

DTU and PF's common mindset...

FROM PUPIL TO STUDENT

Background

It is a challenge for DTU's new students to figure out what is expected of them in their new role as students. Until now, they have been pupils, going to school and doing their homework according to their teachers' instructions. Now, they are going to be students at a university where they will—sometimes—be part of a class. They have to plan how to prepare for teaching activities, and generally take responsibility for their studies.

This change of identity is not self-evident, and DTU is making a major effort to help students get off to a good start. This can make new students believe that they can expect the same service as in school. It is therefore important to make it clear what is expected of them and what it takes to be a student at DTU—in the first year of study and later on in the programme.

Objective

Based on a common mindset, the students are assisted in developing their identity as engineering students to ensure that they during the first year of study become prepared to meet the challenges of studying at DTU.

The attitudes and expectations which all new students encounter at study start and during the first year of study are shared by everyone the students come into contact with at DTU:

- Vectors
- Student counsellors
- Lecturers
- Tutors
- Heads of studies
- Administrative staff

The table below presents the elements of our common mindset for what the transition from pupil to student means at DTU

Elements	What does it mean?
<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>Enthusiasm and persistency</p>	<p>Having the courage to jump in at the deep end, working with open problems, and acquiring new and unknown knowledge. Commitment.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>Creative problem-solving</p>	<p>Identifying, defining, and formulating a problem to be solved from an engineering perspective. Being able to see the connection between knowledge acquired in different subjects. Solving a problem using engineering tools in a creative synthesis of various academic disciplines. Finding/choosing the optimal solution in relation to the given criteria/preconditions/resources.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>Reflection</p>	<p>Critical thinking and ethical considerations. Knowing that there is not always only one way to solve a problem—and thus not always only one right answer.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>Teamwork</p>	<p>Participating constructively in group work, and understanding and using own knowledge as well as other people's competences. Welcoming diversity. Engaging in division of responsibilities and relying on others. Providing feedback on other peoples' work.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>Prioritization</p>	<p>Prioritizing and solving problems when there are limitations—e.g. limited time or limited resources. Spending time on the studies!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>Personal attitude</p>	<p>Taking responsibility for own learning, planning and organizing the work, and 'learning to learn independently'. Contributing to the work of others, to group work etc. Being proud of being a student at DTU. Being able to see oneself solving the multi-faceted problems in the world.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>Suggestions...</p>	

