

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON IEM ECD

A. GENERAL

Q1 *What is Engineering Competency Development (ECD)?*

The IEM ECD Programme is a structured mentorship programme established by The Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM) to guide Graduate Members in acquiring the practical training, competencies and professional development required for transfer to IEM Corporate Membership and eventual registration as a Professional Engineer with the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM). It was previously known as the Log-Book Training Scheme (LBTS).

Q2 *Who should join the ECD Programme?*

The ECD programme is intended for IEM Graduate Members who wish to receive guidance from an experienced IEM Corporate Member (Mentor) as they progress towards the Professional Interview (PI) and Professional Engineer registration.

Q3 *What is the objective of enrolling in the ECD?*

The objective of the ECD Programme is to provide a structured framework for Graduate Engineers to progressively track and document their practical training, competencies, professional experience and received necessary guidance. Through regular mentoring and reviews, the programme helps participants prepare for the Professional Interview (PI).

Q4 *Is enrolment in the ECD Programme a requirement for the Professional Interview?*

No. Participation in the ECD Programme is voluntary. However, it offers Graduate Engineers a structured pathway with mentoring and periodic reviews to support their professional development and readiness for the Professional Interview (PI).

B. MENTORSHIP OPTIONS

Q5 *What mentorship options are available?*

There are two options:

- Mentorship with IEM ECD Logbook Submission
- Mentorship without IEM ECD Logbook Submission

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Q6 *What are the main differences between the two mentorship options?*

Aspect	Mentorship With Logbook Submission	Mentorship Without Logbook Submission
Documentation	Use IEM ECD 2.0 logbook.	Use IEM ECD 2.0 logbook or IEM PI Form A401
Mentor-Mentee meetings	Once in 3 months.	Not fixed: To be agreed between Mentor and Mentee.
Logbook submission	Logbook submitted to IEM annually.	No submission to IEM is required during mentorship.
Mentorship period	1-3 years	Until Mentee submits for PI.
Completion of mentorship	Mentees have a direct access route (without PI Assessment) for the Professional Interview (PI).	Mentees are treated as normal PI applicants with PI Assessment before the Professional Interview (PI).

Q7 *Which option should a Mentee choose?*

Graduate Engineers who prefer structured monitoring and wish to qualify for the direct PI route without PI Assessment may choose Mentorship with Logbook Submission.

Graduate Engineers who prefer to maintain their own PI documentation without annual logbook submission to IEM, while still receiving guidance from a Mentor may choose Mentorship without Logbook Submission.

Q8 *Can a Mentee transfer between the two mentorship pathways?*

Yes. A Mentee may transfer between the two mentorship pathways. The Mentee should inform both the Mentor and IEM of the intended change so that the appropriate records and mentorship arrangements can be updated.

Q9 *Why does the Mentorship with IEM ECD Logbook Submission pathway require a mentorship period of between one and three years?*

The required mentorship period depends on the Mentee's relevant working experience at the time of registration:

- Fresh graduates are required to complete a minimum of three (3) years of mentored training.
- Mentees with more than one (1) year but less than two (2) years of relevant working experience are required to undergo two (2) years of mentorship.

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- Mentees with two (2) or more years of relevant working experience are required to complete one (1) year of mentorship.

This is to comply with the requirement that a candidate for Professional Interview (PI) must have at least three years of practical experience after registration as a Graduate Engineer with BEM.

C. ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

Q10 *How do I register for the ECD Programme?*

To register as an IEM ECD Mentee, you should follow these steps:

- Become an IEM Graduate Member and register as a Graduate Engineer with the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM).
- Choose your mentorship pathway by selecting either (1) Mentorship with IEM ECD Logbook Submission, or (2) Mentorship without IEM ECD Logbook Submission.
- Select a qualified Mentor from the same or a related engineering discipline and endorsed by IEM under the ECD Programme.
- Submit the completed IEM ECD Mentee Registration form (available at the IEM ECD website) to the IEM Secretariat.
- Begin your mentorship after IEM endorsement.

Q11 *If a graduate engineer could not find a suitable and qualified Mentor to supervise his logged training, how can ECD help?*

The graduate engineer can request for a list of eligible Mentors from the IEM Secretariat. Should you find a suitable candidate from the list, ECD will connect you to the Mentor to check for compatibility.

Q12 *Can an overseas Graduate Engineer participate in the ECD programme?*

Yes. However, he/she needs to have at least one-year practical experience in Malaysia after registration as a Graduate Engineer with BEM before taking the Professional Interview.

Q13 *What are the ECD Programme fees?*

There are no fees for the ECD Programme. It is an IEM initiative to provide a structured and seamless pathway for Graduate Members to progress towards IEM Corporate Membership and Professional Engineer registration.

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Q14 *What are the requirements to become an IEM ECD Mentor and how to register as an IEM ECD Mentor?*

A Mentor must:

- Be an IEM Corporate Member (MIEM, SMIEM or FIEM) for at least three years.
- Be a Professional Engineer (PE) registered with BEM.
- Have attended the IEM Professional Interview 2.0 Workshop at least once.

The registration form is available at the IEM ECD website.

Q15 *How many mentees can a Mentor supervise?*

A Mentor may supervise a maximum of three (3) Mentees at any one time. However, request above the quota can be considered by the ECD Sub-Committee.

D. THE LOGBOOK

Q16 *What is the purpose of the ECD Logbook?*

The ECD Logbook enables the Mentee to record practical training, engineering experience and competencies gained in chronological order. These records support the preparation of the Portfolio of Evidence and Technical Annex documentation needed for the Professional Interview. Mentees who opted not to submit the ECD logbook can also use IEM PI Form A401 for their documentation.

Q17 *Where can I obtain the ECD Logbook?*

The Logbook may be downloaded from the IEM website.

Q18 *What types of activities should be recorded in the Logbook?*

The Logbook should record practical experience in terms of competencies gained. Typical activities include design and site work, investigations, reports, project management, contract management, cost control, research, teaching, technical sales, quality control and supervision.

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Q19 *Can review of design be considered as design experience?*

Reviewing of design is also included in design experience. However, the candidate must understand the design that he/she reviewed and be able to answer any question by the Interviewer when asked about the design, just like he/she have done the design themselves.

Q20 *For the Mentorship with IEM ECD Logbook Submission pathway, can my job supervisor who is not a Professional Engineer endorse my logbook, with my Mentor subsequently providing the final endorsement?*

Yes. This is acceptable. Your job supervisor may endorse your day-to-day work and training activities, while your Mentor, as the qualified Professional Engineer under the ECD Programme, reviews and endorses the logbook for submission to the IEM ECD Sub-Committee. This provides both workplace verification and professional oversight.

In addition, after you have successfully passed the Professional Interview, your Mentor may also be required to endorse your application for registration as a Professional Engineer with the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM).

E. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Q21 *What are the Mentee's main responsibilities?*

A Mentee is responsible for:

- arranging regular meetings with the Mentor;
- maintaining the Logbook or PI A401;
- acquiring the required competencies;
- submitting the Logbook to IEM where applicable; and
- acting on the Mentor's advice in preparation for the PI.

For the Mentorship with Logbook Submission pathway, quarterly reports are reviewed by the Mentor, and the Logbook is submitted annually to IEM.

Q22 *If a Mentee work under the same company with his Mentor, should the candidate undergo the ECD route to PI candidacy?*

It is not required. However, the graduate engineer will benefit doing it under the ECD mentorship which is a form of guided training and systematic documentation of experience, to facilitate preparation for the Professional Interview.

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Q23 *What are the Mentor's main responsibilities?*

The Mentor is responsible for:

- reviewing the Mentee's Logbook or PI A401;
- verifying the Mentee's practical experience and competencies;
- identifying any competency gaps and advising on improvements; and
- guiding the Mentee towards the Professional Interview and Professional Engineer registration.

F. STRUCTURED TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR GRADUATES

Q24 *What is IEM Structured Training Programme for Graduates?*

The IEM Structured Training Programme is a separate IEM initiative that provides structured practical training to Graduate Engineers to enhance their technical competencies and professional skills. It is particularly beneficial for graduates who need to strengthen areas such as design experience and soft skills.

The programme is conducted over a specified period, typically 1 to 6 months, and may include case studies, particularly design-based exercises, with the application of relevant engineering standards and codes of practice.

Q25 *Will completing the Structured Training Programme guarantee that a Graduate Engineer will pass the Professional Interview (PI)?*

No. Completion of the Structured Training Programme does not guarantee success in the Professional Interview. The outcome of the PI depends on the candidate's overall competence, knowledge, practical experience and performance during the interview, including the competencies developed through the training programme.

Q26 *Will IEM charges a fee for the Structured Training Programme?*

Yes. The Structured Training Programme is subject to a fee. For details on the programme fees, schedule and registration, please contact the IEM Secretariat.

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G. THE PROFESSIONAL INTERVIEW AND PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER REGISTRATION

Q27 *Does completion of the ECD Programme automatically qualify a Mentee as a Professional Engineer (PE)?*

No. Completion of the ECD Programme does not automatically qualify a Mentee as a Professional Engineer. The programme is intended to prepare and guide the Mentee towards the Professional Interview (PI) and subsequent application for IEM Corporate Membership and Professional Engineer registration with BEM. The Mentee must still fulfil the applicable PI and Professional Engineer registration requirements.

Q28 *What practical experience is required before sitting for the Professional Interview?*

A candidate must have:

- At least three years of practical experience after registration as a Graduate Engineer with BEM; and
- At least one year under the supervision of a Professional Engineer of the same discipline in Malaysia. This can be under the IEM ECD mentorship (with or without logbook submission).

Q29 *How long after you obtained MIEM certificate that you need to submit to BEM for the Professional Engineer (PE) registration?*

An ECD Mentee who passes the Professional Interview becomes an IEM Corporate Member (MIEM). The application for registration as a Professional Engineer (PE) with BEM should be submitted within one year of obtaining MIEM.