Lower Division) or Third Class Honours.
- 1.5 Students registered for the MEng/MSci degree who achieve a sufficient standard will be awarded Honours for the degree. A successful student will therefore receive an award classified in one of the following ways: First Class Honours, or Second Class Honours (Upper Division), or Second Class Honours (Lower Division), or Third Class Honours.

### 2 Entrance Requirements

- 2.1 All students, before admission to the programme of study, must satisfy the general entrance requirements of the College.
- 2.2 In addition to the general entrance requirements, students will normally be required to satisfy certain individual programme requirements specified by the Senate for admission to the first-year programme. These requirements are expressed primarily in terms of passes at a recognised General Certificate of Education examination but may also include a requirement of industrial sponsorship.

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<sup>1</sup> These Regulations for BSc and MSci degrees only apply to such degrees in the Department of Earth Science and Engineering. The Regulations for the award of degrees of Bachelor of Science (BSc) and Master in Science (MSci) apply to BSc and MSci degrees in all other Departments.

- 2.3 The following categories of students (Transfer Students) may, with the approval of the Senate, be admitted direct to the second year of a BEng/BSc or MEng/MSci degree programme in the College, with exemption from the admission conditions specified in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2:
- (a) Students who have completed to a satisfactory level as determined by the College at least one year of a first degree programme or its equivalent as determined by the College in science or engineering;
  - (b) Holders of an award at the Intermediate level of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- 2.4 The admission conditions specified in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 may be waived, with the approval of the Senate, in the case of a student (Transfer Student) who has successfully completed part of the first year of a full-time degree programme in science or engineering.
- 2.5 The following categories of students (Advanced Students) may, with the approval of the Senate, be admitted direct to the second year of a BEng/BSc or MEng/MSci degree programme in the College, with exemption from the admission conditions specified in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2:
- (a) Graduates of another university;
  - (b) Holders of a Diploma in Technology awarded by the National Council for Technological Awards;
  - (c) Holders of a degree awarded by the Council for National Academic Awards;
  - (d) Holders of a Higher National Diploma, or a Higher National Certificate (together with at least one Supplementary Certificate);
  - (e) Students who have passed Parts I and II of the Examinations of the Engineering Council or the Council of Engineering Institutions.
- 2.6 The following categories of students (Transfer and Advanced Students) may, with the approval of the Senate, be admitted direct to the third year of a four year MEng/MSci degree programme in the College, with exemption from the admission conditions specified in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2:
- (a) Students who have completed to a satisfactory level as determined by the College at least two years of a first degree programme or its equivalent as determined by the College in science or engineering;
  - (b) Graduates of another university;
  - (c) Holders of a degree awarded by the Council for National Academic Awards.
- 2.7 Transfer Students and Advanced Students admitted direct to the second or third year of a course will not normally be exempted from the industrial sponsorship or pre-university entry requirements referred to in paragraph 2.2.

### 3 Period of Study

3.1 The minimum period of study for the BEng/BSc degree is three academic years and for the MEng/MSci degree is four academic years, except for students admitted under paragraph 2.3 (Transfer Students) or 2.5 (Advanced Students) for whom the minimum period of study may be reduced to two years for the BEng/BSc degree and to three years for the MEng/MSci degree; or for students admitted to the third year of the MEng/MSci degree under paragraph 2.6 (Transfer and Advanced Students) for whom the minimum period of study may be reduced to two years.

3.2 For the Associateship, the minimum period of study at the College is as follows:

*BEng/BSc*

two years including the second and third year of the appropriate programme of study;

*MEng/MSci*

two years including the third and fourth years of the appropriate programme of study.

3.3 The period of study must be continuous except by special permission.

3.4 A student may be required to spend a period of study on approved project work away from the College or a period of industrial placement as an integral part of the degree programme under arrangements approved by the Senate.

3.5 A student registered for the BEng/BSc degree under paragraph 2.3 or 2.5 who successfully completes the second and third-year examination requirements after a programme of study extending over two years will be eligible for the immediate award of the Degree and Associateship.

3.6 A student registered for the MEng/MSci degree under paragraph 2.3 or 2.5 who successfully completes the second, third and fourth year examination requirements after a programme of study extending over three years will be eligible for the immediate award of the Degree and Associateship.

3.7 A student registered for the MEng/MSci degree under paragraph 2.6 who successfully completes the third and fourth year examination requirements after a programme of study extending over two years will be eligible for the immediate award of the Degree and Associateship.

3.8 A student admitted under paragraph 2.4 may, with the approval of the College, be granted remission of the prescribed period of study not exceeding the period spent in study for his/her degree elsewhere.

3.9 A student transferring his/her degree registration under paragraphs 4.8, 4.9 or 4.10 who subsequently completes the course of study and satisfies the examiners in the relevant examinations will be eligible for the immediate award of the Degree and Associateship.

#### **4 Programmes of Study and Examinations**

- 4.1 The programmes of study in each branch of engineering shall be specified on departmental webpages; alterations and additions to programmes of study must be authorised by the Senate or committee acting on its behalf.
- 4.2 The examination for the BEng/BSc degree and Associateship is in three parts, Parts I, II and III, taken in the first, second and third years of the programme of study respectively. The examination for the MEng/MSci degree and Associateship is in four parts, Parts I, II, III and IV taken in the first, second, third and fourth years of the programme of study respectively.
- 4.3 The overall responsibility for the conduct of the examination for the degree and the Associateship lies with the Engineering Studies Committee.
- 4.4 The examination may be conducted by a variety of examining methods including assessment of coursework, project work and written papers taken at appropriate times during the year, as determined by the examiners; where appropriate, practical courses and field work. The examiners may, at their discretion, also examine any student orally. Where the degree programme involves a period of industrial placement a student shall normally be required to complete a placement period satisfactorily on the basis of criteria determined by the Examiners.
- 4.5 No books, notes, instruments, or aids whatsoever may be introduced into any examination room by a student unless specifically authorised by the examiners. Reports and records of laboratory or field work submitted by a student as part of the examination assessment may be returned to the student at the discretion of the examiners.
- 4.6 A student who is admitted under paragraphs 2.3 and 2.5 may be granted exemption from some or all of the first-year courses and from Part I of the examination. A student who is admitted under paragraph 2.6 may be granted exemption from some or all of the first-year and second-year courses and from Parts I and II of the examination.
- 4.7 A student who is admitted under paragraph 2.4 may be granted exemption from some of the first-year courses.
- 4.8 A student whose registration is transferred from a degree at another University may, if the College approves, be credited with the work which he/she has done and the examinations which he/she has passed in that other degree. Such a student will be credited with the marks which he/she obtained in the examinations which he/she passed for the previous degree subject to any adjustments necessary to align them with the marking scheme of the College degree.
- 4.9 When an Advanced Student is exempted previously from any part of an examination, the Examiners shall determine the result of the examination entirely on the basis of College examinations taken.
- 4.10 A student who on his/her first entry does not complete successfully the examination for any Part of the BEng/BSc or MEng/MSci degree may re-enter the failed examination on one further occasion, in accordance with the conditions specified in General Regulation 13.7.

- 4.11 A student who is registered for the BEng/BSc degree at the College, and who has satisfied the examiners in Parts I and II of the examination, may apply for transfer of registration to the MEng/MSci degree provided that such a degree programme is available in the same subject and may be deemed by the relevant Board of Examiners to have satisfied them in Part I or Parts I and II of the examination for the MEng/MSci degree. On the recommendation of the Head of Department concerned, and subject to the approval of the Senate, such a student may be deemed to have satisfied the admission requirements for the degree course and may be allowed to proceed to Part II or Part III (as appropriate) of the examination for the MEng/MSci degree, being granted exemption from all first year or all first and second year courses (as appropriate), provided that he/she has met any pre-university course entry requirements referred to under paragraph 2.2.
- 4.12 A student who is registered for the MEng/MSci degree at the College, and who has satisfied the examiners in Parts I and II of the examination, may apply for transfer of registration to the BEng/BSc degree provided that such a degree programme is available in the same subject and may be deemed by the relevant Board of Examiners to have satisfied them in Parts I and II of the examination for the BEng/BSc degree. On the recommendation of the Head of Department concerned, and subject to the approval of the Senate, such a student may be deemed to have satisfied the admission requirements for the degree course and may be allowed to proceed to Part III of the examination for the BEng/BSc degree, being granted exemption from all first and second year courses.
- 4.13 Subject to the approval of the Senate a student registered for the MEng/MSci degree at the College who does not maintain a satisfactory academic record may be required by the Head of Department to transfer at the end of the second year to the third year of the BEng/BSc degree programme at the College provided that such a degree programme is available in the same subject. Such a student shall be deemed to have satisfied the admission requirements for the degree programme and may be allowed to proceed to Part III of the examination for the BEng/BSc degree, being granted exemption from all first and second year courses.
- 4.14 A student registered for the MEng/MSci who by the end of the third year of his/her programme of study fails to satisfy the examiners in the Part III examination may opt:
- (a) to remain registered for the MEng/MSci and resit the Part III examination on one further occasion;
  - (b) to be considered for the award of BEng/BSc, where this is available, if all conditions of the award have been satisfied, passes in any MEng/MSci courses not included in the BEng/BSc programmes having been discounted;
  - (c) to transfer to the BEng/BSc, where this is available, and to sit the BEng/BSc Part III examination on not more than two occasions in an attempt to satisfy the conditions of the award of a BEng/BSc.
- 4.15 A student registered for MEng/MSci opting for 4.14 (a) above, who fails to satisfy the examiners in the Part III examination after resitting the examination, may opt to be considered for the award of BEng/BSc under 4.14 (b) or (c) above, although in the case of (c) only one further attempt to satisfy the BEng/BSc examiners will be allowed.

- 4.16 A student who by the end of the programme of study for the MEng/MSci fails to satisfy the examiners in the Part IV examination may opt:
- (a) to resit the Part IV examination for MEng/MSci on one further occasion;
  - (b) to be considered for the award of BEng/BSc, where this is available, if all the conditions of the award have been satisfied, passes in any MEng/MSci course not included in the BEng/BSc programmes having been discounted;
  - (c) to transfer to the BEng/BSc, where this is available, and to sit the BEng/BSc Part III examination on not more than two occasions in an attempt to satisfy the conditions of the award of a BEng/BSc.
- 4.17 A student opting for 4.16 (a) above, who fails to satisfy the MEng/MSci examiners after resitting the Part IV examination, may be considered for the award of BEng/BSc under 4.16 (b) or (c) above, although in the case of (c) only one further attempt to satisfy the BEng/BSc examiners will be allowed.
- 4.18 Before a student may proceed to the next year of his/her programme of study he/she must have complied with all requirements of the College, including the payment of all due sessional and examination fees, and must have satisfied the examiners in the appropriate Part of the examination.
- 4.19 The examiners may defer a decision on a student's examination result until the student has successfully completed, by a date which shall be before the beginning of the subsequent session, additional work and/or tests specified by the examiners.
- 4.20 A student who fails in any part of the examination, but has satisfied the examiners in the coursework submitted, will be permitted to take that part of the examination subsequently and may be excused from repeating the course and/or from submitting further coursework for assessment.

## **5 Award of Associateship and Degree**

- 5.1 The Associateship of the City and Guilds of London Institute (ACGI), or the Associateship of the Royal School of Mines (ARSM) as appropriate, will be awarded to successful students who have complied with the requirements of the College, including the payment of all due sessional fees. A diploma of Associateship will be sent to each successful student.
- 5.2 A degree diploma will be sent to each student satisfying the examiners in all parts of the examination.

## **6 Aegrotat Provisions**

- 6.1 A student may be considered for the award of an Aegrotat or classified degree under these provisions if:
- (i) through his/her illness or the death of a near relative or other cause judged sufficient by the Senate, he/she has been absent from the whole or part of the examination during his/her final year;

OR

- (ii) though present at the whole of the examination during his/her final year, he/she considers that his/her performance has been adversely affected by any of the causes referred to in sub-clause (i).

The student must have completed his/her full programme of study for the degree and have satisfied the requirements of the College as described in the General Regulations.

- 6.2 An application for consideration to determine eligibility for the award of a degree under the Aegrotat provisions must be made to the Academic Registrar within six weeks from the last day of the final-year examination and must be accompanied by a medical certificate or other statement of the grounds on which application is made.
- 6.3 If, in the case of a student who has taken the whole of the final-year examination or who has been absent from only one or two papers (or the equivalent) through a cause referred to in paragraph 6.1, the examiners are able to determine on the basis of examination evidence that the student has reached the standard required for the award of a degree with an Honours classification, then the award of such a degree shall be recommended and the student shall not be considered for the award of an Aegrotat degree.
- 6.4 In the case of a student not deemed eligible to be recommended for a classified degree under paragraph 6.3 the Engineering Studies Committee, having considered a report from the examiners on the work submitted for such part of the examination as he/she attended (if any), together with records of the student's performance during the programme of study and assessments provided by the student's teachers, will determine whether evidence has been shown to their satisfaction that, had he/she completed the examination in normal circumstances, the student would clearly have reached a standard qualifying him/her for the award of the degree. If so, the student will be notified accordingly and asked whether he/she wishes to proceed formally with the Aegrotat degree application or to re-take the examination(s) at the next normal time.
- 6.5 If the award of an Aegrotat degree is conferred on a student he/she will not be eligible thereafter to re-enter for the examination for the classified degree.
- 6.6 A student who re-enters for the examination for the classified degree, having previously been informed, under paragraph 6.4, that he/she is eligible to apply for the award of an Aegrotat degree, ceases to be eligible so to apply.
- 6.7 An Aegrotat degree will be awarded without distinction or class.
- 6.8 Holders of an Aegrotat degree may not subsequently enter for examinations for a first degree of the College or, in the case of students registered for a degree of the University of London, for a first degree of the University of London in the same field of study, but they may apply for permission to proceed to a first degree in a different field, or to a higher degree, on complying with the appropriate Regulations for such degrees.
- 6.9 Students who have been awarded an Aegrotat degree after complying with the relevant Regulations will also be awarded, as appropriate, an Aegrotat Associateship of the City and Guilds of London

Institute (ACGI) or of the Royal School of Mines (ARSM). The procedures, described in paragraphs 6.1 to 6.6 will apply as appropriate, to students who are candidates for the award of the Associateship only.

**Note**

There is no provision for the award of a Pass degree to MEng or MSci students. Pass degrees are not available to BEng and BSc students registering in and after October 2008.