

# EPC Admissions Survey

## 1. Introduction

In response to the uncertainty around this year's university admissions the EPC is conducting a one-off admissions survey (in addition to our annual temperature check of the health of HE engineering enrolments which will take a light touch this Autumn).

With the triple whammy of curbed international student imports, squeezed budgets and student number controls weighing down on HE engineering portfolios, we know that the HE engineering sector needs to know more...urgently. An engineering admissions profile will give our members an insight into how our sector manages admissions, the benefit of understanding what our peers are doing, and an opportunity to share best practice.

In Covid-19 times of ministerial intervention in recruitment and admissions; OFS's newly extended powers to protect England's higher education sector from its own potentially damaging behaviour; a looming review of the entire HE admissions system and many other admissions reform pressures, the EPC can also play a critical role in carefully evidencing HE engineering's collective admissions behaviour in order to inform future policy responses in the interests of engineering.

Please be assured, there are no trick questions and we won't share your information or publish any findings which might identify your university.

There are 9 sections to this survey:

1. About your engineering courses (the codes link to HESA cost centres)
2. About your recruitment and admissions response to Covid-19
3. About your response to government policy resulting from Covid-19
4. About your admissions infrastructure
5. About your undergraduate engineering admissions processes
6. About your wider engineering admissions processes
7. Evaluating your admissions processes
8. The future of admissions
9. Get involved

You'll need to set aside about half an hour to complete the survey in full but you can skip any questions you don't want to answer. You can also save your partially completed survey to come back to if you are short of time in a single sitting. Please complete whole sections in a sitting where possible. The survey is easiest to complete on a computer or tablet, but can be navigated on a phone if necessary. You can view all questions here before you begin.

**1. Please provide your details to enable us to process the survey and to enable us to cluster members responses. Your contact details won't be shared and your responses to all questions will remain anonymous.**

Name	<input type="text"/>
Role	<input type="text"/>
University	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>

## 2. About your engineering courses

**2. Please select the engineering disciplines a) that you are completing this survey on behalf of and b) that are available across your whole university this autumn. Use the dropdown lists to indicate undergraduate or postgraduate (or both). Please leave non applicable boxes blank.**

	a) I am completing the survey on behalf of	b) also available at my university this autumn
General engineering (115)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Chemical, process and energy engineering (116)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Mineral, metallurgy & materials engineering (117)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Civil engineering (118)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

	a) I am completing the survey on behalf of	b) also available at my university this autumn
Electrical, electronic & computer engineering (119)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mechanical engineering (120)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Production and manufacturing engineering (120)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Naval architecture (120)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aeronautical and aerospace engineering (120)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IT systems sciences & computer software engineering (121)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bioengineering, medical and biomedical engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others in engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**3. In some of the following questions we ask about Home, EU and International students. However, we know that some universities do not currently distinguish between home and EU students. How should we interpret your responses? (Select one)**

- Home and EU students are considered together (please leave the EU column blank where applicable)
- Home and EU students are considered separately (please complete all columns where applicable)
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Comments:

### 3. About your recruitment and admissions response to Covid-19

**4. Overall, how well is your engineering recruitment faring for autumn 2020 compared to usual? (This is a rough indicator, we will seek discipline specific feedback next term in our annual enrolments survey.)**

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate
Home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
International	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**5. Are you experiencing an increased number of requests to DEFER undergraduate enrolment from 2020 to 2021 from any of the following undergraduate cohorts? (Select all that apply)**

	New (first year) students	Continuing (returning) students
Home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
International	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

**6. What is your department's policy on deferring due to Covid-19? (For example, do you allow it? Have you used incentives to reverse applicants requests? Has this been successful?)**

**7. Are you experiencing an increased number of requests to TRANSFER from a 4 year to a 3 year undergraduate course (a reduction in study) for 2020 to 2021 from any of the following undergraduate cohorts? (Select all that apply)**

	Year in industry students	Year abroad students
Home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
International	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

**8. Are you experiencing an increased number of requests to TRANSFER from a Bachelor of Science degree to an Integrated Masters degree (an increase in study) for 2020 to 2021 from any of the following undergraduate cohorts? (Select all that apply)**

- Home
- EU
- International
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Comments:

**9. Are you experiencing an increased number of requests to WITHDRAW or PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUE (no further study) for 2020 to 2021 from any of the following undergraduate cohorts? (Select all that apply)**

	Withdraw (first year) students	Discontinue (returning) students
Home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
International	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**10. Are you offering any postgraduate incentives or discounts in response to Covid-19? (Select all that apply)**

- Your own graduates
- Other graduates
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Comments:

**11. To the best of your knowledge, will your engineering students be allowed on campus in the autumn term? (Select one per level of study)**

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate
Face to face / on campus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remote / online	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A hybrid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

**12. Are you currently planning for a delayed start to term or term time changes? (Select one per level of study)**

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maybe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

**13. Are you planning additional support for student readiness to study? (Select all that apply)**

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate
Summer remedial engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extensive beginning-of-the-year support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extra studies in semester one	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extra studies throughout the first year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify)

**14. Are you more actively exploring other markets in response to Covid-19? (Select all that apply)**

Part-time

Upskilling

Other (please specify):

Comments:

**15. Is there anything else your engineering school / department doing in relation to recruitment and admissions in response to Covid-19?**

#### **4. About your response to government policy resulting from Covid-19**

**16. What do you expect the impact of temporary student number controls to be in your engineering enrolments?**

**17. Are your autumn 2020 engineering programmes under threat from your university's response to the introduction of student number controls? (Select one)**

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Comments:

**18. Do you expect to make use of the new undergraduate Clearing plus service made available by UCAS as part of the government's bailout package? (Select one)**

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Comments:

**19. OFS has new extended powers as a result of a new regulatory condition introduced following a consultation exercise with the higher education sector. What is your response to their ban on 'conditional unconditional' offers during the pandemic?**

**20. Are you aware of university engineering departments making misleading marketing claims to encourage applicants to choose them? (Select one)**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Comments:

## 5. About your usual admissions infrastructure

**21. How are admissions responsibilities delegated in your university? (Select one per level of study)**

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate
They are managed centrally	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
They are devolved to departments / faculties / schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is a hybrid model, with some functions managed centrally and others devolved	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Something else	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

**22. Who sets the engineering entry requirements in your university? (Select one per level of study)**

	Undergraduate	Postgraduate
They are set centrally	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
They are set by engineering department / faculty / school administrators	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
They are set by engineering academics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

**23. How automated are your application appraisal processes in engineering? (Select one per level of study)**

Undergraduate

Postgraduate

Undergraduate

Postgraduate

- Entirely manual processes
- Mostly manually, with some automation (e.g. to filter against threshold entry requirements)
- Mostly automated, with some manual appraisal
- Fully automated
- Something else
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  

Please give brief details

## 6. About your undergraduate engineering admissions processes

24. Do you admit full-time undergraduate students through routes other than UCAS? (Select one)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

## 7. About your undergraduate engineering admissions processes

25. Which routes do you use? (Select all that apply)

- Students apply directly
- Recruitment agents (UK students)
- Recruitment agents (EU students)
- Recruitment agents (international students)
- N/A
- Other (please specify):

Comments:

## 8. About your undergraduate engineering admissions processes

26. What measures or information do you use to assess applications in engineering? (Select all that apply)

- GCSE results
- Predicted A level grades
- Other predicted level 3 grades
- Personal statements
- References

- Practical assessments
- Entry exams
- Other tests to determine applicants' suitability (please detail)
- Interviews
- Attendance at open days
- Other (please specify):

Comments:

## 9. About your undergraduate engineering admissions processes

27. In your experience, how accurate are predicted A level grades?

## 10. About your undergraduate engineering admissions processes

28. Do you have threshold entry criteria? (Select one)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Please give details:

29. Do you give more weight to certain subjects at Level 3? (Select one)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Please give details:

30. Do you give more weight to high tariff non-A level students than lower tariff A level students? (Select one)



- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Please give details:

**31. Do you experience internal pressures on any of the above driven by marketing strategies or league tables? (Select one)**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Please give details, including the impact on the suitability or readiness of students to study engineering and the controls you put in place as a result:

**32. Do you make contextual offers to take account of applicants' different circumstances? (Select one)**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

## 11. About your undergraduate engineering admissions processes

**33. What kind of contextual offers do you make (when not prohibited by the OfS moratorium)? (Select all that apply)**

- Contextual offers based on lower grades than the standard offer
- Conditional contextual offers, based on lower grades than the standard offer if the applicant makes us their 'firm' choice?
- Conditional contextual offers, based on lower grades than the standard offer if other (please provide details)
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify):

**34. What applicant information do you take account of when making contextual offers? (Select all that apply)**

- The area where the applicant lives
- Their school or college

- Whether they are from a disadvantaged background
- Their gender
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify):

**35. Do you offer additional support to students who are accepted on the basis of contextual offers? (Select one)**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Please give details:

**36. Do you monitor the outcomes of students who are accepted on the basis of contextual offers? (Select one)**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Please give details:

## 12. About your undergraduate engineering admissions processes

**37. Do you make any of the following types of offer for undergraduate engineering? (Select all that apply)**

- Unconditional offers
- Unconditional offers with a 'conditional' element; for example offers which are conditional on firmly accepting a place at that provider.
- 'Attainment offers' or 'incentivised offers', where the offer is conditional but with very low requirements: for example, two E grades at A-level.
- Other (please specify):

Comments:

**38. Do you offer any incentives to encourage applicants to choose you? (Select all that apply)**

- A bursary or cash payment(s)
- A promise of accommodation
- The provision of technology
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify):

Comments:

**39. Do you accept late applications (made after 30th June)? (Select one)**

- Yes, through UCAS Clearing
- Yes, they apply directly to us
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Comments:

## 13. About your undergraduate engineering admissions processes

**40. Approximately what proportion of your applicants apply late (after 30th June)? (Select one)**

- Less than 5%
- Between 5 and 10%
- Between 11 and 20%
- Between 21 and 30%
- More than 30%

**41. How has this changed in the last 5 years? (Select one)**

- It's increased
- It's decreased
- It's about the same
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

**42. In general, how do your late offers differ from those made in the UCAS main scheme? (Select one)**

- Higher
- Lower
- Same
- Don't know

Prefer not to say

## 14. About your wider engineering admissions processes

**43. Do you offer an integrated foundation year for students who may not meet the standard entry requirements for undergraduate engineering? (Select one)**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Please briefly outline the circumstances in which these are offered and how these years are then delivered:

**44. What channels do you use to admit post-graduate engineering students? (Select all that apply)**

- Students apply directly
- Recruitment agents (UK students)
- Recruitment agents (EU students)
- Recruitment agents (international students)
- N/A
- Other (please specify):

Comments:

**45. What channels do you use to admit part-time engineering students? (Select all that apply)**

- Students apply directly
- Recruitment agents (UK students)
- Recruitment agents (EU students)
- Recruitment agents (international students)
- N/A
- Other (please specify):

Comments:

**46. Do you have any admissions processes where more than one university, college, or other organisation is involved? (Select all that apply)**

- Yes, under a partnership arrangement
- Yes, for an apprenticeship
- Yes, other

- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

If yes, please briefly outline the circumstances in which these are offered and how this works.

## 15. Evaluating your admissions processes

**47. Do you make your application policies clear to applicants? (Select one)**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

If yes, how do you do this?

**48. Do you make your entry requirements clear to applicants? (Select one)**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

If yes, how do you do this?

**49. Do your advertised full-time undergraduate entry requirements usually differ from the reality in the Autumn? (Select one)**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

If yes, how do you do this?

## 16. About your undergraduate engineering admissions processes

**50. Why do they vary? (Select all that apply)**

- Contextual admissions
- Near misses
- Other exceptions
- Late applicants
- Clearing
- Applying through an alternative route
- Competitive
- Other (please specify):

Comments:

## 17. The future of admissions

**51. Are you wedded to the use of the following in future? (Select all that apply)**

- Predicted grades
- Personal statements
- Academic references
- Contextual admissions
- Unconditional offers
- Incentives
- Other (please specify):

Why?

**52. In engineering, what changes would be needed to receive applications / make offers after level 3 results were known?**

**53. In engineering, what might be the unintended consequences of receiving applications / make offers after level 3 results were known?**

## 18. Get involved

**54. Do you want to get involved in any follow-up discussions, including the online EPC Recruitment and Admissions Forum 2020 in November and December? (Select one)**

- Yes please
- Maybe, please keep me informed
- Not at the moment

**55. Do you want to present a poster or video equivalent on any aspect of recruitment and admissions at the online EPC Recruitment and Admissions Forum 2020 in November and December (more details to follow)? (Select one)**

- Yes please
- Maybe, please keep me informed
- Not at the moment

**56. Do you want to take part in the annual EPC enrolments survey in October? (Select one)**

- Yes please
- Maybe, please keep me informed
- Not at the moment

**57. Would you like the EPC to share this survey with a colleague from your university on behalf of their engineering discipline? If yes, please provide details. If you are listing several colleagues please separate their details with a comma.**

Name	<input type="text"/>
Title	<input type="text"/>
Discipline(s)	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>