



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

With the autumn's recruitment, admissions and enrolments season usually pretty much behind us by now, we are hearing from our members that there remains a lot of confusion out there during this unprecedented cycle. Later term starts, the need for Covid-secure enrolment processes and teaching regimes, and general confusion among staff and students resulting from evolving government policy have left us all in a bit of a spin.

We know the lack of clarity at this time creates new challenges. With this year's **EPC engineering enrolment survey**, we hope to give you some clarity around the state of engineering HE enrolments (long before any official data does so). Please respond with a qualitative description of your experience so we can share what's going on, even if you can't provide quantitative data right now. The sooner you can get us information, the sooner we can share sector-wide findings that we're sure will shed light on a confusing picture. More information below.

Another way in which we support recruitment and admissions in engineering is through our annual [Recruitment and Admissions Forum](#), which will be held as a webcast series this year across four Wednesdays in November and December. A programme to enlighten and inform you is shaping up nicely – see below for further details.

Looking forwards, the EPC has ambitious plans to overhaul our online presence and the way that we communicate with members – it will be the biggest single investment the EPC has ever made. [Our invitation to tender](#) has now been launched.

EPC news

EPC ONLINE: invitation to tender

We are pleased to announce the launch of an open invitation to tender to develop our new online services to support the Engineering Academics Network and other strands of the EPC strategic plan. The result will be an all new online presence and a complete overhaul in the way that we communicate with members.

This is more than just a new website. It will allow you to explore our huge archive of resources, reports and data analysis in a way that is timely and tailored to your interests. You'll be able to interact with other members, sharing opinions, ideas and best practice. And the EPC will be able to

communicate with you about what you need to know, when you need to know it. (Our aim is that these bulletins will become much shorter and more relevant to your interests.)

We would be grateful if you could share this link – bit.ly/EPCOnlineTender – with anyone you know who might be interested in bidding.

EPC ENGINEERING ENROLMENTS SURVEY

The designated enrolments survey contact in each member institution has now been invited to contribute to our annual survey by **Monday 2nd November**.

We hope that as many of you as possible will be able complete an abbreviated version this year. Every year, the exclusive results give you and other members a first glance at engineering enrolments headlines long before official data becomes available. This year, more than ever, it is important to have a shared temperature check on the health of engineering student numbers.

We'd urge you to take part, as the more responses we receive, the more robust the wider insight we can provide. If it's genuinely too early to provide quantitative responses, we'd equally value qualitative responses outlining the specifics to your setting that are creating the barrier(s). This information will help us lobby policy makers on your behalf.

If you would like further information, to submit a response, or to find out who in your institution is leading on this, please [contact us](#).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Member resources

With so many of our members facing enormous challenges and uncertainty about student enrolment numbers, disrupted campus life, fragile curriculum delivery and a volatile staffing ecosystem, the EPC continues to offer thoughtful leadership and representation to ensure we can best support our members in meeting these challenges.

Professional development is just one of our offerings in this space and currently includes online events including EPC Congress (recordings are now available on the [EPC website](#)) and the Recruitment and Admissions Forum (please see below). You can now also watch Prof Colin Turner's (EPC President) induction address for visiting professors [here](#). There's also this...

EMERGING STRONGER: Lasting Impact from Crisis Innovation

Introducing a new publication from the EPC in which we've teamed up with academic colleagues to bring you some positive insight including inspirational best practice case studies of innovation in blended teaching and learning in the face of the pandemic.

We hope that our [Emerging Stronger](#) report and [webpages](#) will provide inspiration, guidance – indeed, reassurance – to colleagues as we face the new academic year with online or blended approaches to learning and teaching. We encourage you to capture your own stories of innovation, and to reflect on the benefits and challenges that arise. Share your innovations with the wider community and tell us what you've been doing, using [this form](#). Also look out for a webcast event to help share some of these case studies and explore blended learning further in the near future.

Upcoming events

EPC ONLINE EVENT: Recruitment and Admissions Forum 2020, 18th, 25th November and 2nd, 9th December 2020

We're delighted to advise you that the Annual EPC Recruitment and Admissions Forum will be hosted online for 2020 as a series of linked events over four successive Wednesday afternoons.

- Wednesday 18/11/20, 14:00-16:00: Entry qualifications: where now?
- Wednesday 25/11/20, 14:00-16:00: International students: where now?
- Wednesday 02/12/20, 14:00-16:00: Student numbers: where now?
- Wednesday 09/12/20, 14:00-16:00: Fair access: where now?

The Forum is aimed at all staff involved in recruitment and admissions in any engineering discipline – from early career staff through lecturers and researchers to department heads, deans of faculties, PVCs and VCs – anyone with an interest in recruitment and admissions who wishes to stay on top of the unprecedented recruitment and admissions climate and develop their practice.

Confirmed speakers include

- Jon Adamson, Head of Sixth Form, Oakgrove School, Milton Keynes
- Louise Archer, ASPIRES project, IoE
- Mark Corver, DataHE (Data analysis services)
- Rachel Hewitt, Policy Director, HEPI
- Steph Neave, EngineeringUK
- Dennis Sherwood, SilverBullet Machine
- Thjis van Vugt, Study Portal (search portal and brokerage for international students)
- Frank Ziegele / Gero Federkeil, U-Mulitrak (international HE comparison tool)
- Senior representative from UCAS

To book your place, visit the [EPC website](#).

EPC SECTORAL GROUP EVENTS: ACED Annual Conference, 5th November 2020

The Annual Conference will not now be held this year at the Chelmsford Campus of Anglia Ruskin University as previously advertised, but will be run as a 1-day online webinar. More details can be found on the [EPC website](#).

EPC SECTORAL GROUP EVENTS: PHEE/PHOMME Conference 2021, 13th January 2021.

This conference has now been cancelled.

OTHER EVENTS: Tomorrow's Engineers Week, 2nd – 6th November

#TEWeek20 is a celebration, involving universities, schools, engineering institutions and employers, which aims to inspire young people by letting them experience the world of engineering on digital and social media platforms and get them excited about the opportunities for their futures. This year's packed calendar includes:

- #ImAnEngineer social campaign, launching on Monday 2 November
- The Big Quiz (new for 2020!), launching on Tuesday 3 November
- #BeTheDifference from the Royal Academy of Engineering, on Wednesday 4 November
- Engineer in 2020 Instagram takeover, on Thursday 5 November

- Tomorrow's Engineers news announcement, on Friday 6 November
[For more details, to get involved or simply voice your support, visit this site.](#)

IET Conference on 'Transforming higher education: digital skills for a digital future', 23rd – 24th November 2020

Bringing academia and industry together to share best practices, inspirational digital tools and techniques needed by the workforce. A two-day, free virtual conference showcasing the current digital tools that are being used in academia to promote digital learning and the industry's involvement in preparing students for the digital future. [More details and registration here.](#)

International Conference of Multiphysics, 10th – 11th December 2020

The International Multiphysics Conference will be a virtual event (not in Oslo as previously advertised). The Aerospace Sectoral Group will sponsor the Aerospace Session as in the past 14 years. For more information, please visit the [conference website](#).

In the news

ENGINEERING LEADS THE WAY: degree-awarding powers

Congratulations to EPC member, The Dyson Institute, which has been granted degree-awarding powers by the Office for Students. The Dyson Institute, which has been working in close partnership with WMG, University of Warwick to deliver BEng degree apprenticeships for over three years, is the first new provider to achieve this.

NEW INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY: in the North West, Midlands, East of England and South East

The next wave of Institutes of Technology will be established through a £120 million competition for new collaborations between Further Education colleges, universities and business. IoTs offer higher technical STEM education and training (mainly at Levels 4 and 5) in engineering as well as other key sectors. The call is open to regions of the country without an Institute of Technology only, including the North West, Midlands, East of England and parts of the South East.

A LEVEL DELAYS: for 2021

The Department for Education has announced that they will be consulting on plans to delay A level exams in England by three weeks next year (to take place mainly between 7 June and 2 July). Results day will be Tuesday 24 August, with decisions yet to be made on contingencies. A levels and other qualifications in the context of engineering admissions will feature in the opening webcast in our EPC Recruitment and Admissions Forum 2020 series: Entry qualifications: where now? on Wednesday 18th November (see above).

ENGINEERING COUNCIL: AHEP4

The fourth edition of [Accreditation of Higher Education Programmes](#) (AHEP) has now been published. There will be a transition period, from publication until the start of the 2023 academic year, during which providers can request accreditation against the old or new learning outcomes.

Alongside the fourth edition of AHEP, the Engineering Council has published:

- a summary of key changes to the document
- a comparison of the learning outcomes in this fourth edition to the previous edition of AHEP, 'Mapping Learning Outcomes AHEP4 against AHEP3'

- a table of ‘Defining characteristics and learning outcomes’, which sets out the characteristics that define accredited programmes and the generic learning outcomes

all of which are available at: <https://www.engc.org.uk/ahep4th>

In addition, [Approval and Accreditation of Qualifications and Apprenticeships](#) (AAQA) is the new Engineering Council Standard against which apprenticeships (including Degree Apprenticeships and Graduate Apprenticeships) and non-degree qualifications can be recognised. AAQA supports the formal recognition of competence, as well as knowledge and understanding, developed through non-degree qualifications and apprenticeships. For higher level programmes this refers to the same defining characteristics and generic learning outcomes as degree accreditation.

A guest blog with more information is available on the [EPC website](#).

TRUSTED RESEARCH GUIDANCE: EPC webcast

Last month we brought you news of the development of [Trusted Research](#) to support academics to manage the risks to international research collaboration. We have hosted a guest blog on the [EPC website](#).

We can now confirm that we will also be hosting a webcast in the new year to raise awareness of the risks to research collaborations which may occur when working with organisations or research partners with links to nations whose democratic and ethical values are different from our own. We hope this will help our members get the most out of international collaboration whilst protecting intellectual property, sensitive research and personal information. Please watch this space for dates.

Consultations

OFFICE FOR STUDENTS: Call for evidence on digital teaching and learning

The EPC Engineering Education, Employability and Skills Committee has provided evidence to the Office for Students (OfS) in preparation for a major review into digital teaching and learning during the coronavirus pandemic, led by the OfS chair, Sir Michael Barber.

Drawing on our recent [Emerging Stronger: Lasting Impact from Crisis Innovation](#) report, we highlighted ways engineering higher education has innovated digital teaching and how we can make the most of this exceptional progress in the future. With particular thanks to Prof. Bev Gibbs of NMiTE for leading on this work (as well as Dr Gary Wood, all the contributors and Prof Mike Sutcliffe).

Three priorities for the engineering HE sector came out of this writing:

- Facilitating agreement threshold expectations in relation to digital poverty as it applies to engineering education
- Promoting conceptions of resilient learning and teaching
- Providing a pipeline of ‘high-quality’ digital learning resources, for purposes of benchmarking and inspiration.

You can read the EPC response to the call for evidence [here](#).

ENGINEERING COUNCIL: Accreditation Review Consultation

The Engineering Council Accreditation Review Working Group was set up in 2019 to investigate perceived inconsistencies in the academic accreditation process. Initial Accreditation Review consultation, which took the form of focus groups and structured interviews with stakeholders, identified some opportunities for improvement. Views are being sought on some possible improvements before producing recommendations. The consultation may be viewed online at <https://www.engc.org.uk/consultations> (under current consultations).

Responses should be sent by email to accreditation@engc.org.uk The deadline for responses from HEIs has been extended until 30 October in light of the Covid-19 situation. Questions about the proposals or consultation should also be sent to this address.

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

Opportunities

EPC ONLINE: Open tender

The EPC Online tender is now open to web developers looking to help us realise the Engineering Academics Network and a new era of EPC communications. Please share this link – bit.ly/EPCOnlineTender – with anyone you know who might be interested in bidding. Here you'll find all the tender details and a short video to introduce the project. The deadline for bids is 25th November and a recording of a webinar for interested parties (on 23rd October) is available on request. Expressions of interest can be registered at bit.ly/EPCOnlineInterest.

EPC COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR VACANCY: Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer

The work of the Engineering Professors' Council is delivered via its Committees and working groups. They each meet 2 or 3 times per year on a perpetual calendar to set out a programme of activities, including a draft dissemination programme and to steer and receive updates on the activities of their working groups and/or smaller task groups. In addition, they will provide reports to the EPC Executive Board on matters that have arisen in the policy arena and an update on progress with the agreed pro-active programme of activity.

The Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Committee has a vacancy for a Vice Chair, following early appointment of the previous Vice Chair to Chair of the Committee. If you would like to discuss the work of the Committee, join the Committee, or nominate yourself, please contact [Andy Alderson](#) in the first instance.



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