KU LEUVEN

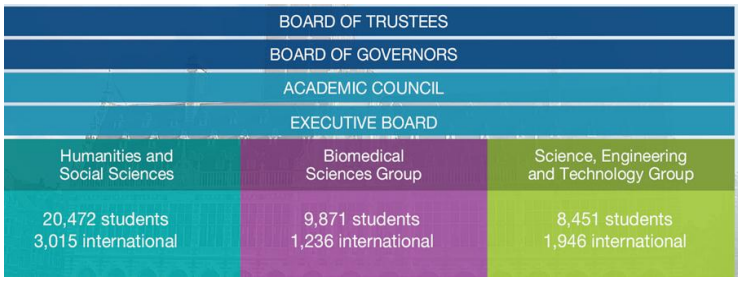
ACQA as an Instrument for Self-Assessment

Experiences at the Faculty of Engineering Science at KU Leuven

Londers E, Berbers Y & Froyen L

KU Leuven structure

- KU Leuven
  - approx. 40,000 students
    - 55 Bachelor's programmes
    - 133 Master's programmes
- 3 scientific groups, 15 faculties



Figures: February 2012

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Faculty of Engineering Science

- 4,400 students in
  - 3-year Bachelor's programme
  - 2-year Master's programme

Mechanical engineering	Electrical engineering
Chemical engineering	Civil engineering
Computer science	Materials engineering
Biomedical engineering	Energy
Nuclear engineering	Industrial management
Nanoscience and nanotechnology	Traffic, logistics & ITS

Context

- Student focused approach: LEARNING OUTCOMES!

- Questions:
  - Profile of the programme in terms of learning outcomes?
  - Contribution of a particular part of the programme to the development of specific competences?
  - …

!! Need for methodologies for specifying and evaluating learning outcomes!!

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ACQA instrument

- Based on the ACQA (Academic Competences and Quality Assurance) framework
- Developed at TU Eindhoven
- Resulting in competence profiles

ACQA framework

- 7 competence areas
- Level based description of the activities of
  - Analysis
  - Synthesis
  - Abstraction
  - Concretisation

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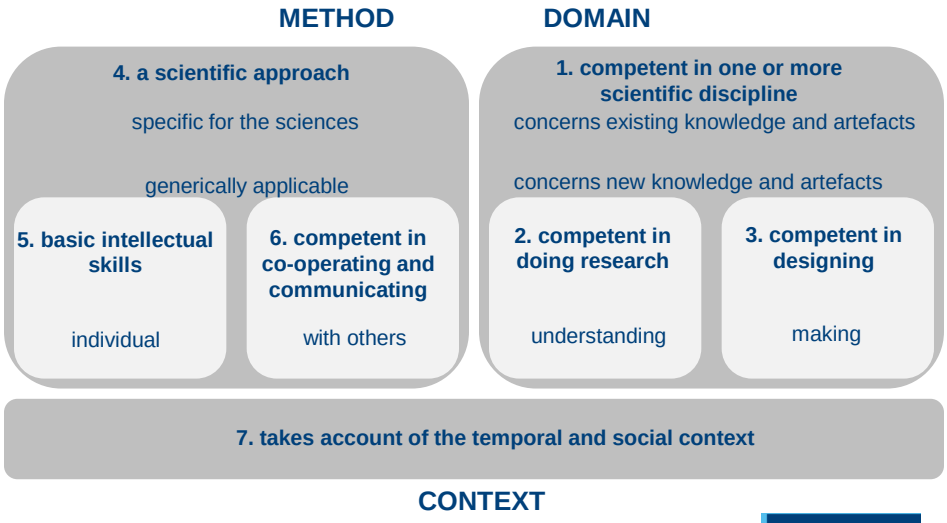
ACQA: 7 competence areas



Competence profile?

- Evaluation of the curriculum as intended by the lecturers
- Structured interviews with lecturers to find out how much time is spent on which competences (areas)
- Since it is timebased, course outcomes can be combined into a competence profile of a curriculum

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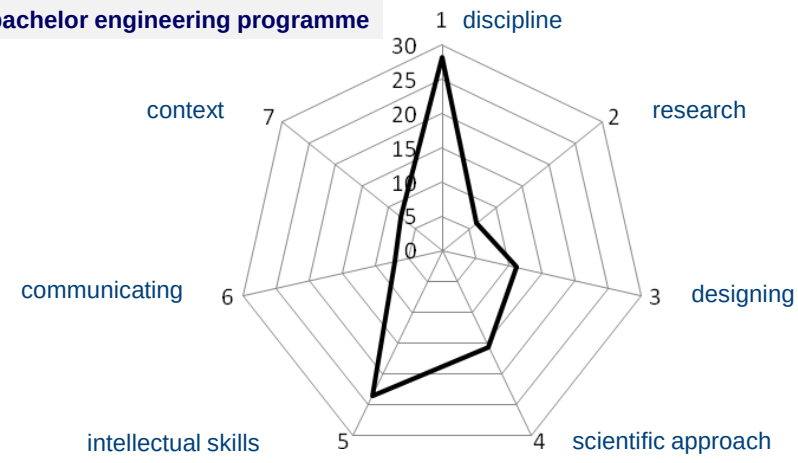
Competence profile!

bachelor engineering programme



radial axis = percentage of time

Competence profiles & self-assessment?

- Defining and visualising essential aspects
- National and international benchmarking
- Evidence of stakeholders opinion
- Common language (ECTS-cards)

radial axis = percentage of time

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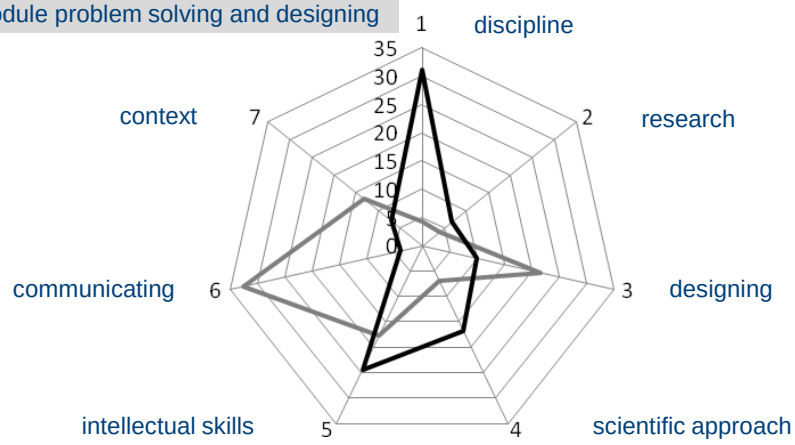
Visualising essential aspects

Module problem solving and designing



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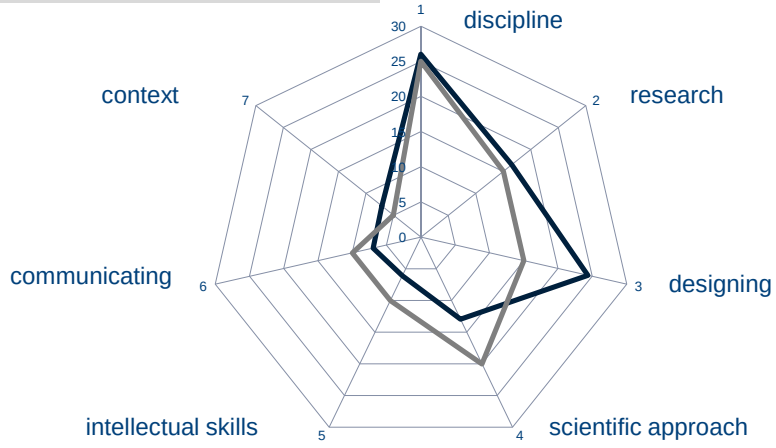
(Inter)national benchmarking

Master Electrical Engineering



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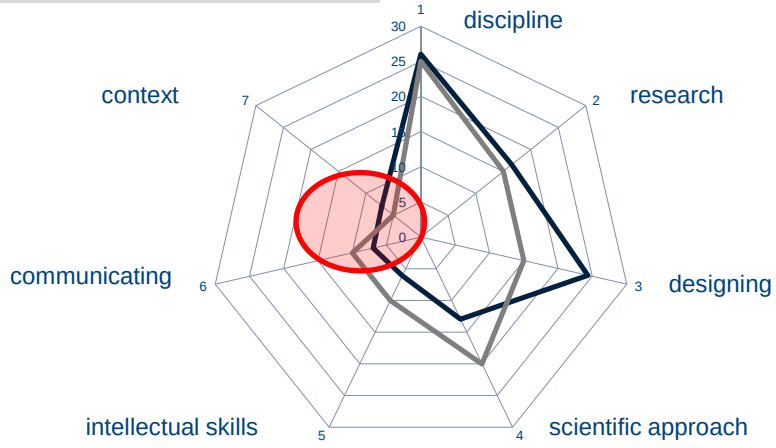
Stakeholders opinion

Master Electrical Engineering



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Future perspectives

Involving the students!!