



# 6<sup>th</sup> ASEF Rectors' Conference & Students' Forum (ARC6) 2017, Singapore

Future-ready Universities and Graduates: Quality Education Beyond the Horizon

Students' Forum 9-12 October  
Rectors' Conference 12-13 October



## ASEM-wide Youth Survey: Thoughts and Perceptions on Quality Education

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### About ARC6

Since its establishment in 2008, the ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC) has been a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform for university leaders, policy makers and education practitioners, business representatives and students to discuss higher education issues and shape the education landscape in Asia and Europe.

ARC is recognised as the Official Dialogue Partner of the ASEM Education Ministers Meeting (ASEM ME). Its results, including policy recommendations and research, feed into the preparation of ASEM MEs, which ARC rectors and student representatives are invited to attend. Moreover, as part of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (GAP), ARC contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). ARC takes place on a biennial basis alternating between Asia and Europe. It addresses 3 areas in higher education: 1) quality and inclusive education, 2) university governance, and 3) university-business partnerships. To date, over 650 university leaders representing 226 universities from 51 Asian and European countries have participated in the conferences.

The 6th edition of the ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC6) will take place on 9-13 October 2017 in Singapore. ARC6 will focus on "Future-ready Universities and Graduates: Quality Education Beyond the Horizon".

### Snapshot of the ASEM-wide survey

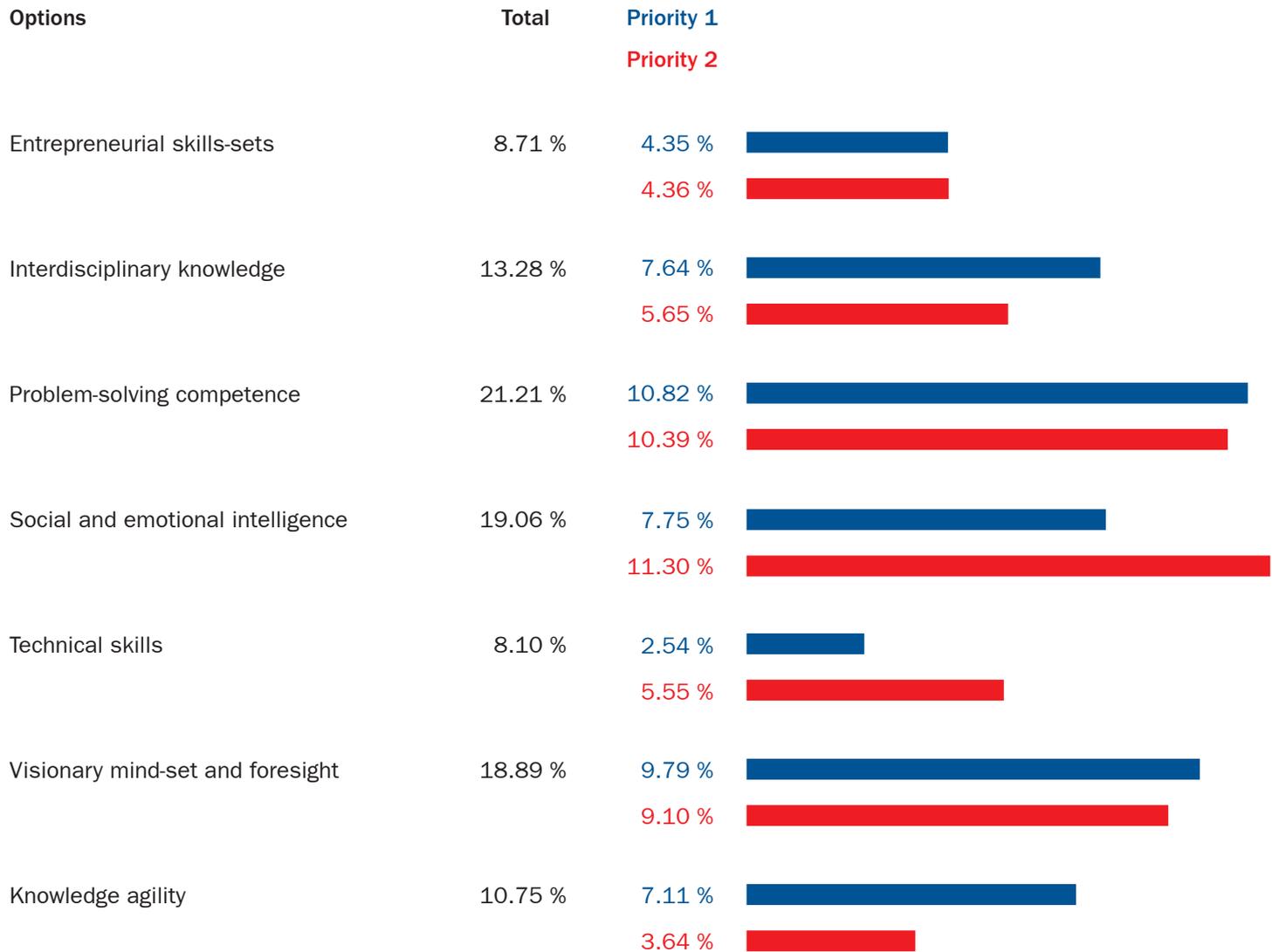
ASEF launched an Open Call for Applications across Asia and Europe in June 2017 (15 June to 16 July 2017). 3,817 students between 18 and 30 years old applied to be part of the forum, where they will discuss the needs, demands and expectations of future-ready universities and graduates; and share their thoughts on how both institutions and individuals can continuously evaluate and adapt their approach to disruptive times. In an effort to recognise the 3,817 youth voices, ASEF has captured their perceptions on future-ready universities and what the term successful higher education means to them in a survey. This survey was a mandatory part of the ARC6 Open Call for Application.

Snapshots of the outcomes can be found in this booklet and will be shared at ARC6 as well as with the ASEM Leaders. Here are some key facts: 86,9% of the respondents were from Asian ASEM countries, while 13,1% came from European ASEM countries. This difference is a reflection of the population size between the two regions. 54,2% of the respondents were female and 45,8% male. The respondents had diverse academic backgrounds: 66,8% were undergraduate students, 26,5% were graduate students, 5,1% were doctoral students, and 1,6% were undertaking a diploma/polytechnic degree.

*What would be your view?*

Disclaimer: The results of this survey are meant to showcase general trends and might not necessarily follow strict empirical methodologies.

**What do you deem as the most “future-ready” educational elements? Select 2 options**



The results are based on an ASEM-wide youth survey which ASEF conducted as a part of the Open Call for Application process of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC6), held between 9-12 October 2017 in Singapore and in partnership with the Singapore Management University (SMU). 3,817 participants took part in the survey.

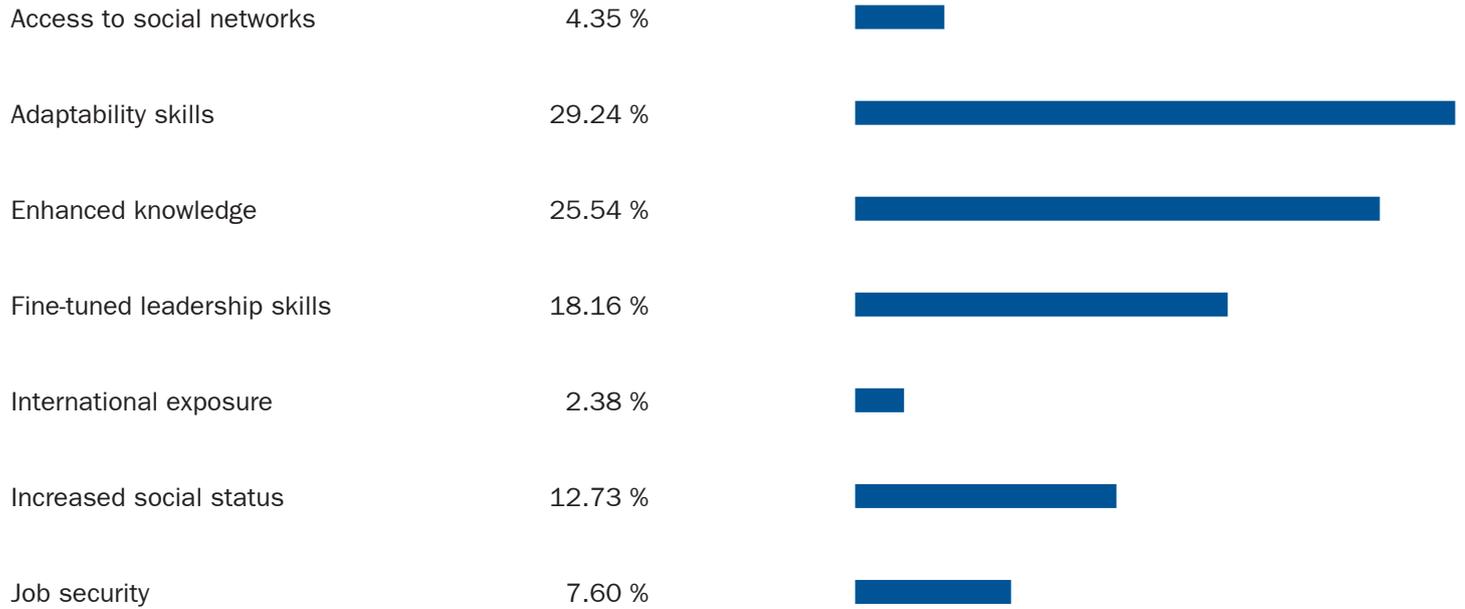
**You are the Rector of a university that currently develops a 5 year strategic plan on quality education. What strategic decisions would you put on top of your priorities? Select 2 focus areas:**



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**Now you are back to being a student. What defines a successful higher education for you? Select your top criteria:**

**Options**



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The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health.

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

ASEF runs more than 25 projects a year, consisting of around 100 activities, mainly conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, publications, and online platforms, together with about 125 partner organisations. Each year over 3,000 Asians and Europeans participate in ASEF's activities, and much wider audiences are reached through its various events, networks, and web-portals.

For more information, please visit [www.ASEF.org](http://www.ASEF.org)



A premier university in Asia, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU's mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning, and for its technologically enabled pedagogy of seminar-style teaching in small class sizes.

Home to around 10,000 undergraduate, postgraduate, executive and professional, full- and part-time students, SMU is comprised of six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Information Systems, School of Law, and School of Social Sciences. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors', masters' and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with the six schools, as well as in interdisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU has an emphasis on generating rigorous, high-impact, and relevant multi-disciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities from USA, Europe, China and India, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector, through its research institutes, centres and labs. SMU's city campus is a state-of-the art facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community.

For more information, please visit [www.smu.edu.sg](http://www.smu.edu.sg)

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## MEASUREMENT TOOLS & TANGRAM

The ARC6 design combines 2 components: measuring tools as used across various academic disciplines and tangram puzzle pieces. The measuring tools portray methodical calculations while the tangrams portray creativity and disruption. The contrasting use of these elements depicts two divergent views of quality education: 1) that quality education can be measured through fixed parameters, and 2) that quality education is a process with outcomes that go beyond mere assessment tools. Historically, tangrams were invented in China and then taken to Europe by sea voyagers in the early 19th century. This resonates with the role of ARC in promoting intellectual, people-to-people exchanges between Asia and Europe.

A compass – used in geography to orientate oneself relative to cardinal points. With approaches and views that will converge and diverge, stakeholders are given their bearings, both practically and thematically, in this overview.



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