



# Chartered Civil Engineering Surveyor – designation assessment

February 2026

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# Introduction

The Chartered Civil Engineering Surveyor (CCES) designation is offered in partnership between the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (CICES).

## Eligibility

You are eligible for the designation if you are:

- a chartered member of RICS (MRICS or FRICS) and
- a full member of CICES (MCInstCES or FCInstCES) and
- have demonstrated one of the following competency routes as part of your initial assessment, either with RICS or CICES.

RICS route	CICES route
MRICS who qualified via the RICS Geospatial surveying pathway and have demonstrated the Engineering competency to Level 3.	MCInstCES who qualified via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Geospatial Engineering core with Engineering specialism or</li><li>• Geospatial Engineering core with Land specialism or</li><li>• Commercial Management core with Cost Engineering specialism or</li><li>• Commercial Management core with Quantity Surveying specialism.</li></ul>

If you qualified via another route, you are required to undertake the CCES designation assessment as described in this guide.

The first stage is a panel review of your written submission by a joint RICS/CICES assessor panel. The panel may award the designation or recommend a full interview.

# 1 Panel review

## Application

Your written submission to the assessor panel and it must include:

- academic and professional qualification record
- employment history, including relevant roles and responsibilities
- statement of experience, including work-based examples against the competency requirements for either the RICS route or CICES route (see Appendix A).

Your statement should provide the panel with multiple, real-life examples of your experience and training relevant to the competency requirements.

In addition to showing your abilities, the statement should provide the assessors with an overview of your training and experience, the work that you are doing and the levels you are working at.

## Outcome

You will receive your result within 20 working days of your written submission. If the panel determine the minimum competency requirements for the CCES designation have been demonstrated, you will be awarded the title. Alternatively, the panel may recommend a full assessment interview.

## Assessors

Your application will be assessed by a joint RICS/CICES panel of two assessors.

They are responsible for deciding if you have demonstrated the CCES competency requirements for your chosen route.

Assessor #1 is also responsible for managing contact with Assessor #2 to agree the outcome.

Assessor #1 will write the feedback report if the panel decide you must undertake the full assessment interview. This will be with input from Assessor #2.

If you are not successful at the interview stage, Assessor #1 will write the second feedback report, again with the input from Assessor #2.

## 2 Interview (if required)

This will include a further written submission. In addition to your original application, you must submit a case study and CPD record. You do not need to provide evidence for the RICS mandatory competencies (or CICES equivalent) as these were achieved as part of your initial route to entry.

### Case study

You must select a project that focuses on the competencies required, referencing your involvement in the project within the last three years.

Maximum word count: 1,500 words.

### CPD record

As a chartered surveyor, you are already required to record a minimum of 20 hours of CPD per year.

For the CCES designation assessment interview stage, you must provide a record of relevant CPD completed in the 12 months prior to assessment.

### Interview

The interview will last for up to 45 minutes and follow the structure below.

Assessor #1 – opening remarks and introductions	2–3 minutes
Case study presentation	10 minutes
Assessors' questions on presentation	10 minutes
Discussion on overall experience, focused on technical competencies and CPD record	20 minutes
Assessor #1 – closing remarks	2 minutes

While the panel will not specifically be assessing you on ethics, if the panel have any concerns relating to ethics and your conduct, this may be referred to RICS Regulation.

The interview will take place using video calling technology approved by RICS/CICES. Instructions on using the technology, including a tutorial and demonstration, are available separately. When you join the video call, Assessor #1 will welcome you and make introductions. Before the interview officially starts, they will check you are fit and well to proceed. After this, Assessor #1 will ask you to start your presentation.

Your interview must be held in a private and appropriate location. RICS/CICES staff or the assessment panel reserve the right to cancel your interview if this is not the case.

For example, interviews conducted in any form of transport or a location that may hinder the professionalism of the interview process would not be considered appropriate.

#### Plagiarism and the use of AI

All assessment submissions must be your own original work. Use of artificial intelligence (AI) software to generate content for submissions is not permitted.

Candidates may use tools to aid with spelling, grammar and word count.

Candidates who need specific support or who have identified needs should submit a reasonable adjustment application for any other form of technological aid approval.

Candidates **must not** use generative AI software (e.g. ChatGPT) in the production of their assessment submission.

RICS/CICES will carry out plagiarism and AI detection checks for all submissions. If there are suspicions that a candidate has submitted work that is not their own, they will be subject to investigation and possible RICS Regulatory action.

RICS/CICES reserve the right to cancel interviews if at any time it becomes known that the assessment criteria have not been met. This includes word count, case study validity, CPD record, plagiarism, qualification and experience eligibility, payment of fees, and any other criteria set out in the RICS Regulations.

## Access arrangements

RICS/CICES makes every effort to protect applicants from discrimination in accordance with the UK *Equality Act* 2010 (the Act) and is committed to equality of opportunity.

**Reasonable adjustments:** When applying for an assessment, RICS must consider requests for a reasonable adjustment where an applicant, who is disabled as defined by the Act, would be at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to someone who is not disabled.

A reasonable adjustment must be based on the individual needs of the applicant and their ability to access an assessment. To apply for a reasonable adjustment, you should first refer to RICS' [Access Arrangements: Reasonable Adjustments](#) policy before sending your request to the RICS Assessment Delivery team.

**Special consideration:** defined as a consideration given to an applicant who has temporarily experienced a significant personal difficulty at the point of taking an assessment. To apply for a special consideration, you should first refer to RICS' [Access Arrangements: Special Considerations](#) policy before sending your request to the RICS Assessment Delivery team.

For applicants in the UK&I and Americas, contact: [adjustments@rics.org](mailto:adjustments@rics.org)

For applicants in any other country, contact: [globaladjustments@rics.org](mailto:globaladjustments@rics.org)

# 3 Audit and quality assurance

We are committed to ensuring a rigorous assessment process is followed so that employers, clients and the public have confidence in holders of the Chartered Civil Engineering Surveyor designation.

You must have your video and microphone turned on throughout the interview so the panel can be assured you do not have access to any support that provides, or could be perceived as providing, you with an advantage during the interview.

Before the interview starts, Assessor #1 will ask you to complete a 360-pan of your surroundings, including the area above you, your desktop and the floor area in front of you. They may also request that you share your screen to confirm you do not have your submission open or are using AI software to aid you during your interview. The panel may ask this at any point during the interview.

Under no circumstances must you record, or attempt to record, the interview. Any knowledge or suspicion of you recording or attempting to record may result in the interview being terminated and we may refer the matter to RICS Regulation for further investigation that could result in disciplinary action being taken against you. In addition, your status as an RICS member and CICES member may be impacted, including potential removal from the assessment process pending the outcome of the investigation.

## Staff facilitator role

An RICS staff member trained to perform the staff facilitator role will be present. Their role is to support you and the assessors with the use of the video call technology and help with any procedural issues. They will not participate in the interview or any pre- or post-interview discussions with the panel. Their video will be turned off and microphone muted for the duration unless there is a technology issue or any other unforeseen issue that requires them to intervene. Any intervention by the staff facilitator would be recorded as an approved interruption by Assessor #1.

## Auditor role

An auditor trained by RICS may be present. Their purpose is to observe the performance of the panel. They will not participate in the interview or any pre- or post-interview discussions with the panel; their role is only to observe. They will use their video and microphone to introduce themselves before the interview starts; their video will be turned off and microphone muted for the duration of the interview unless they are instructed otherwise by Assessor #1 or staff facilitator. The auditor report will also be used if the applicant appeals the result of their assessment.

## Conflict of interest

RICS/CICES will take all reasonable steps to identify and avoid any obvious conflicts of interest when selecting a panel of assessors, prior to the interview going ahead.

There are two main distinctions of a conflict of interest:

- **'Personal' interests:** in certain circumstances, there may be a connection between the assessor and the applicant, but this may not present an issue to the applicant in practice. For instance, the individuals may have met at a CPD event or know of one another in a professional capacity.
- **'Prejudicial' interests:** where the assessor either stands to benefit from the outcome of an assessment interview or might otherwise be perceived as being influenced, the assessor must declare the conflict and should recuse themselves from the panel at the earliest opportunity.

In the unlikely event a conflict of interest is identified on the interview day, Assessor #1 is responsible for deciding if the interview can proceed or should be rescheduled with a new panel.

# 4 After the interview

You will receive your result within five working days of the interview.

If successful, you will be awarded the Chartered Civil Engineering Surveyor designation.

If the outcome is a referral, you will be sent a feedback report within 21 days of the result explaining why the assessors reached this decision.

## Resitting

To be eligible to resit, you must:

- complete some further relevant professional experience
- continue to complete your CPD, as required for all RICS qualified professionals
- write a new case study or resubmit the same case study updated to reflect referral report feedback and meet criteria.

The feedback report is for you. It will not be made available to any future assessment panel and you should not refer to any previous assessment in your submission.

Once you have completed the above, you will be ready for reinterview at the next available assessment. You will be reassessed on all the requirements for the CCES designation.

## Appeals

You may appeal a referral result. The appeal panel does not question the merits of the assessors' decision. It looks at the way the assessment was conducted and will allow the appeal only if, on the balance of probabilities, there was fault in the process. It does not reach any conclusion about your competence to practise: it considers only administrative or procedural matters.

When an appeal is made, it must:

- be in writing, accompanied by the appropriate fee
- be made by you and not a third party and
- clearly state the grounds on which the appeal is being made.

You will have 21 days from the date of your feedback report being issued by RICS to appeal. Details of how to appeal are available at the [Assessment applications](#) web page.

The appeal panel has no powers to award the CCES designation. If an appeal is approved, the result of the original assessment is void and you will be given a new interview based on your original assessment submission. If the appeal is not upheld, the original result will stand.

The appeal panel's decision is final and there is no right to appeal this decision.

# Appendix A: Competency requirements

RICS route	CICES route
MRICS who qualified via the RICS Geospatial surveying pathway and have demonstrated the Engineering competency to Level 3.	MCInstCES who qualified via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Geospatial Engineering core with Engineering specialism or</li><li>• Geospatial Engineering core with Land specialism or</li><li>• Commercial Management core with Cost Engineering specialism or</li><li>• Commercial Management core with Quantity Surveying specialism.</li></ul>

# Appendix B: RICS' Engineering surveying competency

## Engineering surveying

Engineering surveying is the art of determining and/or setting-out the position of features on, above or below the earth's surface to facilitate the design and construction of engineering projects and buildings.

### Examples of likely knowledge, skills and experience at each level

#### Level 1

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles of construction setting out, deformation and as-built surveys. Be fully conversant with all forms of construction drawings, plans and surveys.

Examples of knowledge comprised within this level are:

- types of ground markers, installation techniques and suitability for use
- requirements for survey data capture and presentation for design purposes in your field of operation
- setting-out techniques
- the importance of comparison of designed and as-built spatial locations
- be conversant with construction drawings, plans and surveys
- site health and safety issues
- basic principles of civil engineering, terminology and construction techniques.

#### Level 2

Apply your knowledge on site of safety, site management procedures and civil engineering/structural principles.

Examples of activities and knowledge comprised within this level are:

- recognising options, choosing and justifying instrument suitability for use in engineering projects
- understanding accuracies and errors and how they apply
- checking the work of others
- leading the work of teams and individuals
- identifying hazards and undertaking risk assessments
- producing method statements for site survey activities
- communicating and presenting results of surveys to others.

#### Level 3

Plan, specify and give reasoned advice on engineering surveys; define and assess accuracies and tolerances; manage the engineering surveying element in large projects; and understand the principles of good engineering practice.

Examples of activities and knowledge comprised within this level are:

- designing and supervising provision, observation, computation and checking of plan and height control
- advising other construction/design professionals on all aspects of site measurement; contributing to project management team decision-making
- producing project resource plans and budgets for programmes of work
- defining survey processes and assessing accuracy and tolerances of survey systems
- managing the engineering survey element within a large project
- understanding and analysing the impact of your decisions on all aspects of the project
- implementing project health and safety strategy for site surveying elements of a project.

# Appendix C: CICES' competencies for the CCES designation

## **Specialist commercial competencies – CICES cost engineering specialism**

This specialism covers:

- cost planning and pre-contract cost control
- project/commercial management reporting, internal accounts and company accounts
- recording work progress and determining/evaluating the effects of delay, prolongation and disruption
- bills of quantities, schedules of rates and activity schedules
- management of interim and final accounts.

## **Specialist commercial competencies – CICES quantity surveying specialism**

This specialism covers:

- the elements present in a project budget at pre-contract phase
- the development of a cost plan or spread of a tender budget along with identification of cost drivers for civil engineering works
- civil engineering design options covering employer/consultant design, innovation and contractor design and construct
- analysing and comparing contract and subcontract tenders and tender budget information
- scheme funding options and corporate governance applied by stakeholders.

## **Specialist geospatial competencies – CICES land surveying specialism**

This specialism covers:

- site reconnaissance, survey methodology and risk assessment
- use of appropriate survey control stations and measurements, e.g. closed, well-planned traverse
- appropriate positioning and density of survey control relating to survey specification, survey method and purpose
- height control – use of different methods of establishing heights, e.g. levelling, GNSS.

## **Specialist geospatial competencies – CICES engineering specialism**

This specialism covers:

- site reconnaissance, establishment of survey methodology and risk assessment
- assessment and validation of existing survey information
- GNSS surveying techniques: modes of GNSS positioning and their application, constraints and limitations as appropriate to the task while considering any project or geographical constraints
- carrying out engineering surveys, capturing data including feature coding
- recording of survey information in the field
- carrying out verification and as-built surveys of the constructed works
- communication of dimensional information to others
- using verbal, digital and written presentation of information.

For further information about these competencies, [please see the accompanying guides on the CICES website](#).

## Delivering confidence

We are RICS. As a member-led chartered professional body working in the public interest, we uphold the highest technical and ethical standards.

We inspire professionalism, advance knowledge and support our members across global markets to make an effective contribution for the benefit of society. We independently regulate our members in the management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our work with others supports their professional practice and pioneers a natural and built environment that is sustainable, resilient and inclusive for all.

Enquiries  
[contactrics@rics.org](mailto:contactrics@rics.org)



[rics.org](http://rics.org)