Gaining the right type of experience depends on the opportunities available within your role. If you are nearing the end of your university course, or have recently graduated and started work within an engineering role and want to gain professional registration then you can start planning the development you need to achieve your goals. Think about what you will have to do, what resources you will need and who can help you. Sharing your goals with a line manager or mentor means that they can offer help and guidance and maintain your motivation while keeping your goals realistic. If you don't have a mentor then the IET offer a mentoring service that might be able to support you.

Let the IET know you are working toward professional registration and receive regular support and information as you undertake initial professional development. You may do this via the IET’s online professional development system Career Manager www.theiet.org/career-manager or by downloading form RPD at www.theiet.org/ipd.

Following the structured approach to professional development by planning and then reflecting on these activities will enable you to gain the relevant knowledge and skills. Recording these activities as you do them will make it easier to build an application when you are ready to apply.

**Collect evidence of your competence and present it effectively**

To gain professional registration you should undertake structured professional development to ensure you get the appropriate exposure and experience to gain the right combination of knowledge, skills and attitude that mean you are competent.

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**The professional development cycle**

**Planning**
- Think about your goals - short, medium and long-term;
- Look at what you need to do to meet your short term goals;
- Prioritise and establish time frames;
- Set objectives and make them SMART;
- Set a date when you will achieve your plan.

**Doing**
- Create an action plan for each of your goals;
- Find a work method that suits you;
- Dedicate some time to make it happen;
- Gain support from colleagues, friends and the IET.

**Reviewing**
- Review your action plan and portfolio of evidence;
- Have you achieved each objective, what is working and what needs improvement;
- Be honest with yourself;
- Update your ‘long-term’ goals regularly;
- Plan again.

**Recording**
- Keep a record of all your learning;
- Review your learning regularly to ensure it is relevant;
- Link your learning to recognise competences;
- Collect evidence to demonstrate competence;
- Reflect on your learning to identify how it can be applied in your daily activities.

[www.theiet.org/profreg]
Professional development is a key tool in building and maintaining your professional competence. When you have achieved a goal, assess it against the competence statements for professional registration and see whether or not you have fully demonstrated the competence level required.

There are many different types of activity that can help you develop competence through both experience gained in work and those gained outside work e.g. volunteer roles.

You may need to provide evidence of your competence, such as project plans, proposals, presentations, technical drawings or employer assessments/testaments to support your professional registration. These can be recorded in a portfolio of evidence or referenced in your Career Manager records.

If you have any queries regarding your professional development, we will be happy to help.

Contact us on:
+ 44 (0)1438 767356 or at profdev@theiet.org