

Annual academics conference 2026

10:00 – 15:50 BST, Friday 11 September 2026

IStructE London HQ and online

This interactive conference brings together engineering educators and industry partners to discuss emerging challenges, share practical insights, and collaboratively shape the future of engineering education.

Join us at the Institution's London HQ to be part of the full day's activities and discussion or watch Session One online.

10:00	Registration and networking
Session 1: Shaping the future of engineering education: practice, policy and innovation	
10:30	Chair's welcome Andrew Phillips, Reader in Structural Biomechanics, Imperial College London
10:35	Approaches to teaching structural engineering Charlie Statham, Professor, Department of Engineering, University of Exeter • Applying integrated and systems engineering approaches to teach engineering as a holistic, interconnected process. • Using constructivist and kinaesthetic methods to create engaging, hands-on engineering learning experiences. • Implementing problem-based learning to develop engineering knowledge, critical thinking, and real-world problem-solving skills.
11:05	Teaching globally responsible engineering - MSc Humanitarian Engineering Modupe Jimoh, Professor of Civil and Humanitarian Engineering, Warwick University • Understanding globally responsible engineering and how students relate to the concept. • Examples of ways to embed global responsibility into a technical module/curriculum. • Best practices from the interdisciplinary University of Warwick MSc in Humanitarian Engineering.
11:35	JBM degree guidance, what's changed and why? James Norman, Professor of Sustainable Design, University of Bath • Outlining the revised structure of the guidance and explain the rationale behind the changes. • Highlighting the key updates and their implications for Higher Education Providers (HEPs).

	Setting out expectations for how HEPs should approach and prepare their submissions.
12:05	Progressing sustainability as a quantitative teaching topic Speaker to be announced
12:35	Understanding structural behaviour: Grasp It Speaker to be announced
12:45	Lunch and networking
	<i>(Conference close for online attendees)</i>

Session 2: Engineering education interactive discussions (In-person only)		
13:45	Chair’s welcome back and discussion topic introduction	
	Group A	Group B
14:00	Effective use of AI, engineering judgement and validating outcomes Donya Hajializadeh, Associate Professor of Bridge/Structural Engineering, University of Surrey As AI becomes an increasingly common tool in engineering education and practice, how can we equip students with the critical thinking skills needed to use AI effectively, challenge its outputs, and avoid over-reliance? The discussion will also explore how these skills contribute to the development of sound engineering judgement and professional maturity, particularly when validating complex outcomes where there may not be a single “right” answer.	Educating engineering graduates 2040: Driving change for future Livia Garcia, Principal Civil Engineer, Rail Safety and Standards Board George Kenyon, Structural Engineer, Stantec Looking ahead to 2040, what knowledge, skills and attributes will engineering graduates need to thrive in a rapidly evolving profession, and how should this shape teaching priorities today? This discussion will explore how academics can influence and implement meaningful curriculum change to prepare graduates for an uncertain future, balancing emerging technologies with fundamental engineering skills, while navigating institutional challenges, competing priorities and resistance to change.
14:40	Educating engineering graduates 2040: Driving change for future As above	Effective use of AI, engineering judgement and validating outcomes As above
15:20	Reflections and closing comments	
15:50	Conference close	
This programme is subject to change		