# **Practicing Engineers**

## **Employer Questionnaire**

Dear Sir, dear Madam,

for the first time, the Department of Z of the University XY is conducting a survey on the professional whereabouts and the employment of engineers of the University of XY. For its future planning, the Department of Z would like to take into account the experience and opinions of employers.

We ask you, therefore, to please contribute to the success of this survey by your participation. Thank you very much for your support.

(Signature of the Dean)

Dean of the Department of Z of the University XY

Dear Sir, dear Madam,

As head of the research group conducting the survey of employers in 1992, I also may request your participation in the survey. The research group consists of collaborators of the Department of Z of the University of XY.

As you will notice, the questionnaire mainly deals with your requirements concerning the qualifications of engineers and the kind of professional tasks of engineers in your company/organization. We are very interested in details about offers concerning the professional further education of your engineers, and in your opinions, experience, and expectations in order to gain indicators for the improvement of the university education.

We assure you that your answers provided in this questionnaire will only be used within the framework of this survey. In descriptions of results of this survey, it will not be possible to identify any company/organization.

All information you provide will be handled in strict confidence.

The results of this survey will be published. Should you be interested in the results, we would be glad to send you an overview of the most important ones.

Please, return the completed questionnaire as soon as possible to the address below.

Thank you very much for your kind support.

Name and address of the head of the project

#### NOTES ON THE COMPLETION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

If possible, please answer each of the following questions. If some of the questions are not applicable to your company/organization, please go on to the question identified by an arrow (e.g. → GO TO QUESTION 39). Most of the questions can be answered by ticking boxes. In some cases you will be asked to write down For each topic we indicate whether the questions should be answered by the Head of the Personnel Department or by the Head of the Technical Department in which engineers, especially graduates of the University of XY, are working. 1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EMPLOYING ORGANIZATION (Personnel department) May we first ask you to provide some information concerning the company/organization Precision engineering, optics, toys, and Is the company/organization you are jewellery working for part of a (bigger) compa-15 Wood, paper and printing industry ny/organization? 16 Textile, leather and clothing industry Food and semi-luxury food industry <sup>1</sup> □ Yes, it is the head office/central unit of a company/organization 18 Duilding and construction trade 2 ☐ Yes, it is a branch of the company/organization Services Trade (wholesale and retail trade) 19 3 □ No → PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 3 Transport (carriage, storage, shipping, railway, etc.) 2 How many employees work for the 21 🔲 Communications (post, broadcasting, television, branch of the company/organization you etc.) are working for? Health system 22 23 Banking approx. Employees 24 Insurance Legal and commercial consultancy (personnel 25 How many people are employed by the consultants) whole company/ organization? 26 Engineering consultants (also architects) approx. People Other services (e.g. journalism, publishing, housing/real estate, tourism) If you are working for a branch of a compa-**Associations and Organizations (non** ny/organization, please answer all the following profit-oriented) Professional organizations and business questions in respect of this branch only. associations, parties 4 Please specify the field in which the 29 Church organizations company/organization can be best 30 International organizations classified. Please tick one item only. General Public Administration (regional administrative body, state, county, and local authorities) Please tick this category only if you **Educational Institutions** cannot assign yourself to any other category 01 School 32 Other: ..... 02 University (please specify) 03 ☐ Research Institution Agriculture/Mining/Energy/Water 04 Agriculture and forestry, fishing 05 Mining of ☐ Electricity supply and other energy industry 07 ☐ Water supply and water industry **Processing Trade/Industry** 10 ☐ Stone, earth, fine ceramics, glass (production and manufacturing) 11 ☐ Iron and metal production and manufacturing Mechanical engineering, automotive engineering, steel erection and tank construction 13 Electrical engineering

Questionnaire for employers (specimen)

Extract from: Harald Schomburg, Standard Instrument for Graduate and Employer Surveys, Kassel and Eschborn 1995

5	To which of the following sectors does the company/organization belong?  Please tick one item only		7	7	the Uni	o not employ any engineers from versity of XY: what are the deciasons for this?			
2	<ul> <li>□ Private sector (private economic organization/private service industry)</li> <li>□ Public enterprise/parastatal/</li> <li>□ Public administration/government</li> </ul>								
4		Other: (please specify)							
6		How many <u>engineers</u> are employed in the company/organization?	8	8	workers	any technicians and skilled s are employed in the compa- inization?			
ар	prox								
		of these		appr	ox. <b>L_L</b>	technicians (FTC-Diploma)			
ар	prox	female Engineers		appr	ох. Ц	<b>I</b> skilled workers			
ар	prox	Engineers of the University XY							
		2. RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES	Α	ND (	RITER	RIA (Personnel department)			
		e indicate the way in which you select your E ience you have gained.	NG	SINEE	RS in re	ecruitment procedures and what			
9	company/organization use to recruit engineers? Multiple reply possible  Advertisements of vacancies in newspapers				11 How important in general are the following aspects for the recruitment of engineers? Please indicate the importance of each of the following aspects with the help of the 5-grade scale.				
	<ul> <li>(daily papers, special periodicals, etc.)</li> <li>□ Internal advertisements of vacancies</li> <li>□ Direct application of graduates</li> <li>□ Career advisory agency at the University XY</li> <li>□ Other contacts to the University of XY</li> <li>□ Personal contacts to graduates</li> <li>□ Manpower allocation</li> <li>□ Public work administration (public placement</li> </ul>		i			rtant Field of study Main focus of subject ar- ea/specialization			
		services, manpower allocation system, etc.)  Private employment agencies				Subject of the examination Grades of examinations at the			
		Binding students by scholarships				university Practical experience acquired during			
		Other: (please specify)				course of study Practical experience acquired			
10		Does the company/organization support the recruitment of <u>female engineers</u> ?				previous to course of study Reputation of candidate's university Reputation of the department			
		Yes, by: (please specify) No				Experience abroad Recommendations/references from third persons			
						Results of recruitment tests Behaviour during interview Personality Candidate's world view/religion			
						Other: (please specify)			

#### 3. TRAINING PERIOD (Personnel department)

In general, subsequent to university studies a training period is inevitable in order to acquire all the necessary knowledge and skills for the specific tasks required in the new job. The following questions aim at the duration and concept of the training period in the company/organization.

12	In your opinion, how long does it take before newly employed engineers who have just finished their university stud-		What are the different essentials of the training period? <i>Multiple reply possible</i>
	ies are able to carry out professional tasks properly?		Getting to know different departments Training periods inside the compa-
арр	rox. L months for <b>engineers</b> in general		ny/organization Training periods in external education institutions
арр	rox. L months for <b>engineers</b> of the University XY		Other:(please specify)
13	If the times required by the two groups of graduates are different, which - in your opinion - are the decisive reasons for this?	16	What kind of knowledge and abilities are usually acquired during the training period? Multiple reply possible
14	As a rule, how would you describe the training period of engineers in the company/organization? Please tick one item only		Application-oriented EDP-knowledge Knowledge/capability in the field of personnel management Knowledge/capability in the field of financial management Skills in dealing with other persons (sales
3 🗆 4 🗆	support Advice/help from experienced colleagues Advice/help from superiors also Participation in an extensive formal trainee programme/training course	17	Other:
5 <b>L</b>	Other: (please specify)	1 🗆	Yes No

4. FURTHER PROFESSIONAL TRAINING	(Personnel department)
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The questions in this sector deal with the contents, structures, and basic conditions of further professional training offered in the company/organization.

18	Does the company/organization offer <u>engineers</u> any internal or external possibilities for further professional training?										
1											
19	of fu othe	rther pro	subject a fessional ation (emp are offer	training ployers'	were offe federatio	red by n, trad	y the col le organ	mpany/oı izations,	rganizatio universit	on itself c ties, etc.)	r by an-
Comp	oany/	Supplier Other	courses	Numbe duration	n of	Avera	Average				
organiz itse		organiza- tions	annually	course ( (in day		Тор	ics/Su	bject ar	eas		
	]		Ш	لُــا	J <sup>'</sup>	_		-	nical knowl	edge	
	]		Щ	ĻĻ	Ţ	EDP	applicatio	n			
	]		ببا	ĻĻ		Perso	onnel mar	nagement			
	]			ĻĻ	<u>.</u>	Prepa	aration for	the under	taking of m	nanagemer	nt tasks
	]					Finar	ncial mana	agement			
	]			LL	_	Dealing with customers/clients (sales seminars, course				s, courses	
	1		111	1.1	I	in group dynamics, etc.)					
_	_	Ц			-	Other courses in the field of personality development (creativity training, resolution of conflicts, etc.)			ршеш		
	]			LL	J	Other:					
2 <b>0</b>	train the c train	ing abroa ompany/	ies for fur ad offered organizat e job, etc.	to <u>engir</u> ion (cou	<u>neers</u> by	22	neers tion) costs (atte	<u>s</u> is offer institutio s paid by	essional ed by ext ns, to wh the com ees, acco	ernal (ed at extent pany/org	uca- are anization
2 🗖								•			
21		To what extent does the company/organization support the participa-				CC	ompletely 1	2	3	4	not at all 5
	tion of engineers in further professional training by releasing them from com-										
		ing by re -specific		em from	com-	23 Does the company/organization offer					
to a very not high degree at all 1 2 3 4 5					ther :	study en	ineers for ding with ary studie ?	an acade	emic de-		
			ū		ū	, 1	□ Vaa	-			
							□ Yes □ No				

#### 5. TASKS OF ENGINEERS AND QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (Technical department(s)

25

What is the main occupation and the

the University XY in the compa-

main field of activity of engineers from

ny/organization? Please enter the corre-

5.1 What is the main occupation and the main field of activity for engineers in the company/organization? Please tick one item of "major activitity" and, if necessary, further items of "additional activities".

	turtr	er items o	t "additional activities".		sponding number(s) from question 24. If no
	Major activitiy	Additional activities			engineers from the are employed or have been employed → PLEASE GO TO
01			Settlement/preparation of accounts		QUESTION 26
02			Supervision of production facilities/maintenance	Mai	n field of activity: LL_
03			Training	a.	in note of control,
04			Export	Fur	ther fields of activity:
05			Supervision of construction sites		•
06			Preparation of construction sites/construction/super-ion of	26	Do engineers in the company/organi-
			visconstruction		zation take on tasks which could be
07 08			Advisory services/consulting Maintenance and repair of		performed by technicians or skilled
00			production facilities Controlling		workers?
09			Data processing	1 🗆	Yes
10			Development/experiments	2 🗆	No → PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 28
11 12			Production	2 🗀	NO 7 PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 26
13	ä		Preparation of production	27	If engineers in the company/organi-
			Finances		zation have to take on professionally
14	ä	ä	Research and development		untypical tasks, what are the decisive
15 16			Research/science		reasons for this? Multiple reply possible
	ä		Estimating/costing		Todoono Tor tino: Wanapie Topiy podencie
17 18			Construction		
19	ä		Construction/design	П	There is a lack of technicians/skilled workers
20			Management		There is a lack of technicians/skined workers
21	ä	ä	Marketing		Englished and consider in intervaling the second
22			Marketing Market research		<b>Engineers</b> are working in jobs which are usually occupied by people without a university degree
23			Materials management		occupied by people without a difficulty degree
24			Measurement and testing technology		Engineers are given these tasks during their
25			Installation/commissioning		training period only in order to enlarge their practical experience
26	_		Standardization and licensing		praedical experience
27	_	ā	Personnel affairs		Engineers are given these tasks outside their
28			Planning of functions/use of buildings/plants		training period also in order to train other persons in these fields
29			Planning and organization		
30			Project management		Other:
31			Accountancy		(please specify)
32			Security engineering		
33			Tax affairs		
34			System analysis		
35			Project execution		
36			Environmental engineering		
37			Processing development		
38			Sales management		
88			Other:		

To what extent are engineers required

□□□□□ Knowledge of the English language

28

The following questions concern qualifications required by the company/organization of the employed engineers and the assessment of qualifications of engineers from the University of XY

29

To what extent are engineers con-

	knowledge and skills in the g fields?	fronted with the following requirements in the company/organization?					
to a very high not extent at all 1 2 3 4 5	Technical knowledge	to a very high not extent at all 1 2 3 4 5					
	Mathematics		Willingness to learn				
00000	Natural sciences (physics, chemistry), material technology		Ability to solve problems  Ability to reflect upon one's own conduct				
	Ecology and conservation	00000	Ability to express oneself in writing				
	Theoretical basics of engineering		Unconventional thinking				
	sciences (technical mechanics, thermodynamics, structural engi-		Willingness to perform/commitment				
	neering, electrical engineering, etc.)		Ability to coordinate				
	Operation, measurement, and		Ability to improvise				
	control technology		Reliability				
	Applied technical fields (technical sets, machine systems, installa-		Ability to work under pressure				
	tions, connections)		Independence				
	,		Sense of responsibility				
	Knowledge of methods		Innovativeness				
	System analysis and optimization		Creativity				
	Planning, design, calculation, and		Economically efficient thinking				
	construction (product and process-oriented)		Determination				
00000	Experimental and practical work		Loyalty to the institution and its objectives				
	EDP applications (CAD, CIM, etc.)		Persistence				
			Ability to cooperate				
	Knowledge of non-technical		Ability to assert oneself				
	fields		Self-confidence				
	Social sciences (psychology, sociology, politics)		Adaptability				
00000	Economics (finance, costing, etc.)		Empathy				
	Law (elements relevant to		Leadership qualities				
<del>_</del>	discipline/subject)		Initiative				

30	How do you assess the knowledge and
	ability of engineers from the University
	XY in the following fields? If at present
	you do not employ or if you have not em-
	ployed any engineers from the University
	XY → PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 33.

very good 1 2	very bad 5	Technical knowledge
		Mathematics
		Natural sciences (physics, chemistry), material technology
		Ecology and conservation
		Theoretical basics of engineering sciences (technical mechanics, thermodynamics, etc.)
		Operation, measurement, and control technology
		Applied technical fields (technical sets, machine systems, installations, connections)
		Knowledge of methods
		System analysis and optimization
		Planning, design, calculation, and construction (product and process-oriented)
		Experimental and practical work
		EDP applications (CAD, CIM, etc.)
		Knowledge of non-technical fields
		Social sciences (psychology, sociology, politics)
		Economics (finance, costing, etc.)
		Law (elements relevant to discipline/subject)
		Knowledge of the English language

## How do you assess the non-professional oriented qualifications of <u>engineers</u> from the <u>University</u> XY in the following fields? 31

very very	
good bad 1 2 3 4 5	
	Willingness to learn
	Ability to solve problems
	Ability to reflect upon one's own conduct
00000	Ability to express oneself in writing
	Unconventional thinking
	Willingness to perform/commitment
	Ability to coordinate
	Ability for improvise
	Reliability
	Ability to work under pressure
	Independence
	Sense of responsibility
	Innovativeness
	Creativity
	Economically efficient thinking
	Determination
	Loyalty to the institution and its objectives
	Persistence
	Ability to cooperate
	Ability to assert oneself
	Self-confidence
	Adaptability
	Empathy
	Leadership qualities
	Initiative
abilities sity XY o other un	you assess knowledge and of engineers from the Univercompared to engineers from iversities with regard to the g aspects?
much much better worse  1 2 3 4 5	Technical basic knowledge Special technical knowledge Knowledge in non-technical fields Non-professionally oriented qualifications

### 6. PROSPECTS

These questions deal with changes in the company/organization

33	Do you expect extensive changes in the company/organization within the next five years? Multiple reply possible		34	In your opinion, will the number of employed engineers change within the next five years?
	Implementation of new <b>domestic</b> production and manufacturing technologies Implementation of new <b>foreign</b> production and manufacturing technologies Development/marketing of new products/diversification of products Implementation/expansion of computer technology Internal organizational restructuring of the firm Building up/expanding of international business connections No, extensive changes are not expected Other:		з 🗆	<ol> <li>No, the number of employed engineers will remain nearly constant.</li> <li>Yes, the number of employed engineers will increase.</li> <li>Yes, the number of employed engineers will decrease</li> <li>I don't know.</li> </ol>
	7. PERSONAL BACKGRO	UN	D O	F THE INTERVIEWEE
Finall	y, we would like some brief information abou	ıt yol	ur pe	rsonal background
35	Your position in the establishment	3	8	How did you get to know about the de-
Pers	sonnel department:			gree course for <u>engineers</u> at the University of XY? <i>Multiple reply possible</i>
Technical department:				Through contacts with students who did a period of practical training/graduates of the University
Tecl	nnical department:			of XY Through contacts with university staff
Tecl	nnical department:			Through my own studies or through attending courses at the University XY
36	Exact name of the technical department you work for			Through working as a lecturer at the University XY
	you holicion			Through information material/information courses of the University XY
Tecl	nnical department:			Through information from others (e.g. other establishments)
Tecl	nnical department:			Other: (please specify)
Tecl	nnical department:			(product speakly)
37	Number of <u>engineers</u> in your technical department			
Ц	_			

#### Thank you very much for your kind cooperation.

Please enter the name and the address of the company/organization in the space below. If you wish, we will send you the most important results of this survey.

	Address
Company/Institution	
Name, first name:	
Phone/Fax	
Street or PO Box	
Town	

This slip will be cut off (for data protection) immediately after receipt of the questionnaire

☐ Please tick this box if you are interested in receiving the report of the results

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\*

Country