Quick Guide to...

Writing a Narrative



Who needs to write a narrative against the competencies?

Applicants for some of the accelerated routes for the grade of Member, including those via the Senior Applicant route, upgrades from Associate Members who attained the grade before 2006, and applicants holding full membership of other professional bodies (excluding the Institution of Civil Engineers and Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors).

The Graduate and Mature Entry route does not need a narrative as part of the application.

Which competencies should I choose?

Six competencies need to be covered by the narrative. Please note, applicants do not need to include any of the general competencies. The six competencies should all be from the same specialism and should include at least two from the core and at least two from the specialist set. The remaining two can be taken from either the core or the specialist set.

How long should the narrative be?

Approximately 200-250 words for each of the individual competencies.

What should be in each of the narratives?

The purpose of the paragraphs is to link your knowledge and experience to the competency statement. This can be done by drawing on learning and experience gained at any time in your career and linking what you have done with the requirements of the competency statements. This enables examiners to quickly link together the threads of your knowledge and experience with the requirements of becoming a Member.

The statements should be clear and concise and make sense in terms of the detailed CV that has also been prepared as part of the application.