

UK Mining Education Forum

Mining: “the extraction and processing of minerals”

Mission (what the Forum seeks to achieve)

The Forum aims to bring together key stakeholders to collaborate to maintain and develop mining education in the UK.

Purpose (what drives the Forum and why it seeks to deliver the mission)

Population growth, economic expansion and the energy transition are driving significant increases in demand for minerals critical to our future security and prosperity just at the time when education in the UK on current mining and mineral processing practices has almost disappeared. The mining industry, and extractive industries generally, are facing poor public perception and opposition.

Vision (desired future state)

The Forum aspires to vibrant and comprehensive mining education in the UK, ensuring an informed and supportive public, and the development of people required to mine and process the minerals that the UK and the global population require in a responsible manner.

Values (behaviours and standards that the Forum aims to demonstrate)

- Integrity
- Equitable, diverse and inclusive
- Collaborative and proactive in engaging with others
- Provide support for education in resource technologies at all levels
- Pursue excellence
- Identify the need for and facilitate change
- Adhere to the expectations of the Engineering Council Code of Conduct for a Professional Engineer.

Stakeholders (include the following)

- Trade bodies representing the underground and surface mine operators, mining equipment manufacturers, mining consultancies, service providers, the oil & gas industry and geothermal developers
- Universities and colleges delivering mining and extractive industries education
- Relevant professional engineering institutions, societies, associations and groups
- Mining museums and associated educational outreach
- Government, including the Health and Safety Executive/Mines Inspectorate
- Mining Trusts

- Local communities, schools and colleges
- Conservation and environmental sectors
- Media.

Forum Set Up and Structure

Individuals from the stakeholders register their interest in becoming a member of the UK Mining Education Forum with the Secretary and provide contact details, organisation that they represent, what they can contribute to the Forum and confirm acceptance of the Forum values. The Secretary maintains a list of members and their contact details.

To manage the Forum a Board will be established comprising six to eight members, including senior representation from the UK mine operators, ABMEC, UK mining consultancies, CSM, Professional Engineering Institutes and the Mining Trusts. The Board will appoint a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, with further posts established as required. The Board will generate regulations defining how the Forum and Board will operate. Safeguards will be put in place to protect the Forum and members from legal action. The Board will generate and maintain a risk register. If the size of the Forum membership warrants a Council will be established to support the Board.

Initial Activities

- Produce and issue a position paper setting out the UK demand for mining engineering and mineral processing engineers, the current status of relevant undergraduate courses and proposed actions
 - Collate and respond to feedback
- Seek volunteers and establish a Board to manage the Forum
- Identify gaps in tertiary mining education, develop proposed solutions and obtain support to implement these solutions starting with undergraduate mining engineering and mineral processing then moving on to other areas, including further education
- Identify groups and individuals delivering mining education across the UK:-
 - Facilitate collaboration and sharing of information
 - Collate and make accessible to mining education officers, museums, school pupils, politicians, the media, interested groups and the general public quality information on the following: the necessity for mining and the benefits, modern mining projects and techniques, career opportunities in mining.