

Medr

Y Comisiwn Addysg Drydyddol ac Ymchwil
Commission for Tertiary Education and Research

Enhanced Engineering

Programme Specification

This version of the specification is applicable
for the 2026/27 Academic Year.

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn y Gymraeg |
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Contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Purpose of the Programme	3
3.	Delivery Overview	3
4.	Learner Eligibility and Entry Requirements.....	4
	Level 2	4
	Level 3	4
5.	Programme Content.....	5
	The Core	5
	Main Qualification(s)	5
	Level 2	5
	Level 3	6
	Community Learner Industry Focus (CLIF)	6
	Work Placements	6
	Toolkit.....	7
6.	Data Submission Requirements	7
	Programme Codes	7
	Recording of Work Placement(s).....	7
7.	Monitoring and Audit	8
	Monitoring Approach	8
	Compliance with Programme Specification	8
	Learning Outcomes	8
	Audit Testing	9
8.	Contact Details.....	9
9.	Annexes	10
	A. Recording the Work Experience	10

1. Introduction

This Programme Specification outlines the requirements for delivery of the Enhanced Engineering Programme (EEP). It provides an overview of the programme requirements, including learner eligibility and entry conditions; and details the data submission requirements to enable Medr to monitor programme delivery and learning outcomes for the Programme.

The Enhanced Engineering Programme must meet the standards and conditions established within Medr's evolving regulatory framework, including the *Terms and Conditions of Grant*, *Conditions of Registration*, *Quality Framework*, and the *Learner Engagement Code*.

2. Purpose of the Programme

The Enhanced Engineering Programme is a one-year programme, which has been developed to equip learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to enter into a career in the Engineering industry.

The Programme covers a range of occupational routes at level 2 and level 3 and offers an opportunity for learners to gain industry-recognised qualifications alongside hands-on work experience.

The main aims of the Enhanced Engineering Programme are to progress learners either:

- onto a full apprenticeship in a craft occupation in the Engineering industry; or
- direct into employment within the sector upon completion of the programme.

At the same time the Programme will look to:

- increase the standard number of hours of learning delivered by providers to a minimum of 24 hours per week to cover for an enhanced curriculum;
- provide an opportunity for learners to gain level 2 or level 3 qualifications across a range of occupational routes;
- deliver qualifications to learners that meet identified employer needs within the region;
- utilise direct employer engagement through the work placement element of the learning programmes; and
- prepare participants for entry into employment via the Apprenticeship Programme where they will work towards an Apprenticeship framework.

3. Delivery Overview

Each programme should be delivered on a full-time basis for a minimum average of 24 hours per week over a total of at least 40 weeks.

As an integral part, programmes must include at least 5 weeks of work placement (up to a maximum of 12 weeks)¹ or the equivalent in individual days and should also incorporate a

¹ The same minimum average of 24 hours per week applies.

series of workplace trips or visits from industry specialists. It is expected that this will involve a minimum of 5 visits in the first 6 months of the programme.

As this is an Enhanced Programme, the learning and training undertaken should be at a higher level of intensity than normal provision, with some learning undertaken at a higher level where needed in order to satisfy the expectations and requirements of the sector.

4. Learner Eligibility and Entry Requirements

To be eligible for entry onto the programme a learner must be aged 16 to 24 on 31 August 2026. Please note that Medr also expects priority to be given, in the first instance, to those learners aged 16 to 19.

The following minimum requirements will apply for all entrants to the programme:

Level 2

- a minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade C or above,
- at least one grade C must be achieved in:
 - either
 - GCSE Mathematics / GCSE Mathematics Numeracy or
 - GCSE English / GCSE Welsh (First) Language

Level 3

- a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade C or above,
- at least one grade C must be achieved in:
 - either
 - GCSE Mathematics / GCSE Mathematics Numeracy or
 - GCSE English / GCSE Welsh (First) Language
- successful completion of a level 2 Diploma in Engineering with an appropriate mix of units.

Note: Learners who have achieved a grade D in GCSE Mathematics / GCSE Mathematics Numeracy may be admitted on a level 2 or level 3 programme provided they have achieved a grade C or above in GCSE English / GCSE Welsh (First) Language. By the same token, learners who have achieved a grade D in GCSE English / GCSE Welsh (First) Language can be admitted provided they have achieved a grade C or above in GCSE Mathematics / GCSE Mathematics Numeracy. Only one grade D in either GCSE Mathematics / GCSE Mathematics Numeracy or GCSE English / GCSE Welsh (First) Language is acceptable, but not in both. Learners who have achieved a grade D on entry in either GCSE Mathematics / GCSE Mathematics Numeracy or GCSE English / GCSE Welsh (First) Language should be working towards a grade C or above as part of their programme of learning.

Providers may want to set higher eligibility criteria if previous experience suggests completion and successful outcome require more than the minimum set out in this document.

5. Programme Content

In line with the requirements set out in the *Post-16 Funding Framework – Guidance*², each programme must follow the same basic structure as other full-time learning programmes, namely:

- a Core;
- Main Qualification(s);
- Community Learner Industry Focus (CLIF); and
- Work Related Experience (via Work Placement).

The Core

The core of the programme must include the delivery of relevant Essential Skills Wales (ESW) or GCSE qualifications to support entry on to an Apprenticeship programme. The minimum requirement includes Essential Communication Skills and Essential Application of Number Skills.

The level of ESW may be different to the main qualification(s), based on the outcomes of initial diagnostic assessment for each learner. ESW qualifications may be at the same level or one level above or below, but as a minimum we would expect learners on the level 2 programme to be undertaking ESW at level 1 and learners on level 3 programmes to be undertaking ESW at level 2.

Learners working towards GCSE Mathematics / GCSE Mathematics Numeracy or GCSE English / GCSE Welsh (First) Language are not required to undertake separate Essential Communication Skills and Essential Application of Number Skills alongside each GCSE.

Main Qualification(s)

Main qualification(s) within learning programmes must be selected from those listed on the Qualifications in Wales database³ as eligible for funding and approved for delivery, and must relate to the Engineering learning area.

This component of the programme must include, as a minimum, at:

Level 2

- a full Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Performing Engineering Operations – comprising at least 6 units (minimum of either 40 or 64 credits depending on the pathway)⁴; **and**
- a full level 2 Knowledge Qualification with a minimum of 300 Guided Learning Hours.

² Please see [Funding for providers](#).

³ The QiW database can be accessed via the following link: [Qualifications in Wales](#)

⁴ With prior approval from Medr, providers may substitute the Level 2 PEO qualification for an equivalent level 2 competency qualification in an Engineering discipline. Any such change must be sought and agreed before the start of the academic year.

Level 3

- a full Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Performing Engineering Operations – comprising at least 6 units (minimum of either 40 or 64 credits depending on the pathway)⁵; **and**
- a full level 3 Knowledge Qualification with a minimum of 300 Guided Learning Hours.

Where a learner has already achieved the full Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Performing Engineering Operations (PEO) as part of a previous programme of learning, providers **must** deliver either:

- additional PEO units (or units from an equivalent level 2 competency qualification) totalling a minimum of 38 credits; **or**
- additional knowledge qualifications or qualification units with a minimum of 200 GLH – these should be at the same level (or one level above) as that of the programme; **or**
- a combination of PEO units (or equivalent) and knowledge units totalling a minimum of 200 GLH.

In a similar vein, we would expect learners who have partly achieved the PEO qualification to undertake additional units in order to achieve the full PEO qualification.

Community Learner Industry Focus (CLIF)

This component of the programme should be used to support the delivery of additional learning in response to specific sector or employer demand.

Qualifications delivered under the CLIF should add value to a programme by developing wider skills or by developing skills to a higher level to aid progression to employment or an apprenticeship programme. CLIF is met through delivering Quality Assured Lifelong Learning (QALL) units or equivalent recognised learning listed on the QiW database and may be delivered at a lower or higher level than the main qualification.

Providers also have the flexibility to tailor the CLIF to provide additional support for individual learners, e.g. to develop literacy and numeracy skills or personal and social skills.

Work Placements

For the work placements, providers are expected to work with employers to provide meaningful and hands-on work experience for learners. This element of the programme can be completed outside of term time or during half-term.

The Programme must include at least one work placement with an employer not partly or wholly owned by the provider. A provider-based Realistic Working Environment (RWE) should only be used as a last resort to make up the required number of days.

⁵ Same as footnote 4.

Please note that the use of RWE may adversely affect the progression of a learner, as feedback from industry indicates that a placement in a True Work Environment is more advantageous for learners looking to progress to employment or an apprenticeship.

Providers must ensure that arrangements are in place to oversee any work placements; including up-to-date health and safety and risk assessments.

Providers must also ensure that each learner has a Work Placement Plan, which sets out their planned attendance and the arrangements in place for monitoring the placement. A suggested template for a Work Placement Plan is attached at Annex A.

Toolkit

Each learner is eligible to receive a toolkit, the value of which should be at least £200. The financial provision for the purchase of the toolkit has been included in the overall programme funding.

6. Data Submission Requirements

Medr will use data from the Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR) and the Post-16 Data Collection (P16DC) to monitor programme delivery and learning outcomes for the Enhanced Engineering programme.

In line with the conditions set out in the *Terms and Conditions of Grant*, providers must ensure that data is submitted in the correct format and in a timely manner.

The LLWR User Support Manual⁶ and the and the Post-16 Data Collection⁷ set out the guidelines that providers should follow when submitting data for the current academic year.

Programme Codes

The following programme codes (LP74) should be used for learners on the Enhanced Engineering Programmes:

0401I02B	Enhanced Engineering Level 2
0401I03B	Enhanced Engineering Level 3

Recording of Work Placement(s)

Medr will use the information submitted via the LLWR fields *LP12 (Employer Name)* and *LP13 (Employer Postcode)* to monitor this requirement, thus providers must ensure that data is completed in a timely manner for each learner.

We appreciate that some learners will not be linked with an employer or have a work placement in place at the start of the programme, thus the expectation is that the relevant details to be populated as soon as the employer information is known and whilst the learner is still on-programme.

⁶ See [Lifelong learning Wales record \(LLWR\)](#).

⁷ See [Post-16 data collection](#).

Providers must also ensure that any hours spent on work placement with an employer are recorded using the following LLWR fields:

- *LP70 (Estimated Work Based Hours)*; and
- *LP72 (Actual Work Based Hours)*.

7. Monitoring and Audit

Monitoring and audit will play a role in ensuring that the guidance is being applied consistently and to help assess whether policies, procedures and controls are adequate.

Monitoring Approach

The approach to monitoring will focus on the following areas:

- compliance with the programme's specifications; and
- learning outcomes for the programme.

This will be achieved through a combination of in-year and end-of year monitoring; a data matching exercise; and detailed audit testing of learners on Enhanced Programmes.

Compliance with Programme Specification

Medr will use LLWR / P16DC data to monitor compliance with the programme specification. This will include:

- regular monitoring of learners' work placements using *LP12* and *LP13* data; and
- monitoring of the data from the programme and activity datasets to check that delivery requirements are being met.

Learning Outcomes

Learner destination is a key performance measure for the programme and crucial in evaluating programme delivery.

The expectation is that the majority of learners who successfully complete the Enhanced Engineering Programme will progress to employment and, ideally, employment with an apprenticeship in an Engineering discipline.

We recognise, however, that a handful of learners may wish to continue with their full-time studies after completing an Enhanced Engineering Programme. Where this is the case, we would expect learners who complete the level 2 programme to progress to a level 3 programme in Engineering or a related discipline.

For learners who have completed the level 3 programme, progression should be on to the second year of a full-time level 3 programme where the learning will support progress towards entering full-time higher education or on to an apprenticeship programme.

Audit Testing

In addition to the approach to monitoring set out above, all data returned by the Further Education institutions will be subject to existing end of year audit requirements⁸. Within this, a particular emphasis will be placed in the *Auditors' Notes for Guidance* to ensure that external auditors appropriately sample learners undertaking the Enhanced Programmes.

8. Contact Details

For any queries relating to the content of this Programme Specification, please contact Medr at InvestmentandMonitoring@medr.cymru.

⁸ The audit requirements for the current year will be published at the end of the academic year.

9. Annexes

A. Recording the Work Experience⁹

Enhanced Engineering Programme – Work Placement Plan	
Learner Name:	
Qualification(s) being undertaken:	
Employer Name:	
Work Placement Address:	
Nature of Business:	
Name of person learner will report to:	
Planned attendance:	
Planned monitoring visits by tutor:	

I agree to the above Work Placement Plan:

Signed by Learner:	Signed by Tutor:	Signed for Employer:
Learner name:	Tutor name:	Position in company:
Date:	Date:	Date:

⁹ NB: This is only a suggested template for the Work Placement Plan

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