

THE AUSTRALIAN DIVISION OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF NAVAL ARCHITECTS

Chartered Membership - Q & A

Q. What is meant by Chartered Membership?

A. Achieving an academic qualification is only the first stage of an engineer's professional career. The achievement and maintenance of professional competence cannot be acquired solely by formal study, but necessitates life-long professional development, which includes both training and experience. Professional development may be defined as the acquisition, maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge, understanding and skills, and the development of personal qualities necessary for engineers to carry out their professional duties throughout their working lives. Chartered membership of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects is achieved by meeting the Institution's requirements for professional competence and responsibility as a Member (MRINA) and registering with the Engineering Council as a Chartered Engineer (CEng) or CPEng with Engineers Australia.

Q. What is the difference between membership and registration?

A. Membership as MRINA provides a professional qualification which is recognised throughout the global maritime industry. Registration as CEng or CPEng provides an optional additional generic qualification which is applicable to all engineering disciplines and industries. If you do not register, you will still be a full member of the Institution.

Q. Can I register as CEng without being a MRINA?

A. You must be a member of the Institution to register as CEng.

Q. What are the benefits of becoming a Chartered Member?

A. Becoming a Chartered Member of the Institution is a significant achievement that brings with it international recognition of a member's professional status as a qualified, experienced and competent engineer. Many companies, especially those which employ engineers of different disciplines, require their engineers to be Chartered.

Q. How do I become a Chartered Member of the Institution?

A. When you have achieved the required professional competence and experience, you submit a Professional Review Report. This is considered by the Institution's Membership Committee. If they consider that you have achieved the required professional competence, you will be invited to undertake a Professional Review Interview. This will be organised by the Australian Division Secretary and carried out at either your place of work or home. The Interview will be conducted by Skype where the Interviewers are not local to you.

Q. What are the advantages of being a member of the Institution and registering as CEng over being a member of Engineers Australia and registering as CPEng?

A. The standards of professional competence required for CEng and CPEng are the same, and both involve a Professional Review Interview. If you simply wish to have the additional professional qualification of CEng or CPEng, there is no difference in which professional institution you are a member of. However, your membership of a professional institution should provide more than a professional qualification. It should identify and respond to your professional needs, supporting and assisting you in both achieving and maintaining your professional competence. Essential to achieving and maintaining professional competence is access to information which is relevant to your employment. The information which the Institution provides through its technical publications, conferences, Section meetings etc is focussed solely on the maritime industry of which you are or will become a part. As a professional institution covering all engineering disciplines, Engineers Australia does not provide such level or focus of information.

Q. As an Australian, why should I be a member of a UK organisation?

A. Today, the Institution is not a national organisation, but an international professional institution which makes no distinction between members in any of the 90+ countries where it is represented. The Australian Division, of which you are a member, is effectively the national professional society for engineers in Australia who are involved in the design, construction and maintenance of marine vessels and structures. The Australian Division is in turn part of an international professional institution, serving an international industry.

Q. Can I be a member of the Institution and registered as CPEng?

A. To do so, you would have to be a member of both the Institution and Engineers Australia.

Q. Will membership of a non Australian professional institution affect my employment prospects in the Australian maritime industry?

A. The standard of professional competence which Chartered Membership of the Institution demonstrates and the value of membership in helping to maintain the competence of its engineers is recognised by companies throughout the Australian maritime industry. Companies which require their engineers to become Chartered accept that this can be achieved either through the Institution or Engineers Australia. This is also recognised by agencies such as Defence and the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland. In achieving Chartered Membership through the Institution, you will both meet the requirements of your employer and benefit from being a member of a professional institution which recognises and responds to the professional needs of engineers in the maritime industry and community. Additionally, the professional qualification provided by your membership of the Institution is recognised beyond Australia, throughout the global maritime industry.

Q. Can I be a member of both RINA and Engineers Australia?

A. Yes, RINA's formal agreement with EA provides for a Member or Fellow of EA and CPEng in current practice to be accepted into the corresponding grade of RINA membership and CEng without formal re-examination or interview. This mutual recognition also applies in the opposite direction.

Q. As a RINA member registered with the Engineering Council, can I be entered on the National Engineering Register (NER) without joining Engineers Australia?

A. Yes, given the mutual recognition provided for in the agreement between RINA and EA together with the fact that the NER provides for non-members of EA to be on the register.

Q. What happens if I move out of the maritime industry?

A. Under the MOU between the Institution and Engineers Australia, you may become a member of EA and transfer your registration from CEng to CPEng Further information is given in the Institution's Guidance on Becoming a Chartered Member, which is available online at www.rina.org.uk/Careers or from Membership@RINA.org.uk

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