



Institution of Railway Signal Engineers

# **IRSE Professional Examination**

---

## **REGULATIONS**

### **AUTHORISATION AND REVISIONS**

Version v.1.5 March 2013

Version v.1.6 March 2016

Version v.1.7 February 2017

Version v.1.8 June 2018

---

## INTRODUCTION

These regulations ensure that all candidates are given the same opportunities, and that the examinations will be conducted in a fair manner.

### 1. Examination Requirements

1.1 The examination set by the Institution consists of seven modules as detailed below:

Module 1 Safety of Railway Signalling and Communications (Compulsory)

Module 2 Signalling the Layout

Module 3 Signalling Principles

Module 4 Communications Principles

Module 5 Signalling and Control Equipment, Applications Engineering

Module 6 Communications Equipment, Applications Engineering

Module 7 Systems, Management and Engineering

Full details of the syllabus for each Module are given in the examination syllabus.

1.2 Candidates must obtain a pass in Module 1 and, in addition, pass three of the remaining six modules. There is no restriction on the order in which the modules can be taken.

1.3 Candidates may take from one to four modules on one day and each of them is of 1½ hours' duration.

### 2. Exemptions

2.1 Exemptions from individual modules (except Module 1) may be granted in cases where the Council is satisfied that the candidate has passed an examination by a recognised body which substantially covers the syllabus of that specific module. (See also *'Information for Students'*)

2.2 Candidates must provide a copy of the syllabus of the relevant sections of the qualification; together with their academic transcript which details their pass marks by subject area. A summary sheet must also be provided which fully cross-references the qualification against the IRSE Examination module for which they are claiming exemption.

2.3 The decision is final and no further correspondence will be entered into.

### 3. Educational Standard

3.1 Candidates who wish to sit for the IRSE Professional Examination are advised that the academic level of the exam is equivalent to an ordinary degree.

3.2 Candidates are advised that they should be fully prepared to sit for an examination of this academic standard before entering the examination. Preparation should include:

- Reading the 'Information for Students' document and the 'Examination Syllabus'
- Studying the suggested 'Reading List'
- Attending IRSE Technical lectures, seminars and conferences
- Reading IRSE News
- Studying the published Sample Answers
- Reading past IRSE Examination Review reports
- Practising questions from past examination papers
- Attending Study Groups where available

#### **4. Entry to Examination**

4.1 Candidates must apply for entry to the examination via IRSE's website ([www.irse.org](http://www.irse.org)).

4.2 Candidates must be fully paid-up members of the Institution and their applications will not be accepted if they are in arrears.

4.3 Applications must be made online by **30 June** of the year in which the candidate requires to be examined. Unfortunately, applications received after this date cannot be processed.

#### **5. Date and Place of Examination**

5.1 The Examination is held in October each year and, where practical, every effort is made to arrange examination centres convenient to the majority of candidates.

5.2 Candidates will be advised of the place at which they will be examined by the beginning of September, or as soon as possible thereafter.

5.3 The invigilator's decision will be final regarding entrance to the examination on the day (eg in cases of lateness) and allowable equipment.  
(See 'Information for Students' for detail)

#### **6. Examination Fees**

6.1 A fee of £87, which includes study materials, is charged for each module and is paid via credit or debit card.

6.2 Fees will not be reimbursed to any candidate who subsequently withdraws their application or fails in any part of the examination. Candidates will be required to pay the full fee for any subsequent entry.

6.3 An exception may be made if the candidate is ill, provided that a doctor's certificate is sent to IRSE headquarters at the time of examination, or in such other special circumstances as the Council may approve.

#### **7. Results of Examination**

7.1 Each candidate will be advised of the result by IRSE headquarters, usually at the end of December of the year of sitting the examination, or as soon as possible thereafter.

7.2 The Examination Committee's decision is final and they will not enter into any correspondence regarding the marks gained by a candidate or the number of marks required for a pass.

7.3 Should there be any exceptional concerns about the result obtained, an appeal may be made by writing to the Membership and Registration Manager. This must be received by **30 April**. Appeals, which must include appropriate grounds, will only be considered at the discretion of the Council.

7.4 A certificate will be awarded to candidates who pass at least four modules including Module 1.

7.5 A candidate will only be deemed to have passed the IRSE Professional Examination when the requirements of 1.2 have been met.

## **8. Further Information**

Further information about the examination, previous exam papers, examination support materials, and study groups may be obtained from IRSE headquarter or from the website ([www.irse.org](http://www.irse.org)).