



e-Bulletin : September 2011

Participating
Organisations



THE WORK-BASED ROUTE TO PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

HE STEM funding to help spread Engineering Gateways

The Engineering Council has been awarded a 'practice transfer partnership' by the National HE STEM Programme as part of its workforce development programme. This partnership will enable successful engineering gateways practice to be shared with the aim of enabling more universities to offer this type of degree.

The Engineering Council's proposal for activity focused on identifying successful practice amongst those universities already offering the MSc or Bachelors in Professional Engineering, as well as finding out what other universities would find most useful to get started. The work programme is being finalised and is likely to involve drawing together examples of successful practice into a tool kit or delivery package. The overall aim is for the flexible work-based approach to be embedded more widely in engineering HE so that more individuals can work towards becoming registered as IEng or CEng whilst in work.

The partnership with the National HE STEM Programme will also incorporate some relevant practice from other universities: Leeds Metropolitan University's 'Knowledge Exchange Network' model for employer engagement and the University of Westminster's work-based learning maturity toolkit.

The initiative will run from August 2011 to June 2012 and will be led by Deborah Seddon at the Engineering Council supported by Hal Igarashi a lead facilitator for the HE STEM programme, based at the Royal Academy of Engineering.

A first - a graduate from the MSc Professional Engineering achieves CEng! More next time.....

Five year evaluation report

March 2011 marked five years since the award to the Engineering Council of 'gateways development funding'. This led to the development of the model for flexible work-based HE programmes for individuals to achieve an academic award and work towards professional engineer status through their workplace activity. The report published in March 2011 covers successes, stakeholders' views and future developments. The overall picture is very encouraging with all key stakeholder groups reporting positively about their involvement and confirming their commitment to this pathway.

The Engineering Council remains committed to 'engineering gateways' as part of its mainstream work, and will continue to provide support to key stakeholders to increase awareness, take-up and provision of such degrees. Aside from the award of funding for the first two years, government's interest in this work has varied over the five years, though there are signs that the current government is developing an interest in access to the professions, and developments are being watched.

The report is available to download from <http://tinyurl.com/3wu4ph4>

Case studies that include the experiences of employers, individuals and universities are available to download at <http://www.engc.org.uk/engineering-gateways/case-studies> More case studies are welcome!

An advantage of the work-based MSc Professional Engineering:
... being able to seamlessly intertwine a full time engineering role within the organisation with the academic qualification of a masters...

An employee on a work-based MSc Professional Engineering degree course.

Programmes available at
Aston University
Cardiff University
University of Glamorgan
University of Hertfordshire
Kingston University
Northumbria University
Staffordshire University

*Professional Engineering
Institutions*
BCS, CIBSE, EI, ICE, IChemE,
IED, IET, IMarEST, IMechE,
InstMC, IPEM, RAeS, SDE

Industry Representatives
COGENT, ECITB,
SEMTA

This list will be updated as further
organisations become involved

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Engineering Gateways continues to grow – round-up of participants' news

The last e-bulletin reported on the first graduate from the MSc Professional Engineering at Kingston University. Since then one graduate has been awarded CEng and there have been two more Kingston graduates and two from Staffordshire University. The graduates are heading for CEng with the IET, IMechE and RAeS.

The number of employers with employees enrolled on engineering gateways type programmes has grown to 45, with a wide range of size, type and geographic spread. An updated list of employers is published on the engineering gateways website at <http://www.engc.org.uk/engineering-gateways/Information-For/employers.aspx>

Kingston University has active programme participants from over 20 employers, and has enrolled its first student member of the Institute of Measurement and Control (InstMC), who is working towards CEng.

Aston's MSc Professional Engineering programme now has 27 students enrolled, most working in the petrochemical industry, with others from general engineering, manufacturing, recycling, renewable energies, and rail. The number of enquiries has increased steadily this year, including interest from overseas. Aston has a rolling programme to develop additional overseas cohorts in various parts of the world.

Cardiff University has just launched its MSc Professional Engineering, initially focusing on its core engineering disciplines of mechanical, civil and electrical engineering and is progressing well with its student recruitment.

The University of Glamorgan's MSc Professional Engineering was validated in May. Marketing of the award is about to start, with a view to recruiting students in the Autumn. Initially the MSc will be for those seeking registration through IMechE, but it will be expanded to other disciplines according to demand.

A BEng Professional Engineering (Power Systems) programme has been successfully piloted by Aston University with 12 students from the UK's power supply industry who had all previously successfully completed a Foundation Degree or equivalent. Programme design is based on the experience of running the MSc Professional Engineering, with the addition of extensive directed on-line learning packages to support the academic underpinning and content required for BEng. Places were oversubscribed and firm offers have been made to 25 applicants from a wider range of employers and backgrounds to start in October.

The Energy Institute (EI) has ratified the Registration Protocol with the Engineering Council, bringing to 13 the number of participating PEIs.

A full list of participating PEIs and universities can be found on the right hand side of this page.

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Staffordshire University

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Universities meet to share experience

Eleven universities were represented at a meeting in March, chaired by Dr Peter Mason, Kingston University, to share engineering gateways practice and experience. There was a very high level of enthusiasm about the pathway, with many interesting points covered, including:

- Cost models and sustainability – the size of cohorts and numbers of programmes
- The implications of having a rolling intake
- How to engage employers, especially SMEs
- Assessment of prior learning/experiential learning
- The potentially lucrative overseas market
- Substantiating claims on the work by an individual

Discussion also covered the importance of an individual working at an appropriate level in a company to undertake a Masters/CEng focused work-based degree. It was recognised that the nature of an applicant's job may be inappropriate to provide the necessary work-based learning and development opportunities, and careful scrutiny was required. The report is available at:

<http://www.engc.org.uk/engineering-gateways/stakeholders-group/meeting-2-march-2011>

These issues will be considered in developing the toolkit for the practice transfer partnership funded by the HE STEM programme.

The Engineering Gateways website resource

For anyone wanting to find out more about this work-based integrated approach to HE and professional qualification, this website is the first port of call. There you will find guidance material and other documents that are set out by category of user: working engineers, students, employers, engineering institutions and universities.

www.engc.org.uk/engineering-gateways



Of particular interest to universities are guides to the Masters and Bachelors pathways, a process map, guidance on mentoring and assessment, and the reports evaluating the engineering gateways initiative so far.

Employers may be interested in the leaflet outlining the benefits of this pathway, case studies and previous newsletters.

The Engineering Gateways Project is part of a project initially funded under 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

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