



Membership with Professional Institutions

Entry to membership for professional institutions in Hong Kong is mostly targeted towards degree holders and equivalent professional qualifications. This requires a combination of examination and relevant administrative or technical experience. Members are also required to keep themselves constantly up to date through involvement in lifelong learning.

The members of professional institutions are governed by a code of professional conduct that is unique to each institution. The objective of the code of professional conduct is to promote the standard of professional conduct, high ethical standards and self discipline required of every member of an institute for the benefit of the public.

The code of professional conduct sets out the guiding principles for conduct of business by regulated intermediaries. It ensures that all regulated persons are fit and proper in relation to the manner in which they conduct the business for which they are licensed.

A member can be reprimanded, suspended or expelled from a professional body if his conduct is found to contravene the code or otherwise inconsistent with his status as a member or derogatory to his profession character.

Membership with professional institutions is usually divided into several classes, each with its own privileges and benefits, depending on the size of the organisation. For example, members of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers are divided into student members, graduate members, associate members, ordinary members and fellowship. Application for membership for the various classes depends on a member's educational qualification, experience and assessment.

In general, an applicant who applies for membership at a professional institution in Hong Kong has to be 21 years old; be of good character and is a fit and proper person to conduct the business for which they are licensed; and completed the respective institute's professional examinations.

