

Investigation into the development of English and communication skills for the modern engineer: a research scheme

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ABSTRACT: Communication skills are essential for an engineer who aspires to carry out his/her professional practice on the global scene. Engineering communication skills basically constitute several core elements such as fluency in the English language and the fundamentals of visual communication. The process of the formation of a professional engineer may vary depending on the context that the educational process takes place in, ie whether English is learnt as the first language or a second/foreign language. However, apart from the English fluency component, the basis elements of communication skills may be the same. The paper endeavours to address several issues of concern, and propose a research programme to investigate those issues. This should provide researchers with comprehensive information concerning the status and quality of existing English and communication skills courses for engineers. A comparative study of courses available internationally in English and communications for engineering students will also be carried out under the project. The paramount objective of the paper is to elicit responses in order to enrich the research programme and its individual components.