

QUALITY ASSESSMENT  
IN THE  
UNIVERSITY INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY,  
AN ORIGINAL PROCESS  
IN THE  
FRENCH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

10/10/2012

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# The French University System

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## State-funded institutions

- **Faculties**
- **Colleges**
- **Engineering Schools**
- **Business & Administration Institutes**
- **University Institutes of Technology**



# The University Institutes of Technology

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- **Created in 1966**
  
- **Double objective**
  - to increase the level of qualification for middle managers
  - to meet the growing demand for higher education
  
- **Innovative courses**
  - academic knowledge
  - professional training



# The University Institutes of Technology

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- **115 institutes (IUT)**
- **25 programmes of studies & degrees (DUT)**
- **650 departments**
- **160,000 students a year**
- **160 research teams**



# The University Institutes of Technology

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## □ The DUT degree

- a 2-year national programme
- academic background
- professional training
- technology-based learning
- service sector : 1,620-hour course
- industrial sector : 1,800-hour course



# The University Institutes of Technology

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- **Within the university with a special status**
  - Board of Directors
  - Chairperson from the professional environment
  - Director elected among teaching staff
  - Department Directors in charge of courses and pedagogical organization



# The University Institutes of Technology

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## □ The Institutes' culture

- Governance based on shared responsibilities
- Directors' terms limited in time
- Long-term partnerships with the corporate world



# The University Institutes of Technology

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- **2 national expert committees**
  - National Pedagogical Committee (CPN) : national syllabus & quality assurance of departments
  - National Consultative Committee (CCN) : strategic issues, institute governance, quality assurance of institutes
- **Appointed by Ministry of Research & Higher Education**
- **Representing the institutes, students, employers, employees, professional organisations, qualified persons, university chancellors**





# The University Institutes of Technology

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- **Long-experience of collaborative work**
  
- **Institutional network CPN - CCN**
  
- **Network of organizations at all levels of management**
  - ADIUT, Institute Directors Association
  - UNPIUT, Union of chairpersons of the board
  - ACD, Department Directors Assemblies
  
- **Network of organization implementing pedagogical engineering & international projects**
  - Crea IUT, Centrale des IUT, IUT en ligne, etc.



# The University Institutes of Technology

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- **Strong demand from students**
- **DUT degree**
  - highly rated by employers
  - valued in higher education
- **Successful integration of graduates on the job market or in further education**
- **Efficient network producing innovation**

**A true success story**



# New challenges for the 21st century

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- **The Bologna process**
- **Future position in the European higher education system**
- **Future missions for the institutes**
- **Introduction of quality assessment in 2001**



# Quality assessment in the Institutes

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## From evaluation to evolution

- Common practice in the corporate world
- Way of measuring performance & achievements
- Indicators to provide evidence of quality
- Innovative approach



# Quality assessment in the Institutes

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## From evaluation to evolution

### □ Tools for quality assessment

- quality assessment by expert committees CPN & CCN
- annual survey of graduates



# Quality assessment by CPN & CPN

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## Principles of evaluation

- Internal assessment for comprehensive view of activity
- Experts' appraisal by CPN & CCN
- Self-reflective assessment & correction actions
- Identification of good practices and quality improvement



# Quality assessment by CPN & CPN

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## Procedures

- **standardized framework with common information and indicators**
- **involvement of all players : departments, institutes, CPN, CCN, Ministry**
- **5-year periodic review and monitoring**



# Quality assessment by CPN & CPN

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## 5 steps

- Department and institute internal reporting
- Department audit by CPN
- Institute audit by CCN
- Experts' conclusions
- Feedback





# Quality assessment by CPN & CPN

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## Information and indicators / department to CPN

- Environment, strengths & weaknesses
- Pedagogical structure & organization
- Student admission, achievement & professional integration
- Implementation of national syllabus & innovative practices
- Professional training & partnerships with firms
- International mobility
- Research activities
- Human resources & equipment
- Projects



# Quality assessment by CPN & CPN

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## Information and indicators / institute to CCN

- **Comprehension data based on department information**
- **Estate & equipment**
- **Governance & general management**
- **Financial management**
- **Human resources**
- **Relation with university**
- **Projects**



# Quality assessment by CPN & CPN

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## Expertise by CPN & CCN

- Analysis of quantitative & qualitative information
- On sites visits & interviews
- Diagnosis & recommendations
- Production of standardized expertise reports sent to Ministry and to institutes



# Quality assessment by CPN & CPN

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## Result analysis

- Appropriation of the results by the players
- Presentation to Board of Directors
- Implementation of corrective actions



# Annual survey of DUT graduates

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## Large-scale survey involving the whole IUT network

- Launched in 2003 by ADIUT, labelled by Ministry
- 50,000 graduates a year
- Run by a research team
- Graduates surveyed by their department of origin
- Centralised collection and processing of data



# Annual survey of DUT graduates

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## Items surveyed

- **Graduate's origin & studies**
  
- **Graduate's situation**
  - just after graduation
  - one year after graduation
  - at the time of the survey
  
- **Employment, salaries and job satisfaction**
  
- **Further studies**



# Annual survey of DUT graduates

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## A successful operation since 2003

- 91% to 94% departments involved
- Over 50% response rate
- Reliable results
- Relevant conclusions



# Conclusion

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## Quality assessment in the University Institutes of Technology

- **Global satisfaction**
- **Contribution to university quality assurance**
- **Added-value in terms of strategic governance and communication**
- **Approach limited in scope**
  - meeting ESG principles in terms of policy & procedures for internal QA
  - limited to internal QA





# Sources

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**The Bologna Process**

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