

## **Early Repayment consultation**

Response on behalf of the Engineering Professors' Council

The Engineering Professors' Council (EPC) provides a forum for senior academics responsible for engineering teaching and research in higher education. It has over 1600 members and represents virtually all of the universities in the UK which offer degrees in engineering.

The EPC is concerned that students doing longer courses (such as the four-year MEng – see our separate response to the White Paper consultation) would face more interest on the debt, and would therefore pay more interest overall as the debt would take longer to clear.

In general, the EPC is of the view that students should be able to pay off debt as they go along if they wanted to, and should not be penalized financially for doing so. For example, some engineering students on sandwich courses, involving paid industrial placements, might wish to repay part of their debt at this stage to reduce the level of debt with which they would otherwise leave university.