



e-Bulletin : January 2010

Participating
Organisations



THE WORK-BASED ROUTE TO PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

Stakeholders' Group established

The first meeting of the Stakeholders' Group was held on 29 October 2009, chaired by Wendy Laynton, chair of the Engineering Gateways Steering Committee. With the increasing number of organisations involved in the engineering gateways initiative, a forum was needed to enable all stakeholder groups, especially new partners, to share practice and experience.

Twenty seven attendees covering all stakeholder groups heard representatives from IET, Kingston and Teesside Universities, the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board and the Engineering Council, talk about their experience so far and their plans for the future. Overall, there was a high level of support and commitment to the principle of the pathway, and enthusiasm for this forum.

Resourcing was one of the main issues raised. Universities were advised to be cautious and ensure that the model works with small numbers first, and encouraged to include the full range of work-based programme benefits in their business case.

The value to a company of not losing its employees to campus-based programmes was stressed, as well as the flexibility and relevance to the business of the individually tailored programmes, and the amount of support and guidance available to the individual participant.

The group agreed that the pathway is already meeting a need, though a missing element has been the involvement of more employers. The changing HE landscape, where the government is seeking more flexible provision with greater employer involvement, means that the time is ripe to roll out the engineering gateways model and seek engagement with more employers.

Promotional material directed at employers is being developed and will be available in the Spring.

A tenth PEI participant!

The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) has been supportive of the principles of the engineering gateways programme, and has recently confirmed that it wishes to sign the Protocol with the Engineering Council, formally recognising its involvement. To ensure access to an approved Supervising Civil Engineer and regular support from the local Membership Development Officer, ICE would normally expect any individual on the engineering gateway pathway also to be registered on a formal ICE approved training scheme.

This brings to ten the number of professional engineering institutions involved in this initiative, and broadens the range of disciplines where programmes may be offered.

Universities wishing to discuss the development of civil engineering-focused 'gateways' degree programmes should contact Ellen Ryan at ICE:
ellen.ryan@ice.org.uk

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

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

Industry Representatives
COGENT, ECITB,
SEMTA, TUC

This list will be updated as further
organisations become involved

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Evaluation of the Engineering Gateways project

Students, universities, PEIs, employers and the Engineering Council are being surveyed for their views about progress so far, and how far the original aims and objectives of the initiative are being met.

The work is almost complete and a report will be issued in March.

Findings so far reveal a good level of satisfaction amongst those on the MSc Professional Engineering degree programme, strong commitment from the PEIs and examples of where employees are already making a difference to their company through their planned MSc work.

A paper about the evaluation of the Engineering Gateways pathway will be presented at the Engineering Education 2010 Conference at Aston University in July.

Further information: www.ee2010.info

Engineering Council – new name and logo



As many of you will be aware, the Engineering Council has now dropped the 'UK' from its name, reflecting its growing international reach and influence.

This change of name required a new logo and enabled re-branding. The new name and logo should be used in any engineering gateways promotional material. A change-over period for replacing the old logo runs until April 2010.

For a copy of the new logo and guidance about its use, please contact Sue Brough, Marketing and Communications Director, sbrough@engc.org.uk

Employer support for a research-oriented model of MSc Professional Engineering

Research jointly sponsored by the Engineering Council and the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 has revealed a high level of support for the engineering gateways type of approach amongst 26 organisations that employ BEng graduates. The organisations were surveyed about their attitude to professional qualification and their interest in the possible development of an MSc Professional Engineering with a research component that meets company needs. The key findings were that the majority of the companies encourage BEng and MEng qualified engineers to become CEng registered, and also believe that a work-based Masters with a research component would encourage this. 39% of the companies said that they would support their employees on the work-based Masters with a research element. This interest is being followed up by the Engineering Council.

The report recommended that the Engineering Council encourages universities to work with interested industry partners to develop proposals for this type of MSc.

Interested universities or employers should contact Deborah Seddon at: dseddon@engc.org.uk

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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