FAQ for Diploma Grads considering the BTech Electronics and BEng Electrical Degree Programs

If I have an ECET Diploma from BCIT, how long will it take to complete a Degree?

BTech: You chose your own pacing, but for most people it typically takes about 4 to 5 years to finish the BTech.

BEng: The BEng will take you 3 years of full-time study to complete.

I have an ECET Diploma from elsewhere and I meet the entrance requirements. How long will it take to complete a Degree?

BTech: The time required to complete the BTech is the same for all students, regardless of where you took your Diploma.

BEng: For the BEng it will likely take 3.5 years, depending on transfer credit towards some first year courses.

Are the BTech and the BEng the same?

No. The following table provides some points for comparison for people with an Electrical Technology Diploma:

BTech	BEng
Part-time: evenings and weekends	Full-time during the day, Monday-Friday.
Three 15-week terms/year	Two 15-week terms/year followed by a short 4-week mini-term.
24 15-week courses after a Diploma plus an industry project.	35 15-week courses after a Diploma plus 4 courses in the mini-term, a senior (Capstone) Project and a summer work placement. Credit is often granted for 3 or 4 of the 15-week courses, depending on your background.
Not accredited, but you can become an engineer-in-training after writing a confirmatory exam.	Accredited by the CEAB, which allows you to directly become an engineer-in-training on graduation.
Both Degrees provide a path to become a Professional Engineer in BC	

What are the entrance requirements for people with an ECET Diploma?

BTech: A 65% GPA is needed for entrance to the BTech. Applicants with a GPA between 60 and 65% may still gain provisional acceptance with a requirement to achieve 70% in specific courses within the program matrix.

BEng: A GPA of at least 70% is needed to compete for a seat in the BEng. The highest GPAs each year will be accepted.

What are the entrance requirements for people with education from outside of Canada?

BTech: You must be able to show that ASTTBC is willing to certify you as a Technologist, based on the education that you have. If you are able to show that, we will accept it in lieu of the required 65% GPA in a Canadian program.

BEng: Your previous education will be assessed for transfer credit on a case by case basis. Courses completed more than five years ago will not qualify for transfer credit.

Do Employers distinguish between the BTech and the BEng?

It's not possible for us to answer for them. The more important point is that graduates from both programs have gone on to get good jobs.

Are courses in the BTech and the BEng interchangeable?

You cannot assume that the courses are interchangeable. Comparison of courses is surprisingly complicated, with consideration given to credit count, course length, prerequisites, delivery format, accreditation, program administration, Institute policies and other factors. Such comparisons have not been performed for most of the courses in the BEng and the BTech.

Are both the BTech and the BEng recognized as an Engineering degree? Can I become a PEng from either program?

Yes, there is a path to become a Professional Engineer from both programs. As for recognition, degrees in BC are approved by the Provincial Government, and both the BTech and the BEng are so approved. BTech graduates can become engineers-in-training in BC by writing a confirmatory exam. Engineers-in-training can go on to become professional engineers after a period of work experience. This process is managed by APEGBC (www.apeg.bc.ca). BTech graduates have not had difficulty in passing the confirmatory exam. The BEng differs in that it is accredited by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) (www.engineerscanada.ca). This gives the BEng international recognition and allows you to become an engineer-in-training without writing the confirmatory exam. More information on accreditation can be found at www.accreditation.org

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