

engineering
new zealand
te ao rangahau

CREDENTIAL CHECKS

PROCESS GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

INTRODUCTION

What is a credential check?

A **credential check** is the name of our Engineering New Zealand process where we assess your engineering qualification/credentials.

Who needs a credential check?

You may need a credential check for:

- Immigration New Zealand visa applications
- Registration as a Chartered Professional Engineer
- Registration as a Chartered Member of Engineering New Zealand
 - Chartered member
 - Chartered member (Engineering Technician)
 - Chartered member (Engineering Technologist)
 - Chartered member (Professional Engineering Geologist)
- Electrical Workers Registration Board (EWRB) registration assessment
- A potential employer or education provider

What are you checking for?

During our credential check process, we assess your engineering credentials/qualifications against the global engineering educational standards: Washington, Sydney, and Dublin Accords. These standards are what you need to meet to work as an engineer in New Zealand, and/or achieve Chartership status.

WASHINGTON, SYDNEY, AND DUBLIN ACCORDS EXPLAINED

Firstly, what is an Accord?

An Accord is an official arrangement where countries or groups reach an agreement. Involved parties conform and consent to shared standards.

What is the Washington, Sydney, and Dublin Accords?

The Washington, Sydney and Dublin Accords are international agreements that benchmark the educational base for entry to the profession as an Engineer, Engineering Technologist or Engineering Technician.

The signatories of the Washington, Sydney and Dublin Accords have developed agreed statements of engineering graduate attributes. The Accords are multi-lateral agreements between bodies in a range of countries, who are responsible for accreditation or recognition of tertiary-level engineering qualifications.

- **The Washington Accord** is an international agreement between bodies responsible for accrediting [engineering degree programmes](#)
- **The Dublin Accord** is an International Agreement establishing the required educational base for [engineering technicians](#)
- **The Sydney Accord** is an International Agreement between bodies responsible for accrediting [engineering technology academic programmes](#)

A key benefit for holders of Accord recognised qualifications is that the quality of these engineering education programmes is widely recognised internationally.

What if my qualification is not Accord recognised?

If the outcome of your credential check is that you do not meet an Accord status – please do not worry. If you are applying for immigration or to be a Chartered Professional Engineer, you can do a [knowledge assessment](#) to demonstrate equivalency.

[Find out more about knowledge assessment](#)

If you want to be a Chartered Member (technician), Chartered Member (technologist) or Chartered Member (Engineering geologist) you can proceed directly to these assessments, as they are not dependent on Washington Accord recognition or equivalency.

What's an equivalent knowledge assessment?

This is where you can demonstrate engineering knowledge that is equivalent to a Washington Accord accredited qualification through your academic study, work experience, and further learning.

If this is the case for you, you will be given further guidance by our assessment team on what your next steps are.

IMMIGRATION

Why are credential checks needed for overseas engineers?

Credential checks are crucial for some overseas engineers looking to immigrate to New Zealand.

If you are migrating to New Zealand to work as an engineer under the Long-Term Skills Shortage List, Immigration New Zealand needs to be sure your credentials are acceptable.

The wording in the Long-Term Skills Shortage List says: *'A qualification at NZQF Level 7 or higher, with a letter from Engineering New Zealand certifying that the degree and any further learning meet the benchmark requirements towards Chartered Professional Engineer professional status in New Zealand'*.

During your immigration process, Immigration New Zealand may ask you to provide a letter from Engineering New Zealand certifying you meet the benchmark requirements for Chartered Professional Engineer status in New Zealand. To provide this letter, you will need to go through our credential check process and prove Washington Accord accreditation or equivalency.

Our credential check process will confirm whether your overseas engineering qualification is recognised in New Zealand.

[More detail on immigration and working in New Zealand](#)

CHARTERSHIP

Why are credential checks needed for New Zealand based engineers, seeking registration as a Chartered member or a Chartered Professional Engineer (CPEng)?

If you are an engineer currently living and working in New Zealand and want to become a Chartered Member or a Chartered Professional Engineer (CPEng), the credential check process is the first step to Engineering New Zealand recognising an engineer's eligibility for this status. We do a credential check to confirm your engineering qualification.

[More detail on becoming a Chartered Professional Engineer](#)

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

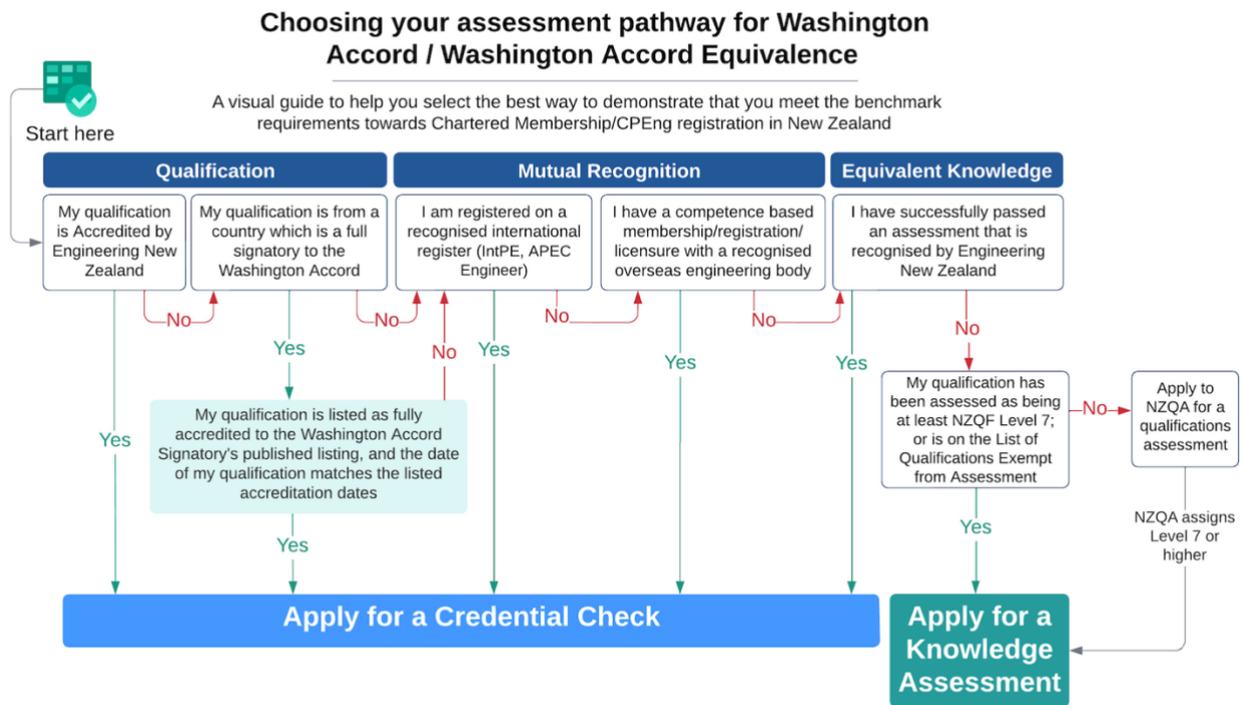
1. Check if your qualification is on our [List of Accredited Qualifications](#). If it is, proceed directly to the credential check (follow the credential check steps below (starting on page 8)).
2. If you are not on our [List of Accredited Qualifications](#), check if your qualification is from a Dublin, Sydney or Washington Accord signatory. To do this, see our [List of Accord Signatories](#).
If your qualification is from a country that is a signatory to one of the Accords, proceed directly to the credential check (follow the credential check steps below (starting on page 8)).
3. If your qualification is **NOT** on our List of Accredited Qualifications, or our List of Accord Signatories **AND** you need to show Washington Accord equivalency please follow the directions in the Figure 1 below.
4. If you are a technician, technologist or engineering geologist, and your qualification is **NOT** on our List of Accredited Qualifications, or our List of Accord Signatories please proceed to our Chartered Membership process.

PATHWAYS TO DEMONSTRATING ELIGIBILITY FOR WASHINGTON ACCORD (FIGURE 1)

So, you do not unnecessarily pay for a credential check, we will publish and maintain accurate [lists of accepted qualifications, assessments, and registrations](#) needed to obtain a successful credential check for Accord status.

This will allow you to decide which pathway you will need to choose, to successfully demonstrate that you meet the knowledge requirements towards Washington Accord recognition (or equivalency) or registration as a Chartered Professional Engineer.

Figure 1



CREDENTIAL CHECKS

PROCESS, TIMING AND COST

STEP 1

If you have not already done so, you must [create an account](#) with Engineering New Zealand to access our member portal.

STEP 2

Once your account is created, you must add your credentials to your account, as well as **proof of verification** for each credential. You also must upload **evidence** for each credential.

To do this, go to: *Menu > Career > Credentials > Qualifications / Other Credentials*

What's proof of verification?

Authenticity of all credentials uploaded must be verifiable in one of the following ways:

- Proof of verification by going through [Qualification Check](#) – our approved external verification partner. They will verify the credentials you provide to us.
 - Qualification Check specialises in the verification of academic and professional qualifications globally. They offer the quickest, easiest, and most cost-effective way for applicants to verify their credentials.
- Link to digital document(s) on university/relevant professional registration authority websites; allowing the membership team to verify credentials online directly with relevant institutions.
- Original documents sent directly to Engineering New Zealand in a sealed envelope from the awarding body.

What counts as evidence?

Qualifications

This includes graduation or award certificates, and academic transcripts or marksheets – together with academic transcript or marksheets showing courses, subjects or units studied, and the results gained in each.

- Where qualifications are not in English, you must upload copies of both the original language document and an English translation. The documents must be translated by a professional translator with the name and contact details of the translator provided on the English language version.
- If your current name is different to the one on your original documents, or if different spellings of your name are used over your documentation, you must upload evidence of your name change.

Mutual Recognition

- This includes registration on an international register (IntPE, APEC Engineer, IntET, IntETn).
- Or competence based membership/registration/licensure with an overseas engineering body, which Engineering New Zealand has a [bilateral agreement](#) with.

Equivalent Knowledge

- Assessments completed with Engineering New Zealand, Engineers Australia (CDR Assessment outcome) or NCEES (USA) Assessment (Fundamentals of Engineering & the Professional Engineer exam).

STEP 3

You can now [request a credential check on our website](#).

Credential check fees

A Credential check is free if you're a member of Engineering New Zealand.

[Find out about our membership options here](#)

For students and non-members, the fee is \$431.25 (incl GST). We will check your credentials within 7 to 10 working days after payment is received.

Please note: If you are using Qualification Check, there will be an additional fee for this service.

STEP 4

- Our membership team will then assess whether your verified qualification/assessment/overseas registration status is formally [recognised](#) under an Accord OR, if you demonstrate engineering knowledge that's equivalent to an Accord-accredited qualification.
- Our team usually processes credential checks in 7 to 10 working days.

You will receive one of the following outcomes:

- Washington Accord/Washington Accord recognition
- Sydney Accord/Sydney Accord recognition
- Dublin Accord/Dublin Accord recognition
- No recognition

[Read more about equivalence here](#)

STEP 5

Once the credential check is complete the membership team will be in touch via email with the outcome. You'll either be; assigned an Accord recognition status to your profile, or; you will receive an email providing you with what to do next.

HOW WE EVALUATE QUALIFICATIONS AND CREDENTIALS DURING A CREDENTIAL CHECK

Our membership team is responsible for credential checks. Qualifications and credentials are evaluated as follows:

Qualifications

- **Qualifications obtained from New Zealand** institutions are evaluated against our list of [accredited engineering qualifications](#).
- **Qualifications obtained outside of New Zealand** are evaluated against the International Engineering Alliance's list of [Accord Signatories](#).

Credentials for Mutual Recognition

- **Registration** on an international register (IntPE, APEC Engineer, IntET, IntETn).
- **Competence based** membership/registration/licensure with an overseas engineering body with which we have a bilateral agreement.

Recognised Assessments

- **A recognised assessment** from Engineering New Zealand, Engineers Australia or NCEES (USA) (both the Fundamentals of Engineering exam and the Professional Engineer exam) are accepted as demonstrating Washington Accord Equivalence.

A note on Immigration

For visa processing, if you're applying for a visa using points allocated under the long-term skills shortage, you need to demonstrate you are eligible for CPEng.

The wording in the Long-Term Skills Shortage List says: *'A qualification at NZQF Level 7 or higher, with a letter from Engineering New Zealand certifying that the degree and any further learning meet the benchmark requirements towards Chartered Professional Engineer professional status in New Zealand'*.

In order to successfully go through a Washington Accord Credential Check, you need to have a qualification/assessment/overseas registration that is formally recognised under a Washington Accord, or demonstrates engineering knowledge that is equivalent to a Washington Accord-accredited qualification.