Accreditation of Company Training Schemes (ACTS)
What is ACTS?

ACTS is the Accreditation of Company Training Schemes. ACTS allows companies to demonstrate their commitment to best practice by having their training schemes validated by the Institute of Physics.

Achieving accreditation provides evidence that companies are consistently delivering their training schemes to the highest standards. It shows that training schemes are audited by a professional body, quality assured and support the criteria for staff working towards chartered Status. Accreditation is invaluable both to the organisation and to individuals and is a powerful tool in recruiting the highest calibre of staff.

The benefits of accreditation

Gaining accreditation:

- clearly demonstrates your company’s commitment to best practice in training and development for physicists and/or engineers;
- provides a structured and fast-track route for your staff to attain CPhys/CEng status;
- gives your company the international recognition that comes with a well developed training scheme;
- helps promote success for the company in the future;
- ensures that your staff are fully equipped with the core competences and skills required to practice as an accomplished physicist and/or engineer;
- helps you to be the employer of choice;
- reinforces your key relationship with the Institute of Physics, providing you with wider networking opportunities with other similar companies and members.

“QinetiQ is committed to professional development. Accreditation of our Initial Professional Development Scheme by the Institute of Physics confirms that it meets tough external standards.” QinetiQ

“Professionals working at SELEX are encouraged to work towards appropriate chartership status for their specialities. To support this the ACTS scheme helps physics candidates focus on planning and recording the steps towards achieving their objectives for CPhys and CEng.”

SELEX Sensors and Airborne Systems Ltd
The ACTS service includes:

- initial contact – contact the Institute’s Professional Development team to discuss the accreditation of your company training scheme;
- advisory meeting (optional) – staff from the Professional Development team are happy to meet with you and your colleagues to discuss the requirements for accreditation and to answer any queries you may have in meeting these criteria;
- pre-assessment of your scheme and application documentation prior to official accreditation visit;
- the opportunity to promote your training scheme to our members in our publications and website;
- continuous support – the Institute will continue to support you after accreditation is awarded and will maintain contact with your scheme coordinators to ensure that any changes are continuously monitored; Institute staff are also able to advise trainees and staff involved in the scheme;

Other related services available for individual members are:

- training support, such as face-to-face and online courses;
- one-to-one or group meetings to discuss the chartership and application requirements with new trainees and staff;
- endorsed training providers scheme from which individuals can select courses to supplement the content of their training scheme;
- online recording tool that enables individuals to record and capture evidence of their professional development towards chartership and beyond.
- a mentoring matching service where we encourage members to act as mentors, further developing their skills while supporting others in their development, including achieving chartered status.

“The question that we are most often asked by potential recruits is whether our graduate training and development scheme is accredited.”

The Physics Discipline Leader of the British Energy Graduate Scheme
Please note:

- the Institute levies a fee of £1200 for the accreditation (or re-accreditation) process. This fee covers all costs relating to the visit and is payable on submission of the formal application for accreditation;
- should a break of more than six months elapse between the end of the period of accreditation and the re-accreditation visit, a new application must be submitted – and the accreditation period granted will revert to the initial term of two years;
- the Institute reserves the right to implement a monitoring visit at any time after the granting of accreditation. A minimum of one month’s notice will be given prior to any such monitoring visit and no fee is payable.
Accredited companies include:

AMEC
AREVA
Atkins Intelligent Transport Systems
Atomic Weapons Establishment
BAE Systems Submarine Solutions
British Energy/EDF
DESG
DSTL
Doosan Power Systems Ltd
E.ON
Frazer-Nash Consultancy
Magnox North
Magnox South
QinetiQ
SELEX Sensors and Airborne Systems Ltd
Sellafield Ltd
STFC: Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

Contact details

If you would like to discuss the accreditation of your company training scheme further or request an application pack then please contact the Professional Development team

E-mail: cpd@iop.org or alternatively call: +44 (0) 20 7470 4800.

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A large-print version of this leaflet is available upon request.