

Information on Accreditation of UK Programmes

The Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES), through its education committee, the Committee of Heads of Environmental Sciences (CHES), offers professional accreditation to CHES members for Masters, Honours and Foundation Programmes. The scheme also covers HE provision within FE institutions.

Only CHES members may apply for accreditation. Honours Programmes should fall within the remit of the [Benchmark Statement](#) for Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies, and Masters Programmes should clearly align with this benchmark.

Benefits

By joining CHES and getting your programmes accredited, you will become part of an active community which champions environmental disciplines both academically and professionally. CHES is determined to maintain the flow of highly qualified and motivated people who can meet the challenges of the future. Students enrolled on IES/CHES accredited programmes are automatically eligible for Student Membership of the IES free of charge. The IES will send your department pre-paid postcards, making it easy for your students to register.

For the Department

- Quality assurance: expert input into programme design and external accreditation of your degree content
- Marketing: signals to potential students and employers that your department's teaching, learning and research is aligned with high quality professional development. Accreditation is reported in a dedicated column in the new Key Information Sheets on the unistats website
- Promotion of the programme through the IES and CHES websites and careers information
- Free listing of news, events and publications on the CHES website
- Association with CHES and the IES, influential organisations leading debate, dissemination and promotion of environmental science and sustainability

For Staff

- Networking opportunities nationally and internationally through CHES contacts, annual conference and other events
- Opportunities to engage with priority issues and influence national agendas
- Become involved in the work of partner organisations
- Bimonthly email update including funding opportunities, job vacancies and events
- Eligibility to sit on the Executive Committee with access to CHES meeting reports and minutes

For Students

- The ability to use StMIEnvSc up to the end of the calendar year in which they graduate, signalling their professional commitment to potential employers
- First steps on an environmental career path which could take them to Chartered Status
- Electronic copies of the latest edition of our journal, environmental SCIENTIST with opportunities to publish articles and a monthly e-newsletter
- Free or reduced entry to IES events
- Access to exclusive members-only content through the IES' online portal
- Upon graduation, automatic eligibility for Associate Membership, which is offered at half price for the first year

Application process

Applications for accreditation are made by submitting the completed application form, accompanied by the relevant current Programme Specification. **No additional documentation is required; any other materials or documents that are submitted will not be considered.**

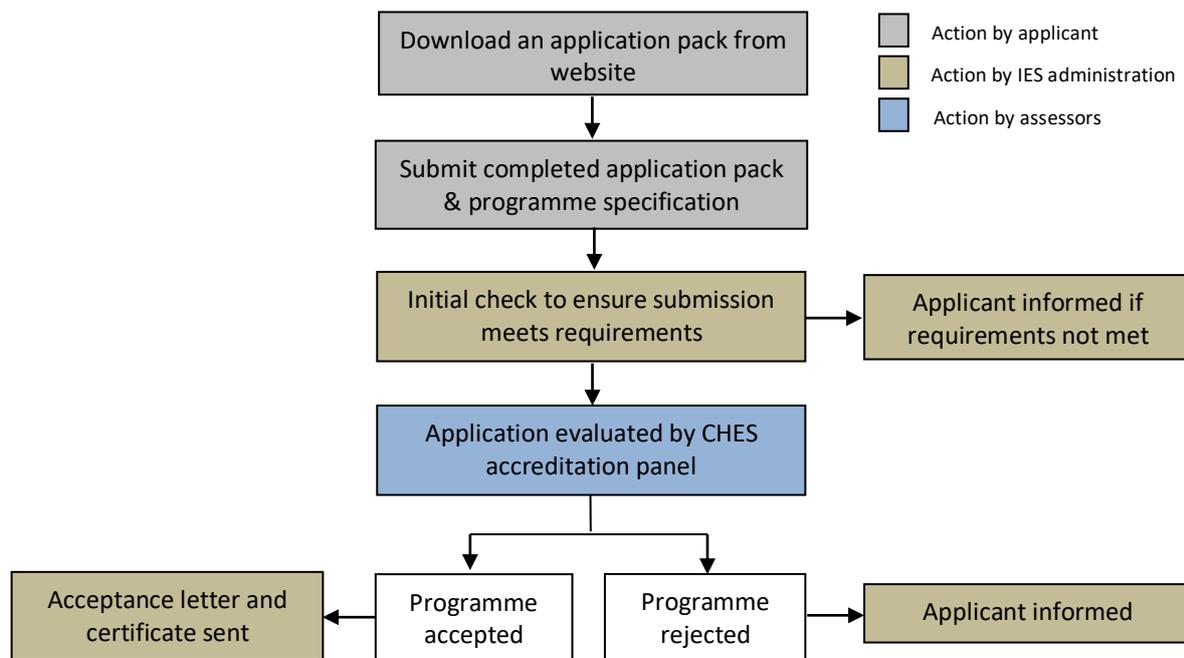
The IES/CHES scheme seeks to avoid duplication of quality management and enhancement processes and standards (i.e. Benchmark Statements, Programme Specifications and Codes of Practice). The application form therefore consists of:

- Section A *The Programme*; and
- Section B *Environmental Professional Practice*.

A strict word limit of 1,000 words for each of these two sections applies. A separate application form is required for each individual degree Programme. **Information provided in the application form must not duplicate the Programme Specification document; ‘cut-and-paste’ of text from programme specifications must be avoided.**

Applications will be reviewed by an Accreditation Panel of the IES and CHES Executives which meets up to four times a year. After approval, accreditation will normally last for five years. Post-accreditation, any significant programme changes need to be reported to CHES in a timely manner. Changes which require reaccreditation include, but are not limited to, the removal/reduction of field or laboratory work, changes to course content which exceed 25%, or the reduction of science content to less than 50% of the syllabus.

The impacts of the changes will then be considered by the Accreditation Panel in relation to the requirements of accreditation and a decision made regarding continuation of the accreditation for the remainder of the five-year period. If a resubmission is required and the programme accepted for accreditation, the accreditation will last for five years after approval of the resubmission.





Screening process: initial check to ensure submission meets requirements

Any application that does not meet the requirements as specified above will be returned to the applicant without full evaluation. For example: application forms that duplicate the programme specification and submissions that exceed the word limit will be returned.

Cost

The initial cost of accrediting a single programme is £500, with a charge of £200 for each additional programme. In cases where referral and a visit are necessary, there may be additional charges. After approval for accreditation, there will be a recurring Accredited Membership fee of £450 per annum to cover CHES membership and the administration costs for the production and supply of graduate certificates. This is a flat fee regardless of how many programmes you have accredited. Only members of CHES may apply for or hold accreditation. Accreditation will be withdrawn if CHES membership lapses.

Programmes with additional year variants

There is strong evidence that sandwich placements and general work experience enhance employability. Therefore, departments are encouraged to accredit additional year derivatives, along with their parent programmes, by providing respective course specifications. Accreditation of these variants is completely free of charge, with the accreditation fee covering all approved derivatives of the course.

This applies to all Year in Industry, Professional Placement, Year Abroad and Foundation Year courses. Please note, integrated masters, joint honours, and pathways resulting in different degree titles must be accredited separately.

Further information

Any further clarification required may be obtained from info@ches.org.uk or +44 (0)20 7601 1920.