IRSE Membership Categories

Affiliate
This category of membership is open to those currently on a course of full-time education relevant to the profession, or students and others undertaking initial training which will lead to an appointment within the signalling or telecommunications industry. Alternatively, those engaged in, connected with, or interested in the profession, or actively involved in its promotion, development and practice, but who may not have a specific technical background, qualifications or experience, will also be eligible to apply for Affiliate.

Accredited Technician
You will need to demonstrate that you are competent in signalling or telecommunications engineering techniques through a competency assessment scheme such as the IRSE licensing scheme or have sufficient training and experience that is equivalent.

Associate Member
This grade is for engineers who have normally completed a recognised S&T engineering training scheme and passed the IRSE’s examination.

Fellow and Member
The normal route is through applicants possessing academic/technical qualifications (at Chartered or Incorporated Engineer or equivalent outside the UK), having been trained in signalling and/or telecommunications engineering or associated subjects and having a number of years responsible experience or alternatively by passing the IRSE’s professional examination.

Companion
This grade is for persons who by their association with the profession or through their occupation of a position of eminence wish to further the objectives of the IRSE. Companions are normally admitted by recommendation of the IRSE Council.

For further information on membership of the IRSE please contact one of the following 2016 committee members:

Sean Burns—sean.burns@irishrail.ie
Peter Cuffe—pcuffe@gmail.com
Colin McVea—colin.mcvea@translink.co.uk
Huw Bates—huw.bates@translink.co.uk
Bernard Kernan—bernard.kernan@tii.ie
Michael Murphy—michael.murphy@rivval.com
Shane O’Duffy—shaneoduffy@crr.ie
Mark Neilan—mark.neilan@irishrail.ie
The IRSE

The IRSE is the professional institution for all those engaged in, or associated with, railway signalling and telecommunications, train control, traffic management and allied professions.

The IRSE has its headquarters in London, UK. It is active worldwide, with 50% of its membership outside the UK. The Institution aims to advance the science and practice of train control and communications engineering within the industry and to maintain high standards of knowledge and competence within the profession. The overriding purpose in doing this is for the public benefit, to help ensure the safe and efficient movement of people and freight by rail.

Irish Section

The Irish section of the institution was formed in December 2014. The objectives in forming a local section was to promote signalling development, education and knowledge across the various railway sectors of both Northern and Southern Ireland.

The section provides a wide range of technical papers, technical visits, presentations, mentoring, examination facilitation and social events all geared towards achievement of its core objectives.

Membership

Membership of the IRSE has many benefits. There are several grades of membership, some requiring demonstration of competency and others providing for less formal membership.

Details of IRSE membership can be obtained from any committee member of the IRSE Irish Section, as listed on the back page.

Technical Meetings/Visits

There are generally several technical meetings, a technical visit and a technical weekend planned each year. The technical meetings are held in different locations throughout the country to facilitate access for all members. At each technical meeting there is a range of papers covering a particular theme. The technical weekend is normally planned with additional activities provided for member partners and guests.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting is normally held in the first quarter each year and is combined with a technical Meeting. Officers and committee members are elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Social/Networking

As well as providing a technical forum for the development and education of members the section recognises that the exchange of ideas and information is critical both to the industry and to an individual's own career success. An aspect of meetings is an opportunity to "network" with fellow professionals and events such as the annual dinner and weekend visits provide a further social aspect.

IRSE exam

The IRSE professional examination provides one of the main routes to corporate membership of the Institution. It is designed to test candidates' knowledge of railway signal and telecommunications principles and practices and is modular in nature, to permit students to sit examinations that are relevant to their particular subject specialism and experience. The examination is held in early October and the Irish section looks to assist students with study groups, learning sessions and mentoring towards the examinations.

The modules covered are:-
Module 1: Safety of Railway Signalling and Communications (Compulsory module)
Module 2: Signalling the Layout
Module 3: Signalling Principles
Module 4: Communications Principles
Module 5: Signalling & Control Equipment, Applications Engineering
Module 6: Communications Equipment, Applications Engineering
Module 7: Systems, Management & Engineering

Continuing Professional Development and Lifelong Learning

Continuing professional development is a key activity of the IRSE. Members are encouraged and helped to keep abreast of new developments in science and engineering relevant to their field of professional activity with, not only events provided by the Irish section but through a range of events undertaken worldwide.

International Convention

There is an international convention each year. The International Convention is usually a five-day meeting with a combination of technical papers and extensive site visits. The international meetings are organised by the IRSE UK.

IRSE News

The main printed communications medium is the IRSE News. This magazine is published ten times a year and is airmailed from the UK. Members can keep up to date with activities around the world through this magazine.

Engineering Council registration

As a Professional Engineering Institution of the Engineering Council, the IRSE can register its suitably qualified members in the grades of Chartered Engineer (CEng), Incorporated Engineer (IEng) and Engineering Technician (EngTech).

Why Register as an Engineer or Technician

Registration with the Engineering Council sets engineers apart from those who are unregistered, and establishes their proven knowledge, understanding and competence.