



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

We're delighted and relieved to have launched the autumn term with our first online **Annual Congress – Industry and academia: Supercharging the crucible**. We were sorry not to be able to host it in person at Sheffield Hallam University as planned and extend our sincere thanks to our Congress Conveners: Prof Alan Smith and Prof Mike Bramhall for all their work. We now begin planning for Congress 2021, which will take place at UWE from **7th to 9th June 2021**.

We're now looking forward to our annual **Recruitment and Admissions Forum**, which will be held as a webcast series this year across four Wednesdays in November and December. The programme is shaping up nicely – see below for further details.

Within the EPC family, we realise our members continue to face enormous challenges – including uncertainty over international numbers, fragile curriculum delivery, disrupted campus life and a volatile staffing ecosystem – as well as looking forward to engagement and retention sensitivity and gaps in research funding. The EPC is continuing to offer thoughtful leadership and representation to ensure we can best support our members in meeting these challenges.

To this end, [*Emerging Stronger: Lasting Impact from Crisis Innovation*](#) is a new publication from the EPC in which we've teamed up with academic colleagues to bring you inspirational best practice case studies of innovation in blended teaching and learning in the face of the pandemic.

EPC news

EPC CONGRESS 2020 – Industry and Academia: supercharging the crucible

Thank you to all our members who engaged with and supported our first online Congress – in which over 30 speakers delivered 5 sessions over 4 days of sessions, activities and events. For those of you unable to attend, we recorded the sessions and these will be available on the [EPC website](#) within a few weeks. With huge thanks to our sponsors, The IET, who were “pleased to support the creativity and leadership shown by the EPC in bringing people together online to constructively discuss some of the issues facing engineering higher education.” Thanks also to Sheffield Hallam University Materials and Engineering Research Institute for their generous support.

Finally, we would also like to thank our exhibitor sponsors [MathWorks](#), [TecQuipment](#) and [konfer](#). MathWorks offers MATLAB and Simulink, fundamental computation tools used at more the 5,000 educational institutions worldwide. MATLAB is one of the top 10 most popular programming

languages and is used for teaching, research, and project-based learning. Learn more at mathworks.com. Engineering teaching equipment provider TecQuipment offers a range of in lab and remote solutions for blended learning www.tecquipment.com/vdas-e-lab. To inspire students they are also running a series of career interviews featuring different engineers from across disciplines, check out the Drive Live with an Engineer playlist [here](#).

THE EPC HAMMERMEN AWARD

Congratulations to Rachel Beel, Glasgow Caledonian University, and to Dan Hicks, University of Brighton, joint winners of the EPC Hammermen Student Award. The Hammermen Award is an annual prize, presented in association with the Hammermen of Glasgow, to celebrate engineering students' excellence. This year's award received an unprecedented number of submissions and five finalists competed for the coveted prize at the EPC Congress. To see Rachel and Dan's posters and multi-media pitches, as well as the other short and longlisted applicants, visit the [EPC events microsite](#).

EMERGING STRONGER: lasting Impact from Crisis Innovation

The EPC was delighted to be invited to publish a new collection of inspirational best practice case studies of innovation resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, with contributions from a wide range of leading EPC members and edited by Prof Bev Gibbs and Dr Gary C Wood.

We hope that [Emerging Stronger](#) 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.

The EPC has created a new set of [webpages](#) to share your innovations with the wider community, and we encourage you to tell us what you've been doing, using [this form](#). We are also planning a webcast event to help share some of these case studies and explore blended learning further – watch this space.

ENGINEERING ACADEMICS' NETWORK

We'd like to remind you about our Engineering Academics Network – a new initiative for EPC members to connect as individuals. For the moment, the EAN will connect mostly through a LinkedIn Group which can be found at bit.ly/LinkedInEAN and through our programme of events.

We brought forward these plans in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions on face-to-face networking and events. In due course, the EAN will move to become the driving force behind the EPC's new online offering.

Over the coming months, we will roll out the EAN and a range of activities on which many of the key elements on the EPC's strategic plan rely. The intention is to provide a more user-friendly and user-tailored online experience that makes it easier for our members to find content on the site, specifically content which is relevant to their individual needs and interests. This initiative represents the EPC's largest ever programme of investment – the reward after many years of careful management of our limited resources.

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?

Confirmed speakers include

- Dennis Sherwood, SilverBullet Machine
- Mark Corver, DataHE

and representatives from

- U-Multirank
- Studyportals

with the EPC's own Stella Fowler giving our first glimpse of the sector-wide engineering admissions environment in this unprecedented year.

More expert panellists will be announced over the coming weeks. For updates and to book your tickets, visit the [EPC website](#).

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.

EPC members are now invited to use [this form](#) to outline a 100-word abstract of your proposed poster or other suitable online media (videos, PowerPoints, podcasts) for our panel to longlist.

Your entry may be published in RAF materials, or on the EPC website. All selected posters/videos will be displayed at virtual RAF exhibition.

The deadline for applications is Tuesday 20th October.

EPC SECTORAL GROUP EVENTS: AAU/Aerospace Sectoral Group Annual General Meeting, 23rd October 2020

The AAU/Aerospace Sectoral Group AGM will take place starting at 1200 on Friday 23rd October and will be a virtual event instead of a physical one that was going to be held at UWE. This year's Annual Student Conference has been cancelled. The agenda can be viewed on the [EPC website](#).

EPC SECTORAL GROUP EVENTS: ACED Annual Conference, 5th – 6th November 2020 (date TBC)

The Annual Conference will not now be held this year at the Chelmsford Campus of Anglia Ruskin University as previously advertised, but ACED are planning something online. It is likely to be around the same time as the original conference, 5th-6th November. Details will be available on the [EPC website](#) once confirmed.

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

Save the date. This will take place at the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. More details to follow.

OTHER EVENTS: Royal Academy of Engineering Skills for the Future webinar series, starting 30th September 2020

On Wednesday the Royal Academy of Engineering will be hosting the first in the new series of webinars, Skills for the Future. Diversity and inclusion in engineering education has for many years been translated loosely as the need for more students, especially women, from underrepresented groups to join and thrive. Grant funding and publishing clearly show that this is not yet the case.

Dawn Bonfield MBE will speak about the less familiar issues of inclusion in engineering itself. She will address how we can make sure that the outputs we produce as engineers are accessible and relevant for all. Engineering should address the 'leave no-one behind' agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals. Dawn will also speak about inclusive teaching and learning, and the 'decolonising the curriculum' debate, as well as changes to accreditation systems which have recently embraced diversity and inclusion more specifically.

Registration: <https://www.raeng.org.uk/events/events-programme/2020/september/skills-for-the-future-embedding-inclusion-into-eng>

OTHER EVENTS: Engineering Education 2.0: Models, methods and techniques for innovation, 30th September 2020

The first in a four-part series of webinars, this session is designed to equip participants with skills to apply best practices and understanding from current STEM higher-education research literature. A second session on instructional design and assessment will be held in late October. The remaining sessions will be scheduled for early 2021.

Co-sponsored by the [IEEE Education Society](#) and the [IEEE Educational Activities Board](#), this interactive virtual event series is intended for both new and experienced engineering educators.

Details are available on the new [Education Society Website](#) and on the [webinar registration page](#).

OTHER EVENTS: International Conference of Multiphysics, 10th – 11th December 2020

The International Multiphysics Conference will be a virtual event and 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](#).

OTHER EVENTS: EAEEIE 2020 Annual Conference, 10th to 13th February 2021

The 30th Annual Conference of the European Association for Education in Electrical and Information Engineering (EAEEIE) will be held in Prague, Czech Republic. Please note the change of date.

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](#).

In the news

ENGINEERING COUNCIL PUBLISHES 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: from CPNI

Who's spying on your research? International research collaboration is vital to the continued success of the UK's research and innovation sector and engineers play a key role in managing and limiting the security risks inherent in their work.

Some of you will recall the eye-opening cyber security presentation at our 2019 EPC Congress by 'Paul' (we're not at liberty to reveal anything further about his identity for security reasons). The CPNI (the national technical authority for physical and personnel security) have now collaborated with the NCSC (the national technical authority for cyber security) to bring you [Trusted Research](#) to support academics to manage the risks to international research collaboration.

The [guidance](#):

- outlines the potential risks to UK research and innovation;
- helps researchers, UK universities and industry partners to have confidence in international collaboration and make informed decisions around those potential risks;
- explains how to protect research and staff from potential theft, misuse or exploitation.

We're pleased to host a supporting guest blog on the [EPC website](#) with further information, including a link to key considerations for those in leadership roles.

Consultations

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.

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

The Office for Students (OfS) has launched a call for evidence ahead of a major review into digital teaching and learning during the coronavirus pandemic, led by the OfS chair, Sir Michael Barber.

Many universities and colleges have worked hard to deliver remote teaching and learning at speed, in difficult circumstances. They are calling for evidence from across the sector about ways higher education has innovated in digital teaching and want to look at how they can make the most of this exceptional progress in the future.

They also hope to hear about the challenges faced, and lessons learned, from remote teaching and learning delivery and they want to learn more about the impact on students of access to digital infrastructure and tools.

The EPC Engineering Education, Employability and Skills Committee is working on an Executive EPC response. The deadline is 14th October 2020. Please [contact us](#) with any comments.

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

WORLD FEDERATION OF ENGINEERING ORGANISATIONS (WFEO): IEA Graduate Attributes and Professional Competencies Framework

UNESCO and the World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO) recognise the International Engineering Alliance (IEA) Graduate Attributes and Professional Competencies Framework (GAPC) as a valuable international benchmark for engineering education. IEA monitor the various accords (Washington, Sydney and Dublin) and these competencies are the IEA's version of the Engineering Council's Learning Outcomes and UK-SPEC competences.

The current IEA Graduate Attributes and Professional Competencies Framework has been reviewed to ensure that they reflect contemporary values and employer needs as well as equip engineers/technologist/technicians of the future to incorporate the practices that advance the UN Sustainable Goals.

As a result, there are a number of changes to future engineering competencies within the IEA Graduate Attributes and Professional Competencies Framework being consulted on at the moment. You can see and comment on them [here](#). It is currently expected that changes will be proposed at IEAM 2021 in June next year. Therefore, it is important to be aware of what is emerging at this stage so that you can input views if there are aspects that are particularly welcome, missing or in need of further work.

Opportunities

2020 ENGINEERING SKILLS SURVEY

The Ministry of Defence is conducting a survey through the Defence Supplier's Forum People and Skills Group. The purpose of the survey is to understand the wider landscape for Defence engineering to drive forward policy change. They would like to hear from those who have supervised, managed or led engineers, and those who have deep experience and knowledge of the subject of defence engineering skills. You can see the survey [here](#). Please note that the deadline for completion is this Wednesday, 30th September.

CALL FOR PAPERS: Education Post-Covid

Due to several requests and given the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the deadline of the special issue on "COVID-2019 Impacts on Education Systems and Future of Higher Education" has been extended until the end of March next year. Members are encouraged to submit original articles as well as review articles. For full details please check [here](#).



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