

Title: Educational Improvement Ideas From All Students

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In the development of educational programmes we need to involve the students. The European Standards and Guidelines (ESG 2015) state: "Programmes are reviewed and revised regularly involving students and other stakeholders." We need to know how the students perceive that the programme should be improved. Using just a few student representatives for this has clear limitations, because they might not be representative of all students. Rowley (1995) argues that "gathering relevant, representative and useful student opinion is a necessary part of the quality assurance process".

In the Computer Science and Engineering programme at KTH, we have a unique opportunity to get input from every active student in the programme, through the Program Integrating Course (Kann and Högfeldt 2016). The reason is that one of the intended learning outcomes is "critically analyze and reflect on the structure and performance of the programme and their own study achievements".

In a mandatory questionnaire sent to all students in the five years of the programme in May 2016, we asked each student to give at least one proposal for how the programme could be improved. In this way we got almost 800 suggestions for improvements of the education, at least one from every active student.

We will now sort the improvement suggestions and categorize them. We hope to be able to identify which type of improvements of the programme that are most asked for, and to get a number of good improvement proposals that we would never have thought of ourselves.

Here are four examples of suggestions from fifth year students:

"Have a tool that makes it easier to visualize the education, how courses contributes to certain goals etc? "

"Encourage students to design their code in lab-assignments/projects in a more maintainable way and not just in a ad hoc way."

"if there was a way for me to read student feedback to find the really good courses, that would be of help."

"Make the students read more research-papers, and involve the students in open source projects."

References

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Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). (2015)