

HPAS ACCREDITATION PROCESS: A REFLECTION ON LESSONS LEARNED

Achieving the Hydrographic Professional Accreditation Scheme (HPAS) accreditation is a significant milestone in any hydrographer's career. It not only reflects your technical proficiency and professional dedication but also positions you among the recognized experts within the global hydrographic community. My journey toward HPAS – Level 1 accreditation was both challenging and rewarding, offering numerous lessons that I believe are valuable for anyone considering this important step.

This feedback reflects on my experiences, highlighting the critical aspects that contributed to my successful accreditation. From maintaining a comprehensive surveyor's logbook to leveraging professional publications, and recognizing the importance of mentorship and leadership, these elements played pivotal roles in my HPAS journey. I hope that by sharing these insights, I can inspire other hydrographic professionals to pursue accreditation and advance their careers.

The Value of a Comprehensive Surveyor's Logbook

One of the most critical components of my HPAS accreditation process was the meticulous maintenance of my surveyor's logbook. This logbook is not merely a record of daily activities; it serves as a detailed account of your professional growth and technical experiences over time.

A well-maintained logbook provides a clear, chronological record of the surveys conducted, the techniques used, and the challenges encountered. It is invaluable during the accreditation process, where assessors require concrete evidence of your experience and competencies. For instance, documenting the specific technologies and methodologies employed in different surveys, as well as any troubleshooting or problem-solving scenarios, can significantly bolster your application. Furthermore, a logbook serves as a personal reflective tool, allowing you to continuously assess your skills and identify areas for further development.

Beyond its utility for HPAS accreditation, a detailed logbook is essential for career progression. It can be used to substantiate claims of experience and expertise when applying for new roles or promotions, thereby enhancing your professional credibility.

The Importance of Keeping Records of Your Contributions

In addition to maintaining a surveyor's logbook, keeping a detailed record of your contributions to projects, teams, and the broader hydrographic community is crucial. Throughout my career, I have made it a priority to document not just what I did, but also the impact of my work. This includes records of leadership roles, innovations, and any significant achievements.

For example, if you were involved in developing a new survey methodology or led a team through a complex project, these contributions should be carefully documented. Such

records demonstrate your ability to drive results and show your value as a hydrographic professional. During the HPAS accreditation process, this documentation provided concrete examples of my professional impact, making my case for accreditation stronger and more compelling.

Demonstrating Expertise Through Publications

Publishing your work in reputable journals, such as the International Hydrographic Review, is another powerful way to demonstrate your expertise and commitment to the field. Throughout my career, I have taken every opportunity to contribute to such publications, which not only allowed me to share my knowledge with the wider community but also served as a critical asset during the HPAS accreditation process.

Publications are a tangible representation of your professional engagement and expertise. They show that you are actively contributing to the advancement of hydrography, which is a key consideration for HPAS assessors. Moreover, being published in international journals helps to establish your reputation within the global hydrographic community, further solidifying your credentials.

For aspiring hydrographers, I strongly recommend pursuing opportunities to publish your work. Whether it's through peer-reviewed journals, conference papers, or industry publications, these contributions can greatly enhance your professional profile and support your accreditation efforts.

The Role of Mentorship and Leadership

No journey toward professional accreditation is complete without the guidance and support of mentors and supervisors. In my case, the time and leadership provided by my supervisor were invaluable. Having a mentor who is not only experienced but also invested in your professional growth can make a significant difference.

My supervisor played a crucial role in guiding me through complex challenges, providing feedback on my work, and helping me navigate the intricacies of the HPAS application process. More than that, my supervisor's leadership and the example they set were instrumental in shaping my own leadership style and approach to professional development.

In addition to mentorship, demonstrating your own leadership abilities is vital. Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to lead various projects and initiatives, both nationally and globally. These experiences were crucial in building the leadership skills that were a key component of my HPAS accreditation. The ability to lead teams, manage projects, and influence outcomes are all indicators of a high level of professional competency and are highly regarded in the accreditation process.

Encouraging Hydrographic Professionals to Pursue Accreditation

The HPAS accreditation is not just a formal recognition; it is a testament to your dedication, expertise, and commitment to the hydrographic profession. The process of accreditation is rigorous, but it is also an invaluable opportunity for professional growth and recognition.

For those considering pursuing HPAS accreditation, I strongly encourage you to take the plunge. Ensure that your surveyor's logbook is detailed and up-to-date, maintain records of your professional contributions, seek out opportunities to publish your work, and value the mentorship and leadership opportunities that come your way. Each of these elements not only strengthens your application but also enhances your career and professional standing.

Conclusion

Reflecting on my HPAS accreditation process, I am reminded of the importance of diligence, continuous learning, and professional engagement. Achieving accreditation has been one of the most rewarding milestones in my career, and the lessons I've learned along the way are invaluable.

For hydrographic professionals at any stage of their career, the HPAS accreditation offers a pathway to greater recognition and career advancement. It challenges you to reflect on your experiences, document your contributions, and engage more deeply with the hydrographic community. In doing so, it not only enhances your professional standing but also contributes to the advancement of the field as a whole.

By pursuing accreditation, you are not just seeking recognition, you are committing to the highest standards of professional excellence in hydrography. I encourage you to take that step and join the ranks of accredited hydrographic professionals who are shaping the future of our industry.

Chandana Rathnayake

Deputy Head of Hydrography Department (EGS international UK)

BSc Hons (MTS) | PGDip (DM) | PGDip (Hydrography - UK) | Cat A (UK) & Cat B (PAK)

IFHS-HPAS Level 1 Certified Hydrographic Surveyor

chandu.ckr44@gmail.com | crathnayake@egssurvey.co.uk

TP : (0094) 763483079 | (0044) 7588740142