

2024

Boosting Student Employability at Vietnamese- German University (VGU)



Topic

Innovations in Teaching & Learning at Vietnamese-German University

Dang Thi Ngoc Lan, Ph.D.
Tran Ngoc Tien , Ph.D.



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VGU Mission

VGU is a **public** transnational university developed in close **partnership with Germany.**

VGU principles consist of **academic freedom, unity of teaching and research,** and **institutional autonomy.**

VGU aims at **excellence in research, education and training** in the fields of **engineering, IT and economics.**

VGU graduates can combine **theoretical knowledge** with **critical thinking skills** to **creatively solve practical problems.**

VGU acts as a driver of the **economic, social and technological development of Vietnam** in core economic areas.

VGU Vision and Core Values

Vision

- VGU aims to become a leading research university in South East Asia and to be the first choice of students, lecturers and scientists in the fields of engineering, information technology, business and economics in Viet Nam.

Core Values

- International cooperation and **mutual respect**
- Commitment to high quality
- **Entrepreneurial thinking**
- **Responsibility for others and future generations**
- **Creative Learning**
- **Service orientation instead of authoritarian attitude**
- Honesty and transparency



Top 10 Job Skills Needed

2015	2020	2025
1. Complex Problem Solving	1. Complex Problem Solving	1. Analytical thinking and innovation
2. Coordinating with Others	2. Critical Thinking	2. Active teaching and learning strategies
3. People Management	3. Creativity	3. Complex problem-solving
4. Critical Thinking	4. People Management	4. Critical thinking and analysis
5. Negotiation	5. Coordinating with Others	5. Creativity, originality and initiative
6. Quality Control	6. Emotional Intelligence	6. Leadership and social influence
7. Service Orientation	7. Judgment and Decision Making	7. Technology use, monitoring and control
8. Judgment and Decision Making	8. Service Orientation	8. Technology design and programming
9. Active Listening	9. Negotiation	9. Resilience, stress tolerance and flexibility
10. Creativity	10. Cognitive Flexibility	10. Reasoning, problem-solving and ideation

Theoretical Background

A couple of studies have suggested various skills to enhance students' employability.

- Entry-level digital skills, problem-solving skills, teamwork, communication capabilities, decision-making abilities, and creativity (Bhatti, et al., 2023)
- Communication, self-management, teamwork or critical thinking (Ornellas, et al., 2019).
- Presentation, role play, project and problem-solving activities, simulation, field/industry visit, and case studies (Sharma & Bhattarai, 2022)
- problem-solving, teamwork, communication, and enthusiasm (Power, 2012)
- Strategical and innovative thinking, problem-solving, multidisciplinary collaboration, empathy and ability to build relationships, communicating an idea (Pardo-Garcia & Barac, 2020)

Data from In-depth Interviews with CEO/HRM in VN

1

- Teamwork & collaboration
- Adaptability & Problem solving
- Communication skills

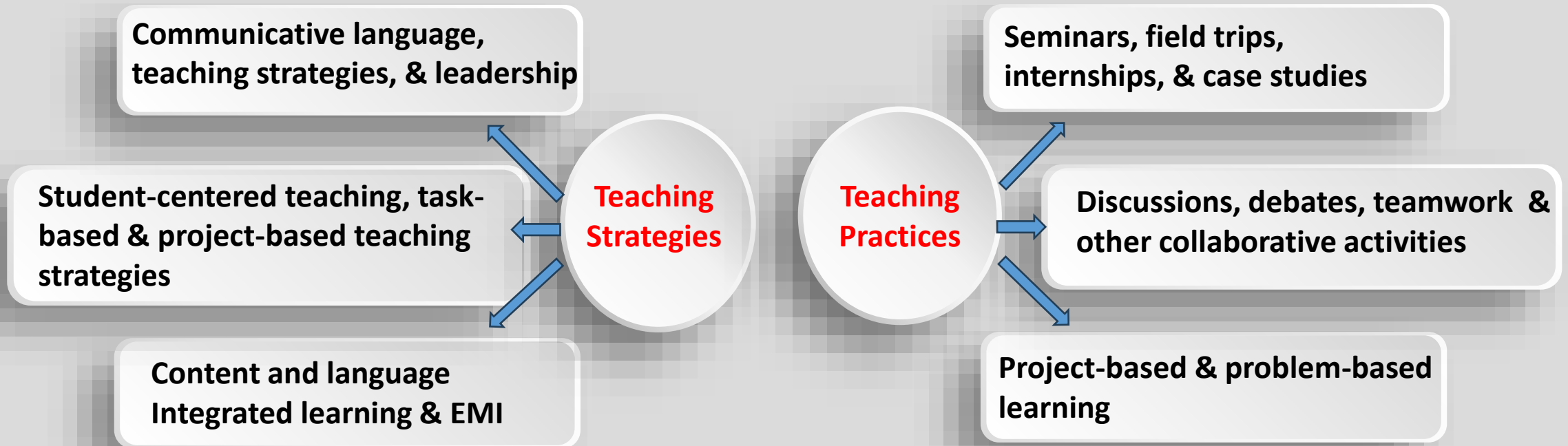
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- Teamwork & collaboration
- Adaptability & flexibility
- Foreign languages

3

- Teamwork & collaboration
- Integration
- Problem-solving
- Self-management
- Enthusiasm

Core Teaching Strategies and Practices



VGU – Current Facts and Figures

- **Students**

- Currently: 3,400
- Already graduated: 1,822

- **Study programs**

- BA & MA: 20
- Doctoral: 4

- **German partner universities: 44**

- **Teaching load: 40%** of the modules instructed by German professors

- **Student nationalities: 52**

- **Student clubs: 19**

- **Scholarships: 900 (1,6 million USD)**

- **Faculty members**

- 55 lecturers (senior and junior)
- 45 teaching and research assistants
- 120 -150 flying faculty from Germany

- **Research projects**

- Instructors: 140
- Students: 57

- **Laboratories**

- 20 technical
- 8 computer

VGU Study Programs in 2024 – 2025 Academic Year

Bachelor

One foundation year (FY) or 1 foundation semester (FS): Improvement of basic knowledge of science subjects together with English and German language skills

PRODUCTION ENGINEERING

Mechanical Engineering (MEN)

Ruhr University of Bochum

Environmental & Process Engineering (EPE)

Ruhr University Bochum

Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE)

Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences

Global Production Engineering & Management (GPE)

Technical University of Berlin

Mechatronics and Sensor Systems Technology (MST)

Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences

Master of Science in Electrical Engineering (MEE)

University of Stuttgart

Materials Science (MSI)

Otto von Guericke University

Precision / Sustainable Manufacturing 4.0

URBAN ENGINEERING

Civil Engineering (BCE)

Biberach University of Applied Sciences

Smart Mobility Engineering (SME)

Technical University of Darmstadt

Architecture (ARC)

Anhalt University of Applied Sciences

Water Technology, Reuse and Management (WTE)

Technical University of Darmstadt

Sustainable Urban Development (SUD)

Technical University of Darmstadt

Traffic and Transport, Sustainable Cities

DIGITAL ENGINEERING

Computer Science (CSE)

Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences

Business Information Systems (BIS)

Heilbronn University of Applied Sciences

Computational Engineering (COM)

Ruhr University of Bochum

IT Security (ITS)

Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences

Digitalization, Computer Science

Computational Engineering

ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

Finance and Accounting (BFA)

Goethe University of Frankfurt

Business Administration (BBA)

Goethe University of Frankfurt

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

University of Leipzig/
Heilbronn University of Applied Sciences

Global Finance and Economics (GFE)

Goethe University of Frankfurt

Master

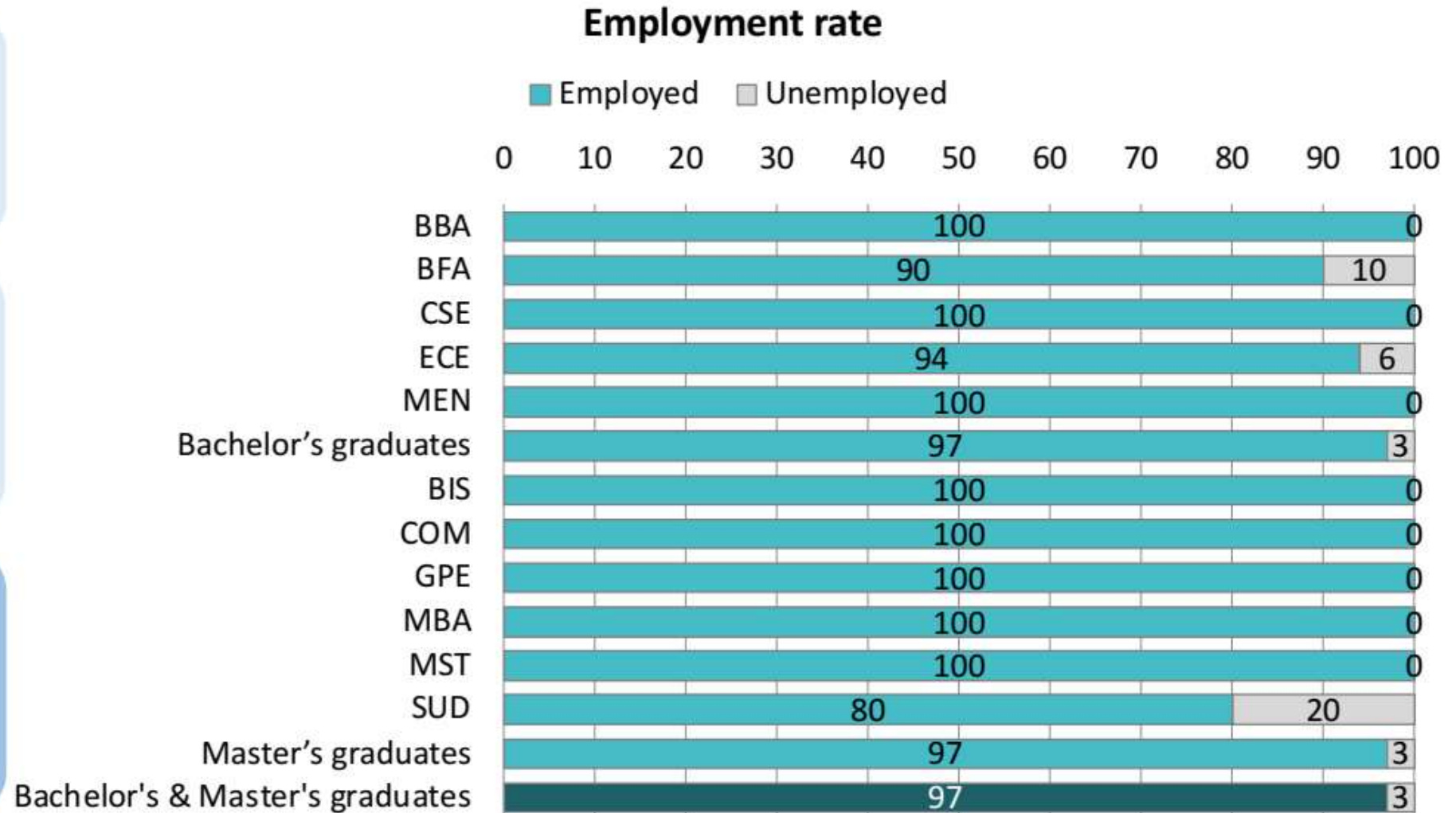
Doctor

VGU Graduates' Employment Rates

Bachelor's graduates
97%

Master's graduates
97%

Bachelor's and
Master's graduates
97%



VGU Teaching Practices to Enhance Student Employability

- **Teamwork and collaboration**
 - Applied in almost all courses
 - Students work in groups/teams for their assignments and projects
- **Complex problem-solving**
 - Research at university level
 - Competition in the specialized field at the national level



Final meeting of Tikkun Olam Makers (TOM) Makeathon for prototyping solutions for kids with disabilities in 2016

VGU Teaching Practices to Enhance Student Employability

- **Project-based & problem-based** teaching and learning to enhance:
 - critical thinking
 - analytical thinking
 - **creativity**
 - **teamwork & collaboration**
 - time management
 - problem-solving skill
 - **Communication skill**

8 PROJECT-BASED LEARNING TIPS FOR TEACHERS

PBL ≠ 'Doing Projects'

PBL = a Team Effort

Students & Parents must understand the process

PBL empowers students

The right technology can make all of the difference



PBL forces students to see learning differently

Developing quality essential questions takes practice

Patience is key!

teachthought WE GROW TEACHERS

UbD Understanding by Design



VGU Teaching Practices to Enhance Student Employability

- **Multi-cultural teaching and learning environment:**
 - **Instructors' nationalities:** Vietnamese, German, British, American, Austrian, Filipino, etc.
 - **International students:** Germany, Myanmar, the Philippines, Indonesia, Russia, Kenya, Morocco, India, Nigeria, Sudan, Cameroon, Ghana, Turkmenistan, etc.
 - **Language used in campus:** English (IELTS band score 6.0 required)
 - German language teaching in the curriculum: A2 required for graduation



VGU Teaching Practices to Enhance Student Employability

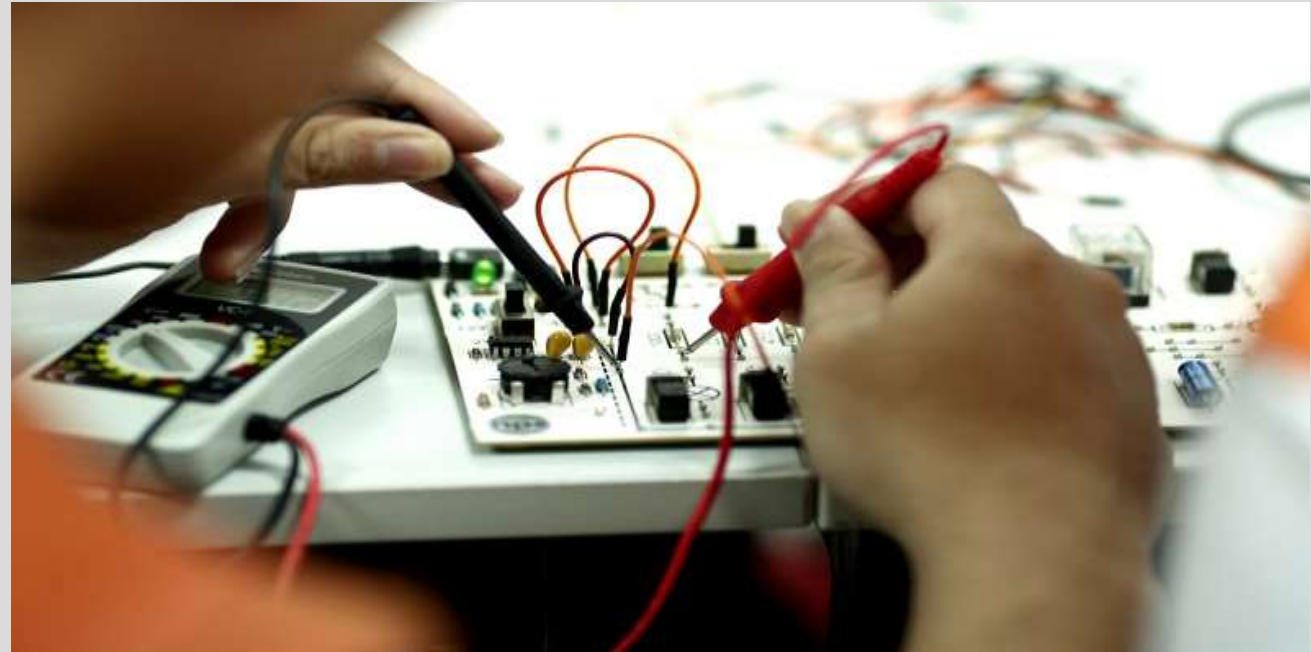
- **International cooperation in education and research**
 - International student exchange programs with Germany, Poland, Brazil, South Africa, etc.
 - Students' thesis completion at 19 partner universities in Germany
 - Collaboration with German partner universities to implement students' and lecturers' research and other academic activities



VGU Teaching Practices to Enhance Student Employability

•Practice-based learning

- Lab work is included in curriculums
- Modern facilities and equipment
- Encourage and fund student research projects (at the university level)
- Field trips (visiting factories, businesses and industries)



A study tour to Berlin, Germany



A study visit to ECCO Vietnam



Discuss a training project with Adidas

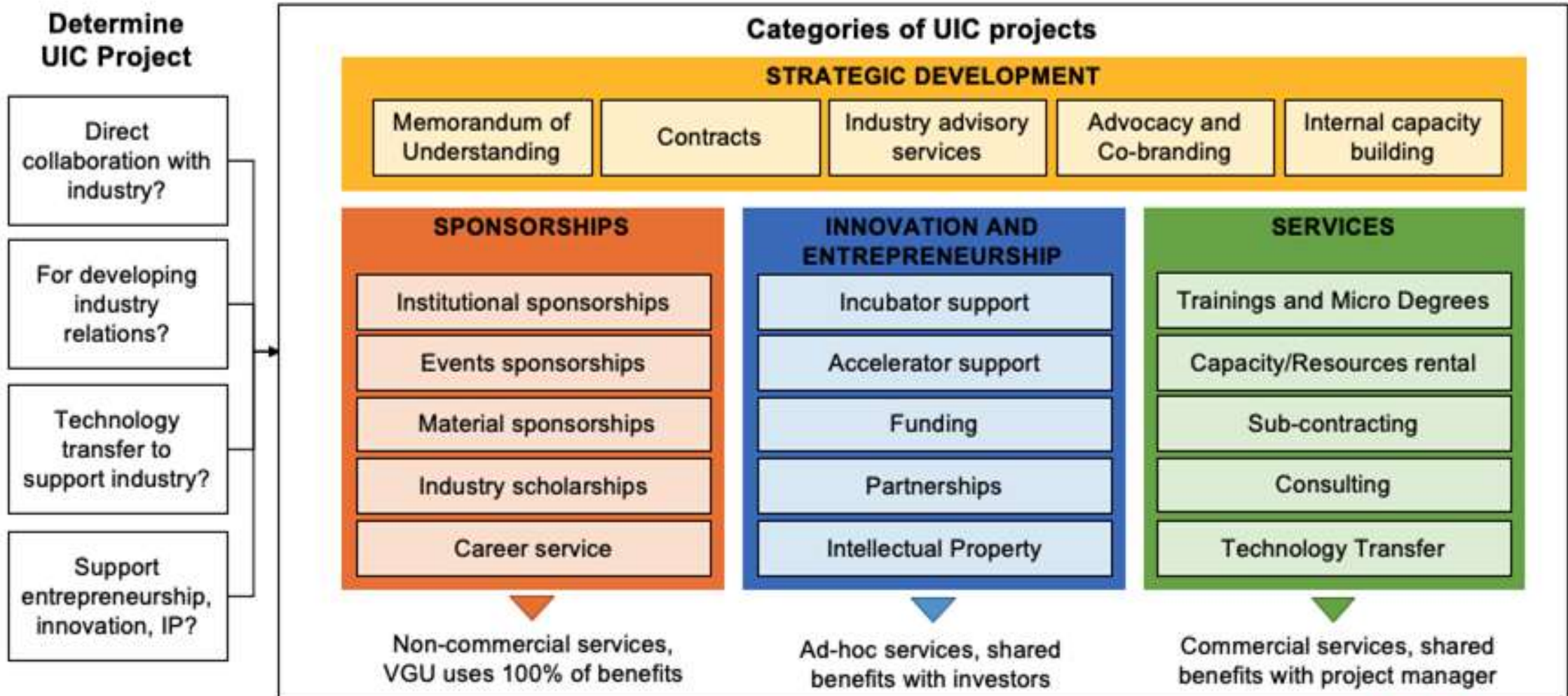
Industrial Relations

□ International Industries and businesses

- ✓ Provide students with internships
- ✓ Train students in their field site visits
- ✓ Participate in the annual career fair
- ✓ Come to VGU to offer students some lessons/lectures
- ✓ 2024 Career Fair at VGU: 25 businesses and industries



University-Industry Collaboration (UIC) at VGU



Services

gbc·engineers

VNTT
a member of Ucomex ILC

BOSCH



eCCO®

Chailease International Leasing

MASAN GROUP



röders
TEC



thyssenkrupp



giz

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

ABB

TRUMPF



PUMA

SCHAEFFLER

SPAROLIN
Elektrotechnik

geuther

DEK
TECHNOLOGIES

VON ARDENNE

CHIP.VN



HAMACO
NHÀ PHÂN PHỐI CHUYÊN NGHIỆP

ScanCom
INTERNATIONAL

MARVELL®

avantech

Truechip
The Verification IP Specialist

PEPPERL+FUCHS

VGU

Vietnamese - German University



The German companies TRUMPF and MESSER organized an event named "German Tech Day" at VGU campus to show how VGU students are able to operate sheet metal processing machines to their customers in Binh Duong, in 2020.

Conclusion

- ❖ **To boost student employability, VGU has**
 - Created innovative curricula
 - Applied student-centered and active teaching and learning methods
 - Made use of its bilateral relationships with 44 German universities to
 - Carry out student exchange programs
 - Implement student and lecturer research activities
 - Enable students to complete their theses at partner universities in Germany
 - Strengthened partnerships with international industries and businesses operating in Viet Nam.



T H A N K
Y O U

Questions and feedback are welcome!

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