



Case Study: CEng

Ed Brandley



Hello, my name is Ed Brandley MEng DIS CEng MINCOSE. I'm currently the Technical Lead for a team at QinetiQ, updating the hardware and software of an underwater acoustic measurement system. The work is varied: I'm overseeing the replacement of data centres, underwater electronics and an intercom system, whilst ensuring the solutions are safe, useable, supportable and secure. I'm interacting with many stakeholders, including: technical specialists and the system's operators / end users. Having brought the project through several internal business reviews, I intend to move onto technical delivery of larger and more complex / complicated systems.

Congratulations on gaining your professional registration with INCOSE UK. What inspired you to apply?

CEng is something I've aspired to since graduation (before INCOSE UK were able to award it).

How did you find the application process through INCOSE UK?

Easier than with the IET or RAeS (both of which I used to be members of).

Was it challenging to document all the workplace evidence required for the CEng application and did it take a long time?

I've been collecting my competences for many years, but writing them all out fully (explaining to a reader who doesn't know me) takes time.

How easy was it to track down references in support of your CEng application?

It was hard for me to find supporters, as I've previously moved around regularly (working as a subcontractor). My current line manager was able to support me after one year in my current role.

How long did the application process take?

Work and other commitments delayed my completion of the Competence Statement and Application Forms. I wanted to make sure that I wasn't skimping on useful information - implied evidence doesn't count. I submitted all documentation and monies by 16th Feb (1 week before the panel review), my PRI was mid-March and I was officially chartered with Engineering Council UK before April

How did you find the professional review interview?

Friendly interviewers, explained that they were looking for any additional supporting evidence to fill in any gaps in my application rather than to poke holes in it, by challenging me about anything.

In what ways has registration benefited your career?

It hasn't yet - it's only been six days! Although I am more confident about applying for internal roles now.

Do you have future plans to support others in the professional registration process?

No plans to yet, but I have previously recommended to recent graduates that they looked into it.

Finally, what advice would you give to future INCOSE UK CEng applicants?

Don't be afraid to apply (especially if your employer is going to pay). Just filling out the Competence Statement will help you think about what you are doing, and what you've achieved. If you can't put something good into each section, you can use this to plan your next career move.