

# Deepening in the approach and quality criteria of the USC Chemical Engineering programmes following IchemE guiding principles

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## Why IchemE accreditation?

- ❑ It provides a comparative evaluation of academic programmes against *internationally recognized high standards*.
- ❑ IChemE has accredited programmes worldwide for more than 50 years and currently *accredits more than 200 programmes*.
- ❑ It is a rigorous process that uses panels of three *experienced and trained chemical engineering professionals* from industry and academia.
- ❑ It is *modern and innovative*: concepts of sustainability, ethics, safety, health, environment, economy, ... are expected.
- ❑ The programs are evaluated based on the *learning outcomes achieved by the students*.
- ❑ It is based in a philosophy of *continuous improvement* encouraging new and innovative approaches.

# The IchemE accreditation

Academic formation for Chartered Chemical Engineer

<i>Path</i> \ <i>Qualification</i>			
1	M-Standard degree		
2	B-Standard degree	+	F-Standard degree
3	B-Standard degree	+	Further learning to Masters level

**CHARTERED  
CHEMICAL  
ENGINEER  
(MIChemE)**

The highest international qualification for professional chemical engineers

**INCORPORATED  
CHEMICAL ENGINEER  
(AMIChemE)**

Programme type	Years of study	IChemE credits
D-Standard	2	120
B-Standard	3	180
M-Standard	4	240
F-Standard	1.5	90

# Learning Outcome areas

## IchemE minimum credit guide

	Minimum credit			
<i>Accreditation standard</i>	<i>M-Standard</i>	<i>B-Standard</i>	<i>F-Standard</i>	<i>D-Standard</i>
Underpinning Mathematics, Science and Associated Engineering <sup>2</sup>	Appropriate	Appropriate		Appropriate
Core Chemical Engineering <sup>3</sup>	≥85	≥85		60
Chemical Engineering Practice <sup>3</sup>	≥10	≥10		10
Chemical Engineering Design Practice & Design Projects <sup>3</sup>	≥10	≥10		10
Embedded learning <sup>4</sup>	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient
Advanced Chemical Engineering (Depth) <sup>3</sup>	≥10		≥10	
Advanced Chemical Engineering (Breadth) <sup>3</sup>	≥10		≥10	
Advanced Chemical Engineering (Practice) <sup>3</sup>	≥10		≥10	
Advanced Chemical Engineering (Design) <sup>3</sup>	≥5		≥5	
Total minimum specified content	175	115	60	80
Complementary topics <sup>5</sup>	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance

Students must achieve the levels in these topics necessary to understand and achieve all of the chemical engineering outcomes

Aspects of *sustainability, safety, health and environment* and, where possible *ethics*, along with *general transferable skills* must be included

Other science/technology or non-chemical engineering subjects such as business or languages

### *BSc in Chemical Engineering*

The degree is divided into four courses, with a total of **240 ECTS** (credit=ECTS, 1 ECTS per 25 h of study), composed by 222 compulsory ECTS and 18 elective ones.

Key aspects:

- ☐ Teaching in English, including the compulsory subject of Technical English (4.5 ECTS) as well as the possibility to be enrolled in 8-10 courses taught in English during the 4 years of the degree
- ☐ For the 18 optional credits, 36 credits are offered with two specializations: Chemical and Biochemical Processes and Environmental Technologies
- ☐ Professional Classroom (6.0 ECTS) aimed at developing transversal skills directly related to the labor market
- ☐ Final project (24.0 ECTS)

### *MSc in Chemical & Bioprocess Engineering*

The curriculum consists of five modules accounting for **90 ECTS**: Bioprocesses (12 ECTS), Holistic Design of Processes (18 ECTS), Business Management (15 ECTS), Research and Development (15 ECTS) and Industrial Internship & Master Thesis (30 ECTS). Modules 1-3 and 5 are mandatory whereas Module 4 has 12 elective ECTS.

#### Key aspects:

- ☐ Allows graduates to develop the profession of Chemical Engineering (BOE No. 187 of August 18, 2009)
- ☐ Multidisciplinary training (Engineering, Biology, Economics, Mathematics, Psychology) combining theoretical and practical teaching
- ☐ Compulsory internships in companies (12 ECTS)
- ☐ ERASMUS programme allows our students to choose among a large number of universities in Europe (20 agreements-30 places)
- ☐ Path to access the PhD program in Chemical and Environmental Engineering at the USC

The Bachelor in Chemical Engineering attained the B-standard qualification and the Master in Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering the F-standard qualification for the period 2018-2022



**Chartered Chemical Engineer**



*SWOT  
analysis of  
IchemE  
accreditation*

	Positive	Negative
Internal	<p><i>Strengths</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High motivation and engagement of the academic staff</li> <li>Collaboration among multidisciplinary areas</li> <li>Outstanding student and graduate involvement</li> <li>Outstanding regional industry involvement</li> <li>USC support</li> </ul>	<p><i>Weaknesses</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased workload</li> <li>Resistance to changes</li> <li>Lack of awareness on continuous quality improvement</li> </ul>
External	<p><i>Opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of areas for improvement</li> <li>Programmes academically sound and industrially relevant</li> <li>Graduates with high standard skills</li> <li>Professional qualification for graduates</li> <li>Promotion of the accreditation status of the programmes publicly</li> <li>Public recognition</li> </ul>	<p><i>Threats</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding cuts</li> <li>Lack of incentives for quality improvement</li> <li>Difficulties in recruitment and/or promotion of the academic staff</li> <li>Lack of interest among students in pursuing chemical engineering programmes</li> </ul>



## *IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS*

### DEVELOPED OR UNDER DEVELOPMENT

#### OBJECTIVE



CONTINUOUS  
IMPROVEMENT



ACCREDITATION  
RENEWAL

- ☐ Creation of 2 double degrees with the University of Concepción and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (Chile) (*Master*)
- ☐ ERASMUS mobility enhancement (*Master*)
- ☐ Creation of an External Advisory Committee (*Master*)
- ☐ Participation of lecturers from companies (*Master*)
- ☐ Proposal for an activity related to technology transfer and patents (*Master*)
- ☐ Improvement of subject coordination (*Bachelor*)
- ☐ Rubric for Master thesis (*Master*)
- ☐ Improvement of the rubric for the degree final project (*Bachelor*)
- ☐ Development of information skills (*Bachelor*)
- ☐ Improvement of safety signaling in laboratories and safety information for students (*Bachelor and Master*)
- ☐ Creation of informative materials (videos, posters) (*Bachelor and Master*)
- ☐ Renewal of the degrees's website (*Bachelor and Master*)
- ☐ Increase new entry woman in degrees (*Bachelor*)

*Internationalization*

*Collaboration  
of companies*

*Learning  
outcomes*

*Degree  
promotion*

*Thank you very much  
for your attention*