



# Graduate employability

Faculty of Engineering Science,  
KU Leuven

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# KU Leuven structure



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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES		
BOARD OF GOVERNORS		
ACADEMIC COUNCIL		
EXECUTIVE BOARD		
Humanities and Social Sciences	Biomedical Sciences Group	Science, Engineering and Technology Group
20,472 students 3,015 international	9,871 students 1,236 international	8,451 students 1,946 international

Figures: February 2012

# Engineering curriculum



- Faculty of Engineering Science

- 4,400 students in

- 3-year Bachelor's programme
    - 2-year Master's programme

- Mechanical engineering

- Chemical engineering

- Computer science

- Biomedical engineering

- Nuclear engineering

- Nanoscience and nanotechnology

- Electrical engineering

- Civil engineering

- Materials engineering

- Energy

- Industrial management

- Traffic, logistics & ITS

# Employability strategy



- Faculty of Engineering Science

- Facilitating role

- Supporting KU Leuven central services
    - Supporting our student association
    - Supporting events of external agents
  - Royal Flemish Society of Engineers
    - IE-net community organizing different events for recently graduated civil, industrial and agricultural engineers (“startbaanevents”)

**along  
“3 pathways”**

# Employability figures



- Alumni career research (2010)
  - Central services
  - Key variables related to employability
    1. Employment and working conditions variables:
      - Employment status
      - Sector and/or industry
      - Gross monthly salary
      - Weekly working hours
    2. Other variables: e.g. start of job search, duration of job search, main reasons for recruitment in students' perception and usefulness of their degree

# Employability figures (2)



- Alumni career research (2010)

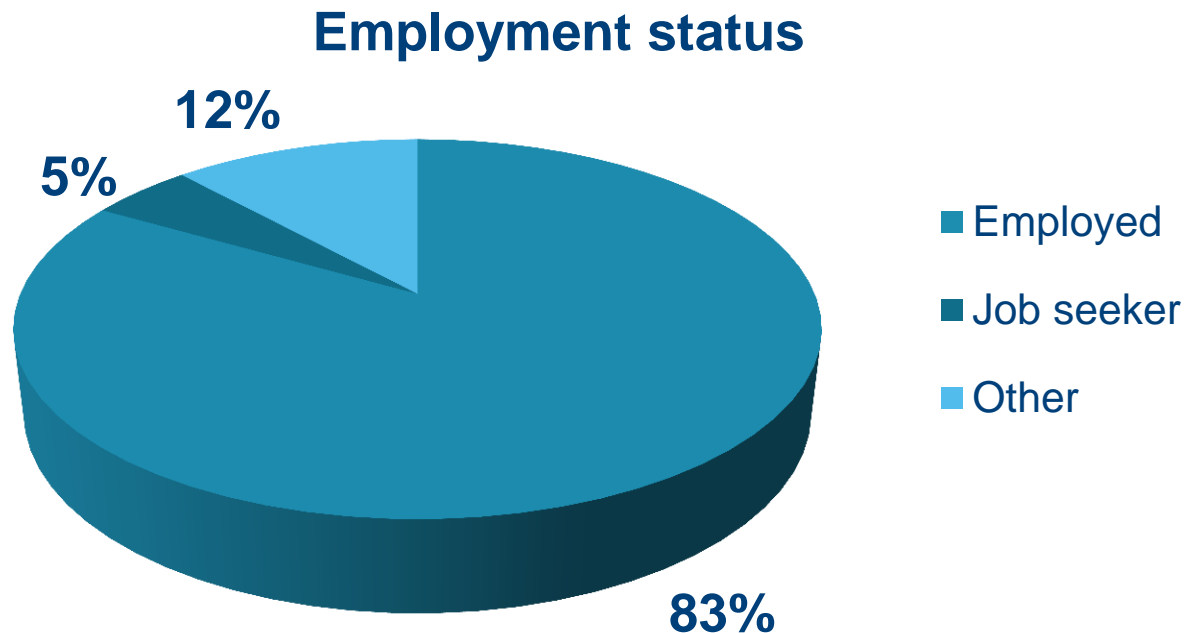
	Academic year	Population	Number of participants	Response rate
KU Leuven	2008-2009	3,261	1,337	41%
Faculty of Engineering	2008-2009	214	104	48,6%

- Population
  - = all graduates of Initial Master's of Science in Engineering (without Architecture)

# Employability figures (3)



- Alumni career research (2010)
  - Employment status 1 year after graduation (N=102)



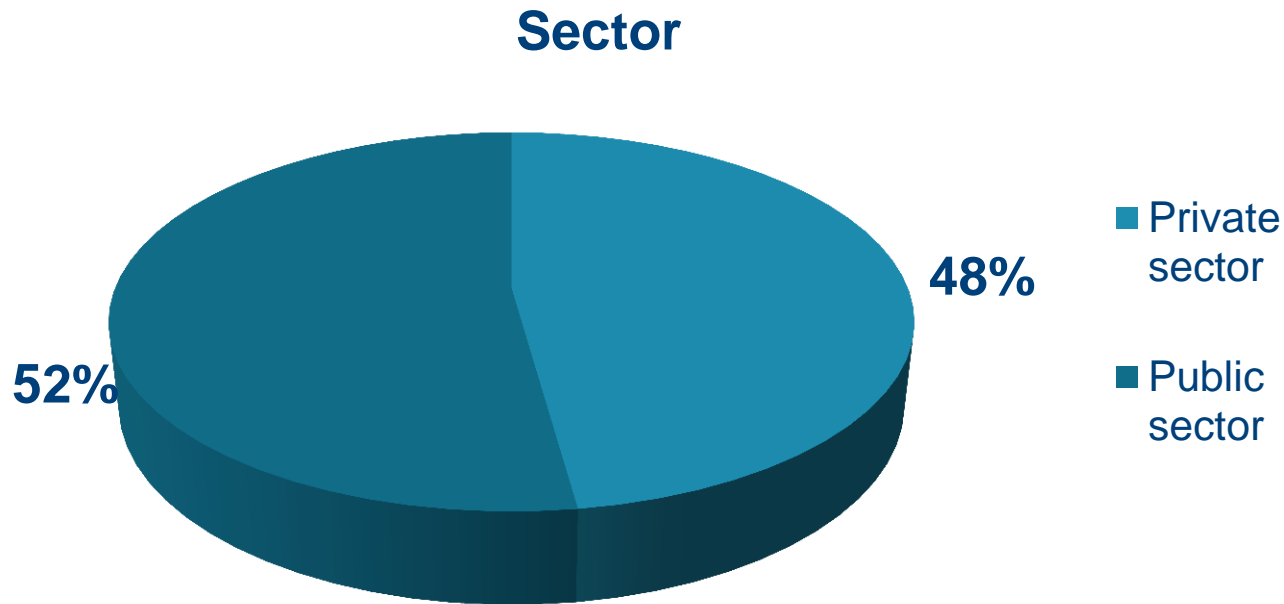
Figures: 2010



# Employability figures (4)



- Alumni career research (2010)
  - Sector of employment: public or private (N=90)



Figures: 2010

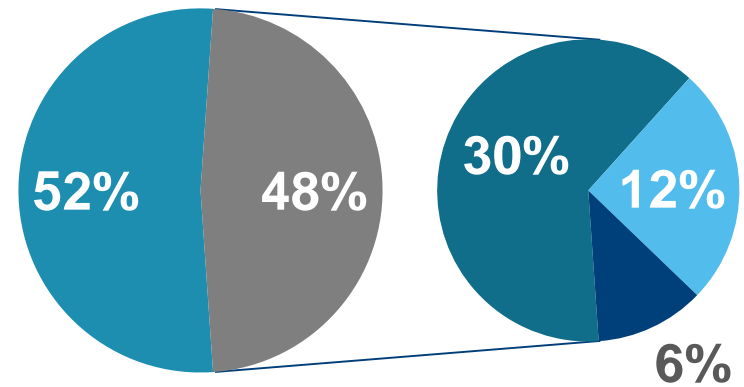
# Employability figures (5)



- Alumni career research (2010)

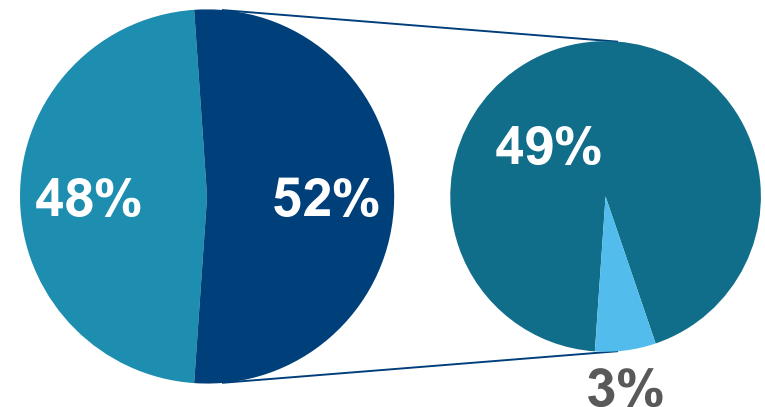
- Private sector: approx. 48%

- Multinational enterprise: 30%
- National enterprise: 6%
- SMEs: 12%



- Public sector: approx. 52%

- University: 49%
- Public service: 3%

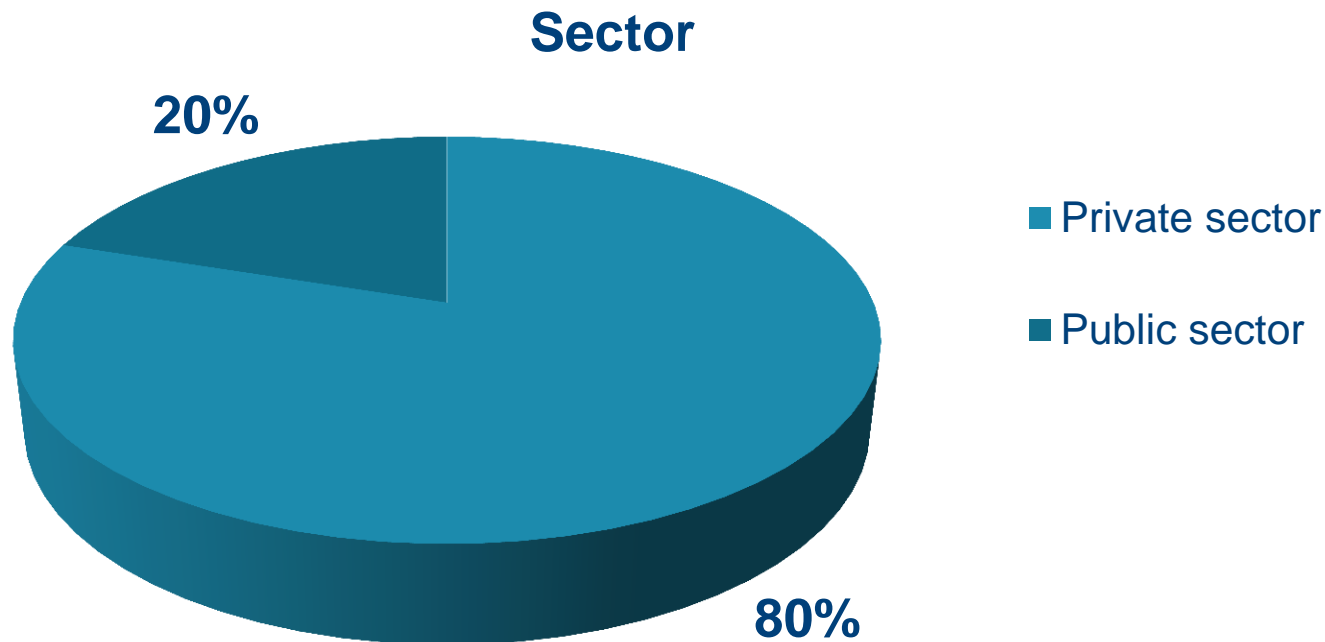


Figures: 2010

# Alternative research



- IE-net survey (2011)
  - Sector of employment: public or private (N=159)

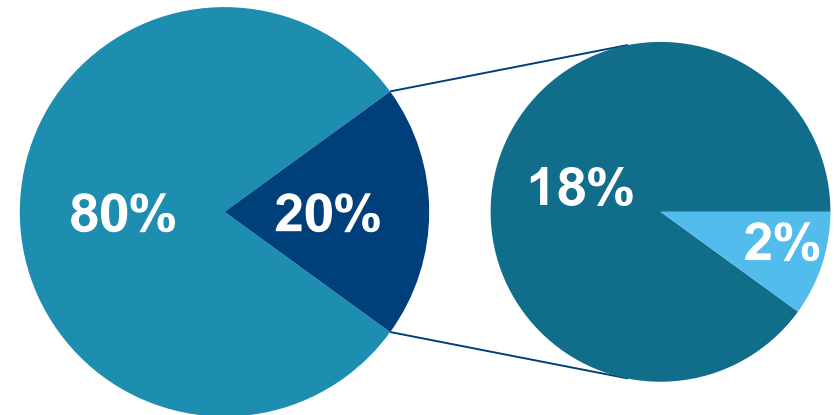


Source: IE-net startbaanenquête 2011

# Alternative research



- Ie-net survey (2011)
  - Private sector: approx. 80%
  - Public sector: approx. 20%
    - University: 18%
    - Public service: 2%

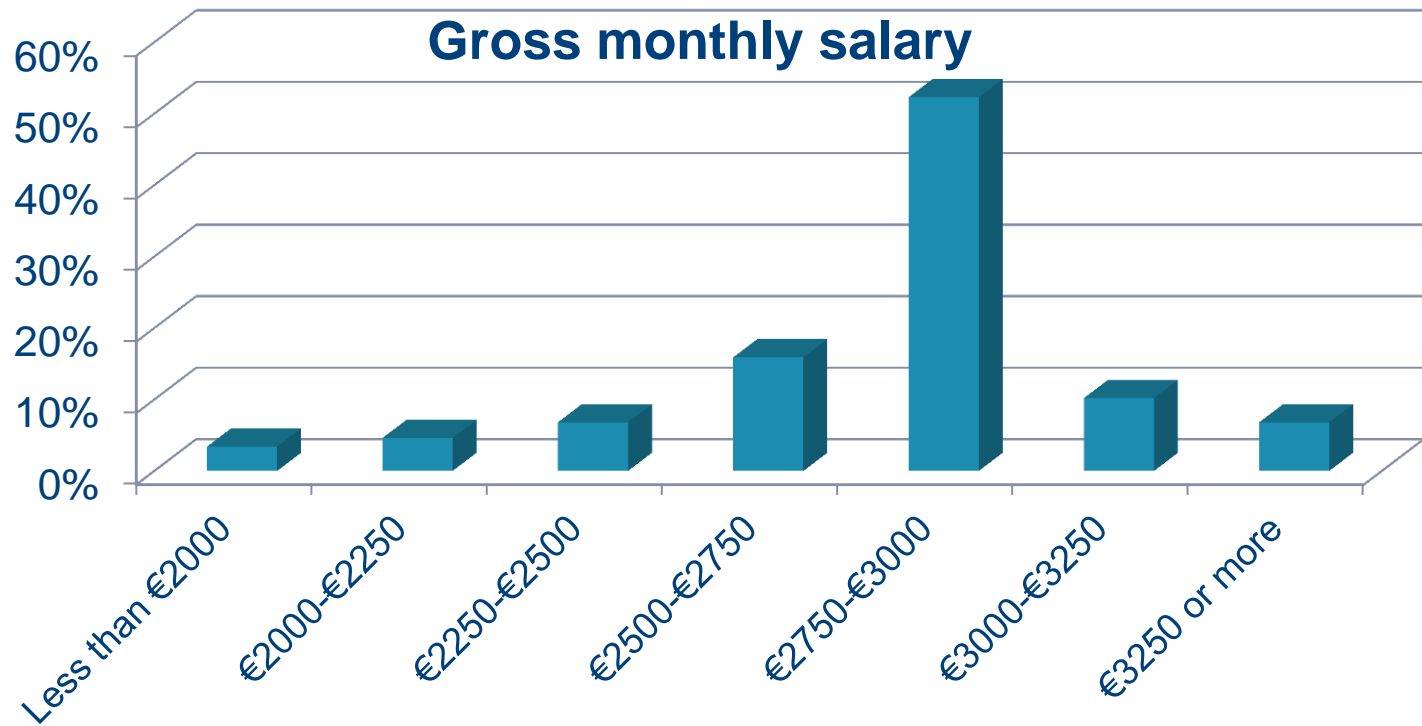


Source: IE-net startbaanenquête 2011

# Employability figures (6)



- Alumni career research (2010)
  - Gross monthly salary (N=88)

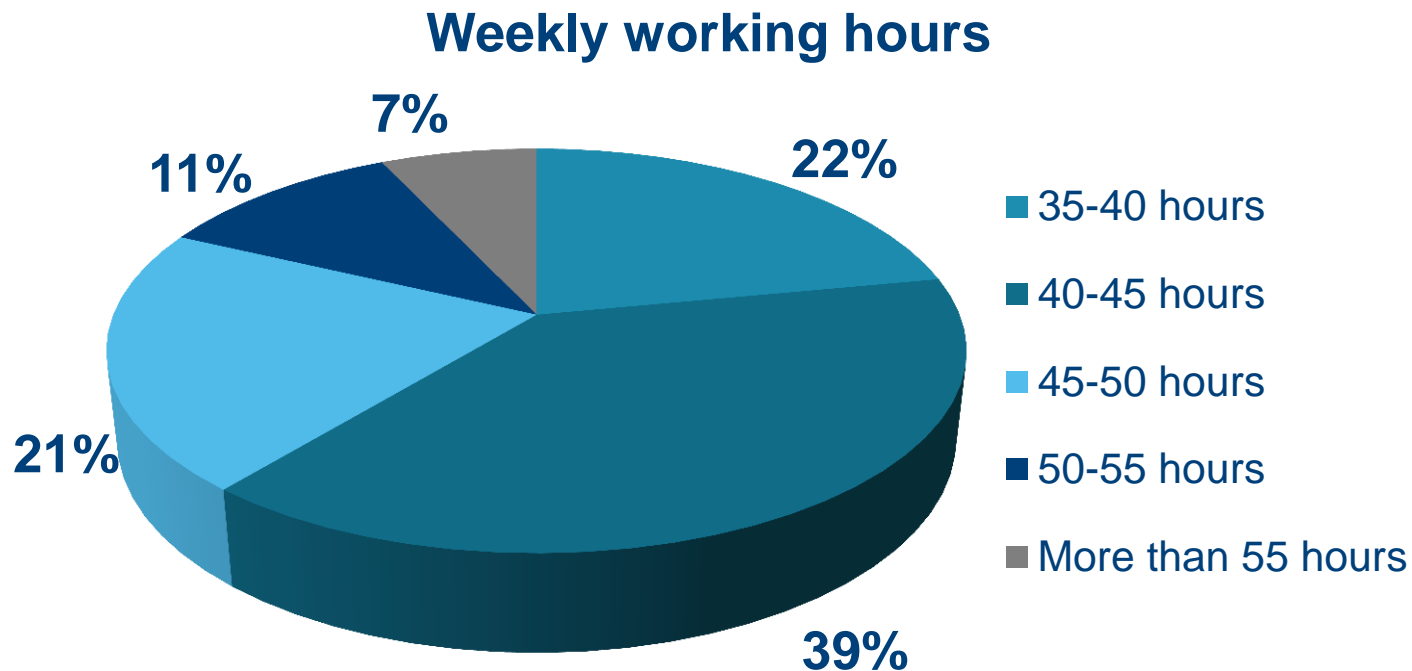


Figures: 2010

# Employability figures (7)



- Alumni career research (2010)
  - Hours worked each week (N=91)



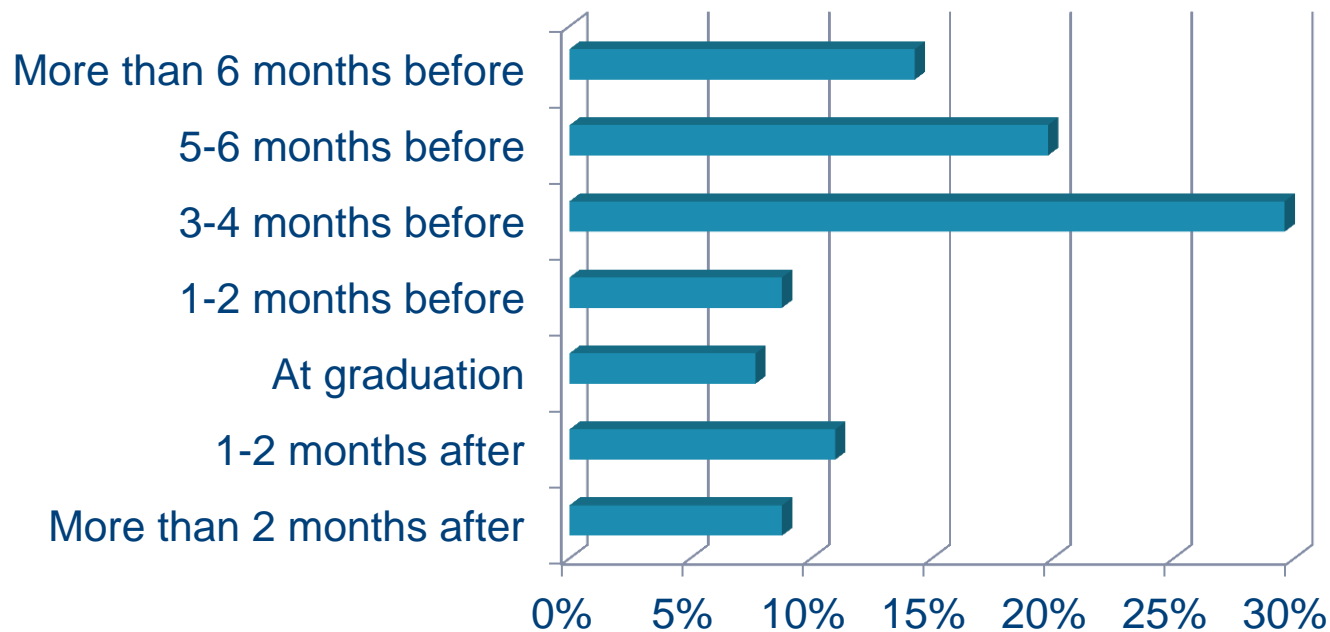
Figures: 2010

# Employability figures (8)



- Alumni career research (2010)
  - Start of job search: before or after graduation (N=91)

## Start of job search

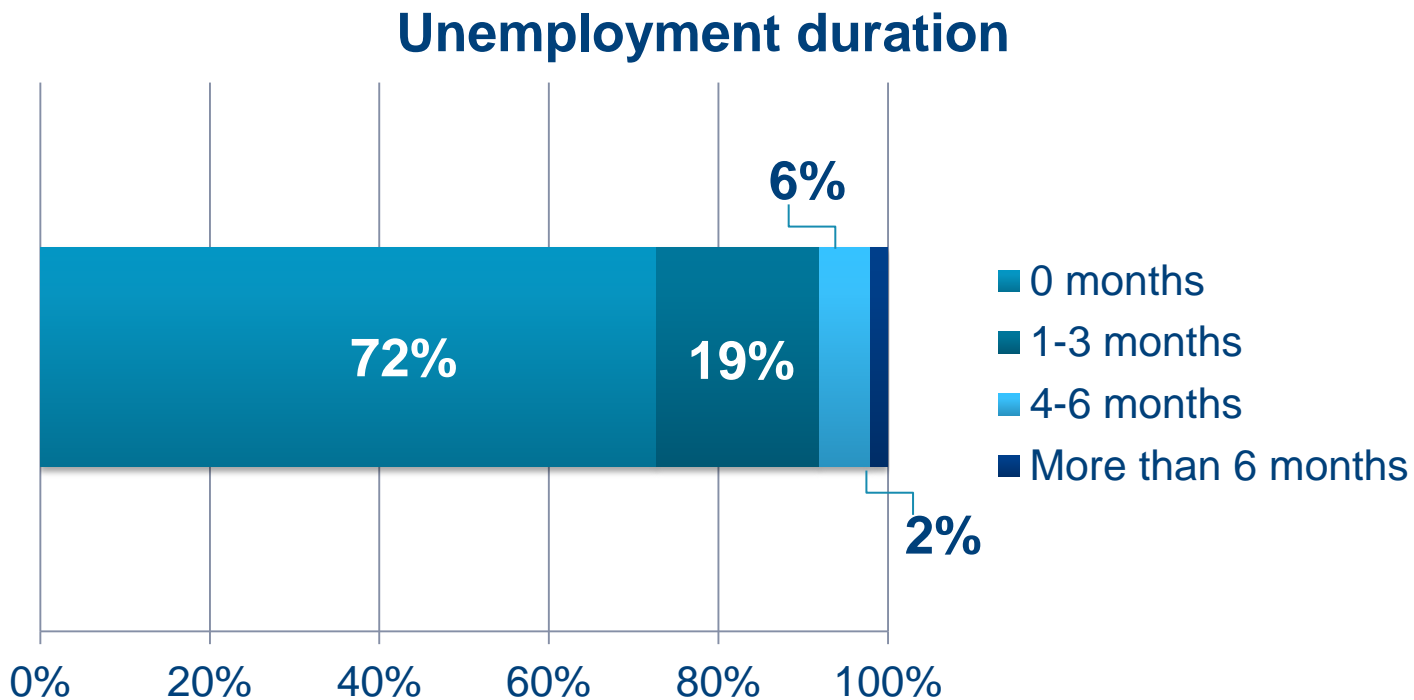


Figures: 2010

# Employability figures (9)



- Alumni career research (2010)
  - Unemployment duration in months (N=91)



Figures: 2010



# Employability figures (10)



- Alumni career research (2010)
  - Usefulness of engineering degree (N=91)
    - For 75% degree is absolutely necessary
  - Student perception of recruitment (N=91)
    - Education-related reasons: Master's degree (68%), study results (47%), Master's thesis (44%)
    - Personal characteristics: e.g. motivation and commitment (67%)

Figures: 2010

# Future objectives



Possible ways to further develop our graduates  
“employability potential”:

- Increasing the offer of internships available to students
- Increasing managerial and leadership as well as entrepreneurial skills of our students
- Increasing contact and interaction with employers (industry, public and private services, consultancy enterprises, ...)