

EngineeringUK Careers Advisory Panel (CAP)

Purpose of the EngineeringUK

To promote the vital contribution that engineers, engineering and technology make to our society and to inspire people at all levels to pursue careers in engineering and technology.

Background

One of the key issues faced when trying to improve the often negative perception of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers is supplying good quality and up to date careers information about opportunities in STEM to young people and those who influence and advise them.

Two key issues have been identified which may hinder the provision of STEM careers information to young people, teachers, advisers and parents/carers:

- The existing frameworks for the delivery of careers information, advice and guidance (IAG) (in England especially) do not adequately support the needs of those seeking information and/or advice or the activities of organisations promoting STEM careers
- Schools and colleges are exposed to a wide range of messages about STEM careers via both careers information resources and enrichment activities which can sometimes be confusing and contradictory.

Purpose

1. The Careers Advisory Panel (CAP) meetings bring together the providers of careers information and those offering STEM promotional activities with the joint purpose of improving coordination in the provision of STEM careers information and its delivery to young people and those who influence and advise them.
2. EngineeringUK (with the support and agreement of the CAP and Education and Skills Panel) will also apply (where appropriate) consistent and coordinated pressure on government to improve the provision of careers IAG for young people and their influencers across the UK.
3. The CAP will support the evaluation of and provide constructive feedback on existing careers resources (including on-line resources) produced by EngineeringUK and other organisations (where requested).

The CAP may also propose new initiatives that address the often negative perceptions of STEM. These suggestions, subject to financial implications and their fit with the high level EngineeringUK business plan; may result in new projects for the EngineeringUK. In this case the CAP will continue to act in an advisory capacity throughout the duration of the project. Alternatively these proposals may be taken up by other organisations or individuals working in this field if this is the most beneficial means to achieve success.

It is anticipated that better communication and collaboration across the wider community resulting in the dissemination of clearer, consistent messages about STEM choices and jobs will ultimately result in larger numbers of young people pursuing careers in STEM and a better understanding of the possibilities in STEM amongst educational professionals.

More specifically the work of the CAP supports two specific and measurable EngineeringUK strategic goals:

- 60% of 11 – 16 year olds have considered a career in engineering.
- 80% of education professionals understand both the vocational and academic routes into an engineering career;

Benefits for members

The benefits for CAP member organisations include:

- Opportunities to share information about relevant projects, schemes and initiatives being worked on at various external and member organisations
- Significant economies of scale to be achieved by coordination of the delivery of careers information and other relevant resources through joint working
- A forum to discuss and put forward joint responses/proposals to existing and new government IAG policy – when this is deemed (by the group) to impact on STEM career awareness and choice
- Regular updates about and an opportunity to influence EngineeringUK careers related projects.

Membership

Frances McEwen, Senior Careers Adviser from Imperial College London has chaired the EngineeringUK Careers Advisory Panel (CAP) since September 2006.

The CAP membership is made up of approximately fifty education and careers specialists (including some corresponding members that receive minutes and other information but do not regularly attend meetings) and is fully representative of the organisations currently supplying IAG about the possible career opportunities resulting from studies in science technology, engineering and mathematics.

Membership also includes engineering employers and trade associations, professional engineering and science institutions, sector skills councils and national careers bodies.

Frequency of meetings

CAP meetings are held at the EngineeringUK offices and take place approximately four times a year. During this time sub-group meetings may be arranged to accommodate particular discussions or work on specific projects. Any sub-group meetings will have been previously discussed and agreed by the CAP.

Reporting Structure

The chair of the CAP is also a member of the EngineeringUK Education and Skills Panel (E&S Panel). The EngineeringUK E&S Panel reports to the EngineeringUK board on matters relating to Education and Skills (including matters relating to careers IAG).

Recommendations from the CAP relating to STEM careers i.e. contributions to existing or proposed policy, advice about current or proposed EngineeringUK projects will be communicated (where appropriate) to the E&S Panel and subsequently (where the E&S Panel is in broad agreement) the EngineeringUK board.

Similarly the EngineeringUK board or the E&S Panel may choose to draw on the expertise of the CAP (where appropriate) via this mechanism.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to be involved in the work of this panel, please email Catherine Teague (STEM Careers Manager) at cteague@EngineeringUK.com