

3.6 Master of Engineering (MEng)

3.6.1 Admission requirements

To be considered for admission to the MEng (Research) and MEng (Structured) programmes, you must:

- hold at least a BEng, a BScHons, another relevant four-year bachelor's degree, an MTech, or a PGDip (Eng); *or*
- hold other academic degree qualifications and appropriate experience that have been approved by the Faculty Board. The relevant department's chairperson must make a recommendation regarding such qualification and experience to the Faculty Board.

Also refer to the postgraduate admission model in Figure 3.1 in Section 3.2 near the beginning of this chapter.

3.6.2 Selection

Irrespective of the admission requirements above, you must be selected for an MEng programme by the home department of the relevant field of study.

3.6.3 Application procedure

You must apply in writing to the Registrar for admission as a master's student. Provide the following information:

- details of qualifications already obtained,
- certified copies of the relevant certificates,
- your proposed field of study or subject of your thesis.

To obtain further details about the application procedure, please send an e-mail to the address at "Postgraduate enquiries" under the relevant home department in Section 1.1.3.

3.6.4 Duration and period of enrolment

Table 3.1 in Section 3.4.1 above shows the minimum, normal and maximum time available to you to complete the MEng (Structured) and the MEng (Research) as a full-time or part-time student. Note that the MEng (Structured) takes at least 12 months to complete if you are a full-time student, that is from February in the first year to January in the second year. Module scheduling constraints, however, often lead to full-time students only completing the programme at the end of the second year. Many full time MEng (Research) students complete the programme in two academic years by starting in February of the first year and receiving the degree in March of the third year.

3.6.5 Programme description: MEng (Structured)

The MEng (Structured) programme consists of 180 credits on NQF level 9. It comprises:

- a research assignment that contributes a minimum of 60 credits, but fewer than 90 credits, at NQF level 9;
- a number of required modules that contribute the balance of the required 180 credits at NQF level 9 after the credits of the research assignment have been considered; and
- possibly some supplementary modules.

The required and supplementary modules are prescribed by the chairperson of the relevant home department, while the topic of the research assignment is subject to the chairperson's approval. In the research assignment the emphasis is on the practical application of the theory and on assessing how valuable the impact of this application is.

Depending on their content, the modules in MEng (Structured) programmes may be presented in semester or block format. Particulars should be requested from the home department of the module (see the address for postgraduate enquiries under the home department in Section 1.1.3).

3.6.6 Programme description: MEng (Research)

For the MEng (Research) programme you must complete a thesis with a minimum credit value of 180 on NQF level 9.

Supplementary modules

In the following cases you must normally also complete supplementary modules:

- if you are admitted to any MEng (Research) programme without meeting the admission requirements.
- if supplementary modules are prescribed for all students in some MEng (Research) programmes (refer to the relevant department's website).

Supplementary modules are prescribed by the chairperson of your home department on the basis of:

- the requirements of the specific field of study.
- the specific objectives of your studies, your academic background and your experience.
- the availability of lecturing personnel who can lead students in the specific fields of study and modules.

Supplementary modules are normally taken from MEng (Structured), PGDip (Eng) or even BEng programmes.

Thesis requirements

You must satisfactorily complete a research project that has been approved by the chairperson of the relevant home department and submit a thesis on this project. It must be evident from your thesis that you are capable of independent scientific and technical investigation and interpretation of the results. You must add a declaration to your thesis, stating that the thesis has not been submitted at another university for a degree and that it is your own work. You must write the entire thesis yourself. The body of the thesis must form a coherent whole. This normally comprises an introduction, a background study, one or more chapters where the core contribution is developed or designed, a set of experiments by which the quality of the contribution is tested and a conclusion chapter. The thesis must also include a complete list of the references used.

The thesis has to satisfy the length restrictions imposed by your home department and it will not be submitted to the examiners if it does not comply with these restrictions.

If you want to graduate at the December graduation ceremony, you must submit your thesis for final examination on or before **1 September**, unless your home department specifies differently. If you want to graduate in March, you must normally submit your thesis on or before **1 November**, unless your home department specifies differently.

3.6.7 Examination and requirements to pass: MEng (Structured)

To be awarded the degree MEng (Structured), you must:

- attend all classes as required by the chairperson of the relevant home department;
- pass all required and supplementary modules, as well as the research assignment. This may include independent study, assignments and other forms of assessment. To pass you must achieve a minimum final mark of at least 50, or a final result of "satisfactorily completed".

How your final mark is determined

Your weighted average, which is determined based on the credit weighting of all required modules and the research assignment, is normally used as your final mark for the MEng (Structured). Your marks for supplementary modules are not used for determining your final mark.

3.6.8 Examination and requirements to pass: MEng (Research)

To be awarded the degree MEng (Research), you must:

- attend all classes as required by the chairperson of the relevant home department;
- pass all prescribed and supplementary modules. This may include independent study, assignments and other forms of assessment. To pass you must have achieved a final mark of at least 50, or a final result of "satisfactorily completed". These modules must be passed as soon as possible. You cannot submit your thesis to the examiners before you have passed these modules;
- satisfactorily complete an oral examination;
- obtain a final mark of at least 50 for your thesis examination; and
- submit a journal article on your thesis research, which has been approved by your supervisor(s) (or when requested by the departmental chairperson, if the requirement for an oral examination was waived for you). Your supervisor(s) may decide whether or not the article will be submitted to a journal or a conference. Even if the thesis is classified as confidential or secret, you must still submit the article.

You must normally be present at your host department when the oral examination is conducted.

Details about the examination process are given in the Faculty's "Postgraduate Processes for the Faculty of Engineering" (Section 1.6 above indicates how to access this document).

How your final mark is determined

Only the mark awarded for your thesis is normally used to determine your final mark for the MEng (Research). Your marks for supplementary modules are not used for determining the final mark.

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2024 Engineering Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full *Engineering* to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the yearbook under section **2. *General provisions for postgraduate programmes.***