

## Faculty Board of Engineering: Notice Concerning the “Engineering Science” Engineering Area and progression to Part IIB of the Engineering Tripos

*[This notice updates that issued in 2023 following receipt of further guidance from the Professional Engineering Institutes. It contains no substantive changes, however it provides more detailed guidance on compensation in the context of the Engineering Tripos and discusses pass/fail assessment of AHEP learning outcomes. Reference to matriculation year has been removed as the policy is now fully in effect. For the avoidance of doubt this policy does not apply to the Manufacturing Engineering Tripos which has its own policy on compensation and condonement approved by the Faculty Board]*

In 2023, following approval by the relevant Professional Engineering Institutions and the General Board’s Education Committee, the Faculty Board gave notice, in accordance with Regulation 25 for the degree, that it will introduce a new Engineering Area entitled “Engineering Science” in IIB Engineering. This Engineering Area, which is clearly indicated on transcripts, indicates an MEng<sup>1</sup> that does not meet any Professional Engineering Institution exemption requirements.

The overriding principle is that candidates who do not satisfactorily demonstrate all of the AHEP learning outcomes required by the Engineering Council will be restricted to the “Engineering Science” Engineering Area.

This Engineering Area is not selectable by candidates. It is noted on the class list (Regulation 31) and transcript of Part IIB candidates obtaining honours in two specific cases:

- 1) Where a candidate, who has otherwise met the criteria published by the Faculty Board defining the “satisfactory standard” required to be candidate for Part IIB, has not demonstrated all AHEP learning outcomes (considering the Engineering Council Compensation and Condonement requirements<sup>2</sup>) in each part of the Tripos.
- 2) Where a candidate has not obtained honours in all previous parts (IA, IB and IIA) of the Engineering Tripos but has met the Faculty Board criteria to be a candidate for Part IIB of the Engineering Tripos. (This would typically apply to candidates who have transferred into Engineering at IB or IIA).

Such candidates are not noted as having satisfied the requirements for any other Engineering Area, irrespective of the combination of modules offered. For the avoidance of doubt all normal course restrictions and module selection requirements, including the requirement to complete management modules, will still apply to a candidate for the “Engineering Science” Engineering Area.

Examiners in each year of the Tripos will notify the Faculty Board Secretary of any candidates who appear not to have met the requirements regarding demonstration of AHEP learning outcomes. The Faculty Board will determine each case, normally delegating such

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<sup>1</sup> Cambridge degrees are awarded without note of subject, the MEng is also used by Computer Science and Chemical Engineering. Reference is always required to the transcript.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.engc.org.uk/media/3844/compensation-and-condonement-policy-2021.pdf>

consideration to its sub-committee on progression. Any students determined by the Faculty Board not to have met the requisite AHEP learning outcomes in a Part of the Tripos will be notified by the Faculty Board secretary when results are issued for that Part.

As with other Part IIB progression related determinations by the Faculty Board, students may request review under the procedure for Review of Decisions of University Bodies<sup>3</sup> if they are restricted to the “Engineering Science” Engineering Area by the Faculty Board. Candidates’ attention is drawn to the fact that while EAMC examination allowances may, for example, deem a candidate to have deserved honours, or allow a paper to be disregarded, the EAMC cannot deem a candidate to have met AHEP requirements as this is an academic judgement.

### Compensation in the Context of the Engineering Tripos

The Engineering Council policy on compensation and condonement refers to modules in a way which is challenging to interpret given the integrated nature of the Cambridge Tripos. To ensure that the intent of the Engineering Council policy is achieved the Faculty Board will take the following approach in determining if a candidate has met the requirements to qualify in an Engineering Area other than Engineering Science:

- 1) Compensation is limited to a maximum of 30 credits in the policy. This is interpreted to mean that a candidate can only compensate, over their entire academic career, no more than one IA paper, one IB paper, one IIA module or one IIB module.
- 2) Compensation is not available for the IIB project or IIA projects.
- 3) Where a scored paper, project or course element does not have a pass mark for Tripos purposes the relevant examiners will determine a pass mark consistent with achievement of the AHEP learning outcomes for that paper, project or course element. The minimum module mark for which compensation is allowed is no more than ten percentage points below the nominal module pass mark
- 4) Where an element of a paper, project or coursework activity is assessed on a pass/fail basis and a pass is required to demonstrate AHEP learning outcomes this will be identified in the syllabus and/or handbook. Candidates failing to achieve the pass standard in such an element will be restricted to the “Engineering Science” Engineering Area.

### Qualification Tests

The Faculty Board and Examiners for each part will, where practicable, offer Qualification Tests (in accordance with Regulation 6) to candidates to whom extenuating circumstances apply. These pass/fail tests will be assessed by the examiners and allow a candidate a further opportunity to demonstrate achievement of required AHEP learning outcomes.

Extenuating circumstances are automatically considered to apply where the EAMC have agreed an allowance in respect of an examination.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.studentcomplaints.admin.cam.ac.uk/reviews-decisions-university-bodies>