Welcome

This issue reports on HE-related activity that the Engineering Council has been engaged in since the previous HE bulletin in March 2013 and HE update newsletter in July 2013.

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 Neela Lubojacky: nlubojacky@engc.org.uk

Engineering Gateways: First Graduate to secure IEng Registration

Christopher Jones is the first graduate in the UK to achieve Incorporated Engineer (IEng) status through the flexible work based ‘Engineering Gateways’ programme. Christopher graduated from the BEng Professional Engineering (Power Systems) degree offered by Aston University in Birmingham and secured IEng status via IET.

To find out more about Engineering Gateways click here.

Engineering Gateways Workshop

The Engineering Council hosted a very successful workshop dedicated to the Engineering Gateways initiative on 11th September 2013. The workshop attracted over 40 Professional Engineering Institutions, Higher Education Institutions and employers who provided expertise to support the development of Engineering Gateways programmes.

All stakeholders expressed their enthusiasm and support for the Engineering Gateways model: work-based degree programmes which integrate the underpinning academic requirements with the development of competence, supporting employees towards professional registration. The Engineering Gateways Advisory Group will be taking forward actions from the workshop in 2014. A full report of the workshop is available here.
The Accreditation of Higher Education Programmes Review

During 2013, the Engineering Council has been undertaking its five year periodic review of several key documents including UK-SPEC and the Accreditation of HE Programmes (AHEP). The revised UK-SPEC will be issued during early 2014.

The majority of responses to the first consultation were very positive, indicating that AHEP is working well. In its work, one area of attention for the review Steering Group has been to clarify the distinctions between different types of degree by producing a holistic set of output standards for each, and making clear the opportunities for progression. An online survey seeking views about proposed revisions to AHEP was launched on 29 October 2013 and will run until 7 January 2014. The revised AHEP is likely to be available shortly after Easter 2014. Details can be found [here](#).

Universities will be aware that the QAA is undertaking its periodic review of the Engineering Subject Benchmark statement. The Engineering Council and the QAA are working together to ensure that the relationship between these two documents is taken into account during these reviews. Once the AHEP review is complete, QAA will be working with the HE sector to explore the implications for the benchmark statement of any changes.

Key Information Set (KIS) Statements

The Engineering Council is continuing to support universities in publishing accurate information about accredited degree programmes. Statements have been issued for use with accredited engineering degrees in relation to IEng and/or CEng registration, and for use with KIS and UNISTATS. The statements can be found on the Engineering Council [website](#).

Professional Engineering Institutions are now routinely checking the accuracy of accreditation statements during their accreditation visits. Universities are reminded of the availability of the logo ‘Engineering Council accredited degree’. Further details are available [here](#).

Engineering Accreditation Board (EAB) Visits

EAB facilitates joint accreditation activities of its member institutions which will include a minimum of two Professional Engineering Institutions. For an EAB accreditation to take place, there has to be sufficient commonality amongst the programmes being put forward.

In 2013, EAB undertook 8 accreditation visits and reviewed 85 programmes in total during these visits. At present 10 EAB visits have been booked for 2014.

If your department is interested in a joint institution accreditation visit under the auspices of the Engineering Accreditation Board, further details are available [here](#). Please contact Neela Lubojacky: [NLubojacky@engc.org.uk](mailto:NLubojacky@engc.org.uk) urgently if you would like to schedule a visit as dates are booking up rapidly for 2014 and 2015.

Review of Engineering Skills

Professor John Perkins’ review of the provision of engineering skills in the UK economy was published in November 2013. The review endorses the widely accepted view that substantially increasing the supply of engineers entering the labour market would benefit the UK economy. This would help the economy to be more flexible and resilient, and enable more people to take up new opportunities that technological change presents.

The review includes 22 recommendations for action by government, industry, the engineering profession, and the education sector. We must inspire young people throughout their education. We must also improve the engineering skills supply system to help to develop the types of engineer which current and future industries need.

More information can be found [here](#).
Engineering UK 2014: The State of Engineering

Now in its 16th year, the Engineering UK report has provided the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) community, government, businesses and third sector organisations with a compelling evidence base across the STEM continuum.

There are two overriding messages from this year’s report. Firstly, that Britain is great at engineering – its skilled engineers are world class and engineering makes a vital and valued contribution to the UK economy, and can help mitigate the grand global challenges of climate change, ageing populations, and supply of food, clean water and energy. Secondly, that the UK at all levels of education does not have either the current capacity or the rate of growth needed to meet the forecast demand for skilled engineers by 2020. To access the full report, please register here.

SEFI 2014: Educating Engineers for Global Competitiveness

The SEFI 2014 Conference will take place in Birmingham from Monday 15 – Friday 19 September 2014.

The conference will focus on the requirement for highly educated engineers who are able to operate in a competitive environment and extends to global competitiveness. The challenges for educators, working with industry, are to ensure that education and training of engineers will meet these challenges both now and in the future.

The submission of abstracts to SEFI 2014 is now open. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 17th of February 2014 and the full papers must be submitted by the 28th of April 2014. More information can be found here.

Engineering Professors’ Council Congress 2014

The Engineering Professors’ Council Congress 2014 will be held at the University of Glasgow on 8th and 9th April 2014. Keynote speakers include Sir John Parker GBE FREng (President of the Royal Academy of Engineering) and Professor John Perkins CBE FREng (Chief Scientific Advisor to the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills). More information can be found here.

The Engineering Professors’ Council has also announced that the Incorporation of Hammermen of Glasgow have joined with them in offering their 20th Anniversary Student Award. The first prize is £1,000 and 2 runners-up prizes of £500 each. To enter, students, both undergraduate and postgraduate are invited to submit a 2,000 word essay on the following topic:

*How does engineering contribute to the UK economy and how can that contribution be increased? Is there a role for UK engineering in higher education in making this happen?*

The closing date is 8th January 2014, with full details available here.

HEA STEM Annual Learning and Teaching Conference 2014: Enhancing the STEM Student Journey

The next HEA STEM conference entitled “Enhancing the STEM Student Journey” will take place at the University of Edinburgh on 30 April – 1 May 2014.

The conference will include keynote presentations, debates, individual papers, posters, and student poster competitions. Keynotes will include Andy Field, Professor of Child Psychopathology at the University of Sussex, Dame Wendy Hall, Professor of Computer Science at the University of Southampton and Nike Folayan, Chair of AFBE-UK.

Professor Iain Stewart of BBC Earth fame will also be presenting the award for STEM Technician of the Year and will be giving an after dinner talk. Full details are available here.
Recognising Inspirational Scientists and Engineers: Nominations Open

Universities, EPSRC Strategic Partners, and Learned Societies are invited to identify nominees for the RISE awards, which is part of the Engineering for Growth campaign. Details of how to nominate individuals can be found here. The deadline is 31st January 2014. Read more about the RISE awards.

EUROPEAN NEWS

EUR-ACE® label for accredited degrees

The EUR-ACE® quality label for engineering programmes is awarded by the European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAEE) via nine authorised agencies, of which the Engineering Council is one.

UK universities may apply for a label for any degree holding accredited status since November 2006. Labels are valid for the duration of accreditation. The Engineering Council is supportive of ENAEE and believes that the EUR-ACE® label is a valuable tool in promoting recognition of UK accredited engineering degree programmes in Europe and elsewhere.

Uptake of the label in the UK is slowly growing. To encourage further uptake, and in recognition of the tendency in the UK for ‘suites’ of programmes with similar content and titles to be accredited by the same visiting panel, the Engineering Council has negotiated a reduced fee. Until the end of 2014, there is a charge of £150 +VAT per first cycle or second cycle programme label. For a suite of accredited programmes, there will be a charge of £150 +VAT plus a charge of £20 +VAT 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: NLubojacky@engc.org.uk

ERASMUS+ Programme Launched

The new Erasmus+ programme will enable over 5 million young people to go to other countries to study, train and join in voluntary activities.

Erasmus+ aims to support the mobility of young people aged between 13 and 30 years old through learning, studying and acquiring professional skills and aptitudes in a country other than their country of origin. In the field of education, training and youth, it will bring together Comenius, Erasmus, Erasmus Mundus, Leonardo da Vinci (vocational training), Grundtvig and Youth in Action. It also introduces sport, for the first time in a European programme. The existing brand names will be kept, as they are well known to the public. Details can be found here.

European Commission EHEA Qualifications Frameworks

The Commission is developing a website where you can compare education frameworks in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). Details can be found here.

European University Association DEFINE project

EUA is organizing three focus groups with university practitioners during the first half of 2014 as part of the DEFINE project ("Designing strategies for efficient funding of higher education in Europe"). This EUA-led project analyses the impact of funding efficiency measures such as performance-based funding, mergers and concentration measures, as well as excellence schemes, on higher education institutions in Europe.

The call for expressions of interest invites experts from higher education institutions across Europe to participate in the three focus groups (maximum 20 people in a group) each tackling a topic related to funding efficiency measures. Details can be found here.