



e-Bulletin : July 2009

THE WORK-BASED ROUTE TO PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

Evaluation of the impact of the work-based pathway to professional qualification

The Steering Committee has approved a research proposal to measure the progress and impact of the workbased model against the aims of the project, and a Working Group has been established to lead on this. The overall aim is to measure the progress of the EC^{UK} project against its overarching goals, and specifically to find out if stakeholders' needs are being met by the programmes established so far. The key stakeholders are: EC^{UK}, students, universities, professional engineering institutions, employer organisations, and employers of participating students. This evaluation project is being led by Debbie Lock at Kingston University and the output will provide part of the 5-year report on the project in March 2011.

Interest in the pathway continues to grow

Aston University has launched the MSc Professional Engineering for first intake this October. Several engineering disciplines are available and further information can be found at www.aston.ac.uk/profeng. Programmes at either bachelors or masters level are likely to be available during 2009/2010 at a further six academic institutions, and others are considering development of provision.

Since the early stage of the project, when three professional engineering institutions were involved, a further six have formally ratified the Registration Protocol with EC^{UK}. This confirms their support for individuals choosing this pathway and a willingness to consider the programmes for accreditation once there is some output.

Students based overseas

The Steering Committee has recently confirmed that programmes may be offered for students who are living and working outside of the UK. The language of instruction must be English and the individual university, college or professional engineering institution may make specific requirements to cover particular features of the programme such as mentoring and assessment arrangements. Students based outside the UK who may be interested in enrolling with one of the UK providers should contact the university or college directly to request further information.

Launch of the Bachelors in Professional Engineering

A pathway for engineers seeking a bachelors level degree and aspiring to achieve Incorporated Engineer status has been developed along similar lines to the MSc Professional Engineering. It is expected that this will be an attractive progressive route for those with a Foundation Degree as well as others.

A guide to the bachelors degree in professional engineering is available in the publications section of the engineering gateways website, and there has already been some interest amongst academic institutions in offering this degree.

Documents recently published on the engineering gateways website:

- The 'Guide to Bachelors programmes in Professional Engineering'
- Guidance on mentoring and assessment which is intended to assist those supporting individuals enrolled on MSc and bachelors programmes in Professional Engineering. Both of these documents can be downloaded from <http://www.engineeringgateways.co.uk/publications.aspx>
- A process map outlining the information flow from enrolment on the degree to professional review which can be downloaded from <http://www.engineeringgateways.co.uk/learning-framework/process-map.aspx>
- Statements for both students and employers about programmes for those based outside the UK

The Engineering Gateways Project is part of the government's DIUS-funded 'Gateways to the Professions' initiative. It aims to provide a route to professional qualification for working engineers without the full exemplifying qualifications who are unable to commit to full-time study. Employees are able to demonstrate the required competences for professional registration (UK-SPEC) at the same time as meeting the learning objectives for an academic qualification

Participating Organisations



Programmes available at
Aston University, University of
Hertfordshire, Kingston
University,
Northumbria University,
Staffordshire University

*Professional Engineering
Institutions*
BCS, CIBSE, IChemE, IET, IPEN,
IMechE, InstMC, RAeS, SOE

Industry Representatives
COGENT, ECITB,
SEMTA, TUC

This list will be updated as further
organisations become involved

Contact Details

Deborah Seddon
Engineering Council UK
246 High Holborn
London
WC1V 7EX

Tel: +44 (0) 20 3206 0565

Email: dseddon@engc.org.uk

Web:

www.engineeringgateways.co.uk