

Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcomes

AHELO Feasibility Study







INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Center for Postsecondary Research



















Statistics Canada Statistique Canada Background, rationales

International environment

Development approach

Insights and progress

Considerations for Australia

Contents

Increasing need for sophisticated forms of management, evaluation and quality monitoring – to do more, better, with less

Higher education is growing in significance and scale – clear rationales for increasing output and ensuring **quality outcomes**

Complexities shaping higher education

Higher education is faced with huge cost and competitive pressures – **evidence-based management helps** expand provision with quality

Internationalisation pervades all facets of teaching and learning, and graduate outcomes – international perspectives are vital

AHELO addresses serious information misalignments and gaps in global higher education

AHELO's unique and significant value-add

Learning outcomes data helps policy and institutional leaders manage growth, quality and cost complexities

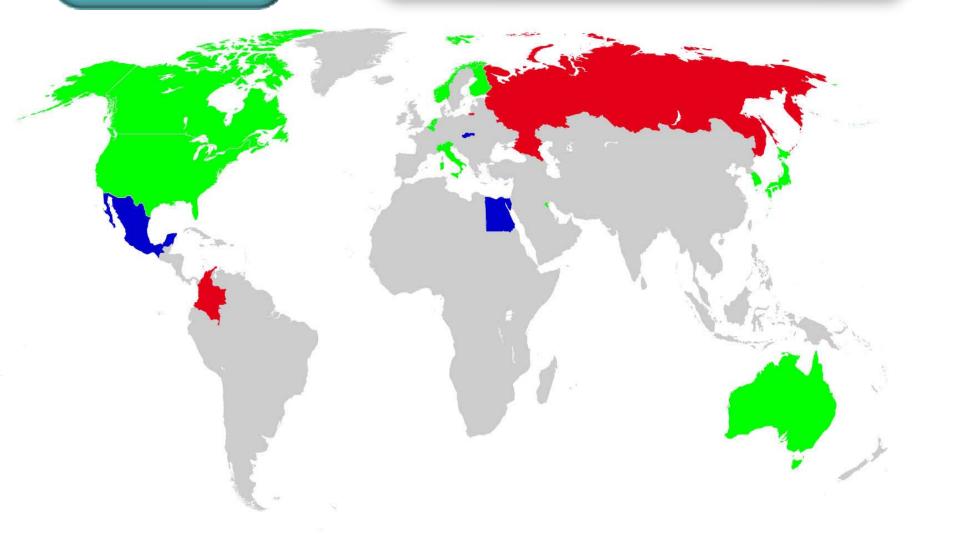
Further reliance on flawed, simplistic rankings will constrain growth and prosperity – **robust** multidimensional perspectives required

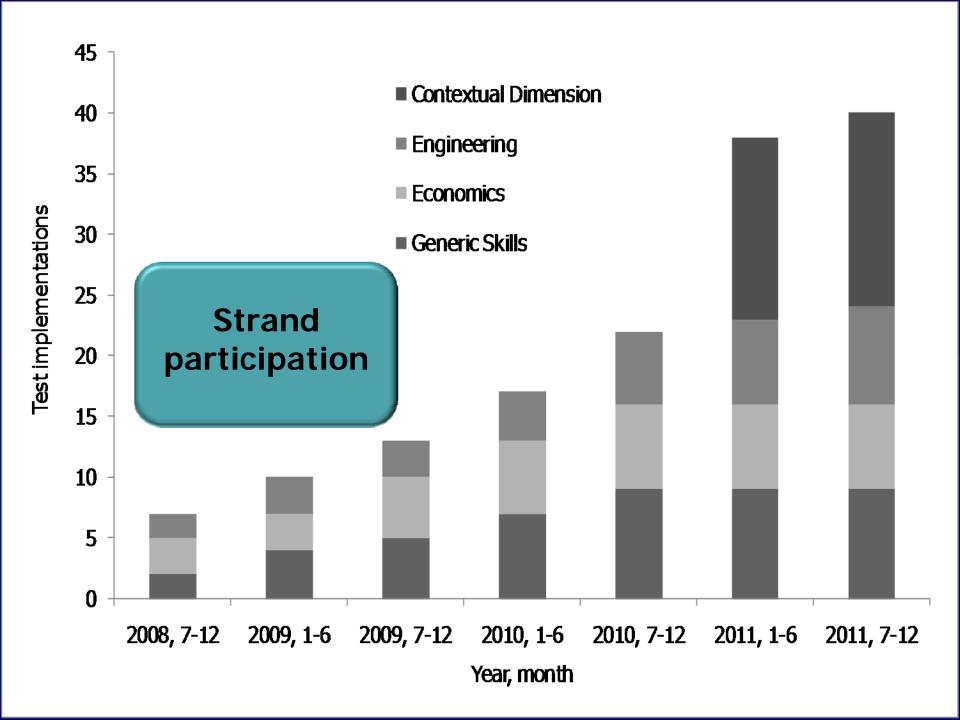
Measures of learning outcomes are the **key to diagnosis and reform** in higher education worldwide

AHELO world map

Linguistically diverse...

Arabic Dutch English Finish
Flemish Italian Japanese Korean
Norwegian Russian Slovak Spanish





Country	Management	Context	Generic Skills	Economics	Engineering
Australia					
Belgium					
Canada					
Colombia					
Egypt					
Finland					
Italy					
Japan					
Korea					
Kuwait	Coun	try by			
Mexico		and			
Netherlands					
Norway					
Russia					
Slovak Republic					
United States					
Total	16	16	9	7	8





Instrument architecture

Generic Skills

Economics

Engineering

Contextual Dimension

National Context Information

Institution Context Instrument

Faculty Context Instrument

Student Context Instrument

Tuning AHELO / QAA frameworks Curriculum documents Accreditation systems Discipline research

Framework and item development

- Outcome specification
- Document analysis
- Consultation
- Synthesis, review

Framework creation

Item creation

- Gather existing materials
- Item workshops
- Technical review
- Framework mapping
- Adaptation, translation
- Verification

- Qualitative testing
- Quantitative testing
- Operationalisation

Instrument validation

Authentic, hybrid item types 'Above content' reasoning

Translation, adaptation and verification

Designed to maintain crossnational comparability of assessment materials

A holistic, robust and flexible approach, linked with item production and validation

Adaptations managed as a continuous process

Native speakers of target language trained to detect specific pitfalls

Economics or engineers who are speakers of target language

Source version **Translation Translation** Reconciliation Verification: verifier (linguist) and domain specialist National review Final check



Jon File (Director)





Center for Postsecondary Research



Context **Assessment**



AHELO Technical Advisory Group

Peter Ewell, United States (Chair) Vaneeta D'Andrea, United Kingdom Paul Holland, United States Motohisa Kaneko, Japan Lynn Meek, Australia Keith Rust, United States Frans Van Vught, Netherlands Robert Wagenaar, Netherlands



Generic Skills Assessment







Roger Benjamin (Director)



Peter Ewell, United States (Chair)
Vaneeta D'Andrea, United Kingdom
Paul Holland, United States
Motohisa Kaneko, Japan
Lynn Meek, Australia
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Frans Van Vught, Netherlands
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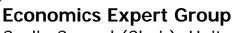


Economics Assessment



Thomas Van Essen (Director)





Ceclia Conrad (Chair), United States
William Becker, United States
Fiorella Kostoris, Italy
Maria de Lourdes Dieck-Assad, Mexico
Henriette Maassen van den Brink, Netherlands
Tatsuya Sakamoto, Japan
Vladimir Zuev, Russian Federation







Engineering Assessment



Julian Fraillon (Director)





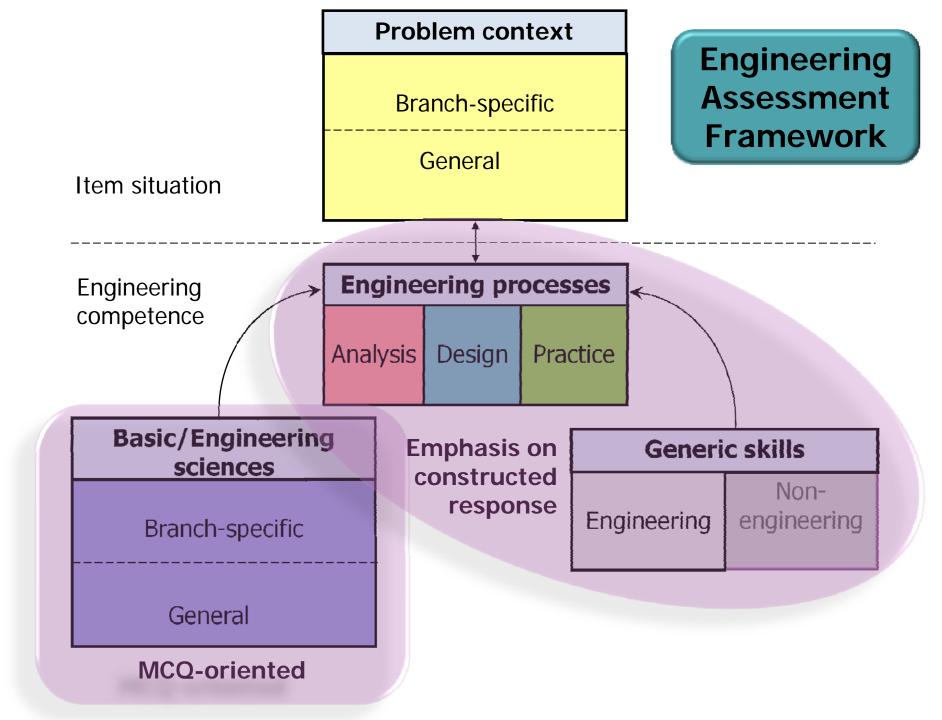




Robin King, Australia (Chair)
Giuliano Augusti, Italy
Mario Gomez, Mexico
Michael Hoffman, Germany
Kikuo Kishimoto, Japan
Johan Malmqvist, Sweden
Nobutoshi Masuda, Japan
Jim Melsa, United States
Lueny Morell, United States



Engineering Expert Group



Multiple choice item development

Based on Japanese licensing examinations

Focused on Basic and Engineering Sciences

40 items selected, revised and internationalised

Items panelled and mapped



Representative sample of authentic and engaging Civil Engineering contexts



Photographs, diagrams and charts used to stimulate interest and minimise text



Students need to exercise components of Engineering competency

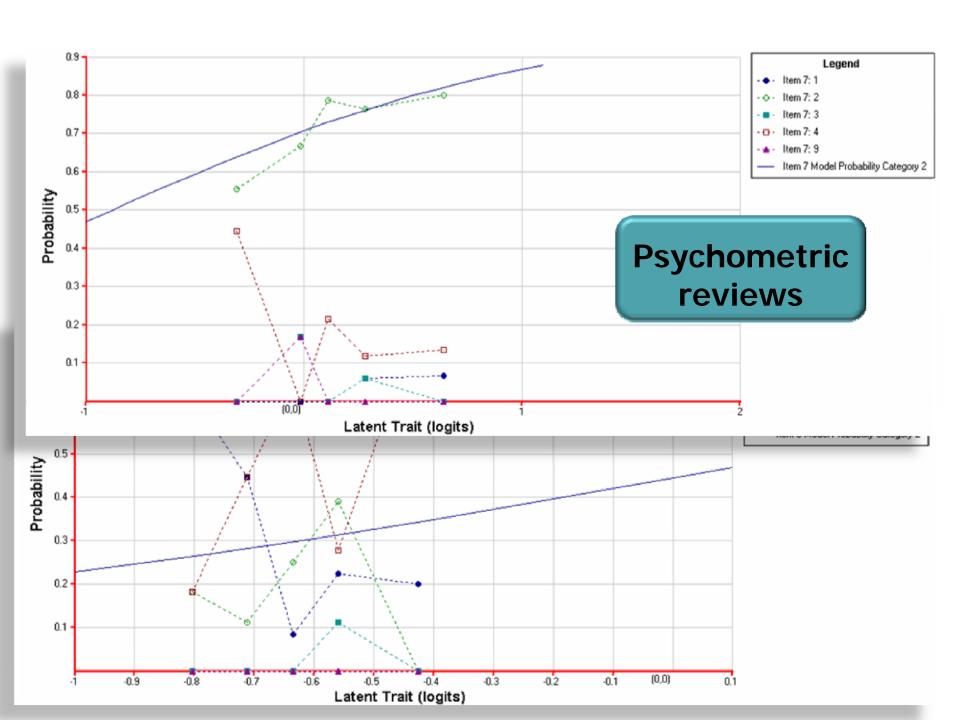


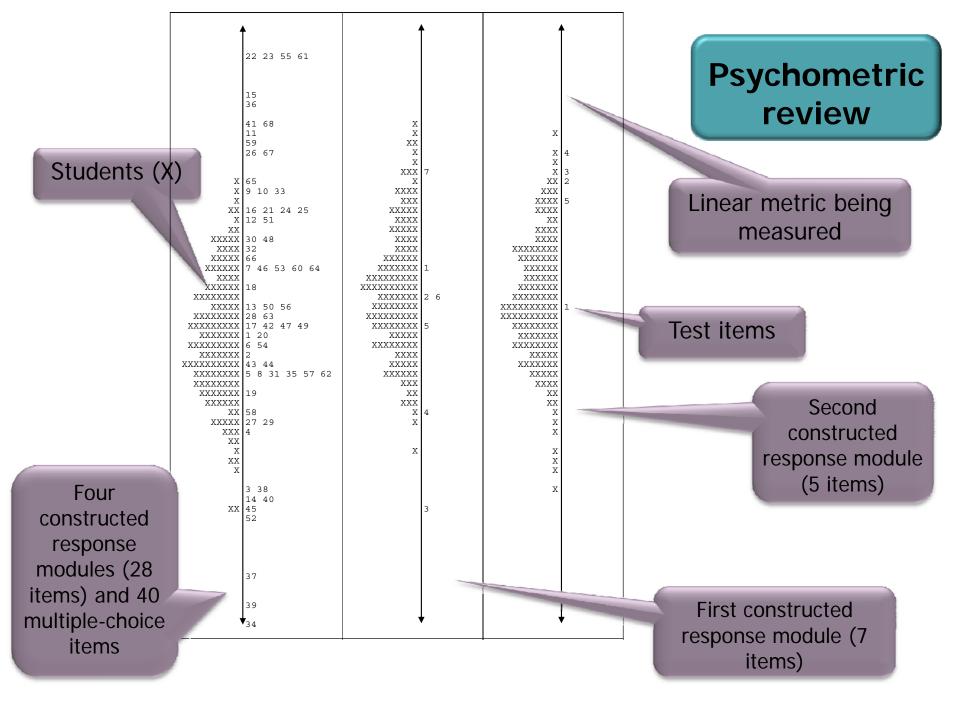
Can they think like an Engineer?

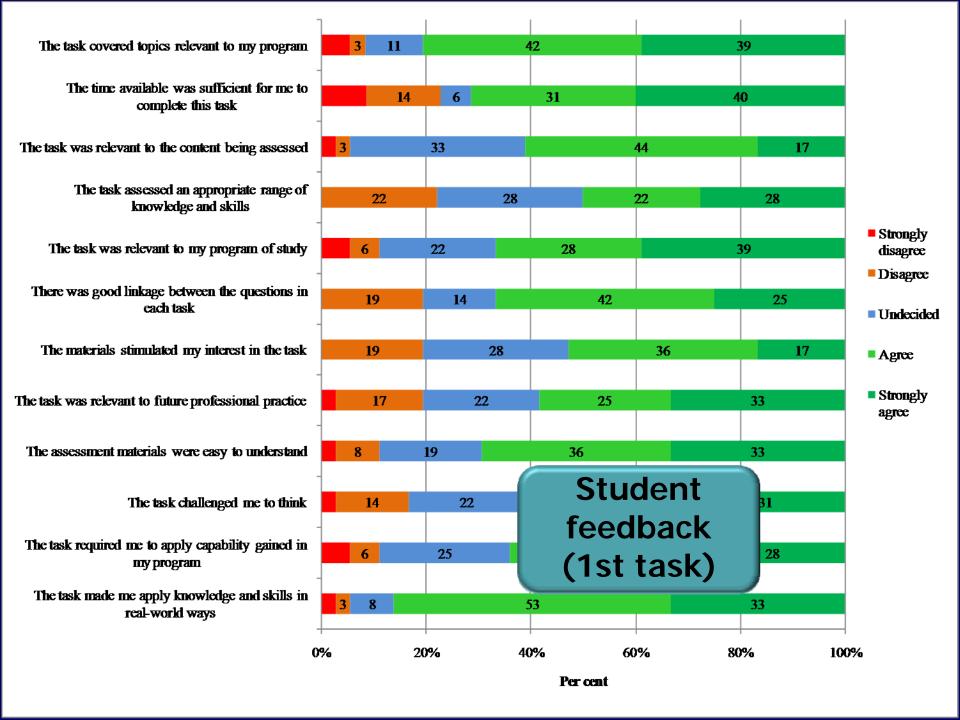


Competencies demonstrated in student responses

Constructed response tasks







The multiple choice items were easy compared to the constructed response task. There should be a better balance.

Sample student feedback

Some of the options are obviously incorrect, thus making the task too easy.

The diagrams were helpful in understanding the question. Focus on real world situations.

Had not learned much about environmental impact assessment and ethical issues. Very unfamiliar.

Its realistic problems make me to think and understand that the knowledge I learned from university are being applied in real world

Too technical, especially with the levels of assumed knowledge

We haven't touched on sustainable development so these questions were a bit tricky

Interest question which challenges people to think. Real situation for real application was interesting

Made me realise I forget things easily

Engineering Generic Skills

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Effective communication and awareness of the wider civil engineering context.

Basic and Engineering Sciences

Knowledge and understanding of underlying scientific and mathematical principles general sciences; materials and construction; geotechnical engineering; structural engineering; hydraulic engineering; and urban and rural planning.

Engineering Analysis Using analytical methods to identify, formulate and solve problems.

Understanding and application of design **Engineering Design** methodologies to meet requirements.

Practical competencies required to solve **Engineering Practice** problems, conducting investigations, and processes. Covers non-technical elements of civil engineering practice like professional ethics, responsibilities and the impact of engineering solutions in a global, economic, societal and environmental context.





Engineering Assessment

Further information: www.oecd.org/edu/ahelo

> **Engineering Assessment** brochure

Taking stock

Phase 1

	2010											2011												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Generic Skills																								
Economics																								
Engineering																								
Contextual Dimension																								
International Management																								

Phase 2

	2011											2012												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Generic Skills																								
Economics																								
Engineering																								
Contextual Dimension																								
International Management																								

Defined engagement cycle established to support growing number of countries, institutions and students who want to take part

Designed sustainable business models for AHELO

Emerging insights/findings

Assessment frameworks and test instruments developed to support multidimensional test/context instrumentation

Established test design, development, translation/adaptation and validation methods

Defined operational workflow and quality control procedures required to support global testing

Forming awareness of how AHELO positions in global contexts

Leadership: International project management, and supporting national teams

Operationalisation: Preparing tests and context instruments for secure online delivery, and training coders

Sampling: Engaging institutions, and sampling faculty and students

Assessment: Supporting national training, managing testing in three strands, managing coding

Test implementation

Reporting: Compiling data products, and country, institution and stakeholder reports

Evaluating: Scientific and practical feasibility, recommendations for full-scale study

Testing and assessment!

Computer-based delivery platform

Significant work to be done

Training of test supervisors and coders

Sampling students and faculty

Managing and quality assuring test administration

Coding and data verification

Scaling and statistical analysis

Institutional and international reports



Preparation

Establish National Centre

Translate and validate instruments

Engage institutions

Train Institution Coordinators

Prepare for testing

Assessment

Select students

Administer secure test

Score responses

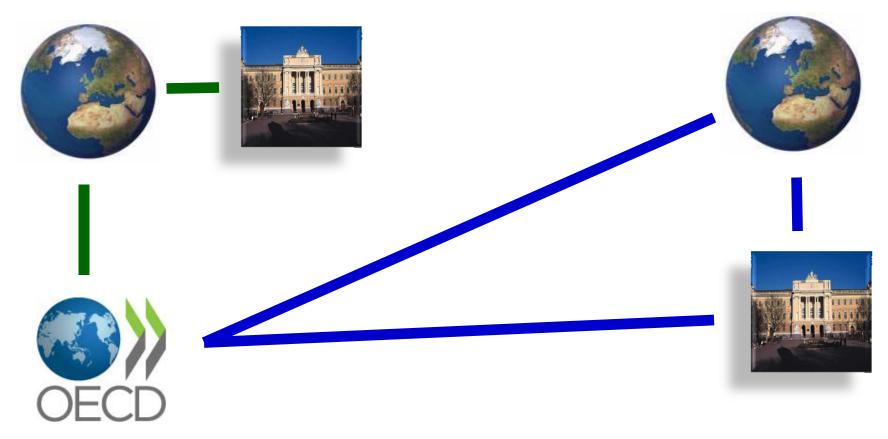
Verify and provide data

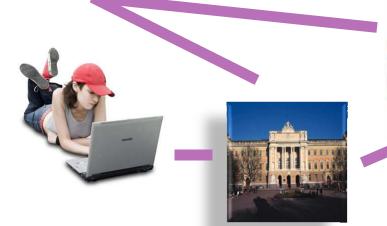
Reporting

Prepare multilevel benchmarking reports

Distribute reports to National Centres

Interpretation for monitoring and improvement







Business models



Change horizons

Australia is at the centre of universal policy

Appearance is dangerous: don't sell academics to marketers

We need to ask critical questions of tests/data

Anti-enlightenment is out of step

Considerations for Australia





Economists and students seek the same

capacity development: institutes, assessment collaborations, benchmarking...





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