



## Information on Accreditation of Overseas Programmes

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

Only CHES members may apply for accreditation. Programmes should fall within the remit of the [Benchmark Statement](#) for Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies or a similar National Benchmark standard. Masters programmes should clearly align with these benchmarks.

### 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 completely free of charge. The IES will send a code for your student to sign up online, 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.
- Promotion of the programme through the IES and CHES websites and careers information.
- Free listing of news, events and publications on the CHES website and in newsletter
- 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 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

As the first port of call, an overseas university should contact the IES office ([info@the-ies.org](mailto:info@the-ies.org)) to signal their intent to apply for accreditation. They will then be appointed a mentor to help guide them through the accreditation process. You will need to have joined as a CHES Member by this stage.

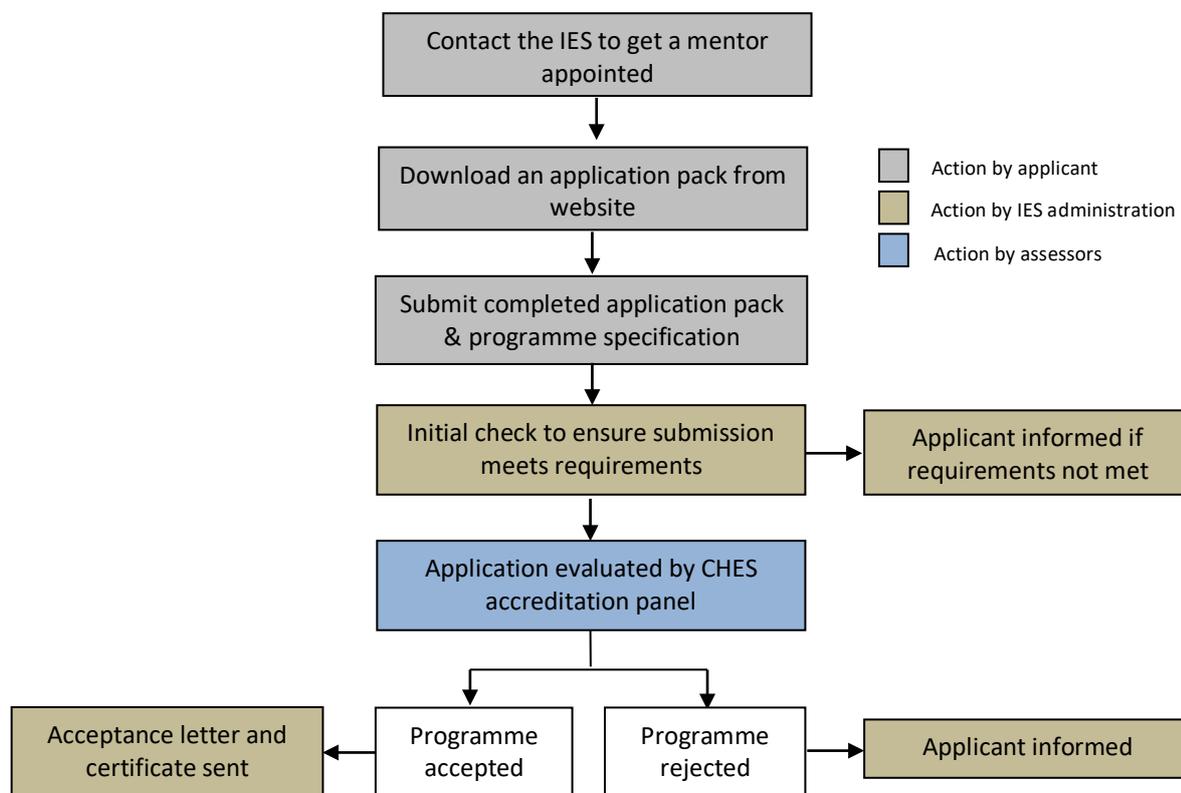
Applications for accreditation are made by submitting the completed application form accompanied by the relevant current Programme Specification, or its equivalent. **No additional documentation is required; any other materials or documents that are submitted will not be considered.**

The IES/CHES scheme seeks to avoid duplication of national 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 (or similar); ‘cut-and-paste’ of text from this document must be avoided in the application.**

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.



### 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 (or equivalent document) and submissions that exceed the word limit will be returned.



### **Cost**

The initial cost of accrediting a single Programme is £600, 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 is allowed to lapse.

Every five years, or sooner if there are significant changes, the course will need to be reaccredited. This is to ensure the programme still meets the requirements necessary for accreditation. Reaccreditation is charged at £200 per course.

### **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.

### **After accreditation**

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 lab work, changes to course content which exceed 25%, and 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.

### **Further information**

Further guidance may be obtained from [info@ches.org.uk](mailto:info@ches.org.uk) or +44 (0)20 7601 1920.