This document is only to be used as a guide to help assist with putting the “best foot forward” for applications. At the end of the day, it is dependent on the assessor and preferences used by specific companies.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Power Academy is a unique partnership between industry and academia, established to address the looming skills shortage in power engineering through a combination of financial support and planned work placements.

When applying for scholarships, placements or graduate positions engineering companies tend to seek experience first. When experience is lacking, they usually choose degree type (based on the relevance of the degree to the job requirements: Chemical, Electrical, Mechanical, Civil etc) and then degree level:

BEng indicates someone who is a capable engineer who can deal with difficult engineering tasks.

MEng indicates someone in addition to BEng qualities, having the extra design and project management skills gained over the extra year. This degree also makes Chartership easier and faster to achieve.

You should note that the Power Academy Scholarship is usually dependent on you continuing on the same degree stream that you commenced your scholarship on.

2 RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

The hardest thing to convey during an application or an interview is any experience you may have. Most people do not realise that they have relevant experience already. University project and group work contains skills sought after in the engineering world:

- Problem solving skills
- Analysis of systems
- Group work
- Structured thinking
- Technical knowledge
- Design work
- Report writing

The next consideration is to take skills that you have acquired through any previous work or experience and show their relevance. Consider any previous jobs you have had (these don’t need to be engineering focused) and take what skills you have obtained highlighting the qualities employers might look for. These tend to be soft skills that make you more attractive as a candidate. Such skills include: team work, time management and communication skills. You can also highlight key traits such as a common sense approach and responsibility when involved with work or tasks.

The above sounds a bit “skills and experience” focused but they would also like to see another side to you; hobbies, interests and skills; the things that separate you from the bulk
of the applicants. When listing hobbies and skills it can be hard to distinguish you from other candidates, so what do you gain from them?

Another area that companies are interested in is future progression; usually personal development once you have obtained your degree. This can include working towards Incorporation or Chartership with an accrediting body. It is also useful to convey a positive desire to work in the power industry. Although the scholarship is of great financial benefit, the companies are looking for individuals who are career orientated. The end goal of this scheme for employers is the conversion of scholars to company graduates.

### 3 POWER ACADEMY COMPANIES

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<tr>
<th>Atkins</th>
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<td>BAE Systems</td>
<td>Rolls-Royce</td>
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<td>UKAEA</td>
<td>RWE Generation</td>
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<td>Mott MacDonald</td>
<td>SP Energy Networks</td>
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<td>Network Rail</td>
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The table above shows the current list of companies that offer scholarships during the 2019/20 intake. The companies range from Transmission Network Operators (TNOs) to Distribution Network Operators (DNOs), consultancies to manufacturers. When interviewing or indeed applying, you need to tailor your knowledge to what these companies (or specific divisions) do and what fields they operate in.

Knowing the company background and how they operate can influence your application but will also benefit you during any subsequent interviews.

The alternative to building up your experience slowly is to be more proactive. This involves gaining background knowledge of the companies you are interested in, attending networking events and communicating directly with the recruitment teams. For the IET Power Academy this can be done during the awareness days hosted at your university.