

Higher Education and the Workplace

Supporting employer engagement in engineering and physical science

Tuesday 15th January 2008

Venue

Broadway House Conference Centre (EEF), Westminster, London

Cost

£120

Summary

The morning session will provide a provocative overview of the various drivers for employer engagement within higher education, having a specific focus on engineering and physical science. This will involve presentations by high-profile speakers providing perspectives from industry, higher education, funding councils and professional bodies. In the afternoon there will be parallel sessions that provide an opportunity for research and exemplary activities to be reviewed and discussed. Finally, there will be an opportunity to discuss the ways forward. This will involve an interactive approach that will be continued beyond the conference.

Intended audience

Strategic-level academics in engineering and physical sciences; Sector Skills Councils; representatives from industry - large and SME; and professional bodies.

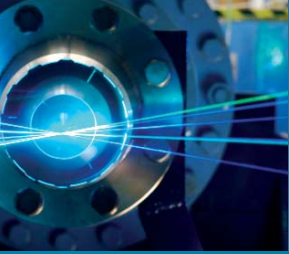
Intended outcomes

Delegates should have a clearer understanding of what their next step should be in widening participation in higher education through employer engagement and the development of work-based learning.

Background

This conference is the culmination of an Employer Engagement Project, 'Engage', funded by the Higher Education Academy, that has sought to facilitate dialogue between employers and academics and to develop an understanding of the higher level skills agenda relating to engineering, physical sciences and materials. The project has been examining the implications of the Leitch Review of Skills (2006) that emphasised the need to increase the number of employees attaining higher level skills and recommended that a proportion of HE funding be delivered through demand-led mechanisms. If you are interested in finding out more about the Awards and previous winners.

Partners: [Cogent](#), [ECUK](#), [EEF](#), [Energy & Utility Skills](#), [engCETL](#), [Engineering Subject Centre](#), [Engineering Professors' Council](#), [Loughborough University Careers Centre](#), [New Engineering Foundation](#), [Physical Sciences Centre](#), [SEMTA](#), [UK Centre for Materials Education](#), [Unilever](#).



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Draft programme

Morning session: Raising the employer engagement issues that impinge on engineering and science.
Chaired by Prof. Freda Tallantyre

10.00am	Registration - Tea/Coffee
10.30am	Welcome Martin Temple (EEF, Director General)
10.40am	KEYNOTE Sir David Melville (Chair, Lifelong Learning UK)
11.10am	HE funding agency perspective from HEFCE
11.30am	Industry perspective
11.50am	Professional Bodies' perspective Richard Shearman (Engineering Council UK)
12.10pm	Student perspective
12.30pm	Lunch

Afternoon session 1: Engineering and Science employer engagement activities: examples of current practice.

1.30 - 2.10pm Parallel discussion sessions:		
Session IA	Session IB	Session IC
Work-based learning processes.	Ways into and around the funding and accreditation issues.	How the processes can be managed?
Leads: Prof. Sa'ad Medhat (NEF); John Holton (COGENT)	Leads: David Hellier (EU Skills); John Dickens, Loughborough University	Leads: John Wilcox (UKCME); Paul Chin (Physical Sciences SC)
2.15 - 2.55pm Parallel discussion sessions:		
Session ID	Session IE	Session IF
Building partnerships and case studies.	Workforce development.	Gateway to the professions.
Leads: Richard Newman (EngCETL); Malcolm Carr-West (EngSC)	Leads: Prof. David Young (Derby); Judy Saxton (Ufi/LearnDirect)	Lead: Jonathan Ling

Afternoon session 2: Engineering and Science employer engagement activities: the next steps.

3.00 - 3.15pm	Tea/coffee
3.15pm	Panel discussion to review the longer term roles for the HEA subject centres and the future involvement of the Sector Skills Councils, employers, academia and professional bodies. Chair: Prof. Freda Tallantyre
3.45pm	Distillation of key themes to carry forward. Prof. Freda Tallantyre
4.00pm	Close

<http://www.engsc.ac.uk/nef/events/engage-conference.asp>

There is a charge of £120 for this conference. Please [register online](#) by 7th January 2008.