



Strong take-up for Candidate Academy courses

There has been substantial demand for the first *Road to Registration* courses offered by the Candidate Academy this year, leading to a number of unscheduled courses being planned alongside the range of specialised sessions on the Academy's menu

THE CANDIDATE ACADEMY was officially launched on 17 March 2010 during the SAICE Engineering Planet Future Indaba held at the CSIR in Pretoria. Allyson Lawless, SAICE Professional Development and Projects director and driver of the Candidate Academy, addressed the Young Members Forum to explain the importance of structured training during the candidate phase towards professional registration.

At the launch Allyson urged young engineers to take on the challenge as the country's 'infrastructure pioneers', and encouraged them to register as candidates with ECSA and to develop their skills in a systematic way. The

Road to Registration course ensures that candidates understand the requirements of ECSA's professional accreditation, and helps them to plan and travel this journey in a structured way. Also at the launch, Academy trainer Johan Koekemoer took delegates through the 'toolbox' for planning and recording workplace experience, a utility available for sale from SAICE.

The Academy also offers a series of courses that address – in a practical and applied manner – the foundation areas of engineering practice. Allyson highlighted the importance of practical training to match the needs of the workplace while giving candidates confidence in applying their engineering theory: "We've moved away from the 'passive reception' kind of teaching. Instead, candidates are involved in 'active learning', which cultivates wisdom and prepares them to be discerning, responsible and imaginative practitioners."

The training also meshes closely with the candidate's current activities in the workplace. "We urge employers to enrol candidates in a specific course just before they embark on that particular field of activity," she said. "We can even offer follow-up services in the work

environment – as add-on components to the courses – to ensure effective application of the skills learnt."

FORTHCOMING COURSES

The Candidate Academy offers specialised courses run by highly experienced engineers and experts in their fields, who bring not only great technical depth, but also a keen understanding of the real world of engineering in South Africa.

Basic Pressure Pipeline Design

In June, the Academy begins with its course on *Basic Pressure Pipeline Design*, presented by experienced engineer Pieter de Waal (Pr Eng, BSc, BEng). This two-day course covers basic pressure pipeline design, taking candidates through first principles, selection of appropriate materials and fittings, how to read and interpret pump duty curves, and the construction process. Many hands-on exercises and presentations by suppliers will ensure that candidates understand the parameters which must be considered when designing a pipeline.

Pavement Rehabilitation and Maintenance

Life continues after the World Cup, and those roads now under construction will

need proper maintenance. So start planning your attendance at the *Pavement Rehabilitation and Maintenance* course kicking off in Midrand in July.

This four-day course by Theuns Eloff (BEng) covers the assessment of road conditions, repair options, materials, equipment, drainage options and maintenance. It will make candidates aware of the importance of road maintenance and its impact on the life-span of roads and life-cycle costs.

To ensure that the course reaches those areas that need it most, it will also be offered in centres and provinces with challenges in road maintenance. These include the Northern Cape with its thousands of kilometres of roads in the vast Karoo (course venue will be Kimberley), the Eastern Cape with its backlogs from the past (East London is another course venue), and the vast Limpopo province (course venue will be Polokwane).

Courses which have already been launched and will continue to be offered are:

Contract Administration

This three-day course includes an analysis of the role players in civil projects (clients, contractor, consultants, project managers, etc), the supply chain, and the procurement and tendering process. Candidates are taken through activities such as developing specifications, drafting a tender document, compiling a payment certificate, filling in a site diary after an incident, and compiling the tests required for pouring of concrete, and much more.

Those who attended earlier courses were excited by what they had learnt and were anxious to get back to the workplace to try out their new-found skills.

Road to Registration

This one-day course will help newly employed graduates, to understand what is involved in ECSA registration, and to navigate their way to registration as competent engineers, technologists or technicians. The course looks at engineering competencies and outcomes, the details of the ECSA registration process, the roles and responsibilities of various players, and the value of the Portfolio of Evidence, and also suggests supplementary training appropriate for candidates.

Due to the strong take-up of places in the first *Road to Registration* courses, the Academy plans to offer additional courses

in Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth. Contact SAICE for more details on the dates and venues, or to arrange a course in your centre.

WORKPLACE ADD-ON SERVICES

In addition to the course itself, employers can also choose one of two add-on services (at an extra charge) that will further reinforce the integration of learning into the workplace environment:

■ Course and assignment option

The Academy sets an assignment for the candidate, to be completed after the course and submitted to the presenter for evaluation. This comes with two additional hours for assessment and input.

■ Course and workplace support option

Instead of assisting and advising candidates with a hypothetical assignment, the presenter will assist the candidate with a real, live project to ensure that the lessons learnt are correctly applied in practice. (This option offers an additional five hours, including travel, and is only available in Gauteng at present.)

These options are particularly valuable where supervision or mentoring capacity is not immediately available in the workplace.

WHEN TO ATTEND?

When considering sending a candidate on any of the Academy courses, employers should first be sure that the candidate is due to start a project or phase of a project relating to the course content. Before candidates attend courses, supervisors need to brief them on their next assignment so that they can ask meaningful questions and ensure that they understand all processes before returning to the workplace.

Before the course, the Academy supplies notes on the course to workplace supervisors, so that candidates are well prepared and companies can ensure that they reinforce the learning process through appropriate experience.

► MORE INFORMATION

For details of courses, activities and dates, please click on the Candidate Academy icon on the following websites:

www.civils.org.za

www.cesa.co.za

Or contact the following people:

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Course: Basic Pressure Pipeline Design

Date	Venue
1 – 2 June 2010	Midrand (SAICE National Office)
20 – 21 September 2010	Durban (venue to be advised)
11 – 12 October 2010	Midrand (SAICE National Office)

Course: Pavement Rehabilitation and Maintenance

Date	Venue
19 – 22 July 2010	Midrand (SAICE National Office)
9 – 12 August 2010	Polokwane (venue to be advised)
13 – 16 September 2010	Kimberley (venue to be advised)
4 – 7 October 2010	East London (venue to be advised)
18 – 21 October 2010	Midrand (SAICE National Office)

Course: Basics of Managing Contracts and Quality

Date	Venue
17 – 19 May 2010	Cape Town (venue to be advised)
26 – 28 July 2010	Durban (venue to be advised)
23 – 25 August 2010	Midrand (SAICE National Office)

Course: Road to Registration

Date	Venue
8 July 2010	Durban (venue to be advised)
6 September 2010	East London (venue to be advised)