

LUNDS TEKNISKA HÖGSKOLA Lunds universitet Real Estate Science Klas Ernald Borges PhD in Real Estate Planning



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FIG Academic Members FIG Commission 2 friends

## Mentorship programme network

Dear colleague,

During the FIG-congress in Munich I contacted various university staff and asked about an interest in participating in a worldwide network for student mentorship programmes. All persons were positive, and I promised to turn back during autumn.

At Lund University (Sweden) we will start a new mentorship programme in January 2007 for final year students at the MSc engineering programme in Land Surveying and Management. The student has got one professional land surveyor as his/her personal mentor during the final year of studies and thesis work. The two (mentor and student) meet regularly, and the whole group of the mentorship programme meets about four times a year, in order to broaden and enrich the perspective with other mentor-student groups. The aim of the programme is to provide the student with a perspective of professional life, and life itself after the study period, and for the mentor to get into the concerns and ideas of the new generation of land surveyors.

The mentorship programme is organised at Lund University, but integrated in the activities of the Swedish Association of Chartered Surveyors and the Swedish Society of Real Estate Economics.

In parallel, in September 2007 we will start another mentorship programme for first year students at the MSc engineering programme, with groups of 3-4 students per mentor.

We would like to invite Your University and Your national association, as member of FIG, to participate in a network of student membership programmes. Your university might have a different organisation, and eventually as a trainee programme. The leading idea is that we could create a network of membership programmes, and provide the students with contacts to other students abroad. They are likely to develop the network, e g, with a student forum, personal blogs, wikipedia and other network links. The mentors could also join the network, but we believe that the students might be the first enthusiasts to develop the network.

We have identified some key areas of potential interest that we introduce as the first main structure at the forum:

- 1. Curriculum structure
- 2. Courses
- 3. MSc theses
- 4. Research projects
- 5. Exchange programmes and opportunities

- 6. Social student life
- 7. Trainee jobs
- 8. Mentorship activities
- 9. Labour market
- 10. Academic and professional careers
- 11. Conferences and congresses

The item no 5 is based on our conviction that the interest of the students is not limited to internet networking, but also in physical exchange of students during 1-2 semesters at a host university, through university exchange programmes. The change in Europe to the Bologna educational system of BSc and MSc levels invites to increase student mobility for the entire studies at the MSc level.

As a first tentative approach, we introduce the Lund university international student forum for surveying students and mentorship programs. Please find the forum at <a href="http://fig-forum.student.lth.se/index.php">http://fig-forum.student.lth.se/index.php</a>. We would like to initiate the international mentorship network gradually, and develop the idea in collaboration with other mentorship programmes worldwide.

I would like to know the interest at your university in participating in the network. I would also appreciate comments or proposals on how to develop it in further details.

Yours Sincerely

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