The Code of Professional Conduct

The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) is committed to advancing equality, diversity and inclusion as a matter of public benefit and professional responsibility.

As members of the Institute, individuals are expected to uphold the highest standards of professional conduct, integrity, and public responsibility. This Code of Professional Conduct is underpinned by the values of IMarEST, which are: Integrity, Collaboration, Community and Relevance. This Code aligns with:

- The Engineering Council and Royal Academy of Engineering Statement of Ethical Principles (2026), which sets out five core principles governing ethical conduct in engineering and technology;
- The Science Council's Guidance for Institution Codes of Conduct;
- The Science Council's Model Rules of Conduct for Registrants;
- The Engineering Council Strategy 2030, particularly its commitment to building fairness, diversity and inclusion in the profession and strengthening ethical practice;
- The relevant Charity Commission guidance on equality, diversity and inclusion, ensuring that the Institute advances public benefit through fair access, inclusion and non-discrimination.

Each member shall:

1. **Act with Integrity and in the Public Interest**
   Uphold honesty, fairness, and transparency in all professional dealings. Reject bribery, corruption, and improper influence.

2. **Raise and Support Ethical Concerns**
   Raise concerns about activities, decisions, or practices that they reasonably believe may be unethical, unlawful, unsafe, or inconsistent with this Code. Members shall do so in good faith by writing to the Chief Executive/Secretary via email at complaints@imarest.org. Members shall also support a culture of openness and accountability and shall not improperly discourage or penalise others who raise legitimate concerns. Members shall not suffer or cause detriment, retaliation or adverse treatment to any individual who raises a concern in good faith.

3. **Comply with Legal and Regulatory Requirements**
   Adhere to applicable laws and regulations in the country of residence and where work is performed. Where applicable, members shall also comply with relevant UK laws and regulations relating to their membership of the Institute.

4. **Treat All Persons Fairly and Promote Inclusion**
   Treat all persons with dignity, fairness and respect, and do not unlawfully discriminate, harass or victimise others. Members shall promote equality, diversity and inclusion, having due regard to applicable equality legislation and the diverse backgrounds, characteristics and needs of individuals and communities. Members shall actively contribute to creating inclusive environments in which all individuals feel respected, valued and able to participate fully. In their professional work, members shall seek to ensure that engineering, technological and scientific activities, solutions and services are inclusive, equitable and accessible, and do not create or perpetuate unfair barriers or disadvantage

5. **Promote Equality of Opportunity and Challenge Bias**
   Promote equality of opportunity and seek to identify and mitigate bias, whether conscious or unconscious, in professional decision making. Members should challenge discriminatory behaviour where appropriate and support practices that advance fairness, diversity and inclusion within the profession.

6. **Act with Skill, Care, and Diligence**
   Perform duties competently and responsibly, working within the limits of current competence while seeking appropriate supervision, training or support when undertaking new or developing areas of practice.

7. **Provide Objective and Reliable Professional Opinions**
   Provide objective and reliable professional opinions based on evidence, competence, and professional judgement. Members shall communicate clearly and transparently, including explaining relevant assumptions, uncertainties, limitations of evidence, and foreseeable risks and trade-offs, so that decisions can be made in an informed and responsible manner.

8. **Maintain and Develop Professional Competence**
   Continuously update knowledge and skills and support the development of others.

9. **Safeguard Health, Safety, and the Environment**
   Prioritise safety and sustainability, and draw attention to hazards and risks.

10. **Act Responsibly for the Future and Technology Lifecycle**
    Manage technology responsibly throughout its lifecycle, including design, implementation, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning, including artificial intelligence (AI), and consider long-term and intergenerational impacts.

11. **Assess and Manage Risks Responsibly**
    Identify, evaluate, and communicate risks appropriately, while recognising and pursuing appropriate opportunities.

12. **Consider Risks from Emerging Technologies and Their Misuse**
    Consider the ethical implications and risks associated with emerging and rapidly evolving technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI) and autonomous or semi-autonomous systems. Members shall exercise professional judgement to anticipate potential unintended consequences of misuse and shall apply proportionate precaution where potential harms may be serious, systemic, or irreversible.

13. **Respect Confidentiality and Data Protection**
    Maintain confidentiality and protect personal and intellectual property, including cybersecurity awareness.

14. **Avoid and Declare Conflicts of Interest**
    Avoid actual conflicts, disclose perceived conflicts to affected parties, and avoid improper political interference.

15. **Support Whistleblowing and Ethical Reporting**
    Comply with applicable whistleblowing and reporting procedures and support the reporting of malpractice or wrongdoing in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and Institute procedures.

16. **Uphold the Reputation of the Institute**
    Act in a manner that maintains or improves the standing and reputation of IMarEST and the broader marine engineering, science and technology professions.

17. **Comply with IMarEST Governance**
    Follow the Royal Charter, Bylaws, Regulations, and other governing documents.

18. **Hold Appropriate Professional Indemnity Insurance**
    Where relevant, assess liability and maintain insurance.

19. **Report Disciplinary and Legal Issues**
    Notify IMarEST promptly of any newly raised or in progress criminal or professional disciplinary proceedings that may reasonably affect their membership or professional standing, and of any unspent criminal convictions (excluding motoring offences), adverse civil judgements, bankruptcy, or disciplinary termination from other bodies.

20. **Report Violations of the Code**
    Self-report any significant breach of this Code and notify IMarEST of any significant breach by another member or membership applicant.

Members are subject to the Institute's disciplinary procedures, which are designed to uphold the standards outlined in this Code. Breaches may result in investigation and appropriate sanctions in accordance with the Institute's regulations.

Please note:

By confirming my acceptance electronically, I hereby acknowledge receipt of the IMarEST Code of Professional Conduct, confirm that I have read and understood it, and undertake to comply with its provisions. I understand that this electronic confirmation constitutes my formal declaration of acceptance and will be recorded on my membership file.