

Engineering Education: Future skills, standards and mobility



Date: Wednesday, 30th October

Venue: Engineers Ireland, 22 Clyde Road, Dublin 4

CPD Credit: 6 hours

This conference examines Irish engineering education in an international context, including skills to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and to succeed in a digital world. International and national speakers will address global challenges, future engineering skills, academic standards and graduate mobility. Attendees will also have the opportunity to share ideas on engineering education and to shape Engineers Ireland's accreditation process.

9.00	Registration
9.25	Welcome by Marguerite Sayers, <i>Engineers Ireland</i>
9.30	Opening address by William Beausang, <i>Department of Education and Skills</i>
9.45	<p>International context: UN SDGs and digitalisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Mike Murphy, <i>European Society for Engineering Education</i> • Brian Lahiff, <i>Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland / Garland</i> • Ulrika Lindstrand, <i>Sveriges Ingenjörer (Swedish Association of Graduate Engineers)</i>
10.45	Break
11.15	<p>Engineering skills of the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darren Carthy, <i>Technological University of Dublin</i> • Prof. Aoife Ahern, <i>University College Dublin</i> • Una Beagon, <i>Technological University of Dublin</i>
12.30	Lunch
13.30	<p>Accreditation and graduate mobility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan Spillane, <i>Limerick Institute of Technology</i> • Damien Owens, <i>Engineers Ireland, ENAEE and IEA</i> • Maria Kyne, <i>Limerick Institute of Technology</i>
14.30	<p><i>Workshop</i> Future-proofing Engineers Ireland's accreditation</p>
16.00	Close

Speaker bios

Prof. Aoife Ahern is College Principal for the College of Engineering and Architecture at University College Dublin and a Professor in civil engineering. She is interested in how critical thinking is taught at third level and is a partner on the European project 'Critical Thinking in Engineering Education' (CRITHINKEDU).

Una Beagon is Assistant Head of School of Civil & Structural Engineering at the Technological University of Dublin and a Chartered Engineer. She is a partner on the European project 'Attracting diverse talent to the engineering professions of 2030' (A-STEP 2030) and is currently undertaking a PhD on engineering education and professional skills.

William Beausang is Assistant Secretary at the Department of Education and Skills with responsibility for Higher and Further Education. He was previously Assistant Secretary at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform with responsibility for Expenditure Policy and Reporting & Government Reform. He holds a Bachelor's in Public Administration and Masters in Economic Science, both from University College Dublin, and completed the Graduate Programme in Economics at the University of Tilburg.

Darren Carthy is working towards a PhD at the Technological University of Dublin in the field of engineering education, specifically looking at the skill requirements for the success of early career engineers in industry. He is currently employed as a researcher on the European project 'Professional Roles and Employability of Future Engineers' (PREFER).

Maria Kyne is Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science, Engineering and Technology at Limerick Institute of Technology. She is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of Engineers Ireland and previously worked as a civil engineer for over thirty years. She is currently undertaking a PhD on the accreditation of engineering education.

Brian Lahiff is a Director of Garland, an international consulting engineering firm. He is a Chartered Engineer with a BE in Civil Engineering and Postgraduate Diplomas in Health and Safety in Construction and Project Management. Brian is a founding member and chairperson of the Irish Safety at Height Association and represents the Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland (ACEI) in developing the use of Building Information Modelling (BIM).

Ulrika Lindstrand is President of Sveriges Ingenjörer (Swedish Association of Graduate Engineers), an engineering trade union and interest organisation with 153,000 members. Ulrika is a chemical engineer and has held various positions in the pharmaceutical company McNeil over the past twenty years. She has also worked in pyrotechnics.

Prof. Mike Murphy is President of the European Society for Engineering Education (SEFI) and a founding member of the European Engineering Deans Council. He is also the Academic Registrar and the Director of Academic Affairs, Digital & Learning Transformation at the Technological University of Dublin. He is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of Engineers Ireland.

Damien Owens is President of the European Network for Engineering Education (ENAE) and Chair of the Governing Group of the International Engineering Alliance (IEA). He is also Registrar at Engineers Ireland, responsible for the accreditation of third level programmes. Damien is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of Engineers Ireland having worked in telecommunications for twenty years.

Marguerite Sayers is President of Engineers Ireland. She is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of Engineers Ireland with over twenty years of experience in electrical engineering. She is ESB's Executive Director for Customer Solutions, leading the energy retail company Electric Ireland and responsible for ESB's Telecoms, E-Cars, and Smart Energy Services businesses.

Alan Spillane is a student in electrical engineering and chairperson of the Engineers Without Borders Student Branch at Limerick IT. Earlier this year, he won the 'Engineering Futures' bursary, a 4-year initiative by Griffiths & Armour, ACEI and Engineers Ireland. He worked as a summer intern at Arup.