

# ROYAL AIR FORCE (RAF) CAREER BREAKPOINTS

Institution of  
**MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERS**

**Mapping of the Royal Air Force career breakpoints and qualifications against Institution of Mechanical Engineers threshold criteria for membership and Engineering Council (EngC) registration.**

RAF Engineer Officer [Graduate entry]			
RAF career breakpoints	IMechE membership	EngC Registration	Notes
On entry holding MEng/BEng (Hons)/BEng or equivalent	Associate Member		Satisfies academic requirement for IEng registration in full. Degrees accredited for CEng registration, in full or in part, satisfy academic base requirements for full IEng registration
Completion of 'Foundation Tours'	Member (MIMechE)	Full IEng registration	IEng registration on successfully passing the IMechE Professional Review Interview (PRI)
Completion of the first technical appointment (i.e. carried out "in branch" in an engineering role) on successful completion of the Advanced Pre-Employment Training (APET) qualification*	Member (MIMechE)	Full CEng registration	Can only be awarded at this career 'milestone' to those holding academic qualifications, or equivalent, in full for CEng registration and on successfully passing the IMechE Professional Review Interview (PRI)

## RAF Engineer Officer [Graduate entry]

RAF career breakpoints	IMechE membership	EngC Registration	Notes
Completion of the first technical appointment (i.e. carried out “in branch” in an engineering role) as a Squadron Leader RAF*	Member (MIMechE)	Full CEng registration	Can only be awarded at this career ‘milestone’ to those holding academic qualifications, or equivalent, in full for CEng registration and on successfully passing the IMechE Professional Review Interview (PRI)
Completion of the first technical appointment (i.e. carried out “in branch” in an engineering role) as a Squadron Leader RAF**	Member (MIMechE)	Full CEng registration	Attendance on the necessary technical, pre-appointment courses, throughout an engineer officer’s career up to completion of the first technical appointment (i.e. carried out “in branch” in an engineering role) as a Squadron Leader RAF fully satisfies the Further Learning requirement for Chartered Engineer registration and on successfully passing the IMechE Professional Review Interview (PRI)
On promotion to Wing Commander RAF	Fellow (FIMechE)	Full CEng registration	

### RAF Engineer Officer [Graduate entry] notes

\* RAF Officers who hold an MEng degree or a BEng (Honours) degree accredited for Chartered Engineer registration [which they started prior to September 1999], already satisfy the academic qualification requirement, in full, for CEng registration and will not need to make up any academic shortfall.

\*\* RAF Officers who hold a BEng (Honours) degree accredited for Chartered Engineer registration [which they started on or after September 1999], will require Further Learning to satisfy the academic qualification requirement, in full, for CEng registration; this Further Learning is covered in Note 5 above.

## RAF Engineer Officer [commissioned Airman]

RAF career breakpoints	IMechE membership	EngC Registration	Notes
On entry holding a minimum of an HNC*	Associate Member		Further Learning to satisfy the academic base requirement, in full, for IEng registration, for an applicant holding a minimum of an HNC*, will have been gained by virtue of successful completion of the Engineer Officer Foundation Training (EOFT) course or the previous Engineer Specialist Training (EST) course
Completion of 'Foundation Tours'	Member (MIMechE)	Full IEng registration	IEng registration on successfully passing the IMechE Professional Review Interview (PRI)
Completion of the first technical appointment (i.e. carried out "in branch" in an engineering role) on successful completion of the Advanced Pre-Employment Training (APET) qualification**	Member (MIMechE)	Full CEng registration	Can only be awarded at this career 'milestone' to those holding academic qualifications, or equivalent, in full for CEng registration** and on successfully passing the IMechE Professional Review Interview (PRI)
Completion of the first technical appointment (i.e. carried out "in branch" in an engineering role) as a Squadron Leader RAF	Member (MIMechE)	Full CEng registration	Can only be awarded at this career 'milestone' to those holding academic qualifications, or equivalent, in full for CEng registration* and on successfully passing the IMechE Professional Review Interview (PRI)
Completion of the first technical appointment (i.e. carried out "in branch" in an engineering role) as a Squadron Leader RAF	Member (MIMechE)	Full CEng registration	Attendance on the necessary technical, pre-appointment courses, throughout an engineer officer's career up to completion of the first technical appointment (i.e. carried out "in branch" in an engineering role) as a Squadron Leader RAF fully satisfies the Further Learning requirement for Chartered Engineer registration***

## RAF Engineer Officer [commissioned Airman]

RAF career breakpoints	IMechE membership	EngC Registration	Notes
On promotion to Wing Commander RAF	Fellow (FIMechE)	Full CEng registration	

### RAF Engineer Officer [commissioned Airman] notes

- \* RAF Engineer Officers who do not hold a minimum of an HNC, on entry will need to apply as an individual case for assessment of their academic qualifications, or equivalent, by the IMechE Academic Assessment Committee (AAC).
- \*\* RAF Engineer Officers who hold an MEng degree, or a BEng (Honours) degree accredited for Chartered Engineer registration [which they started prior to September 1999], already satisfy the academic qualification requirement, in full, for CEng registration and will not need to make up any academic shortfall. RAF Engineer Officers who do not hold an MEng degree or a BEng (Honours) degree accredited for Chartered Engineer registration will need to apply as an individual case for assessment of their academic qualifications, or equivalent, by the IMechE Academic Assessment Committee (AAC).
- \*\*\* RAF Engineer Officers who do not hold a BEng (Ord) as a minimum qualification, or who have been registered as an Incorporated Engineer for less than 2 years, will need to provide evidence, on an individual basis, of how they have achieved Technical Deepening to Masters level by completing a Career Learning Assessment (CLA).

## RAF Aircraftman

RAF career breakpoints	IMechE membership	EngC Registration	Notes
OH1 qualified RAF Aircraftman (sponsored by the awarding officer) or successful completion of a suitable Level 3 qualification*	Member (MIMechE)	Full EngTech registration	The award of OH1 qualification immediately follows successful completion of the Engineering Advanced Apprenticeship Programme, which has been approved for Engineering Technician registration in full. Some trade groups do not complete the OH1 qualification so an acceptable alternative is successful completion of a suitable (i.e. technical) Level 3 qualification
Senior, engineering, non-commissioned officers holding, or who have held, aircraft 'sign-off' authority at Level G or those in Staff appointments with similar technical experience and responsibility	Member (MIMechE)	Full IEng registration	The highest academic qualifications in engineering which a senior engineer non-commissioned officer can gain solely through RAF training is the Engineering Advanced Apprenticeship (see above). Thus, those senior engineer non-commissioned officers who reach the RAF career breakpoint for IEng registration will need to demonstrate that they have also achieved the necessary IEng academic base on an individual basis** and successfully pass the IMechE Professional Review Interview (PRI)

### RAF Aircraftman notes

\* Although this RAF career breakpoint is stated in terms of Trade Group 1 (which includes Aircraft Technician Mechanic, Avionic and Weapons) it does also include those engineers with equivalent responsibility within Trade Group 5 (including adherence to statutory regulation) and Trade Group 13 (Survival Equipment Technician).

\*\* RAF senior engineer non-commissioned officers who do not satisfy the academic qualification requirement, in full, for IEng registration will need to apply as an individual case for assessment of their academic qualifications, or equivalent, by the IMechE Academic Assessment Committee (AAC).

Special note: RAF Warrant Officers holding, or who have held, aircraft delegated 'sign-off' authority at Levels J and K involved in the 'Titan Scheme' could apply for Chartered Engineer (CEng) registration via the (civilian) Standard Application route. Those [few] Warrant Officers who can demonstrate this level of responsibility are not included in this SAP.