



EPC Bulletin | April 2020 | Twitter [@EngProfCouncil](https://twitter.com/EngProfCouncil)

Covid-19 dominates the world, academic and engineering news, and no one is exempt from the challenges and changes we face. At the EPC we took the decision to postpone Congress in good time and, in its place, we're pleased to offer – free to all members – a live-stream webinar with Sir Mark Walport, CEO of UKRI, who was to be headlining **EPC Congress 2020 – Industry & Academia: Supercharging the Crucible**. Details of how to attend the webinar are below.

We're also delighted to inform you that that **EPC Congress 2020** will now go ahead (subject to government advice at the time) from 7th to 9th September. And we are thrilled to announce that Lord Kerslake will headline the programme, which will otherwise remain the same, delivering the host of high-profile and expert speakers and exciting activities that were already lined up as far as possible.

EPC news

COVID-19 AND THE ENGINEERING ACADEMICS' NETWORK

As the UK and worldwide response to the Covid-19 pandemic unfolds, please be assured that the EPC continues to fulfil its role, working remotely to be the voice of engineering academics. We know our members are under tremendous stress in these uncertain times and will avoid placing any unnecessary burdens on you. Work continues behind the scenes on our programme of events, now extending to webinar technology; paused, but nonetheless important consultations; our new approaches initiative; engineering ethics; research; and development of the EPC website and member offer.

As part of our efforts to support your own work, we have brought forward part of our plan to launch the Engineering Academics' Network – a new initiative for EPC members to connect as individuals. Over the coming months, we will roll out the Network and a range of activities, but for now we invite you to join the conversation on a group we have created for the Engineering Academics' Network on [LinkedIn](#) to discuss and share the key issues to us all.

REF2021

The latest round of nominations for REF 2021 Sub-Panels resulted in a large number of applications to the EPC (as a nominating body) from individuals most of whom have a long track record of research excellence, prior involvement in research assessment, and specialist expertise in the

particular areas called for by the REF team. The EPC decided it should not nominate every individual whose application was of a sufficiently high standard and who would, undoubtedly make a valuable contribution to the panels. Instead, we should act as a first stage filter for the REF team and put forward only those exceptional candidates who we feel might weather all stages of the highly competitive selection process. We are pleased, therefore, to have nominated five experts to the REF team. The deadline has been extended in response to the delay to REF 2021, so it may be a while before we get a measure of our collective success.

EPC HAMMERMEN STUDENT PRIZE

The EPC Hammermen Student Prize celebrates the achievements of different engineering students each year at the EPC's Annual Congress. We received a phenomenal number of applications, longlisted to 15 posters which have been selected for display at Congress. Five finalists have now been invited to attend the full Congress and present their posters. Many congratulations to:

- Rachel Beel, Glasgow Caledonian University
- Eleni Bohacek, University College London
- Dan Hicks, University of Brighton
- Inna Lucas, Sheffield Hallam University
- Luka Vincekovic, The University of Sheffield

Delegates at the Congress will be invited to vote on their favourite poster from the finalists and the winner(s) will be announced during the Annual Congress Dinner to be held at the famous Cutlers' Hall on 8th September. The award and the £500 prize fund will be presented by The Incorporation of Hammermen of Glasgow. Why not come and support your students? [Book your tickets here.](#)

Upcoming events

EPC EVENT: Join Sir Mark Walport online, 7th April 2020

In place of the EPC Congress, Sir Mark Walport, Chief Executive of UKRI, has kindly agreed to deliver a live-streamed presentation from 11.30am to 12.30pm on Tuesday 7th April.

He will deliver a short presentation on collaboration between industry and academia and then be interviewed by Prof Steph Haywood and questioned by the online audience. He will no doubt touch on topics as diverse as UK universities' response to new coronavirus, Brexit, international collaboration, REF, KEF, research funding, the Government's plans for ARPA and much else besides. Attendees will have an opportunity to put their own questions to Sir Mark.

This event will be free and is open exclusively to academics in EPC member institutions. If you want to join over 200 other members who have already registered, you must book your place [here](#) before 9am on Monday 6th April so we can send you joining instructions.

EPC EVENT: Annual Congress 2020 - Industry & Academia: Supercharging the Crucible, 7th to 9th September 2020

The new dates for the EPC Annual Congress – 'Industry & Academia: Supercharging the Crucible' – have just been announced as Monday 7th to Wednesday 9th September 2020. The venue (Sheffield Hallam University) remains the same, as does the generous support of our sponsors – SHU's Materials & Research Institute and the IET.

[Book your tickets](#) risk-free by opting to pay by invoice and it won't be payable until 7th August.

The list of speakers is among the best we've ever offered – headlined by Lord Kerslake, former Head of the Civil Service and now Chair of the Civic Universities Commission, who will address the universities role in communities.

We also have the entertaining and enlightening [Adam Hart-Davies](#) talking about what makes Britain great and, at the Congress dinner in Sheffield's famous Cutlers' Hall, Perrier Comedy Award winner [Simon Fanshawe OBE](#) will be discussing diversity.

Other speakers include:

- Prof Helen Atkinson CBE, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Cranfield University
- Charlie Ball, Head of Higher Education Intelligence, Graduate Prospects
- Prof Liz Barnes, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, Staffordshire University
- Dinah Caine CBE, Chief Executive Officer, Creative Skillset, Chair, Goldsmiths University, and Civic Universities Commissioner
- Dr Alison Campbell OBE, Director of Knowledge Transfer Ireland
- Mary Curnock-Cook OBE, Chair of Council, The Dyson Institute
- Dr Joanna Cox, Head of Strategic Engagement and Partnership, IET
- Simon Fanshawe OBE, Diversity by Design
- Alice Frost, Director of Knowledge Exchange, Research England
- Prof Mark Gillan, Chief Technology Officer, Innovate UK
- Stuart Harper, JCB Engineering Excellence
- Adam Hart-Davis, scientist, author, historian and broadcaster
- Michael Hill-King, Huawei
- Sir Chris Husbands, Chair of TEF and Vice Chancellor, Sheffield Hallam University
- Stephen Isherwood, Chief Executive, Institute of Student Employers
- Dr Hywel Jones, Co-founder and director of spin out companies XeraCarb Ltd and Mikana Innovations Ltd and Sheffield Hallam University
- Prof Kevin Kerrigan, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Business and Enterprise, Sheffield Hallam University
- Dr Sarah Main, Executive Director, Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE)
- Dr Joe Marshall, Chief Executive, National Centre for Universities and Business (NCUB)
- Shivaun Meehan, konfer
- Helen Melling, Head of Talent, McLaren Automotive
- Ben Morgan, Research Director, Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre
- Dr Ian Palmer, Dean, Escape Studios, Pearson College London
- Prof John Perkins CBE, University of Manchester
- Elena Rodriguez Falcon, Chief Executive, NMiTE
- Vanessa Wilson, Chief Executive, University Alliance
- Prof Bruce M Wood, The Incorporation of the Hammermen of Glasgow

More information is available on the [EPC website](#).

OTHER EVENTS: International Symposium Engineering Education 2020 (ISEE2020), 9th to 10th July 2020

University of Strathclyde is hosting the 7th ISEE: Engineering Education for the 21st Century from 9-10th July 2020. Booking and further details are available [here](#). Papers relevant to the [conference themes](#) are also invited and can be submitted [here](#). EPC Chief Executive Johnny Rich will be among the keynote speakers.

OTHER EVENTS: EAEEIE 2020 Annual Conference, 2nd to 5th September 2020

The 30th Annual Conference of the European Association for Education in Electrical and Information Engineering (EAEEIE) will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, between September 2nd and 5th 2020.

The conference will bring together lecturers, researchers and professionals in the field of Electrical and Information Engineering (EIE) all over Europe and outside, with the aim to exchange ideas and information and contribute to the development of EIE education. Short abstracts for full paper presentation at the conference can be submitted [here](#).

OTHER EVENTS: 1st International Conference on Science and Technology Education STE 2020, 8th to 9th October 2020

The 1st International Conference on Science and Technology Education STE 2020 will take place in Porto, Portugal, 8th to 9th October 2020. The focus is on education in science and technology.

The conference will provide an international forum for the sharing, dissemination and discussion of research, experience and perspectives across a wide range of teaching and learning issues. The conference welcomes abstracts/papers related to its themes until 4th May. The abstract template can be downloaded from the [conference web site](#).

OTHER EVENTS: Sustainable Development in Engineering and Engineering Education, 7th December 2020

Save the date for the Ingenium Conference on 7th December 2020, at CNAM Paris. With the support and participation of the European research project A-STEP 2030 – ERASMUS+. The call for papers is now closed but more information on the conference is available [here](#).

In the news

COVID-19

We're all now well versed on the immediate impacts of the worldwide outbreak of Covid-19 on the sector: moving teaching and learning online; cancelled exams; admissions concerns; paused consultations; delayed REF; the list goes on... For engineering, there are other disruptions: reduced teaching time; dealing with practical, team and project work; postponed accreditation reviews; incomplete student placements; and uncertainty for placement providers, to name a few.

Longer term, there are widespread concerns about the impact that Covid-19 could have on university finances – especially high-cost courses like Engineering – and recruitment and admissions, especially around international students. We're reminded that the UK is a major player in the international student market, attracting tens of thousands of people to its universities every year. But did you know that that around 1 in 3 engineering students currently enrolled in UK HE are international? And that rises to nearly 60% at postgraduate level. Look out for an EPC data blog on international engineering students, coming soon.

Consultations

OFFICE FOR STUDENTS: Consultation on the higher education admissions system in England

This consultation is now paused but the EPC continues its work to assimilate the full detail to make it accessible to our members.

The OfS has outlined three options for possible future reform. The first two options are for all students to apply to university after they've got their grades or for universities to wait to make all their offers until exam results are in. The third of these is to keep the system as it but with a few changes, such as getting rid of personal statements and references and increasing the amount of contextual offers universities give out.

Notwithstanding that we recognise that the current social distancing limitations may have an urgent and lasting effect on university admissions, the EPC will be conducting a full member consultation in due course.

You can read EPC Protocol for Consultations [here](#).

Opportunities

THIS IS ENGINEERING: This is Engineering Day 2020

The second This is Engineering Day will take place during Tomorrow's Engineers week on Wednesday 4th November 2020. Following the huge support received for This is Engineering Day 2019, the Royal Academy of Engineering is calling on as many people as possible to get involved this year to help reach an even wider audience.

Under the theme of 'Be The Difference', they'll be showcasing all the ways that engineering shapes the world for the better as we all continue to transform the image of engineering. We want to show more young people, from all backgrounds, what a difference they can make if they choose engineering.

If you're an engineer, work for an engineering organisation, or in any way benefit from engineering, please get in touch with [the team](#) to discuss how you can support the day.

THIS IS ENGINEERING: Image Pledge

As part of the Royal Academy of Engineering-led campaign to alter the public perception of Engineering, an 'image pledge' has been developed in order to help create a more positive and diverse visual representation of engineers on internet search engines. The EPC and its members are invited to commit to this campaign by signing the Royal Academy of Engineering image pledge to make engineering more representative of the society it serves.

To offer guidance on how to make good images of engineering more visible online, the Royal Academy of Engineering have created a helpful 'how to' guide. You can also help by sharing your more representative images of engineers and engineering.

You'll find more detail on the [Royal Academy of Engineering website](#).

VISITING PROFESSORS: Awards available

This scheme supports the appointment of senior industrial engineers as Visiting Professors in Engineering (and related) Academic Units at UK universities. This initiative aims to utilise the experience of the Visiting Professor to enhance student learning as well as the employability and skills of UK engineering graduates whilst strengthening external partnerships with industry. The award value is up to £10,000 per year for 3 years totalling no more than £30,000. The scheme is always especially keen to encourage applications from institutions that haven't previously received funding. The deadline has been extended until 1st May 2020. For more information, please contact [Stylli Charalampous](#).

FREE SUMMER SCHOOL FOR YOUR STUDENTS

Are your students wondering what their lockdown summer will look like? Do they want to experience working in a global team online to solve a global challenge? Then they can join TEDI-London's Summer School 2020.

Following on from the success of last year's Summer School, this year [TEDI-London](#) – a new design led engineering higher education provider founded by Arizona State University, King's College London and UNSW Sydney – is offering a global, fully online, interdisciplinary Summer School, open to ALL students from ANY academic background. Starting on 1st June, students will work in cross-country, interdisciplinary teams for 6 weeks (part-time, flexible) to create innovative solutions that lead to dementia-friendly environments!

Benefits of being involved in TEDI-London's Summer School 2020:

- Work in global teams to gain real-life, multinational work experience through project-based learning
- Learn how to do user-centred design and develop entrepreneurial skills
- Conduct stakeholder consultation, including with people with dementia, carers, government and industry
- Experience online pitching to industry leads during an industry showcase
- Opportunities for a follow up face-to-face prototyping and translating your projects into the British Land Canada Water masterplan, in London!

Info:

- Who: Any student in higher education
- When: 1st June for 6 weeks (part-time, flexible)
- What: Understand how to address the global challenge of dementia in an ageing population, from an innovative and global perspective
- Why: To learn new skills; to apply theoretical knowledge to a practical project that really makes a difference; to make new friends; to experience global working practices of the future.
- How: Contact Martha: martha.cooper-thorne@tedi-london.ac.uk for more information.

DESIGN CHALLENGES: Engineering without Borders UK

Engineers Without Borders UK (EWBUK) is part of a global movement engineering a better future. They inspire, enable and influence the engineering community to serve all people and the planet better than ever before.

As a valued EPC Partner, EWBUK experts kindly facilitated the recent EPC Board Retreat discussions on Ethics. Here they tell us about the [two design challenges](#) which they run at universities which

include a series of workshops that academics can facilitate to help students progress through the design process.

For more information, or if you might be interested in supporting an existing Engineers Without Borders UK Chapter at your university or creating a new one please see [the EPC website](#).

CALL FOR PAPERS: 2020 World Engineering Education Forum (WEEF) / Global Engineering Dean's Council (GEDC) Conference: Cape Town, South Africa, 15th to 20th November 2020

You are invited to participate in WEEF-GEDC 2020 and submit an abstract. Guidelines for submission may be found [here](#). The deadline for submission of abstracts is 20th April 2020

After review of the abstracts, selected submissions will be invited to submit a full paper based on the abstract, which will undergo a second round of peer review. Those that wish to only submit a revised Abstract to the conference may do so. All peer-reviewed full conference papers presented will be published in the conference proceedings, which will be submitted for inclusion in IEEE Xplore. A selection of conference papers will be given the opportunity to be upgraded for a special edition of the SAIEE Africa Research Journal, which will then be submitted for inclusion in IEEE Xplore.

You are also invited to submit proposals for a mini-symposium. A mini-symposium consists of a full 90-minute conference session organised by submitters. We welcome proposals for innovative uses of this time. Guidelines for submission may be found [here](#). The deadline for submission of proposals for mini-symposia is 1st June 2020.



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