

## ROYAL CHARTER

# Charter plans forge ahead

In June the Institute of Educational Assessors (IEA) began consulting with over 200 educational stakeholders on its application for a Royal Charter.

A charter is an agreement by the Queen to incorporate by royal agreement rather than through traditional routes such as forming through Companies House.

If the applications is successful, a Royal Charter will enable the institute to be known as the Chartered Institute of Educational Assessors. It would also mean the IEA is able to credit individuals fulfilling the necessary requirements of the institute with the designation of Chartered Assessor.

Bringing the institute into line with other established professional bodies such as those for accountants, architects, engineers or lawyers, a Royal Charter is granted in recognition of an organisation's standing in the community, and importance to the wellbeing of society.

"A Royal Charter will enable individuals undertaking educational assessment activities to achieve the same status as other recognised professions," said David Wright,



DAVID WRIGHT: 'EXPERTISE'

head of the IEA. "For individual members it will confer a recognised designation that will reflect your expertise in undertaking assessment to the very highest standards.

It will also demonstrate a continuing commitment to develop your continuing professionalism through structured channels provided by and through the IEA."

The usual requirements for achieving a Royal Charter, which is co-ordinated through the office of the Privy Council, is that an eligible body has a significant number of members, a financial track record and is a charitable organisation that operates in the public good.

The consultation process is expected to last until early autumn, when the comments made by various stakeholder organisations will be used to redraft the institute's charter and bye-laws that relate to its application for the charter.

Once these documents have been redrafted, they will be presented to the Privy Council for due consideration before beginning a formal process of review.

The IEA hopes to be able to achieve chartered status in 2007.

More information on the draft Royal Charter and bye-laws are available on institute's website at [www.ioea.org.uk](http://www.ioea.org.uk).



RICHARD GOTT: ENHANCE STANDING

## SERVICES

# Making the most of benefits

The Institute of Educational Assessors continues to expand its range of services for members.

Richard Gott, IEA membership manager, explains that they are all intended to enhance the professional standing of members.

"My role is to ensure that as a member of the institute you are offered a wide range of high quality assessment-related products and services," said Gott.

Since the institute's launch in May, members have enjoyed these benefits:

- Opportunities for continuing professional development.
- The institute's termly publication, *Make the Grade*.
- IEANews, our monthly member e-newsletter.
- An educational assessment-focused website, with a dedicated members' area.
- The IEA Online Research Database, which includes the archives of more than 200 educational journals.
- Optional professional indemnity insurance cover.
- Assessor-specific tax services.
- Educational assessor vacancy service.
- Discounted annual subscription to *Times Education Supplement*.

"One of the best ways to access all of these great benefits is to log onto the membership area of the IEA website or call the IEA membership department," said Gott.

- The IEA membership department is on 0207 495 7753.

# Log on for top tips

In each *Make the Grade* we will profile a specific member benefit. In this issue we take a closer look at the members' area of the IEA website, and get answers to your most frequent questions

One of the institute's main aims is to offer an easily accessible range of assessment-focused member benefits, and like other professional membership organisations these are offered via a secure members' area located on its website – [www.ioea.org.uk](http://www.ioea.org.uk).

## Q: How do I gain access?

**A:** Visit [www.ioea.org.uk](http://www.ioea.org.uk) and click the "Member area" menu option on the left-hand side of the screen. If you are a member and have already activated your online account, simply enter your email address and password in the login box in the top right-hand corner of the screen. If you are a member and have not activated your account visit [www.ioea.org.uk/activate](http://www.ioea.org.uk/activate), and enter your membership number, date of birth and email address.

## Q: How do I know if I have successfully logged in?

**A:** You will see your full name in the top right-hand of the screen. You can also enter the secure pages in the members' area.

## Q: What is in the members' area?

**A:** All of the member benefits outlined on this page can be accessed via the mem-

bers' area. More member benefits are being formulated by the week, so please check regularly to ensure you are getting the most out of your membership.

## Q: Can I update my personal details?

**A:** Yes. Click on the "update details" hyper-link next to your name in the top right-hand corner of the screen. However, if you wish to update your qualifications or experience you will need to email this information (with your membership number) to [info@ioea.org.uk](mailto:info@ioea.org.uk)

## Q: What if I have problems logging into the members' area?

**A:** Help is at hand Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm. If you encounter any log in difficulties please do not hesitate to call the IEA Membership Department on 020 7495 7753 or email [info@ioea.org.uk](mailto:info@ioea.org.uk).

## Q: Can I make suggestions for future products and services?

**A:** Yes. The institute is always looking to increase its range of products and services in order to better support its members. If you have a suggestion, please post it on the "products and services" section of the online discussion forum webpage.

## POST-NOMINALS

# Institute promotes excellence

Members of the institute are entitled to use the IEA letters after their names and will see the benefit of this.

So says membership manager Richard Gott, who believes this will be of practical use to members in their careers.

"As an educational assessor, membership of the IEA is proof that you operate at the highest professional standards, and that you have satisfied the Institute's strict requirements for qualifications and experience," said Gott.

He explained that different members of the institute are entitled to use the IEA letters after their name.

"For example associates are eligible to use the letters AIEA, full members will be eligible to use the letters MIEA and fellows will be eligible

to use the letters FIEA after their name."

It is hoped that the IEA post-nominals will be highly valued by the membership and relied upon by members of the assessment community and the general public.

"It will help to identify those who practice professionally and operate to the institute's strict code of professional assessment practice," said Gott.

He quotes the example of someone with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education who has just joined the institute as an associate member.

They would be able to use the title BA PGCE AIEA after their name.

However student and affiliate membership grades do not carry post-nominals.

## How letters can help your career

Putting "IEA" after your name can be good for you. But how might it work in practice? Consider these examples:

### Differentiating your curriculum vitae

**Roger Blakeney BA PGCE MIEA submitted what he thought was the perfect CV for a prestigious examiner post he saw advertised. Unbeknown to him three others applied for exactly the same role, and all three had exactly the same qualifications and experience.**

**As a full member of the institute, Blakeney was entitled to use the post-nominal after his name and this differentiated his application from the rest.**

### Instilling stakeholder confidence

**Sue Edwards BSc PGCE AIEA is the principal of a large college based in Manchester. She has taken the decision to publish an informative document aimed at improving public confidence in the quality of her teaching staff.**

**She has also decided to profile all department heads, and three of the five are associate members of the institute.**

**Within the final document the individual profiles of the three associate members incorporated the AIEA post-nominal, and Edwards believed this would only help to bolster her bid to increase public confidence.**

## Assessors form global community

Assessors around the world are taking advantage of the fact that membership of the institute is open to them wherever they are living and working.

Since the IEA enjoyed its official launch on 9 May, applications have arrived from many countries including Dubai, Kenya, Malta and Singapore.

"Since launch, the IEA website has received over 7,000 hits from within Europe, 1,478 hits from North America and 120 from China," said Richard Gott, IEA membership manager.

"It is encouraging to note that the worldwide educational assessment community is accessing our resources and we look forward to receiving more membership applications from overseas," he said.

