

Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013

Introduction

The Engineering Subject Centre is one of the 24 subject centres that form the subject network of the Higher Education Academy. As the national centre for all engineering academics in the UK, the Engineering Subject Centre delivers subject based support to promote quality learning and teaching. We do this by stimulating the sharing of good practice and innovation, thereby helping engineering academics to contribute to the best possible learning experience for their students.

The aims reflect and contribute to the attainment of the Higher Education Academy's strategic plan 2008-13 and have a focus on the needs of engineering academics. The Centre is attentive and responsive to new and changing agendas and is proactive in providing innovative activities to meet the needs of the engineering community.

For each of the Centre's aims there is a broad operational strategy, activities, outcomes and performance indicators. The annual Operational Plan provides details of operational priorities and planned activities.

Where the term 'community' is used in this document, it should be taken to mean the following stakeholders: students, engineering academics and postgraduate teachers, UK HE engineering departments, engineering education projects and networks, staff and educational developers, support staff, professional institutions and industry.

The Engineering Subject Centre's Mission is:

to work in partnership with the UK engineering community to provide the best possible higher education learning experience for all students and contribute to the long term health of the engineering profession.

Values

- **high academic and professional standards** (we apply the highest academic and professional standards in all we do)
- **independence** (we act with integrity and impartiality)
- **responsiveness** (we engage with and anticipate the needs of our stakeholders)
- **creativity** (we foster a culture of innovation and experimentation)
- **willingness to share** (we encourage sharing of knowledge across the sector)
- **inclusiveness** (we work with everyone who has a role in improving the student learning experience)
- **student engagement** (we encourage student involvement in the enhancement of quality)
- **self-evaluation** (we review what we do in order to improve its effectiveness and efficiency)
- **accountability, transparency and value for money** (we make clear what we do, for whom, at what cost).

The mission will be achieved through the following strategic aims and activities:

Aim 1: Share effective **practice**, through:

1a: Providing professional development opportunities for academic staff

1b: Providing information, advice and support for engineering education

1c: Establishing and nurturing networks

Aim 2: Facilitate **departmental change**, through:

2a: In-depth work with academics and departments

2b: Encouraging innovation, development and evaluation

Aim 3: Inform and influence **policy**, through:

3a: Brokering between engineering academics and policy makers

3b: Synthesising and interpreting the impact of policy for engineering departments

3c: Providing evidence to inform those who influence policy

Aim 4: Promote engineering education **research**, through:

4a: Supporting academics in undertaking educational research

4b: Providing opportunities for publication

Aim 5: Champion **teaching and learning**, through:

5a: Celebrating good teaching

5b: Support activities that provide recognition for teaching

EngSC Strategic Aim	HEA Aim	Broad operational strategy	Activities	Outcome(s)	Performance measure
Aim 1: Share effective practice:	2	1a: Provide professional development opportunities for academic staff	Events Programme for academic staff (including new and part-time teachers). Subject Centre's learning and teaching resources and case studies.	Improvement in students' learning through better teaching.	Follow-up feedback from delegates attending events (collected by survey 6 months post-event). Feedback from those who have downloaded resources.
		1b: Provide information, advice and support for engineering education	Website, newsletter, e-bulletin. Contributing to national events.	Community better informed about engineering education. Engineering Subject Centre recognised as up to date dynamic source of information.	Number of up to date and accurate contacts on mailing lists. Web statistics demonstrate growth in visitors and length of time spent on website. Number of enquiries.
		1c: Establish and nurture networks	Special interest groups (supported by technologies).	Networks established across departments and institutions that lead to new activities.	Growth in numbers participating in groups.
			Departmental contact network.	Two-way communication between centre and departments.	Feedback from contacts.
Aim 2: Facilitate departmental change	3	2a: In-depth work with academics	Work with departments: strategic input to departmental/faculty meetings and support for curriculum development.	Academics effect change.	Evidence of change by post-engagement feedback.
		2b: Encourage effective practice, innovation, development and evaluation.	Mini-Projects: funded, supported and outcomes disseminated.	Academics develop and evaluate teaching methodologies that enhance student learning.	Number of projects completed and uptake of deliverables.
Aim 3: Inform and influence policy	4	3a: Broker between engineering academics and policy makers.	Working in partnership with engineering community and policy makers on agendas relevant to engineering.	Policy is informed by views of engineering academics.	An increase in the number of engagements.

EngSC Strategic Aim	HEA Aim	Broad operational strategy	Activities	Outcome(s)	Performance measure
		3b: Synthesise and interpret the impact of policy for engineering departments	Keeping up to date with knowledge about policy, responding to consultations and providing appropriate guidelines and reports.	Senior academics aware of and respond to issues that have an impact on the curriculum.	Number of events and publications for academics in response to policy.
		3c: Provide evidence to inform those who influence policy	Consulting with and advising academic community.	Subject centre recognised for its brokerage role. The needs of academics represented in debates on national policy.	Number of reports given to policy makers and the number of reports to which the centre has contributed.
Aim 4: Promote engineering education research	1	4a: Support academics in undertaking educational research	Mini-Projects for Research. Workshops to support writing for publication. Education research Toolkit. Participation in European Research Working Group	Academics engage in educational research and evaluation activities.	Increase in numbers: applications for mini-projects; attendees at research workshops; downloads of resources.
		4b: Provide opportunities for publication	Centre's Journal and conference.	Action research publication opportunities available to develop academics.	Increase in number and quality of papers submitted to journal and conferences.
Aim 5: Champion teaching and learning	5	5a: Celebrate good teaching	Teaching Awards	Academics receive reward for teaching. Teaching Awards are valued by individuals and universities.	Increase in number of applications. Award winners receive recognition within their own institutions and profession (ie contribute to promotion or other awards)
		5b: Support activities that provide recognition for teaching	Work with national initiatives such as CETLs, HEA Fellowships, NTFS, Student Awards.	Status of teaching raised at individual, departmental and institutional level	(HEA Annual survey)