

# **THE MATURE CANDIDATE SCHEME**

## **THE INSTITUTION OF INCORPORATED ENGINEERS, SRI LANKA**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of the mature candidate scheme is to provide a route to registration for experienced candidates who, although they do not have the formal academic qualifications at the required level, are able to demonstrate that they have achieved a standard technical competence comparable to that of their contemporaries who became Corporate Members of the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka by the traditional route. A conventional route would not be appropriate method of testing such individuals. The Institution accepts the fact that those who achieve a high standard of professional competence in the course of their carriers should not shut down avenues of obtaining the Corporate Membership due to lack of early formal educational achievements for obtaining Corporate Membership by normal route.

### **Definition**

A Mature Candidate is defined as a person with considerable experience and responsibility as an Incorporated Engineer who has had experience in posts of increasing responsibility in a relevant branch of engineering for a period not less than 25 years.

### **Entry Requirements**

To gain entry to Scheme, candidate must

- (a) be not less than forty five (45) years of age  
AND
- (b) have been trained in the profession and have more than twenty five (25) years continued experience  
AND
- (c) have submitted a thesis on a topic closely related to the personal knowledge and experience during the candidate's career and face a Viva-Voce

### **Method of Application**

- (a) Candidate should apply to the Institution for admission to Corporate Membership by the Mature Candidate Route on the appropriate form
- (b) The candidate must be proposed and supported by two Corporate Members. One such proposer or supporter should certify the correctness of the experience mentioned in the application. They must be aware that he intends to attempt to satisfy the educational requirements by the Mature Candidate Scheme.

### **Phase I**

Training qualifications and professional responsibility are assessed in exactly the same way as in a normal application.

In Phase I assessment process candidate will have to provide a Professional Review Report of 1000-2000 words. In this report the candidate will be expected to show that he has held posts of increasing engineering responsibility over at least 25-year period. During Phase I interview, in addition to an examination of the professional responsibility described in the application and report, a judgement is made on candidate's perceived ability to write a paper demonstrating a standard of technical competence.

The Panel I must be satisfied on the following areas

- (a) Professional judgement
- (b) Increasing responsibility over 25 years
- (c) Responsibility and Period as an Incorporated Engineer
- (d) Knowledge of Engineering fundamentals
- (e) Awareness of Role of the Incorporated Engineer in Society

On completion of Phase I, if the application is accepted by the panel, they pronounce, "Elected Member subjected to satisfactory completion of Mature Candidate Scheme".

## **Phase II**

Academic worth of the candidate will be accessed in Phase II. The candidate will have to show that he has thorough grasp of engineering fundamentals that would possessed by an Incorporated Engineer.

From the completion period of Phase I to the submission of the Report in Phase II, a candidate will be allowed a period of 2 years. If due to exceptional circumstances, a candidate is concerned that completion may not be achieved within that period, request for short extension may be approved.

## **The Synopsis**

Having decided on the subject area, to be covered by the Report, the candidate will be required to submit a synopsis approximately 1000 words in length and should be of sufficient depth to give the assessors an indication of the standard of the candidates choice or, submit a paper describing project or decision for which the candidate has been responsible. The paper can have a variety of origins but it must provide clear evidence of engineering knowledge and understanding.

The Assessors will access the synopsis and decide whether it contains enough evidence to show that the paper will satisfy the Institution's requirements. The Assessors may make recommendation where the candidate should take into consideration before proceeding with the paper. The candidates are advised not to proceed with the paper until Assessors' judgement on the synopsis has been received.

## **Paper**

When the Synopsis is approved the candidate may proceed to prepare the paper. The paper should normally be 5000-10000 words in length on an approved subject, which demonstrates the candidates specialized knowledge in the field of engineering. The candidate is expected to offer an orderly and critical exposition demonstrates their resolution or achievement by the application of engineering principles and knowledge. Where appropriate, the text is illustrated by clearly drawn sketches and/or diagrams. A reference list should provide if the candidate makes use of any spare material. A signed declaration must accompany the three copies of the Paper that the text of the Paper is the Candidate's own unaided work.

The paper must be type written or printed in double spacing on one side of A4 size paper. Three copies, separately bind in a separate folder have to be submitted. It is the candidate's responsibility to obtain the permission of employers and/or any other concerned to submit work of confidential nature. The Institution Assessors will also look clearly to ensure that recommendations made following reading of the Synopsis have been incorporated into the Paper.

The Assessors having read the paper may reject it as unsuitable or suggest that it should be amended and they will make recommendations, which will be passed on, to the candidate. In the latter situation, the Candidate will be invited to submit a revised Paper.

If upon completion of the original or revised Paper, the contents are deemed by the Assessors to be acceptable, the candidate will be invited for the Final Interview.

## **Final Interview (Oral Assessment)**

It is very important for Candidate to be fully conversant with the content of the Paper and also engineering development, which have taken place in the particular level of the Paper. This advice is particularly relevant if some time has elapsed since the work contained in the paper is carried out. Candidates should also be able to prove their understanding of the theories and practice referred to or involved in the Paper. Three Assessors who are Fellow Members of IIESL appointed by the Membership Committee will interview the Candidate. A Candidate who fails in Oral Examination will, only under exceptional circumstances, be allowed to repeat the entire procedure and then on a different topic.

## **Notification of Results**

As soon as the Institution receive a favourable report from the Phase II Assessors, the provisional Membership election, agreed by the Committee at the end of Phase I, is ratified and approved by the Council on the recommendation of the Membership Committee and the Candidate will be declared elected without further examination by the Committee. The Institution will not enter into correspondence concerning the final decision or divulge the reports of the Assessors or interviewers.