



Practices of the student association concerning Employability

Faculty of Engineering Science,
KU Leuven

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Student association



- Faculty of Engineering Science: employability matters are delegated to students



Student association “takes the lead”

- Main mission: representation of all students of engineering science and engineering architecture at departmental, faculty and university level
- No financial support of the Faculty

Student association (2)

- Student association
 - 47 student members
 - Active in 4 fields:
 - Business relations
 - Education: course materials, international students
 - Recreation: culture, sports, other activities
 - Support: communications, it, logistics



Business relations unit



- Business relations (BR) unit
 - 6 student members
 - Main goal: introduction of students to employers through several job events
 - Main areas of intervention: promotional activities
 - Collaborations with companies: job fair, stage fair, job forum, on campus interview days,...
 - Professional and career guidance: career days, workshops,...
 - Recruitment opportunities and promotion of internships: job openings and internships database,...

Business relations unit (2)



- Job events
 - In and on demand of companies
 - In collaboration with companies:
 - BR-launch
 - Stage fair
 - Job fair
 - Job forum
 - Other: interview days, panel discussions,...

Job events



1. BR-launch: company presentations combined with a specific activity (e.g. golf courses, wine tasting)
 - Main purpose: connect students and companies in an informal way
 - Main audience: last year students
 - Participants: +/- 100 students and 8 companies in 2011
 - Response:
 - From students: positive, informal atmosphere in which students feel comfortable asking questions to companies
 - From companies: positive, approach is very much appreciated

Job events (2)



2. Stage fair: company expositions introducing internship possibilities
 - Main purpose: inform students on internships opportunities and offers at home as well as abroad
 - Main audience: last year Bachelor's students

Archifair: similar event for engineering architecture students looking for an internship

Job events (3)



3. Job fair: company presentations combined with information sessions
 - Main purpose: give companies the opportunity to introduce themselves to students
 - Target audience: last year students
 - Participants: +/- 500 students and 78 companies in 2012 (2011: 58)
 - Response:
 - From students: claim to be well informed and are seeking to apply for positions with different companies
 - From companies: positive, reaching a large number of students at the same time + a growing demand (+25% in 2012)

Job forum: yearly event with similar purpose and target audience as the job fair

Job events (4)



4. Other job events: e.g. on campus interview days and panel discussions

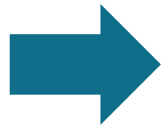
○ Other job platforms:

- In collaboration with companies: openings and internships database, resume book and company guide
- Career days and workshops: invited lecture and soft skill trainings in cooperation with alumni, faculty members, ...
 - How to write a resume and cover letter?
 - How to make a job interview successful?
 - How to negotiate salary?

Evaluation



- Student survey of the business relations unit
 - Students attend 4 to 5 events on average
 - Students believe these activities have positively contributed to their job search activities
 - Importance of job fair
 - Other activities perceived as valuable: job forum, job openings and internships database, resume book and company guide, soft skill training on writing a resume and cover letter



One month before graduation: about 50% has already signed a contract OR has the potential to do that