

Work based pathways to professional engineering qualification

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Context for development of flexible pathways

- Failing system of formation - 'lost' to profession
- Tuition Fees debate in 2004 - impact?
- Increased interest in workbased learning
- Support for HEI-employer engagement
- Langlands Report – 'Gateways' funding 2006-08
- Student population - less homogeneous

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The model

Integrates learning to B or M level with supervised work-based professional development that meets requirements for professional registration

- Integrated rather than sequential
- Workplace activity provides the learning and professional development opportunities
- UK-SPEC is central
- Academic award + eligibility to apply for professional review

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Activity – Phase 1

- initial partners secured
- development of the model
- supporting documentation and website
- protocols signed
- MSc programmes launched

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Activity – Phase 2

- PEIs review some WB student documentation
- Further supporting documentation published
- Guide to the Bachelors programme published
- Evaluation begins
- Stakeholders' Group established
- Sharing of experience
- Promoting the model, further partners

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Progress and successes so far

- 5 university-validated MSc Professional Engineering programmes
- More programmes will be offered 2009/2010
- c50 MSc Professional Engineering students
- Website and published guidance material
- High level of interest and commitment
- Initial feedback is encouraging

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Some guiding principles

- No change in the required standard or rigour of process
- ECUK regulations allow for flexible provision – accreditation is outcomes-based
- Employer able to provide activity that will lead to the required level of learning
- Responsibility for learning, development and design of programme – individual plays a key role
- New pathway to fit with existing processes as far as possible

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The Future

- Bachelors level provision available
- FE sector involvement
- Raise awareness amongst employers
- Embed the pathway
- Individuals achieve academic and professional qualifications

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