

Endorsement Guidance

Academic Programmes

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Introduction

In recent years, the nuclear industry has experienced a renaissance, with significant investment and the rise of innovative technologies. This renewed momentum has created some of the most dynamic and rewarding career opportunities available today, increasing the demand for skilled and knowledgeable graduates of all levels and with a variety of skillsets.

Securing NI Endorsement for your academic programme demonstrates that your graduates* are equipped with essential nuclear awareness and elevates your institution's standing within the sector.

The application process is clear and straightforward - and our dedicated team is here to support you every step of the way.

** Where we refer to graduates in these guidelines, we mean those which have completed a programme at any level.*

What is NI Endorsement?

NI Endorsement recognises academic programmes that provide a solid foundation for a professional career in the nuclear industry. Based around the knowledge and understanding underpinning the Nuclear Professionalism Standard®, it identifies programmes that offer an engaging and effective introduction to the nuclear sector, showcasing your programme's ability to develop students' understanding of the industry, and the unique responsibilities and expectations of working in a nuclear environment.

Why apply?

Gaining NI Endorsement brings a range of valuable benefits for both your institution and your students:

- Sector Recognition**
 It is an independent mark of quality that confirms your programme(s) delivers the educational requirements of the **Nuclear Professionalism Standard®** - a benchmark developed by the nuclear sector for the sector. It validates your programme's credibility in preparing graduates who are 'nuclear-ready', giving your students a competitive edge in the job market.
- Pathway to Professional Qualifications**
 Graduates from an endorsed programme will have acquired foundational knowledge and understanding that leads to professional recognition in the nuclear industry. This includes professional membership and professional registration offered through the Nuclear Institute.
- Stronger Industry Connections**
 NI Endorsement helps your institution build closer links with the nuclear sector, enhances the relevance of your programme and create enriched learning opportunities for students - as well as valuable career pathways for graduates.
- Elevated Profile**
 An endorsed programme stands out. You'll be entitled to use the **NI Endorsed** logo against the programme(s) that are endorsed, including on your website, in course materials, and promotional content. In addition, your programme(s) will be included in the NI web listing of programmes, courses, and organisations that have received endorsement or recognition.

What types of programmes can be endorsed?

We welcome applications from any programme that clearly integrates nuclear sector input and successfully delivers the underpinning knowledge and understanding defined in our Endorsement Criteria.

We are able to consider:

- **Programmes at any Level of the National Qualifications Framework**
From entry-level diplomas to postgraduate degrees, if your course aligns with our standards, it's eligible for consideration.
- **Discipline-Based Programmes with a Nuclear Focus**
Programmes rooted in broader disciplines (e.g., mechanical or electrical engineering) may also qualify - provided there is clear evidence of nuclear content within teaching, projects, and assignments.

In all cases, the nuclear-specific content should be embedded at a level appropriate to the qualification and aligned with the expectations of the types of roles your graduates will take up when they enter the nuclear workforce.

Other Endorsement or Recognition options

We also offer tailored options for:

- Endorsement of **in-house company training programmes**
- Recognition of **short courses and specialist training** that focus on specific areas or technical skills that contribute to nuclear knowledge and understanding

Please contact us to discuss which option is best suited to your programme.

What is the application process?

1	Become an Academic Partner	If your institution is not already an NI Academic Partner, we would actively encourage you to join. Academic Partner membership gives you a range of benefits including free membership for your students for the duration of their studies with access to all the benefits of membership NI offers, and two complementary Associate memberships for staff. More information about Academic Partner membership can be found on the NI website.
2	Submit the NI Endorsement Application Form	Download the NI Academic Programme Endorsement application form from the NI website; please ensure that you complete the application form in full, with any supporting evidence requested.
3	Application Review by the Endorsement and Recognition Panel (ERP)	Once submitted, your application will undergo an initial check by NI staff before being reviewed by the NI Endorsement and Recognition Panel (ERP) after which the Panel may request additional information.

		<p>A review meeting will be arranged with relevant members of staff to discuss your application via an online meeting on Teams.</p> <p>After the review, the Panel will send you a short report with their recommendations which you will be asked to verify for factual accuracy.</p>
4	Recommendation to NI's Membership Committee	The Panel's report will be presented at the next meeting of the NI's Membership Committee for a final decision.
5	Outcome	You will receive a formal letter confirming the Committee's decision. If your application is successful, this will include details of the endorsement period, any applicable conditions, and further recommendations if relevant.

We will endorse your programme for a period of between 3-5 years. However, we may grant a shorter endorsement period or give endorsement subject to specific conditions if we identify any areas where further development to your programme is needed.

We may provide recommendations aimed at enhancing your programme and improving the student experience. Whilst these are not mandatory, we would encourage you to consider them. We may request a direct response to the NI on these points or revisit them when endorsement is due for renewal.

If the Committee decides not to grant you endorsement at this time, the decision letter will outline the reasons for this outcome and provide guidance on potential next steps should you wish to wish to further develop your programme and reapply in the future.

What we look for in the endorsement process

The application form provides detailed guidance on the information required, but at its core, the endorsement process is about confirming that your programme offers students an effective and engaging introduction to the nuclear sector. We want to be assured that your programme is current, relevant, and provides a solid foundation for further professional development in the nuclear field.

The review focuses on two areas:

1. Nuclear Context, Industry Engagement and Nuclear-Related Activities

We will want to see that you have strong connections with the nuclear sector, such that you are in a position to deliver nuclear content in an engaging and informed way.

While the nature of each institution's engagement with the nuclear industry may differ, we would generally expect, at a minimum, the following forms of involvement:

- Engagement with an Industry Advisory Panel, which includes at least one professional with recent (within the last 5 years) direct nuclear experience
- Guest lectures delivered by nuclear sector professionals

You are also invited to provide any additional relevant information pertaining to other nuclear-related activities and as such your application will also be evaluated for any further points of relevance to the nuclear industry. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Teaching staff with relevant nuclear industry or research experience
- Direct links with companies operating in the nuclear sector
- Nuclear-related site visits to nuclear facilities or other sites
- Nuclear-focused placements or work experience opportunities
- Inclusion of nuclear-themed projects or assignments
- Teaching staff who are Members (MNUCL) or Fellow (FNUCL) of the Nuclear Institute
- Encouragement of student membership with the Nuclear Institute

2. Delivery of underpinning knowledge and understanding

Your programme must clearly demonstrate how it delivers the underpinning knowledge and understanding that supports the Nuclear Professionalism Standard®.

To achieve NI Endorsement, your programme should effectively address the following three core areas:

- Understanding of the nuclear industry and its role within society
- Understanding risk, nuclear safety, and security principles and practices
- Understanding of professional responsibility, commitment, and ethics

Indicative learning outcomes for each area are provided in the appendix as a general guide. While these learning outcomes offer a useful framework, we recognise that each programme is unique and as such we encourage institutions to interpret and respond to these outcomes in a way that reflects the specific context and focus of the programme.

Ultimately, we are seeking balanced coverage across all three areas, ensuring that learners gain a well-rounded introduction to the nuclear sector and its key principles. It is expected that some outcomes may be covered in greater depth than others, depending on the nature of the programme.

For Programmes Seeking Renewal

If your programme is already endorsed and you're applying for renewal, we will also look for evidence that students are aware of the Nuclear Institute and are actively engaging with it - for example, through membership. As a reminder, student membership is free for those enrolled in programmes offered by Academic Partners, for the duration of their studies.

About the Nuclear Professionalism Standard®

NI Endorsed programmes are built around the core knowledge and understanding set out in the Nuclear Professionalism Standard®. Developed through extensive collaboration across the nuclear sector, this standard provides a unified framework that defines the knowledge, skills, and behaviours required to operate professionally in nuclear - regardless of job role or work environment, whether on-site or in a supporting function.

The Nuclear Professionalism Standard® is a mandatory requirement for those seeking Professional Membership (MNUCL or FNUCL) of the Nuclear Institute. It is also essential for individuals pursuing professional qualifications such as Chartered Engineer, Chartered Scientist, or Chartered Environmentalist within a nuclear context.

Demonstrating this standard indicates that an individual understands the unique characteristics and responsibilities of working in the nuclear industry - responsibilities that are critical for maintaining public trust, safety, and sector excellence.

Appendix 1

Academic learning outcomes underpinning the Nuclear Professionalism Standard®.

These learning outcomes are appropriate for academic programmes in nuclear-related disciplines and are designed to meet the underpinning knowledge and understanding of the Nuclear Professionalism Standard® - focusing on critical understanding, application, reflection, and ethical awareness.

A. Understand the Nuclear Industry and Its Role in Society

At the end of your programme, students should be able to

A1	Demonstrate knowledge of the role of the nuclear industry within energy, defence, and health sectors contributing to power generation, national security and medical advancements.
A2	Demonstrate understanding of the principles of nuclear science, key technologies, processes, policies and terminology used in industry applications.
A3	Explain the purpose and principles of nuclear regulation, including relevant national and international regulatory and legal frameworks that apply to specific areas of nuclear operations.
A4	Discuss the economic and societal impacts of the use of nuclear technologies and communicate balanced arguments to both expert and non-expert audiences on its advantages and limitations, including how potential risks are typically mitigated.

B. Understand Risk, Nuclear Safety, and Security Principles and Practices

At the end of your programme, students should be able to

B1	Demonstrate knowledge of the nature of safety and security risk in the nuclear industry, drawing on historical and contemporary examples – and describe contributing factors and lessons learned from key incidents.
B2	Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of radiation protection, safeguards, and the control of radioactive materials; explain radiation exposure risks and the importance of control measures and decontamination procedures.
B3	Describe how risk is managed within nuclear operations and how people and property are protected, including how organisations ensure a strong safety and security culture and the attitudes and behaviours that support a safe and secure working environment, such as effective communication, vigilance, and personal accountability and demonstrate an understanding of cybersecurity (including threats from malicious acts), AI, data security, physical security, and personnel security, and how these measures are applied to protect nuclear assets.
B4	Demonstrate an understanding of what is meant by human and organisational factors and how these contribute to safety incidents; describe key safety/security concepts such as ALARP, error prevention, PPE and safe systems of work, and describe how they are applied in nuclear operations.

C. Understand Professional Responsibility, Commitment and Ethics

At the end of your programme, students should be able to

C1	Explain the purpose of codes of conduct with examples and demonstrate an understanding of conflicts of interest and how to appropriately identify and respond to ethical dilemmas within the context of nuclear work.
C2	Describe the impact of nuclear work on ecosystems and communities and explain how the nuclear industry and its professionals can reduce and mitigate environmental impacts and support sustainable practices.

Terms and Conditions for the NI Endorsement of Academic Programmes

These Terms and Conditions govern the relationship between the Nuclear Institute (NI) and the Provider throughout the endorsement process and the period of endorsement. By applying for endorsement, Providers agree to comply with these Terms and Conditions.

The NI reserves the right to update these Terms and Conditions at any time. Changes will take effect seven days after being published on the NI website or immediately upon written notification to the Provider. Continued participation after this period will be considered acceptance of the updated Terms and Conditions.

The NI also reserves the right to suspend or withdraw endorsement without notice if a Provider breaches these Terms and Conditions.

Definitions

Term: The period for which NI Endorsement is granted, as specified in the Endorsement Confirmation Letter.

Provider: A college, higher education institution, or other organisation delivering an academic programme for which it has obtained or is seeking NI Endorsement.

Failure by the NI to enforce any provision of these Terms and Conditions does not constitute a waiver of any rights.

General Requirements

1. Academic Partner Status:

We would actively encourage you to join as an NI Academic Partner if your institute is not already. Academic Partner membership gives you a range of benefits including free membership for your students for the duration of their studies with access to all the benefits of membership NI offers, and two complementary Associate memberships for staff.

Academic Partners must maintain their membership status with the Nuclear Institute (NI) for the full term of Endorsement. Academic Partner membership is subject to an annual fee.

2. Programme-Specific Endorsement:

Endorsement applies only to the specific programme(s) identified in the Endorsement Decision Letter. It does not imply endorsement of the wider department, institution, or any other activities.

3. Honest Representation:

All promotional materials and statements regarding the Endorsed programme must be legal, honest, accurate, and not misleading.

4. Feedback and Complaints Process:

Providers must have an appropriate system for managing feedback, complaints, and disputes by their students. Responses must be proportionate and address concerns raised by students.

5. No Guarantee of Quality:

While the NI assesses programmes for endorsement, it does not guarantee the quality,

performance, or outcomes of an Endorsed programme. The NI accepts no liability for any direct, indirect, or consequential losses arising from reliance on an Endorsed programme or services offered by Providers.

6. Programme Liaison:

Providers must designate a staff member (typically the programme leader or coordinator) as the main point of contact with the NI.

Applying for Endorsement

7. Fees:

Application and renewal fees for endorsement may apply and are non-transferable and non-refundable. Current fees are published on the NI website.

8. Application Requirements:

Applications must be complete and include all required documentation. The NI reserves the right to reject or terminate an application if:

- The application is incomplete.
- Information provided is false or misleading; or
- Additional information requested is not provided within a reasonable timeframe.

9. False or Misleading Information:

The NI may terminate or suspend endorsement if any information provided is found to be false or misleading.

10. Communication of Endorsement Status:

If endorsement is terminated, expires without renewal, or is not renewed by mutual decision, the Provider is responsible for promptly informing students and updating all materials (including websites and promotional materials) to reflect the change.

11. Assessment Process:

Applications are reviewed by NI staff and referred to the Endorsement and Recognition Panel (ERP). The Panel's recommendations are subject to approval by NI's Membership Committee, which may:

- Grant Endorsement for a period of between 3–5 years.
- Grant Endorsement subject to specific conditions within a defined timeframe.
- Request further information; or
- Reject the application, providing reasons and guidance for reapplication.

The Committee may also provide non-binding recommendations to support programme improvement.

12. Term of Endorsement:

The academic years covered by Endorsement will be specified in the Endorsement Decision Letter.

13. Reapplication Fees:

If an application is rejected, a new fee may apply for any subsequent reapplication.

Programme Changes

- **Notification of Changes:**

While programme evolution is expected as the industry advances, significant changes - such as those that:

- Affect learning outcomes; or
- Impact delivery of an authentic introduction to the nuclear sector (e.g., staff expertise or industry engagement)

must be notified to the NI in writing.

Renewal of Endorsement

- **Renewal Responsibility:**
Providers are responsible for applying for renewal of Endorsement before the current Term expires. To ensure continuity, renewal applications should be submitted at least three months before the current Term ends.