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Welcome

This is the second issue of the Engineering Council's HE bulletin, to inform you about the organisation's activity that we think is relevant to the HE community. Feedback on the first issue was positive, and we'd welcome any comments about the bulletin's content and what you would find useful in the future.

Please feel free to forward this to colleagues who might be interested.

Comments or requests to be added to or removed from the circulation list should be emailed to Deborah Seddon dseddon@engc.org.uk.

Public information about accredited degrees

With the future increase in student fees, attention is being drawn to the provision of sufficient and reliable information for prospective students, to assist them in deciding where to apply to study engineering. The Engineering Council has undertaken a survey of some university UCAS entries and university websites, looking at whether or not these include information about the accredited status of engineering degrees and the consequent benefits of taking accredited courses. In general, this information is less widespread than anticipated and when provided, its quality and accuracy is patchy, sometimes varying between different departments in the same university. This is confusing to prospective students and suggests that some universities could make much more of the advantages of engineering degree accredited status, which would have the added benefit of helping to attract students.

The current HEFCE/GUILDHE/UUK consultation, *Public Information about Higher Education*, includes a proposal for a Key Information Set that includes a statement about 'professional bodies that recognise this course'. The Engineering Council welcomes this proposal and is contributing to the HEFCE Expert Working Group that is looking at how best to publish and present this information.

Should the KIS proposal be accepted, this will present an important opportunity to ensure that students are aware of the accredited status of engineering degrees and the advantages this confers, for example in relation to registration as a professional engineer. Working with the professional engineering institutions, the Engineering Council is developing a generic statement that explains accreditation to students. For more information please contact:
Deborah Seddon dseddon@engc.org.uk

Details of the consultation:
http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2010/10_31

The Academic Courses Accreditation Database (ACAD)

The Academic Courses Accreditation Database (ACAD) holds details of academic qualifications that partially or fully satisfy the education requirement for IEng and CEng registration. This publicly available database has recently been upgraded with an improved search functionality. Universities with

accredited degrees are encouraged to direct prospective students to this database, where there is also general information about the value of accredited status. Students should be advised that courses listed on the database are accredited by entry year to the first year of the course, except where otherwise stated. <http://www.engc.org.uk/education--skills/accreditation/accredited-course-search>

Engineering Gateways: first MSc Professional Engineering graduate!



Dean Carran (pictured here with Deborah Seddon from the Engineering Council) has become the first graduate of the MSc Professional Engineering programme offered by Kingston University. Dean has a first class honours degree in Aerospace Engineering Design and was keen to take an MSc as part of his progress to becoming a Chartered Engineer. He was attracted to the MSc Professional Engineering as it offered exactly what he was looking for: academic supervision to assist him in meeting the academic requirements of the MSc, as well as an industry supervisor who guided and advised on how to align the course deliverables with the requirements of his professional institution (IMEchE) to demonstrate CEng standards of competence.

The framework for the MSc has been developed by the Engineering Council in partnership with several universities and professional engineering institutions (PEIs). Individually tailored programmes are designed around the UK Standard for Professional Engineering Competence (UK-SPEC) and integrate learning in the workplace with supervised work-based professional development. Learning and development of competence are rooted on workplace activity, thus also meeting the employer's needs.

Over 70 individuals are enrolled on MSc Professional Engineering Programmes at five UK universities, with more programmes due to be launched this year. The structured nature of the programme means that individuals are well supported in preparation for their professional review. So far, twelve PEIs have confirmed their support for this pathway, and feedback from students, employers, universities and the professional engineering institutions has been very positive.

Further information: <http://www.engc.org.uk/education--skills/engineering-gateways>

Invitation to a meeting about Engineering Gateways

A meeting for universities about the Engineering Gateways framework will be held at the Engineering Council on 2 March, to share experience and to learn about how others are benefiting from involvement. It is for universities with MSc Professional Engineering programmes up and running or in development, as well as others who are interested in getting started. If you or a colleague would like to attend, please email Lucy Hockley lhockley@engc.org.uk

New Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Engineering Accreditation Board



At the end of 2010, Professor Bob Cryan stepped down after six years as Chairman of the Engineering Accreditation Board. Professor Cryan played a very influential role in ensuring the successful establishment of EAB, resulting from the merger of DABCE and JAB, and has worked tirelessly to ensure that accreditation has become an accepted and respected process, both in the UK and internationally.

Professor Cryan is succeeded by Professor Barry Clarke (pictured here), Leeds University and ICE, and current President of the Engineering Professors' Council. Professor Peter Hicks, from the IET has been elected as the new Vice-Chair.

Engineering Accreditation Board - joint visits

A briefing manual for universities seeking accreditation via EAB is available on the EAB website. This has been recently revised and it provides an overview of the whole process, including information on time scales, action plans, the submission CD format and the revised visit schedule. The manual is available at:

<http://www.engab.org.uk/media/58012/pre%20accreditation%20visit%20briefing%20manual%20for%20universities%20-%20january%202011.pdf>

Universities seeking accreditation of MSc programmes are advised that there is now a separate submission form for masters programmes other than the MEng. The submission form and supporting guidance note can be found on the EAB website <http://www.engab.org.uk/documentation>

Engineering Subject Benchmark Statement

Following discussions with the Engineering Council, the QAA has published an updated version of the subject benchmark statement for engineering which incorporates some changes to the introductory parts of the document. There are no changes to the benchmark statements which are the same as the standards in UK-SPEC.

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/honours/Engineering10.pdf>

Queries or requests for further information should be addressed to Deborah Seddon dseddon@engc.org.uk

Higher National Qualifications

The adoption of the current Framework of Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland has had the effect of placing the HNC at level 4 and the HND at level 5. The two qualifications have in the past been regarded as at the same level, which is why they have both been listed in UK-SPEC as potential exemplifying qualifications for IEng registration if accompanied by appropriate further learning.

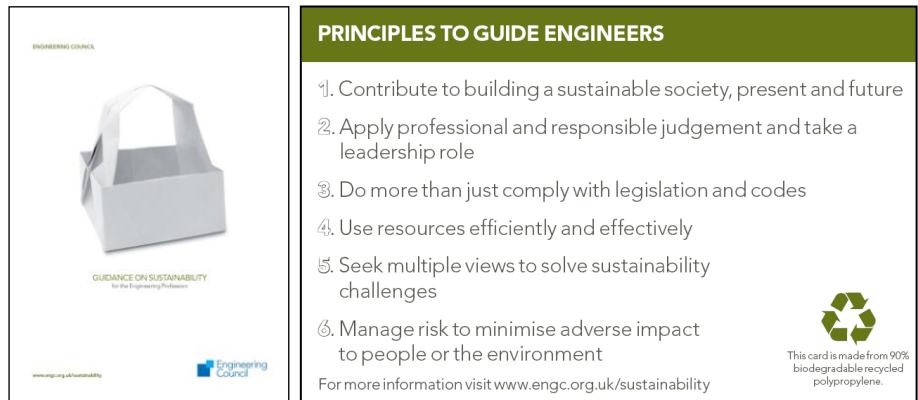
As a result of the FHEQ and the accompanying HE Credit Framework guidance, EdExcel has redesigned the qualifications and it is clear that there will be a marked difference between them. While the HND will be at level 5, the HNC will not necessarily contain any credits at this level. Given this, the Engineering Council's Registration Standards Committee has agreed that the HNC should no longer be listed alongside the HND as a potential exemplifying qualification for IEng. Paragraph 19 of the Regulations for Registration is being amended accordingly.

Climate week and the Engineering Council's sustainability guidance

The Engineering Council is among many thousands of organisations supporting Climate Week, a national initiative running for the first time from 21-27 March. Climate Week provides a showcase for the many positive steps being taken in workplaces and communities across Britain to combat climate change, and aims to inspire others

<http://www.climateweek.com/>.

As well as considering how your university might get involved, don't forget that the Engineering Council has published guidance on sustainability. Written in an accessible way with professional engineers and students in mind, the guidance is available for downloading from the website and the handy wallet card listing the six principles is available from info@engc.org.uk



The image shows a wallet card for the Engineering Council's sustainability guidance. On the left side, there is a graphic of a white paper shopping bag with the text 'ENGINEERING COUNCIL' at the top, 'GUIDANCE ON SUSTAINABILITY for the Engineering Profession' in the middle, and the Engineering Council logo at the bottom. On the right side, there is a green header 'PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE ENGINEERS' followed by a list of six numbered principles. At the bottom right of the card is a recycling symbol and the text 'This card is made from 90% biodegradable recycled polypropylene'. At the bottom left, it says 'For more information visit www.engc.org.uk/sustainability'.

PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE ENGINEERS

1. Contribute to building a sustainable society, present and future
2. Apply professional and responsible judgement and take a leadership role
3. Do more than just comply with legislation and codes
4. Use resources efficiently and effectively
5. Seek multiple views to solve sustainability challenges
6. Manage risk to minimise adverse impact to people or the environment

For more information visit www.engc.org.uk/sustainability

This card is made from 90% biodegradable recycled polypropylene.

Launch of guidance on Risk

The Engineering Council's Board has recently approved the publication of guidance on risk that follows a similar format to the guidance on sustainability mentioned above. Aimed at professional engineers and also relevant for students, the guidance sets out principles to guide and motivate engineers to be more effective at identifying, assessing and managing risk, and in communicating about risk. The guidance will be launched at an event in London, likely to be in late March or April. If you would like to attend, please contact lhockley@engc.org.uk

Work in progress..... more next time

An Engineering Council task group comprising nominees from eight PEIs has been working to develop learning outcomes for masters degrees other than the MEng. Work has progressed well and approval for a set of masters learning outcomes will be sought from the Engineering Council's Registration Standards Committee in April. Universities will be alerted when these are published, via this circulation list.

The scope of the Engineering Doctorate (EngD) scheme has been broadened and it now potentially covers all disciplines within Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council's (EPSRC) remit. The Registration Standards Committee will be asked to approve a statement on registration for EngD graduates at its April meeting.