Welcome
Welcome to this first issue of the Engineering Council’s HE bulletin. It has been created to inform you about Engineering Council activity that we think is particularly relevant to the HE community, and to invite your feedback. We plan to issue an HE bulletin twice a year.

The circulation list has been developed from publicly available contact details as well as a list supplied by the HEA’s Engineering Subject Centre. Please forward it to colleagues who might be interested.

Please contact Deborah Seddon (dseddon@engc.org.uk) with comments or requests to be added to or removed from the circulation list.

Guidance on accreditation
The Engineering Council has published updated guidance about academic accreditation. This complements the revised version of The Accreditation of HE Programmes handbook published last year, and will be of interest to anyone in HE who is involved in engineering degree programme accreditation, as well to the accrediting professional engineering institutions (PEIs). The guidance covers issues which have arisen since the introduction of UK-SPEC in 2004, and reflects discussions with PEIs and amongst members of the Engineering Accreditation Board (EAB). It does not introduce any new regulatory requirements.

The guidance emphasises the desirability of accreditation becoming part of an ongoing developmental relationship between universities and professional bodies, and not just a one-off five yearly event. It strengthens the requirement for arrangements to be in place for universities to notify PEIs of any proposed significant changes to a programme during the accreditation period, and PEIs are encouraged to avoid introducing unnecessary prescription into their individual requirements.

The adoption of UK-SPEC made learning outcomes the main focus of accreditation. This was intended to allow universities greater scope to develop diverse and innovative provision. We are keen to publicise the scope for innovation within accredited programmes, so please let us know of any examples of this. Please also let us know of any specific instances where you believe that accreditation requirements have restricted your freedom to innovate.

The guidance note can be downloaded from http://www.engc.org.uk/professional-qualifications/standards/uk-spec

Dual accreditation
The guidance on accreditation confirms the decision made last year that all Honours degrees accredited as partially meeting the academic requirements for Chartered Engineer (CEng) registration meet the requirements for Incorporated Engineer (IEng) registration and Sydney Accord recognition, and so should be accredited for both CEng and IEng. This arrangement is backdated to cover all such degrees accredited from intake year 1999.
This is highlighted on our academic courses accreditation database (ACAD) http://www.engab.org.uk/education--skills/accreditation/accredited-course-search and you are invited to spread the message amongst your students. It may be of particular interest to any who are interested in seeking IEng registration, or who are leaving the UK and wish to gain international recognition for their academic qualification in respect of immigration process waivers.

Opportunity for joint accreditation visits

Did you know that where there is sufficient commonality amongst programmes, you can request an Engineering Accreditation Board (EAB) visit involving several of the professional engineering institutions? Since EAB’s inception in 2006, over thirty universities have opted for a joint EAB visit. This means that you have one point of contact through the EAB Secretariat and a single visit rather than several separate PEI accreditation visits. It also reduces bureaucracy as you will then only have one set of submission documents and one visit report.

Further details are available on the EAB website www.engab.org.uk or by contacting the EAB Secretary at the Engineering Council, Neela Lubojacky nlubojacky@engc.org.uk. Visits are currently being scheduled for Spring 2011 onwards.

Professional qualification for teachers and researchers

Gaining IEng or CEng status is just as straightforward for engineers who are teachers or researchers in HE as it is for an engineer working in industry. A new Engineering Council leaflet for teachers and researchers outlines the ways in which you can achieve professional recognition, explains the benefits it will provide and aims to address some commonly held misunderstandings about academics’ eligibility to be IEng or CEng. It informs you of the ways that evidence of competence can be provided, such as course development, involvement in research, managing research projects, an industrial placement, working independently on consultancy or voluntary engineering work.

The leaflet was produced with the help of HE and FE staff and the Engineering Professors’ Council (EPC), and is available for downloading from: http://bit.ly/d4c6PX or in hard copy from info@engc.org.uk We would welcome your help in promoting IEng and CEng status amongst your colleagues. If you are interested in finding out more about registration, please go to www.engc.org.uk or contact one of the professional engineering institutions who will be happy to assist. These are listed on our website at http://www.engc.org.uk/about-us/our-partners/professional-engineering-institutions.

Global dimension for engineering education

With increasing globalisation and enhanced opportunities for mobility, engineering graduates will increasingly need to be able to work in multidisciplinary, multicultural teams to assess local needs and create solutions to complex problems such as poverty and sustainability. The Engineering Council is a partner in a three year project led by Engineers Against Poverty to strengthen the capacity of UK HE to embed global issues into the teaching of engineering.

A programme of interactive 1-day workshops has been developed for academics, to introduce and explore curriculum content, pedagogy and approaches to assessment. Each workshop will cover a particular topic such as:

- Development and Engineering
- Engineers Working with Conflict
- Engineering and Social Justice
- Values and Ethics in Engineering
- Interdependence and Global Professionalism in Engineering
- Engineering and Sustainable Development

The resources from the project will be available through a dedicated web portal. More information and a booking form for the workshops can be found on: http://www.engsc.ac.uk/global-dimension.
MSc Professional Engineering

The framework for this flexible workbased masters programme has been developed by the Engineering Council to provide a new opportunity for individuals to learn whilst earning, and work towards registration as CEng. The MSc Professional Engineering is supported by several PEIs and is currently being offered by five universities. Several more universities are due to launch programmes during the academic year 2010-2011. An interim review of this 'Engineering Gateways’ work, carried out by an independent consultant, has provided encouraging conclusions. The report is available on: http://tinyurl.com/33d4xde

A new leaflet about the Engineering Gateways framework also points out the opportunity to develop workbased Bachelors programmes which lead to IEng. This can be downloaded from our website at: http://www.engc.org.uk/ecukdocuments/internet/document%20library/Engineering%20Gateways%20leaflet.pdf or for hard copies please contact info@engc.org.uk.

If you’re interested in developing an Engineering Gateways programme, information is available at http://www.engc.org.uk/engineering-gateways or by contacting Deborah Seddon dseddon@engc.org.uk.

EUR-ACE

EUR-ACE is a European wide system aimed at giving enhanced recognition to engineering programmes which are accredited by national agencies such as the Engineering Council. Administered by ENAEE (www.enaee.eu), the system allows the addition of the EUR-ACE® label to accredited programmes, provided the national accreditation agency and the programme satisfy the EUR-ACE® Framework Standards. The Engineering Council has been permitted to issue labels to degrees that have been accredited since the end of 2006 and so far three universities have joined the scheme. Contact international@engc.org.uk for more information.

Engineering Subject Centre’s Teaching Awards

We would like to congratulate Rachel McCrindle from the University of Reading, who is this year's winner of the Engineering Subject Centre's Teaching Awards, sponsored by the Engineering Council. The judges felt that Rachel's project 'Software Engineering - Learning through Innovation and Interaction’ showed real commitment and enthusiasm to her teaching, which has had a huge positive impact on her students. She was presented with a certificate and £1000 towards future conference expenses at an awards presentation during the Gala dinner at the EE2010 conference at Aston University on 7th July.

The Engineering Subject Centre's Teaching Awards, covering England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, have been running for over five years and provide an opportunity for engineering academics to receive national recognition for their outstanding learning and teaching practices.

Further information is available from: http://engsc.ac.uk/teaching-awards/2011

Work in progress ....... more next time

An Engineering Council task group starts work soon to look at the feasibility of developing learning outcomes for Masters degrees other than MEng. If you have any comments or relevant materials that may assist the task group, please forward to Deborah Seddon dseddon@engc.org.uk

A review of engineering departments’ websites and UCAS listings is being undertaken to see whether there is the potential for universities to promote more widely the advantages of accredited status, and to identify examples of good practice.