



# **Response to ASIIN's Updated B.Eng.(Hons.) Programmes Evaluation Report**

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## Background

Reference is being made to the Evaluation Report of the B.Eng. Programmes<sup>1</sup>, as prepared and revised by the ASIIN Consult and which was sent to the Chamber of Engineers (CoE) by the Board tal-Inġiniera on 27th December 2021.

The CoE has provided consistent and timely feedback to this review process throughout the past 15 months out of dedication to our mission to effectively represent the Engineering Profession in Malta. The CoE has done so while safeguarding its autonomous role and therefore the below statement accounts for the conclusions of ASIIN and does not discount from the organisation's recommendations throughout the process.

## Reactions

The CoE is hereunder presenting its views following ASIIN's updated evaluation:

1. The CoE acknowledges the progress registered through this evaluation progress whereby ASIIN have followed a logical path towards verifying their requirements and MCAST has shown cooperation throughout the process as followed by the reviewers.
2. The CoE respects the way forward recommended by ASIIN and agrees with the experts' recommendations as stated in Chapters F and L of the evaluation report which are to be highly considered and fulfilled by MCAST in the medium term to sustain the quality of the programmes. The following comments on key recommendations are made:
  - The ASIIN consult recommends that the specialised streams of the respective mechanical and electrical programmes are integrated into one (i.e. from 4 courses to 2 courses) to improve the allocation of resources. The CoE also agrees and acknowledges the statements by MCAST on the will to do so.
  - The ASIIN consult recommends that appropriate measures are taken to facilitate a more balanced distribution of teaching load and provide more opportunities for lecturers to pursue scientific and research developments. The CoE highlights the importance of such recommendation as more time allocated for research and academic development will benefit the student and the quality of the programmes.
  - The ASIIN consult also recommends enlarging the student's skills and competences with respect to social, legal and ethical aspects of the engineering profession. The CoE agrees that such non-technical subjects serve as additional tools which prepare the engineer to operate effectively as a professional in society.

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<sup>1</sup> Reference is made to the revision of 12-DEC-2021 of the *Evaluation Report of MCAST Bachelors of Engineering programmes (Control Engineering, Electronics Engineering, Mechanical Engineering (Plant) and Mechanical Engineering (Manufacturing))*.



3. The CoE further underlines ASIIN's statement that their approval stands with a final review in 2022 as regards the study results of the New Bachelor (hons) Engineering programmes as well as the individual performance of graduates who are expected to complete the programmes by July 2022. This final review will be considered a crucial component of the process for ASIIN to confirm the review conclusions to date and determine review completeness.
4. The CoE anticipates that the final review in 2022 will consist of a review of graduate final year examinations (e.g. exam papers, exam conditions and samples of completed scripts) as well as sample Bachelor dissertations as part of the assessment of individual graduate performance. The criteria for this final review step should be ideally made clear with all stakeholders in this process.

## Conclusive Remarks

Throughout this review process, the CoE has sought to assist and provide professional input to stakeholders which complements the professional approach taken by the ASIIN consult. The CoE respects the position of ASIIN with respect to the approval of the MCAST New Bachelor Programmes with the reservation of a final review to be held in 2022.

Following the conclusion of ASIIN's evaluation report of the new B.Eng Programmes, the CoE solicits the publication of the report. Transparency and dissemination within the engineering profession community is considered a key requirement for the success of this review process.

In practice, the CoE has taken an active role to has contribute in this review process of engineering degree programmes which are meant to qualify graduates for the engineering warrant. Such engineering programmes are to continue sustaining themselves through continuous improvement and quality assurance. The engineering profession advocates **only** the highest standards.