

Engineering Gateways: flexible work-based pathways to becoming professionally qualified

Deborah Seddon, Deputy Director of Formation/Engineering
Gateways project manager

- MSc Professional Engineering: more students, more programmes
- Support from 10 PEIs, several Sector Skills Councils, ECITB
- Funding opportunities emerging eg HE STEM programme
- Bachelors level programme guide – evidence of demand
- Engineering Gateways leaflet – focus on benefits
- Good fit with HE-employer engagement activity – future?

Feedback from MSc Professional Engineering students

- Important/very important to have CEng status
- Ability to work and gain a professional qualification (1)
- Better promotion prospects (2)
- Satisfied/very satisfied with programme
- Induction and negotiation are useful
- Gaining knowledge and skills already of use in job

Employers' feedback

- Confident they can provide appropriate work opportunities
- Welcome 'negotiation' (enables alignment of business needs with the individual's programme), flexible nature, centrality of UK-SPEC, focus on real work, the support from HEIs and PEIs
- Some are already bringing tangible benefit to the company
- Supporting employees has not been onerous
- MSc documentation has wider in-company benefit

Universities' feedback

- Good fit with existing frameworks has smoothed the way
- Variation in level of negotiation, APEL, type of provision
- The welcome centrality of UK-SPEC – this is key
- PEIs' feedback on individual's documentation at earlier than usual stage has proved to be very valuable
- Opportunities for links with industry and staff development

Professional Engineering Institutions' feedback

- IET, IMechE, RAeS
- Pathway closely matches their aims and objectives
- Welcome the explicit links with UK-SPEC in the learning contracts
- Value the opportunity to engage with potential members at an early stage
- General agreement that the 'new' element is the individual's documentation

Engineering Council overview

- Very encouraged by the achievements so far
- Had not expected an immediate mass take-up; the gradual build-up is happening
- Aim for the pathway to be more widely known and embedded as further (not replacement) option
- How to secure more employer buy-in?
- UK-SPEC enables variety of provision to meet local needs

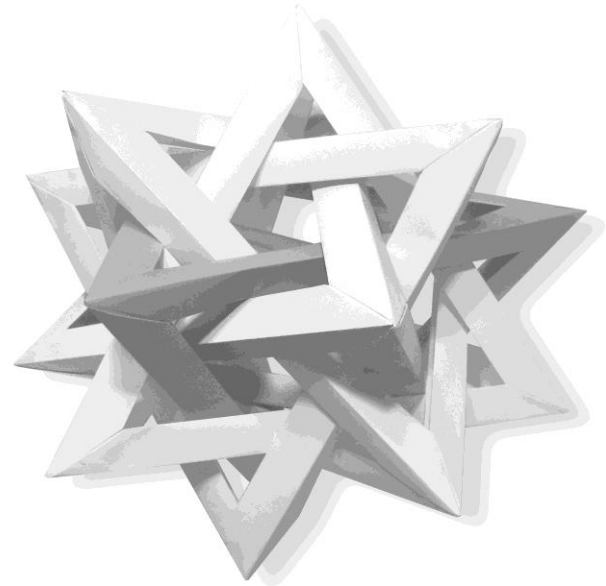
Areas for consideration / programme development

- Dealing with an individual's documentation: meeting all stakeholder's expectations
- Ensuring that the workplace activity can offer appropriate experience
- Students do not feel part of a learning community – an issue?
- Are mentors sufficiently briefed? Responsibility for this?
- Widen awareness: company directors/senior staff, SMEs
- Resourcing issues for HEIs and PEIs when numbers grow – PEIs already thinking of strategies
- Universities identified lots of opportunities, including internationally

Summary

- A pathway has been developed and programmes are running
- Individuals are progressing through without the need to leave work and lose earnings
- Employers are involved in the development of the profession
- All stakeholders remain committed to this pathway
- The workbased students indicate that it is meeting a need
- First graduates are expected in 2011
- Too early to say if this will have a positive effect on retention

Any questions?



dseddon@engc.org.uk

www.engineeringgateways.co.uk

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