



What does MNEIMME and FNEIMME mean in the modern day, and is it still relevant?

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Recently one of our trustees was gathering in membership forms for the Institute when an old friend asked what the significance of MNEIMME actually meant. Here our trustee Andrew Dobrzański MNEIMME explains all.

Postnominals are most familiar as denoting the degrees a person holds, letters that are effectively a snapshot in time of academic ability. But a separate group of professional postnominals denote varying levels of attainment and commitment to continuing development: from FGS (Fellow of the Geological Society) denoting the holder as suitably qualified in geological sciences to be a member of the Society; FIMMM (Fellow of the IOM³) denoting those who have made a significant contribution or established a record of achievement in a technical discipline covered by the Institute; to CEng (Chartered Engineer) denoting registration with the Engineering Council requiring the holder to be both degree-qualified and have gained professional competencies through peer-reviewed training and professional practice. These postnominal letters are granted through membership of learned societies (organisations where the subject discipline is the focus) and professional societies (organisations where the practitioner is the focus).

All of these titles have developed through time and either demonstrate that a required level of learning (FGS), practical attainment (FIMMM) or both (CEng) has been reached. All postnominals are important within their respective disciplines and some are legally required to demonstrate competence. So where do MNEIMME and FNEIMME fit in with these?

MNEIMME (Member) is awarded to someone who demonstrates a required level of academic attainment within one of the disciplines of the Institute, and who is actively engaged in a relevant professional pursuit. MNEIMME is similar to the ProfGrad (Professional Graduate) of IOM³, or GMICE (Graduate member) of the Institute of Civil Engineers. MNEIMME denotes mastership of a discipline.

FNEIMME (Fellow) is awarded to someone on the basis of demonstrating a further level of professional practice and experience, and academic attainment in addition to that required to be an MNEIMME. It is most similar to the FIMMM category of the IOM³ but could also correspond to the Member/Fellow category of the ICE (MICE/FICE) depending on experience. In this case it shows professional attainment within a discipline.

While MNEIMME and FNEIMME do not carry the weight of a chartered title (i.e. CEng, or CChem), they do show levels of post-first-degree attainment and professional development comparable to the learned and professional Societies and Institutes based in London. But there are other aspects to consider. In addition to denoting a level of qualification, the Institute's postnominals also demonstrate something else – a commitment to the wider Aims and Objectives of the Institute of promoting science and technology across the North.



Nicholas Wood
Founding Member of the Institute,
statue seated in Neville Hall

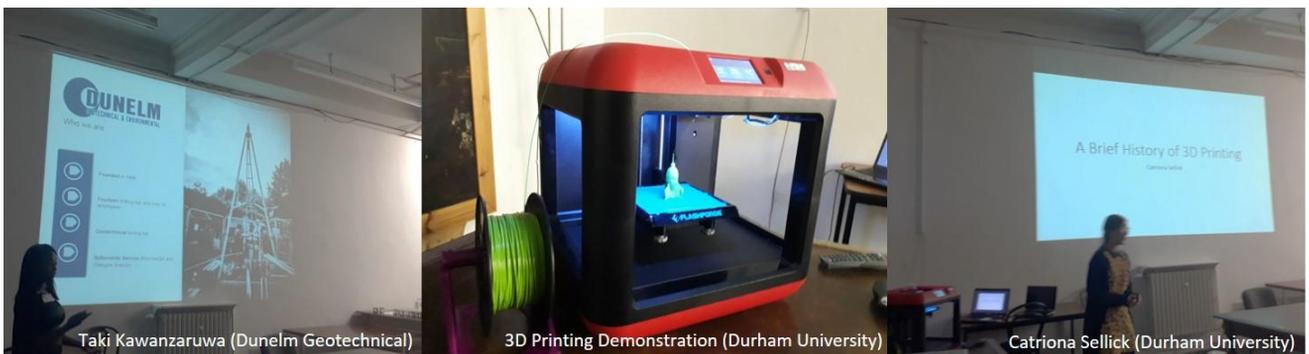




As well as being an MNEIMME I am also a Fellow of the Geological Society of London. By proudly sporting FGS at the end of my name it shows that I’m a supporter of the Society’s activities and an active participant of the geological community. Additionally, I had to be proposed and seconded by two other members of the Society, meaning that in effect I have a direct connection back to the likes of luminary geologists such as Murchison and Sedgewick, and more latterly Watson and Pitcher.

MNEIMME and FNEIMME also carry that similar weight of history and commitment to the community. Being proposed and seconded for membership of the Institute places you into a direct lineage from some of the greatest Northern scientists and engineers, one of the most notable being Nicholas Wood (the founder of the Institute) who was arguably one of the most accomplished mining and railway engineers that Tyneside has ever produced. In the present day our members include university staff conducting cutting-edge research, and dynamic industrialists who have been actively involved in developing a multimillion-pound potash mine in Yorkshire.

Membership of the Institute also helps those looking to progress in their careers and offers a helping hand through voluntary and professional development. When coal was King, membership of the Institute was expected as the primary way of obtaining professional development and career progression. With the decline of the mines our focus has changed, and we now run a successful series of lectures which can be used for CPD purposes, and are looking to use our industry and academic connections to develop professional workshops, and generate impact and engagement with the public for academics.



Speakers from our recent Younger Members’ events, featuring local industry speakers, PhD researchers, and interactive demonstrations

One of the main benefits of being a member of the Institute today is access to a locally focused organisation with an emphasis on professional development, and one which provides opportunities to talk to colleagues and potential collaborators from across the North. In my own experience, being a trustee of the Institute has opened up opportunities I never thought I’d have access to and has personally greatly helped my career through being able to meet other like minded professionals. Furthermore, the Institute provides grants for publishing and we curate our own journal ‘Transactions’, opening up opportunities for members to publish their research for a wider audience.

Most importantly the Institute provides a way for help shape the future of the Northern regions. Learned and professional societies have always played a role in changing the world, for example in 1919 a lecture given by Eddington was hosted by the Royal Astronomical Society where the results of an experiment supporting Einstein’s theory of general relativity was given thereby revolutionising physics. More recently the work of the Royal Society of Edinburgh has helped to support start-ups and fund researchers supporting local economic growth; and while there are nearly 1000 learned and professional societies in the UK, what makes the Institute particularly distinctive is that it is the only society in the North that holds a Royal Charter focused on science and technology.





Royal Chartered organisations hold an important position in public life through their learned and public policy roles, and by being involved with the work of the Institute you can play a significant role in shaping public policy and future industry in the North just as those MNEIMMEs and FNEIMMEs did in the 1800s. The Institute already has well established links to IOM³ and is in the process of developing new collaborations with the Geological Society through our joint lectures. We aim to act as a regional hub for London based organisations helping to draw funding and events to the North from London for the benefit of all in the region. Locally the Institute acts as a meeting hub for researchers and students from the Northern Universities and we have good links to the geology and engineering departments in Durham and Newcastle and are looking to develop further collaborations with other disciplines in the chemical, physical and mathematical sciences. Universities themselves are moving from being silos of information retained by individual academics within the fiefdoms of their own departments, to more outward looking open access and collaborative models exemplified by the Centres for Doctoral Training and Doctoral Training Partnerships - something the Institute hopes to be involved with in the future.



A packed Presidential address given by Rick Smith FNEIMME



The Younger Members 3D printed ‘rocket’ highlighting the past and future of Northern industry

MNEIMME and FNEIMME are just as important today as they were in the past. The sense of community the Institute has and the benefits of our meetings and publications to local public life cannot be stressed highly enough. So if you want to be recognised as a learned and professional practitioner, and wish to contribute to the industrial, academic and public life of the North, then I hope you will apply to be an MNEIMME or FNEIMME today. I, along with the rest of Council, will look forward to meeting you personally at one of our events soon to welcome you into our learned and professional community.

For more information see our website: www.mininginstitute.org.uk

Membership information can be found at: www.mininginstitute.org.uk/membership

Information on our Younger Members events at: www.mininginstitute.org.uk/youngermembers

The Institute is the Royal Chartered Membership organisation for science and technology in the North. For more information on joining see: mininginstitute.org.uk/membership/



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