

5.1.17. AN INTEGRATED EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR NDT PROFESSIONALS

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The paper describes a new programme for NDT professional development which incorporates vocational training, work-based learning, personnel certification, academic awards, professional engineer registration and ongoing learning provision.

The programme was launched in the UK in 2007 and the paper reports on progress so far as well as plans for future development.

WORK BASED	VOCATIONAL	ACADEMIC	PROF. REG	NQF EQUIVALENT
APPRENTICESHIPS WORK BASED LEARNING Continuing Professional Development		Engineering Doctorate		8
		Masters Degree	Chartered Engineer	7
		BSc (Hons) NDT	Incorporated Engineer	6
	EN473 Level 3	Foundation Degree Y2		5
				4
	EN473 Level 2	Foundation Degree Y1	Engineering Technician	3
	EN473 Level 1			
SCHOOL LEAVER OR OTHER ENTRY LEVEL				

Key elements of the programme include:

- distance learning options;
- recognition of certification within an academic programme;
- work-based learning;
- school leaver entry level;
- mature entry level for certificated personnel;
- links with professional engineer registration.

Features planned for the future include:

- recognition of academic awards within an EN473 certification programme;
- continuing professional development linked with certification renewal.

The qualification matrix below illustrates the principles of the programme.