Welcome

This issue reports on HE-related activity that the Engineering Council has been engaged in since the previous HE bulletin in September 2012. By the time you read this, the Engineering Lens on Vitae’s Researcher Development Framework will have been published, workshops related to innovative accredited provision and the Engineering Gateways programme will be in development, and the 2013-2014 programme of joint accreditation visits under the auspices of the Engineering Accreditation Board will be underway.

Please feel free to forward this to colleagues who might be interested. Comments on the HE bulletin and requests to be added to or removed from the circulation list should be emailed to Caroline Sudworth.

Engineering Council welcomes new team member

The Engineering Council is pleased to announce that Dr Caroline Sudworth has taken up the newly created role of Education and Skills Senior Executive, with effect from 15 October 2012. Caroline will play a valuable role in the Policy and Standards team, taking responsibility for the HE, FE and Skills areas of the Engineering Council’s work, including academic accreditation.

She will be working closely with Professional Engineering Institutions and other stakeholders, focussing on understanding and developing the number of pathways and flexible learning packages leading to professional registration as Engineering Technician (EngTech), Incorporated Engineer (IEng) and Chartered Engineer (CEng).

Read the press release here.

Latest UCAS figures show confidence in engineering

Figures released by UCAS in January 2013 show that total applications to UK universities are 3.5% higher than they were as of January 2012, with a total of 2.8% increase seen from UK applicants.

Engineering, computer and physical sciences figures show much greater rises (8.4%, 12.63%, and 6.6% respectively) showing that these subjects are in demand by applicants. Further information and data analysis can be found here.
Engineering Gateways Workshop planned for May 2013

The Engineering Council is pleased to announce that a workshop dedicated to the Engineering Gateways programme is planned for May 2013.

The aim of the workshop is to engage a range of existing and newer audiences, including:

- **Universities**: to share their experiences in the development and delivery of Engineering Gateway programmes
- **Professional Engineering Institutions**: to share expertise to support universities and learners
- **Employers and employees**: to share experiences to date
- **Wider stakeholders** (including Sector Skills Councils, HE related bodies, trade unions and the National Apprenticeship Service): to showcase the programme and develop relationships further.

The workshop will engage the audience through informative presentations in the morning, followed by afternoon breakout session discussions aimed to provide feedback to the Engineering Council on the challenges and opportunities of the Engineering Gateways programme for the future.

For more information, please visit the [Engineering Gateways](#) webpage.

KIS accreditation statements updated for 2013 intake

With the introduction of the Key Information Set in 2012, engineering departments now have the opportunity to highlight to potential students which of their degrees are accredited through the Unistats web facility. To assist universities, the Engineering Council developed statements for each type of engineering undergraduate degree and its relationship with IEng or CEng registration for use on their websites.

These statements have been updated for the 2013 intake, and are available to download on the [information for universities](#) webpage. The ‘Engineering Council accredited degree’ [logo](#) is available for downloading.

![Engineering Council accredited degree](#)

(Welsh version)

Given the lead time for publications, and the requirement for an accurate KIS statement about professional body recognition, planning ahead for re-accreditation visits is now even more important to prevent misleading future applicants. Engineering degree accreditation is by intake year.

Kite-marking update

The Engineering Council previously reported concern over the Government’s proposals for ‘kite-marking’ of degrees being implemented in engineering, and the apparent duplication of an already established engineering degree accreditation system. This was likely to cause confusion amongst students and advisors when choosing a degree course. The Engineering Council, supported by the Professional Engineering Institutions and the Engineering Accreditation Board, has negotiated successfully with Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS), and was pleased to note that the HM Treasury Autumn Statement in December 2012, stated:

*Where professional accreditation exists, Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) will not now be expected to facilitate the kite-marking of individual courses, but to work with professional bodies on accreditation. Where there is no professional accreditation, SSCs are leading further work to establish the best way forward.*

The Engineering Council is satisfied with this outcome, and is now considering how to work with BIS, UKCES and individual SSCs, to promote key messages relating to the purpose and value of degree accreditation, and its link with subsequent professional registration.
Recognising innovative accredited engineering provision

Over the past decade a series of reports have highlighted the need for a change in engineering education to ensure that graduates leave universities appropriately equipped for the complex interdisciplinary challenges of the 21st century. The Engineering Council's accreditation criteria enable the development of a variety of diverse provision, which can be accredited by the Professional Engineering Institutions.

Assuring academics that UK-SPEC enables the development of innovative provision will be the focus of a workshop organised by Dr John Mitchell of UCL and involving the Engineering Council. It will bring together academics, the professional engineering institutions who are promoting curriculum innovation and change within their institutions. It will aim to explore how this could be better supported and by whom, for example what are the perceived roadblocks to curriculum innovation and what can be done to overcome them?

The workshops will be hosted at the HEA STEM conference and EPC Annual Congress, both in April 2013.

EngD Accreditation presented at ENAEE Conference

In November 2012, the first European Network for the Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAEE) Conference was hosted in Porto, Portugal.

On behalf of the Engineering Council, Deborah Seddon, Head of Policy and Standards, presented work related to the accreditation of Engineering Doctorates as an exemplifying academic award for registration as a Chartered Engineer. Deborah Seddon also detailed how this has led to the consideration of EngD’s role in the initial professional development (IPD) of a potential registrant. Both the presentation and supporting paper can be found here.

Universities who wish to discuss accreditation of EngD programmes, including through a joint institution accreditation visit under the auspices of the Engineering Accreditation Board are invited to contact the EAB Secretary, Neela Lubojacky for more information.

Review of UK-SPEC and AHEP

During 2013, the Engineering Council will be undertaking a review of the 'Accreditation of HE Programmes' (AHEP) learning outcomes and processes as part of its periodic review of UK-SPEC.

The QAA’s periodic review of the engineering subject benchmark statement, which is the same as the standard in UK-SPEC, is also due to begin towards the end of the year. The Engineering Council and the QAA are liaising closely to ensure that, as far as possible, processes are aligned.

The profession, including academia and employers, will be consulted about any proposed amendments to AHEP. In advance of that, if you wish to suggest any elements of the learning outcomes for consideration during the review, please email Deborah Seddon.

Engineering Accreditation Board News

The Engineering Accreditation Board is pleased to announce that Professor Barry Clarke, the 148th President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, was re-elected as Chair of the Engineering Accreditation Board in November 2012. Dr Jane Horner (IMechE) of Loughborough University is the newly elected Vice-Chair.

Skilled, Shortage, Sensible

February 2013 has seen the publication of Skilled, Shortage, Sensible, a Migration Advisory Committee review of the shortage occupation list in the UK. Many of the Professional Engineering Institutions have participated in the review, with detail being presented in chapters 5 and 6 for Physical Sciences and Engineering respectively. The document can be found here.
EUR-ACE® Labels

EUR-ACE is a European wide system administered by ENAEE, and aims to provide enhanced recognition to Engineering Council accredited engineering programmes, provided these satisfy the EUR-ACE® Framework Standards.

UK universities may apply to the Engineering Council for a label for any degree holding accredited status since November 2006. The Engineering Council has currently negotiated a reduced fee. Until the end of 2013, there is a charge of £150 per first cycle or second cycle programme label. For a suite of accredited programmes, there will be a charge of £150 plus a charge of £20 for each additional degree programme within the same suite of degrees, up to a maximum of ten labels.

Requests for EUR-ACE® brochures and information on how to apply for the label should be forwarded to Neela Lubojacky.

Engineering lens now published

Vitae, working in partnership with the Engineering Council, has published the ‘engineering lens’ on the Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF). The RDF is a comprehensive approach to enhancing the careers of researchers, developed by and for researchers, in consultation with academics and employers from other sectors.

The ‘engineering lens’ was developed by reviewing the RDF and identifying those areas that relate to the Engineering Council’s standard for competence and commitment for CEng. The aim of the lens is to assist engineering researchers with their professional and career development, and by making the strong link with CEng, to encourage them to seek professional registration. This lens will also complement the Engineering Council’s work to establish a clearly visible pathway to CEng status for EngD graduates.

Risk Education Network (REN) launched

Looking for resources or want to share news and views about the teaching of risk? The Risk Education Network is now here to help!

REN's primary focus is the teaching of health and safety risk by Higher Education institutions in engineering related subjects. Much of the content is, however, expected to be transferable to other types of risk, such as project / financial, and other technical subjects as well as management and business studies. Some of the resources may also be useful for those teaching in further and compulsory education.

Consultations

QAA is inviting comment on the draft version of the handbook for Higher Education Review - a more risk-based approach to the quality assurance of higher education offered by QAA subscribers in England and Northern Ireland, as well as by providers with access to funding from HEFCE or DELNI who are not subscribers to QAA.

Higher Education Review will be launched in 2013-14 and succeeds two methods: Institutional Review of Higher Education Institutions in England and Northern Ireland and Review of College Higher Education. It may also succeed Integrated Quality and Enhancement Review for further education colleges in Northern Ireland from 2014-15, and Review for Educational Oversight from January 2014. The latter will be the subject of a separate communication.

The deadline for responses is 22nd April, with the aim to publish the final version of the handbook in May 2013. Further details are available here.
Conference Announcements

Engineering Professors Council Annual Congress
16th and 17th April, University of Portsmouth

This year the EPC key theme will be “Engineering in Higher Education: Investing for Impact”.

EPC welcomes delegates from the academic community and colleagues in the professional institutions and learned societies – essentially – all who have an interest in ensuring the future success of university engineering departments. The programme includes speakers from the world of politics and the media. Workshop sessions cover areas such as innovation in the engineering curriculum, through managing change, to what makes a good impact case study.

The EPC has announced that Professor Jim Al-Khalili, Theoretical Physicist, Chair in the Public Engagement in Science and presenter of BBC’s The Life Scientific, will deliver the Public Lecture and Kate Bellingham, STEM Ambassador and former Tomorrow’s World presenter, will be interviewing Paul Westbury FREng, CBE, CEO of Buro Happold, the Olympic Stadium Design Team and Queen Elizabeth Prize panelist. Andrew Miller MP, Chair of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, will address the pre-dinner reception and Sir Michael Moore, former Director General of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, will be the after dinner speaker. The Congress Dinner will be held in Portsmouth’s spectacular Spinnaker Tower overlooking the harbour.

You can find more information about the full programme and book your place here.

EESD13: Engineering Education for Sustainable Development
September 22 - 25, 2013; Cambridge

The theme of this conference, the 6th in the series, will be ‘Rethinking the Engineer’.

Keynote speakers will include Lord Browne of Madingley and Professor Paul Jowitt.

The Conference will explore how to develop the new skills needed by engineers so they can be more effective in dealing with messy problems in an increasingly complex and constrained world. The conference is the premiere forum for the dissemination of new advances in the evolution of sustainable development thinking in young engineers and associated professionals and will bring together students, academics, graduates and practitioners to rethink the professional engineer’s role and responsibilities in modern society.

You can find more information and subscribe to conference updates here.