

Hiring Electrical or Electronics Engineers from the United Kingdom

The engineering profession in the United Kingdom (U.K.) is unregulated. There are no licensing or registration requirements and the term “engineer” is not legally protected.

The Engineering Council oversees the profession, sets standards and licenses its member professional engineering institutions (PEIs) to grant professional titles. Registration with PEIs is voluntary, as is registration for a professional title with the council.

Who to target

- The best source to consult for talent is the appropriate PEI in a particular field. The PEI serving engineers in electrical disciplines is the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).
- Look for workers holding the following credentials, in order of preference: Member IET (MIET), Chartered Engineer (CEng), and Fellow members of IET (FIET). Regular members will have at least a bachelor’s degree, while the higher levels of membership require a master’s. Fellows may be awarded to members who have demonstrated superior individual responsibility, achievement and professionalism in engineering.
- European Engineer (EUR ING) is a pan-European professional title available to engineers who hold a bachelor’s or master’s degree (three to six years of post-secondary education). British engineers with a EUR ING and four or more years of post-secondary education are likely to meet the licensing requirements of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA).

Helpful information for recruiting in the U.K.

- The Engineering Council and the respective PEIs own the engineering titles they issue in the U.K., and their use is legally protected.
- In addition to the education and work experience requirements mentioned above, registration for the CEng title is competency-based and requires its holders to complete an oral assessment and meet other requirements.

- Because PEIs establish their own membership schemes and may or may not offer fellowship status—and registration for the CEng title is voluntary—there will be engineers who have the necessary qualifications but have opted not to register for a professional title.

Skill and knowledge gaps and other barriers

Canada has a mutual recognition agreement with the U.K. Internationally trained engineers who want to practice engineering or geoscience in Alberta must still be licensed by APEGA, which has numerous licensing requirements including the ability to work in English. For more information, see www.apega.ca.

Other resources

The Engineering Council or the IET may be willing to help employers with placing job ads. Contact information for the council is available at www.engc.org.uk/contact-us.aspx, and the IET’s contact information can be found at www.theiet.org/about/contacts. For complete information about the IET’s membership criteria, see www.theiet.org/membership/types.