

ENG Master's programme orientation

Why “intercultural communication” is important to engineering students?

Yoonjoo Cho, PhD (Language Centre)



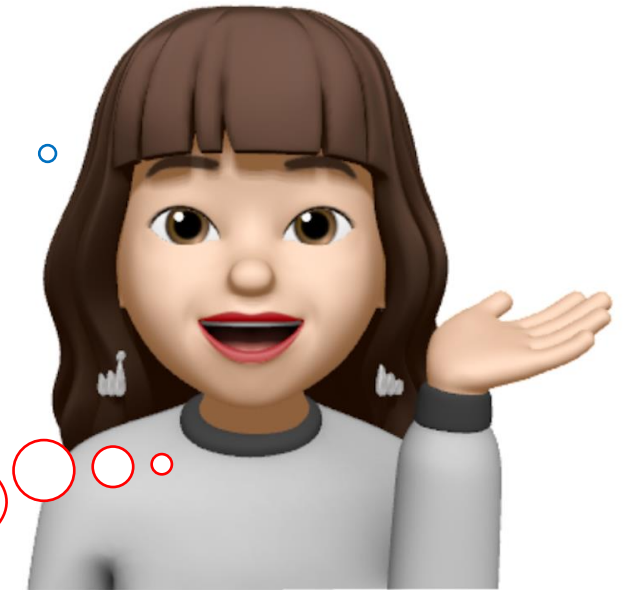
Aalto University
Language Centre

Today's Talk

- **Why** “intercultural communication” is relevant & important to you as an engineering student?
- **Where** and **how** can we learn this?

My name is
Yoonjoo!

I teach **Intercultural
Communication courses** at
Aalto Language Centre...



Intercultural Communication Courses

- **LC-0610** Intercultural Communication (3 credit)
 - ***Period 1, Period 3, Period 5***
- **LC-0615** Intercultural Communication in Teamwork (3 credit)
 - ***Period 2, Period 4***
- **LC-0614** Developing Global Competence: Working in an International Virtual Team (2 credit): Online
 - ***Period 2***



Intercultural Communication Study Entity

- That means, [Intercultural Communication as a Minor](#)
 - Students have the opportunity *to earn a study entity in intercultural communication of a minimum of 15 credits.*



Check it out! 😊

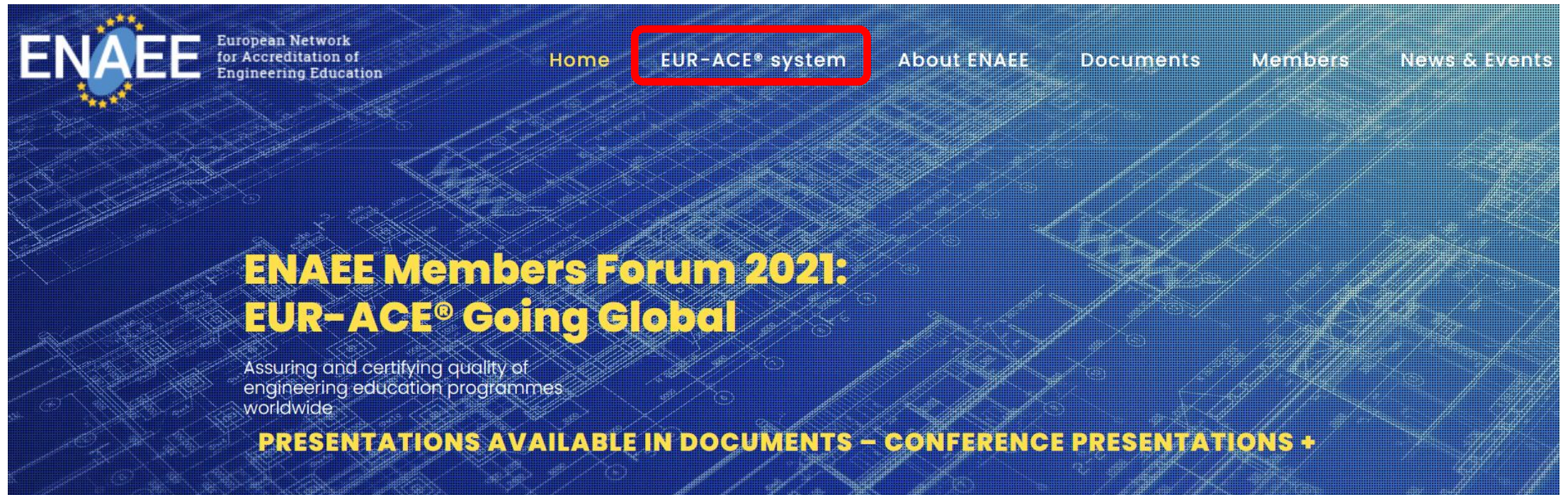
A Quick Question:

<https://www.menti.com/alfz2ocxmg3s>

- What is the most important learning area/aspect to you as an engineering student?
 1. Knowledge and Understanding
 2. Engineering Analysis
 3. Engineering Design
 4. Investigations
 5. Engineering practice
 6. Making Judgements
 7. Communication and Team-working



ENAAEE (<https://www.enaee.eu/>)



The image shows a screenshot of the ENAAEE website homepage. The background is a blue grid pattern. In the top left corner, the ENAAEE logo is displayed, consisting of the letters 'ENAAEE' in white with a blue circle containing yellow stars to its right. Below the logo, the text 'European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education' is written in white. To the right of the logo, a navigation menu is visible with the following items: 'Home', 'EUR-ACE® system' (highlighted with a red rectangular box), 'About ENAAEE', 'Documents', 'Members', and 'News & Events'. In the center of the page, the main heading reads 'ENAAEE Members Forum 2021: EUR-ACE® Going Global' in bold yellow text. Below this heading, the text 'Assuring and certifying quality of engineering education programmes worldwide' is written in white. At the bottom of the page, the text 'PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE IN DOCUMENTS – CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS +' is displayed in bold yellow text.

ENAAEE European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education

Home EUR-ACE® system About ENAAEE Documents Members News & Events

**ENAAEE Members Forum 2021:
EUR-ACE® Going Global**

Assuring and certifying quality of
engineering education programmes
worldwide

PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE IN DOCUMENTS – CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS +

Intended Learning Outcomes

(e) The Programme Outcomes are described here separately for both Bachelor and Master Degree programmes with reference to the following eight learning areas:

1. Knowledge and understanding;
2. Engineering Analysis;
3. Engineering Design;
4. Investigations;
5. Engineering Practice;
6. Making Judgements;
7. Communication and Team-working;
8. Lifelong Learning.

WHY?

Of course, who would say communication is not important? 😊

As an engineer

Now

Near Future

During your MSc

WHY is it important?

- Master's programmes have *more diverse student demographics*

More than
25%

6 466
master's students,
of which 1 936
are international



7 475
bachelor's students,
of which 711 are
international

Around 10%

It is not just a
mere
presence!

WHY is it important?

- ***Team-based learning*** (e.g. team project) is one of the common elements in completing MSc courses
 - At some point, you are going to ***interact with other students having different backgrounds*** as teamwork is part of the courses
 - e.g. classroom discussion, challenge-based project courses, case studies, simulations, writing groups, mathematics workshops, thesis seminars., etc.

After your MSc

WHY is it important?



European Journal of Engineering Education

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Developing employability in engineering education: a systematic review of the literature

Christine Winberg, Mike Bramhall, David Greenfield, Patrick Johnson, Peter Rowlett, Oliver Lewis, Jeff Waldoock & Karin Wolff

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To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/03043797.2018.1534086>



Article
Evaluating the Role of the Communication Skills of Engineering Students on Employability According to the Outcome-Based Education (OBE) Theory

Ying Wu¹, Lin Xu^{1,*} and Simon P. Philbin^{2,3}

¹ School of Foreign Languages, Northwest University, Xi'an 710069, China; 2013336@nwnu.edu.cn
² School of Engineering, London South Bank University, London SE1 0AA, UK; philbin@lsbu.ac.uk
³ Correspondence: lin_xu@163.com; Tel: +86-13329212444



European Journal of Engineering Education



Employability

Journal homepage: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ceee20>

Which professional skills do students learn in engineering team-based projects?

Cyril Picard, Cécile Hardebolle, Roland Tormey & Jürg Schiffmann

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To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/03043797.2021.1920890>

to the Outcome-Based Education (OBE) Theory, *Sustainability* 2023, 15, 9711. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su15129711>

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1. Introduction

With the advent of globalization and the digital era, society exerts greater upon engineering students. The employability of engineering students is no less a matter of the application of technical skills, but students must also possess complex professional skills (i.e., soft skills) to achieve personal employment and result development [1]. Professional skills are the necessary accompaniment to technic engineering students [2]. Such professional skills include communication skills, skills, planning and organizing skills, ICT (information and communication technology skills, lifelong learning skills, initiative, and enterprise skills. Among these professional skills, communication skills are considered to be the most important and indispensable. Nowadays, with the rapid development of digital information technology (IT) impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses are gradually shifting towards digital making remote work and online collaboration more common. In this context, communication skills have become even more important, and engineers need to be able to express ideas and issues to avoid misunderstandings and errors in order to complete complex technical projects [3]. Under these circumstances, engineering students trained in the digital era need to possess strong communication skills.

After investigating the communication skills of engineering students and the opinions of employers, it has been found that many students lack the necessary workplace thinking and communication abilities, thereby making it difficult for them to tackle the challenges

Sustainability 2023, 15, 9711. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su15129711>

<https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability>

WHY is it important?

- Of course, ***the technical knowledge matters***
 - Students who lack confidence in the core engineering disciplines would be unlikely to develop competence in engineering communication (Winberg et al., 2020: 170).

WHY is it important?

- The employability is *no longer merely a matter of the application of technical skills*
 - Students must also possess complementary *professional skills* (i.e., soft skills) to achieve personal employment and career development (Wu et al., 2023).

WHY is it important?

- The advent of *globalization* and the *digital era*
 - Remote work and online collaboration are more common.
 - Engineers need to be able to clearly express ideas and issues to avoid misunderstandings and errors thereby efficiently completing complex technical projects. (Wu et al., 2023).

WHY is it important?

- Communication, teamwork, and organisational abilities are also ***featured prominently in sources looking at labour-market needs*** such as employer and alumni surveys (Picard, et al., 2022: 314)

Where and how can we develop it?

HOW & WHERE can we develop this?

- Of course, I cannot explain ‘how’ in detail now as we are running out of time! 😊
- **‘Social Interaction’** is the core aspect of developing communication skills!



Being exposed to an environment where you can comfortably share different perspectives with others

Language and Communication Courses!

Language and communication studies

Education and studies in languages and communication for all Aalto students are provided by the Language Centre which is a university-level service unit.



<https://www.aalto.fi/en/language-and-communication-studies/teaching>

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 - **Period 1, Period 2**
- **LC-0615** Intercultural Communication (3 credit)
 - **Period 2,**
- **LC-0614** Developing Global Competence Working in an International Virtual Team (2 credit): Online
 - **Period 2**

- **A small group (12-15 students)**
- **Interdisciplinary**



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Check it out! 😊

**If you have any questions relating to
the ICC courses, don't hesitate to get in touch with me! 😊**

yoonjoo.cho@aalto.fi

Thanks for listening!

**All the best for
your MSc journey! 😊**

References

Picard, C. et al. (2022) Which professional skills do students learn in engineering team-based projects? *European journal of engineering education*. [Online] 47 (2), 314–332.

Winberg, C. et al. (2020) Developing employability in engineering education: a systematic review of the literature. *European journal of engineering education*. [Online] 45 (2), 165–180.

Wu, Y. et al. (2023) Evaluating the Role of the Communication Skills of Engineering Students on Employability According to the Outcome-Based Education (OBE) Theory. *Sustainability (Basel, Switzerland)*. [Online] 15 (12), 9711–.