



Pathways to Chartered Status for Cost Engineers



Australian Cost Engineering Society (ACES)

A mark of trust, skill and achievement.

The Chartered Credential with Engineers Australia (EA) provides recognition of an engineer's competency, ethics and dedication in their area of practice. Chartered Status indicates that you practice in a competent, independent and ethical manner;

Chartered Status represents:

- High standards of professionalism
- leadership
- up-to-date expertise
- quality and safety
- the ability to undertake independent practice.

Chartered engineers exhibit internationally benchmarked standards of expertise and professionalism and, in turn, attain the greatest opportunities within their industries. Engineers become chartered in their area of practice. In the past however Cost Engineering has not been recognised as an area of practice. This has now changed with Engineers Australia having approved an evidence based competency framework for cost engineers to gain the Chartered Credential as a cost engineer. The framework caters for the variety of disciplines within cost engineering including estimating, cost engineering, risk engineering, earned value management, project controls, commercial management, planning and scheduling. This is great news for practicing cost engineers and, most importantly means

that early career cost engineers now have a structured development pathway and a means for gaining recognition as a cost engineer.

Chartered Engineers are then able to gain access to be included the National Engineer Register (NER). The National Engineering Register (NER) has been created by Engineers Australia to provide a means of presenting registered engineers and their services to the public. It also provides assurance to consumers that engineers engaged from the NER meet the high standards of professionalism expected in the engineering profession.

The NER is available to allow consumers to search for a qualified engineering practitioner by name, area of practice and geographic location. Employers can search the National Engineering Register for a comprehensive list of trusted and accomplished practicing engineers.

Who is eligible?

Chartered Status is open to current members of Engineers Australia only. You must join Engineers Australia as a Member through our online application process or through one of our Mutual Recognition Agreements and be Stage 1 competent. Additionally, applicants must demonstrate suitable English language skills as part of the Assessment process for Chartered.

Pathways to Chartered Status

Chartered Status is exclusive to Engineers Australia. Currently the following pathways are available to obtain Chartered Status for Cost Engineers:

Through Engineers Australia's eChartered Portal:

- The Professional Development Program **(PDP)** pathway
- The Engineering Competency Report **(ECR)** pathway
- The Mature Experienced Engineer **(MEE)** pathway

More information on these pathways can be found by contacting a member of ACES or through Engineers Australia.

AACE International Certification recognised as a key complimentary process.

Engineers Australia, in collaboration with the Australian Cost Engineers Society, has recognised the value of AACE International certification by providing a streamlined pathway to Chartered status for cost engineers who possess a current AACE International Professional level certification. Engineers who have a professional level certification automatically satisfy the 16 evidence based competency requirements and are able to obtain chartered status on completion of a professional interview. This benefits Engineers Australia and its members because:

- AACE international certification provides an objective and proven credential for the cost engineering area of practice.
- The resources required for submitting and processing an application are reduced since the applicant and assessors no longer need to spend valuable time collating and reviewing evidence of competency.
- Preparation of submissions are also greatly reduced for an AACE Certified applicant since the majority of the documentation preparation and review requirements are not necessary.

Many engineers fall into project controls and cost engineering and the methods they learn are dependent on the culture and maturity of the organisation they are working with. By linking AACE Certification with the chartered

process it provides assurance to the engineer that they are learning and implementing effective practices.

Benefits for Industry

Across Australia, the engineering profession is in the middle of an explosion in infrastructure spending with a circa \$70 billion spend planned over the next 5 to 10 years. For example in Sydney, there are a range of complex infrastructure projects being planned and executed to reengineer the city's transport system to a world class standard.

With this surge in investment comes the risk of cost and time overruns. Cost Engineering and Project Controls are a central part of the solution, encompassing the disciplines of control of cost and time, estimating, budgeting, planning, scheduling, risk management, change control, forecasting and effective and transparent communication.

By recognising Cost Engineers in the NER;

- employers will now be able to reduce risk when recruiting,
- owners will easily be able to specify recognised cost engineering competency requirements for contractors,
- practitioners will benefit from a clear professional pathway and;
- the wider community will benefit as the quality of decision making improves for project selection and control.

The ACES is committed to our members professional development, more information can be found on our website @ costengineer.org.au

ACES is a member of the International Cost Engineering Council icoste.org

