

Regulations for the award of the Doctor in Engineering (EngD) in Water Engineering 2025/2026

Admission and Registration

1. The normal minimum entrance requirement for registration for the EngD degree is:
 - a. an Upper Second Class Honours integrated Master's degree of a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard obtained after a programme of study extending over not less than four years in a university (or educational institution of university rank), in a subject appropriate to that of the programme to be followed; *or*
 - b. an Upper Second Class Honours Bachelor's degree of a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard obtained after a programme of study extending over not less than three years in a university (or educational institution of university rank), in a subject appropriate to that of the programme to be followed; *or*
 - c. a Postgraduate Taught degree of a UK university or an overseas qualification of equivalent standard obtained after a programme of study extending over not less than one year in a subject appropriate to the programme to be followed; *or*
 - d. a professional or other qualification obtained by written examinations and approved by the university as an appropriate entrance qualification for the EngD degree.
2. Applicants possessing alternative qualifications may also be registered by the university.
3. The university may register for the EngD degree with exemption from part of the programme of study a person who has completed a programme of study for a research degree elsewhere in the UK, where that programme of study is deemed equivalent to that provided at Imperial College London.
4. An applicant for registration may be required to pass a qualifying examination (see [Qualifying Examinations](#)) and may also be required to meet additional qualifications for admission as determined by the university.
5. English language and other requirements as prescribed by the university.
6. Every applicant must make application to the university in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the university.
7. Initial registration will be for the EngD programme of study with a qualification aim of MPhil. Transfer to the EngD qualification will take place at the end of 24 months following a transfer examination. On failure in this transfer examination process, the student will be allowed to submit their work for the MPhil degree under the usual MPhil regulations.

8. Students already registered for a PhD may transfer to EngD registration within 12 months of registering and will be required to complete the taught element of the EngD programme before submission of the thesis.

Qualifying Examinations

9. A student who is required to satisfy qualifying conditions before being eligible to proceed to the EngD degree may, at the discretion of the university, be permitted to register before these conditions are satisfied.
10. Except with the special permission of the university a candidate who fails to pass any qualifying examination prescribed will not be permitted to re-enter for the qualifying examination; if re-entry to the qualifying examination is permitted, a candidate will be limited to one re-entry.

Curriculum

11. The programme of study for the EngD degree in the field of Water Engineering shall largely be based in industry and includes formally taught elements which provide academic underpinning for the research undertaken.
12. The duration of the programme of study is four calendar years.
13. Candidates are required to undertake, under the supervision of an academic and an industrial supervisor, substantial research work on which they will be assessed by a thesis at the end of four years, i.e. at the end of the programme.
14. The industrial setting of the research means that the candidate may work on a series of linked projects; however, taken as a whole the projects must be of a sufficient degree of coherence and of a sufficient level so as to demonstrate that the candidate has made a distinct contribution to knowledge in a particular area.
15. Candidates are required to take at least two taught technical Master's level elective modules chosen from a list of Master's level modules offered by any of the participating universities before the submission of the thesis. Exactly which modules are appropriate for individual students, who will be pursuing research over the broad area of water science and engineering, will be a matter for the approval of the academic supervisor in consultation with the industrial supervisor.
16. Candidates are required to take a prescribed number of professional skills courses before the submission of the thesis.

Assessment

17. Arrangements to deal with unsatisfactory performance will be the same as those for the PhD.
18. Formally taught elements will be assessed by examination or coursework. Repetition of failed modules will be permitted only to the extent that the accreditation of the modules makes provision for this. Satisfactory performance in the taught elements will be assessed by an Examination Board comprising members of the five consortium universities (Imperial College London, Cranfield, Sheffield, Newcastle and Exeter).

19. The award of the EngD will be in part dependent upon the candidate having passed the taught element.
20. The research element will be assessed by thesis and viva voce examination.
21. Submission of the thesis shall be by the end of the final year of the programme or normally within a calendar year of the date of completion of the programme of study.
22. Three examiners will be appointed: an internal academic, an external academic, and an external industrial examiner. Arrangements and criteria for these appointments will follow those of the PhD degree. 'External' in the case of the industrial examiner will mean from a different organisation or substantively different part of an organisation, such that they are able to exercise their judgement of the work objectively. 'External' in the case of the academic examiner will normally mean an academic from outside the five-university consortium.
23. Arrangements for the conduct of examinations will be those for the PhD examination.
24. Requirements for the award of the EngD will be those applying to the PhD, augmented by the requirement that the candidate demonstrate a clear appreciation of the industrial context and significance of his/her research.
25. Recommendations available to the examiners will be the same as those available to PhD examiners (with EngD replacing PhD), including the option of the MPhil in cases where the standards required for EngD have not been achieved.
26. Where a candidate chooses or is requested to withdraw from the EngD programme, that candidate may be eligible for the award of the MPhil in Water Engineering providing all the requirements for that degree have been successfully achieved.

Diploma of Imperial College

27. The Diploma of Imperial College shall be awarded to candidates who successfully achieve either the EngD degree or the MPhil degree in Water Engineering at Imperial College London.

Document Control

Document title:	Regulations for the award of the Doctor in Engineering (EngD) in Water Engineering 2025/2026		
Version:	N/A	Date:	N/A
Location:	R:\7.Quality Assurance\2. Regulations\01. Academic Regulations\Academic Regulations 2025-26\Research Degrees		
Initially approved by and date:	Senate October 2007		
Version approved by and date:	Senate June 2025		
Version effective from:	October 2025		
Originator:	Academic Registrar		
Contact for queries:	Assistant Registrar (Academic Standards)		
Cross References:	General Regulations MPhil/PhD Regulations		
Notes and latest changes:	Updated July 2024 to meet new brand standard		