

Master of Technology Petroleum Technology

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

So what exactly is the PetroSkills-MTech?

The PetroSkills-MTech is a Master of Technology (Petroleum Technology) degree program offered through Curtin University of Technology (Western Australia), with partial university credit obtained through university assessment of selected PetroSkills courses.

This is a part-time, online and flexible program designed for people working full-time in the oil and gas industry, who attend PetroSkills courses to further their knowledge and skills. Students approved for entry to Curtin University can choose between two streams of study: Reservoir/Production Engineering or Facilities Engineering. Approximately 50% of the program is completed through university assessment of selected PetroSkills courses, and 50% through workplace-based projects.

What do I have to gain from enrolling in the MTech?

Improvements in your competency and skills are quantified by completing coursework assessments linked to learning outcomes designed to further your career progression. Another advantage is that you can complete this Master's program part-time and online (expected 2-4 years duration) – so you won't have to leave industry employment to complete the qualification.

Who are Curtin University?

Curtin University of Technology (Western Australia) is an international institution with a worldwide reputation for providing programs of study that focus on the delivery of knowledge combined with the acquisition of practical skills designed to achieve industry and workplace standards. One of Curtin's core areas of academic strength and research expertise is in partnership with the oil and gas industry, with internationally recognized undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Petroleum Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Exploration Geophysics. Curtin has a current enrollment of over 35,000 students, including around 14,000 international students from over 90 countries, and runs programs in 16 countries.

Why are PetroSkills partnering with Curtin University for this program? (as opposed to another university)

Curtin is a progressive university who recognize industry's demand for programs which allow students to remain in full-time employment whilst furthering their education. They therefore recognize the value of graduate training programs which are linked to high quality technical courses. Curtin already successfully run an MTech program in collaboration with the Shell Learning Centre (in Holland) and has extensive experience in the Petroleum Engineering, Geology, Geosciences and Engineering fields.

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When did the degree program start?

Curtin has run the MTech program in collaboration with Shell since 2002. The MTech degree program with PetroSkills started admitting students from around the globe in December 2008. Projects and assessments commenced on January 1st, 2009. Applications and admissions to the MTech program can be received throughout the year.

How much will it cost?

Approximately AUD \$20,000 over the four years of enrolment (inclusive of 5% annual fee increase). This indicative fee does not include PetroSkills course attendance fees which are paid directly to PetroSkills. This indicative fee is payable to Curtin University for course assessments and completion of projects.

In 2009, the fee for assessment of PetroSkills courses is \$1700 per 25 credit course (1 week course = 12.5 credits, 2 week course = 25 credits). The fee for workplace-based projects is \$2850 per 25 credits. Students are expected to complete 100 credits of PetroSkills courses and 100 credits of workplace-based projects over the four years of enrolment.

Who pays the University enrollment fees?

The enrolled student pays the university enrollment fees. The nature of admission to the PetroSkills MTech is that the relationship is between the enrolled student and Curtin University, not between a sponsor and Curtin University, so a student's fees cannot be paid by their company. All students will receive an invoice and a receipt for payment of fees, which can be used for employer re-imbusement purposes, if applicable.

How do I apply for entry?

Course [entry requirement](#), [application](#) and [admission](#) information can be found on the MTech website. Please follow the procedures as specified on the website pages (www.mtechpt.curtin.edu.au).

For more information, please contact Priya Correia, MTech Program Manager, Curtin University of Technology, via email: p.correia@curtin.edu.au

What if I don't have a relevant undergraduate degree?

All applicants to the program must meet the course entrance requirements as stated on this website (<http://www.mtechpt.curtin.edu.au/petroskills/Entrance-Requirements.html>) to be approved for entry to the Master of Technology (Petroleum Technology).

Applicants who do not possess a relevant undergraduate degree will not be considered for entry to the program.

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If I completed my undergraduate degree in English, do I still have to provide proof of English competency?

If the institution is listed in the International Handbook of Universities as language of instruction: English, then no additional proof of English competency is required. If the institution it is not listed as such, you will need to provide proof of English competency. Curtin accepts IELTS and TOEFL English tests for course entry. Minimum test scores for course entry are located in the [Entrance Requirements](#) webpage.

How will I receive an offer of entry to the course?

Students will receive their offer electronically as a pdf file to their preferred email address. To accept an offer, the student is required to sign the acceptance portion of the letter, scan, and send it back to the Program Manager (by fax or post is also accepted). Enrollment information will also be sent to students with their letter of offer.

Do I get credit for all PetroSkills courses?

Not all PetroSkills courses form part of the MTech program. The selection of courses available for assessment by Curtin University can be viewed on the MTech website at: <http://www.mtechpt.curtin.edu.au/petroskills/course-structure.html>

How do I actually get university credit for a PetroSkills course?

You must first apply for admission to Curtin University and be approved for entry to the program. After full attendance at a selected PetroSkills course, you can complete course assessment with Curtin. University credit is awarded towards completion of the MTech when you have passed the required assessment for a course.

Why must I complete Workplace-Based projects?

Through coursework assessment students can demonstrate the application of course-taught materials. However, it is a Curtin University requirement that all Masters degrees must include a component which demonstrates competency in independent thinking and problem solving. This will be demonstrated through the workplace-based projects. The scope of work for a project is described in "*What are workplace-based projects?*" below. Completion of at least 75 credits of workplace-based projects is a compulsory requirement of the MTech degree.

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What are 'Workplace-Based Projects'?

These are projects which participants will undertake in their workplace. The student will propose a project topic after consultation with their supervisor; the scope and aims will be based on real business needs having impact and value in their operating unit. The project can be a problem to be analyzed or solved, a design improvement, data analysis and prediction, modeling and simulation studies. Permissible projects can cover a wide range of situations and topics.

A project proposal will be submitted to a Curtin academic for evaluation and discussion prior to approval for MTech credit. Students will be supervised by a Curtin academic and also by a nominated work supervisor or discipline expert. Comment from a supervisor on the value to the company of the completed work will be expected to be included in the final submitted report. Workplace-based projects (25 credits) run for 12 week periods.

Is my submitted work confidential?

YES. All submitted assessments (assignments and projects) will be treated as highly confidential and not copied or shown to any third-party without the student's permission. All Curtin staff members are subject to a university confidentiality agreement. Sensitive data and information can be included in submissions. Only Curtin academic staff will be allowed to view the work (no copies) and only for the purposes of academic assessment.

What form of assessment will be used for PetroSkills courses?

Assessment methods will vary from course to course. Students may be required to complete written assignments, online tests and quizzes, or take a formal examination. All assessment information will be released and submitted through Blackboard, Curtin's online learning platform.

PetroSkills course assessments will be available 1-2 times a year, depending on the number of students wishing to complete the assessment. Assessment runs over a 4 week study period.

Can I take the Curtin assessment if I haven't yet done the PetroSkills course?

No. Students must attend the PetroSkills course first. Assessment is based on the learning outcomes of the materials taught.

Can I get credit for PetroSkills courses not on the course structure for the MTech?

There is no Curtin assessment for PetroSkills courses not listed on the MTech course structure, however, you may wish to apply the knowledge through a workplace-based project in your business unit and turn it into university credit that way.

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If I only take a PetroSkills course once a year, will I be able to complete the credits to graduate in four years?

Curtin recommends students undertake 25 credits of PetroSkills course assessments annually which is equivalent to a 2 week PetroSkills course or two x 1 week PetroSkills courses, from the approved course structure. In addition students should complete at least one 25 credit workplace-based project each year, in order to graduate in four years. However, this course provides some flexibility for students to take the study load which best suits them. If you take less than a 50 credit load each year, you will take longer than four years to graduate. Similarly, if you wish to graduate sooner, you can increase the number of credits you complete in any given year.

How long does each course last?

Students are required to complete a one week or two week PetroSkills course (from course structure) at the location of their choice, and at a later date (usually within 9 months of attending the course) complete the Curtin assessment of the course. The Curtin-assessment is 4 weeks in duration. Assessment of a PetroSkills course will be made available 1 or 2 times during the year. Workplace-based projects have a duration of 12 weeks for completion.

What if I need to withdraw from a course assessment after having enrolled and paid the fees?

Students can withdraw from an enrolled course up until the day before the study period commences, without any financial penalty. The fees will remain in the individual's student account and be allocated to the next enrollment. Once the study period has commenced, there is no withdrawal permitted and no refund of fees.

What happens if I fail assessments?

If you fail an assessment you will need to re-enroll and re-take the Curtin assessment of the course, if you wish to get university credit for the course. You will have to pay the assessment fee for each re-enrollment. Multiple fails may result in a student's termination from the MTech program.

Can I appeal against the result?

Yes, Curtin has an appeals process. This can be viewed at:
<http://students.curtin.edu.au/rights/appeals/assessment.cfm>

Will my manager be advised about my progress in the course?

No. Curtin will not provide any information about an enrolled student without written consent provided by the student. Student's can print their own academic record through Curtin's eStudent database and provide it to whoever they wish to have a copy.

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What if I don't complete the assessments by the due date?

Late penalties (deduction of marks) apply to all late assessment submissions. Students who fail to complete the required assessments will be awarded a Fail grade on their academic record, and will not receive credit for the enrolled course.

How will I find out my marks?

Students can access their academic record with Curtin University, view their enrollment, change their address and more by logging into OASIS (Student Information Database) and opening eStudent. This information will not be provided to students over email.

Do I have to come to Curtin University to attend classes?

No. Students are not required to come to Curtin University at any time for this program. Students are required to attend PetroSkills courses at the location of their choice (which may require travel), and then complete the course assessment online from their workplace. The projects component of the degree program is also completed in the workplace. Students will liaise with the Academic Director electronically, for guidance and assistance whilst undertaking a project.

Can I take courses from both streams?

Yes, this program is flexible to your needs and interests. The streams are only a guide; select the stream that contains most courses you will take. The Facilities stream has an emphasis on upstream operations and is a good choice for Process Engineers. However the courses included in the Facilities stream will also provide valuable training for engineers employed in downstream operations. The Reservoir/Production stream has emphasis on upstream E&P operations.

What is the difference between the MTech degree and an MSc/MEng?

MSc/MEng coursework degrees are programs designed and delivered by academic staff, and also comprise significant credit for an academic research project, which requires attendance at the university.

The MTech program we offer is a Professional Masters degree where the coursework is designed and delivered by industry experts and is related to job skills and competencies. The project components are undertaken in the participant's workplace and focused on providing solutions to industry problems. Our program structure is flexible allowing participants to select appropriate courses relevant to their required skills and competencies. It can be completed part-time and online (worldwide locations) over four years, so the participant can complete this qualification without having to leave industry employment.

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Is the MTech an Accredited course?

Accreditation of degree courses in Australian Universities: Universities in Australia require their undergraduate engineering degrees to be accredited by the relevant professional institutions e.g. Engineers Australia, IChemE (UK), IEEE, etc. this is generally conducted on a 4-year cycle. Curtin University of Technology undergraduate engineering degrees are accredited by the relevant professional institutions. The accreditation process also considers the postgraduate courses and research activities within a department. The Australian Federal Government does not require formal accreditation of postgraduate degree programs.

As Curtin University undergraduate engineering degrees are accredited, Curtin postgraduate degree programs in the School of Engineering (including the MTech), are recognised by the relevant institutions as providing a component of the required professional training leading to Chartered Engineer or Professional Engineer status. Curtin University is recognised by the institutions as an accredited provider of engineering training at all levels.

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