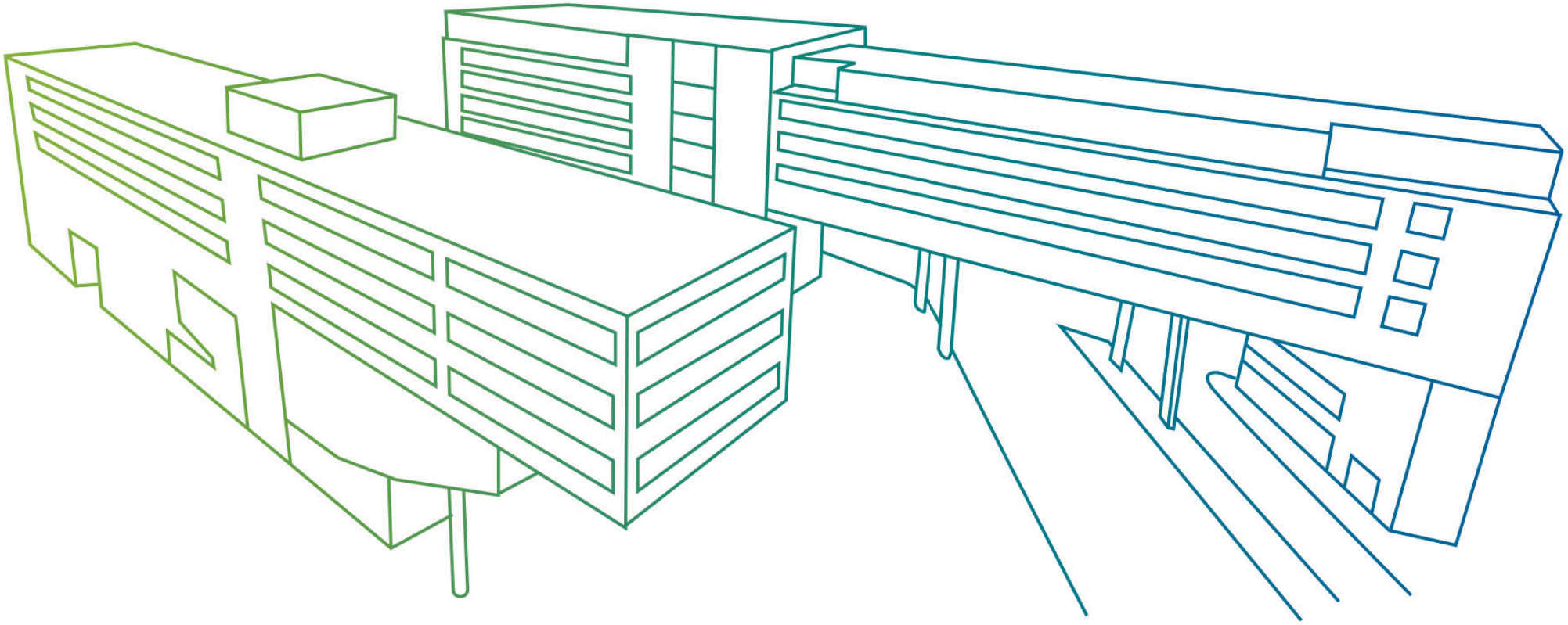

FH University of Applied Sciences
TECHNIKUM WIEN

Enhancing teaching quality through international cooperation

Elisabeth Froschauer-Neuhauser, Nina Thiel

AQ Austria Jahrestagung, 23.09.2026

Who are we? The People

Elisabeth Froschauer-Neuhauser

Quality Assurance & Institutional Research
UASTW

Nina Thiel

International Office
UASTW

Lucienne Wijgergangs

International Office Fontys
ICT

Who are we? The Institutions

UAS Technikum Wien

Austria

Fontys UAS

The Netherlands

What do we share?

- ✓ University of Applied Sciences with a strong focus on practical and career-oriented education
- ✓ Strong links to industry
- ✓ Common ground: ICT and Software Engineering

International cooperation as driver for quality enhancement

Knowledge Exchange in Practice

Cooperation: Fontys ICT & UASTW
since 2012, Computer Science and Industrial Engineering

- Collaboration extends **beyond** student and staff exchange (semester, internships, Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programmes, staff weeks, delegation visits etc.)
- Continuous dialogue between educators (part of a learning community), focus on improving teaching quality, didactics, and innovation since 2020
- New joint project: **Minor Global Acting in IT**

Minor Global Acting in IT

- 1 semester abroad
- 2 weeks online
- 4 institutions in 4 countries
- 30 ECTS
- 17 students (12 Fontys, 5 UASTW)
- 1 collective semester challenge*:*

  Landscape Mapping and Health Assessment in Urban and Semi-Urban Areas

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Minor Global Acting in IT - The Route
4 institutions, 4 cultures, 4 IT- subtopics

Fontys AUS

The Netherlands

↓

UAS Technikum Wien

Austria

↓

Hellenic Mediterranean University

Greece

↓

Humber Polytechnic

Canada

Week	Date	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	23/02 - 01/03	Online week				traveling to Eindhoven		
2	02/03 - 08/03	Emerging Technology + UX design (Eindhoven, The Netherlands)						
3	09/03 - 15/03	Emerging Technology + UX design (Eindhoven, The Netherlands)						
4	16/03 - 22/03	Emerging Technology + UX design (Eindhoven, The Netherlands)						
5	23/03 - 29/03	Emerging Technology + UX design (Eindhoven, The Netherlands)			deadline portfolio + presentations		traveling to Vienna or stay in Eindhoven	
6	30/03 - 05/04	Online project week				traveling to Vienna		
7	06/04 - 12/04	Software Engineering (Vienna, Austria)						
8	13/04 - 19/04	Software Engineering (Vienna, Austria)						
9	20/04 - 26/04	Software Engineering (Vienna, Austria)						
10	27/04 - 03/05	Software Engineering (Vienna, Austria)			deadline portfolio + presentations	traveling to Chania		
11	04/05 - 10/05	IoT (Chania, Greece)						
12	11/05 - 17/05	IoT (Chania, Greece)						
13	18/05 - 24/05	IoT (Chania, Greece)			deadline portfolio + presentations	traveling to Toronto		
14	25/05 - 31/05	AI (Toronto, Canada)						
15	01/06 - 07/06	AI (Toronto, Canada)						
16	08/06 - 14/06	AI (Toronto, Canada)			final presentations	traveling home		
17	15/06 - 21/06	Reparations						
18	22/06 - 28/06							

Minor Global Acting in IT - Keystones

- Examining IT from a global perspective, with focus on having a positive impact on society, the environment and beyond
- Intercultural awareness and practice
- International collaboration and experience

The Challenge Ahead

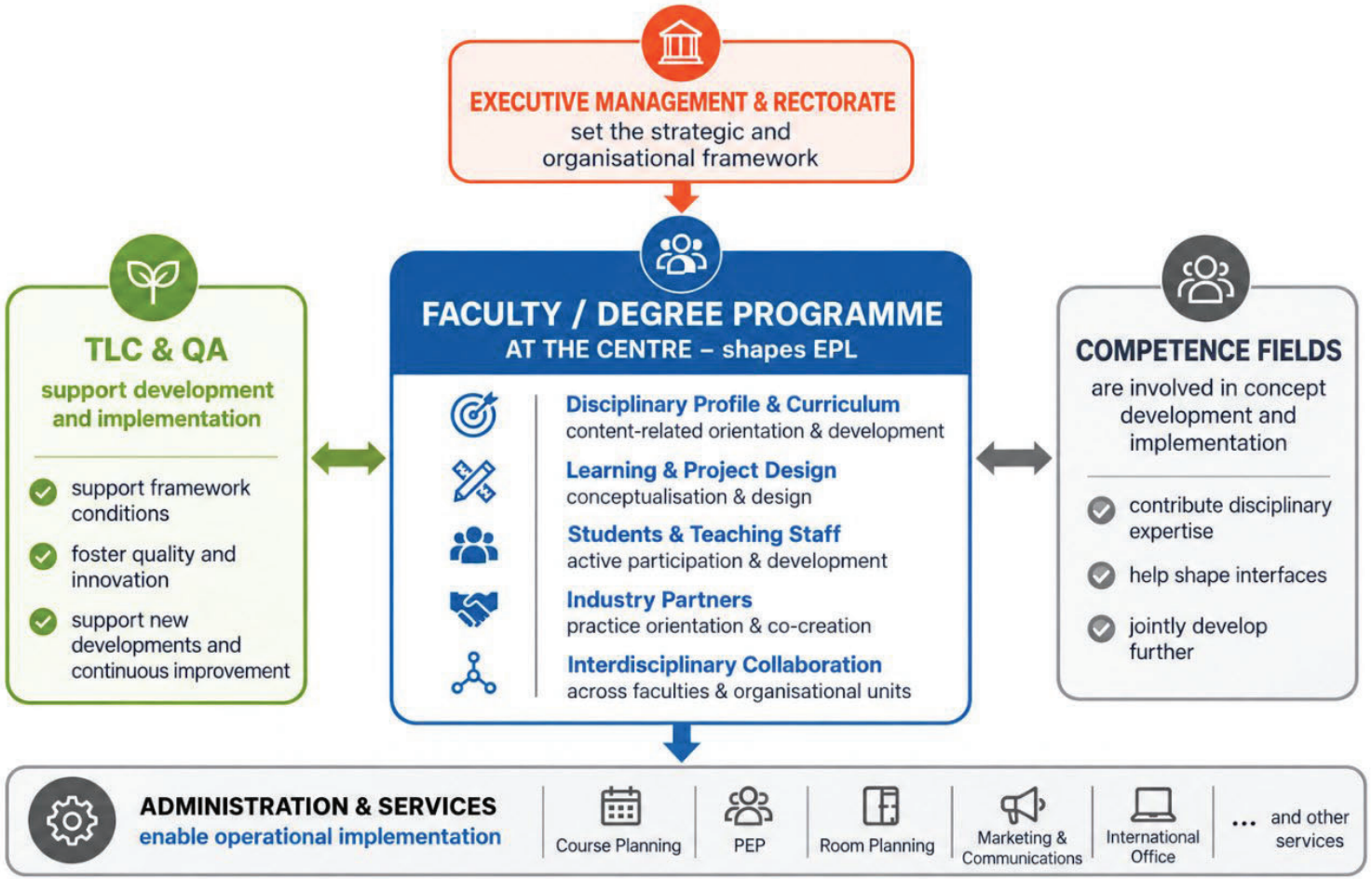
How can the Fontys model be translated into an institution-wide concept for an Austrian University of Applied Sciences?

Different

- legal and regulatory framework
- quality assurance framework
- teaching and assessment practices
- roles and profiles of teaching staff
- student population and study formats

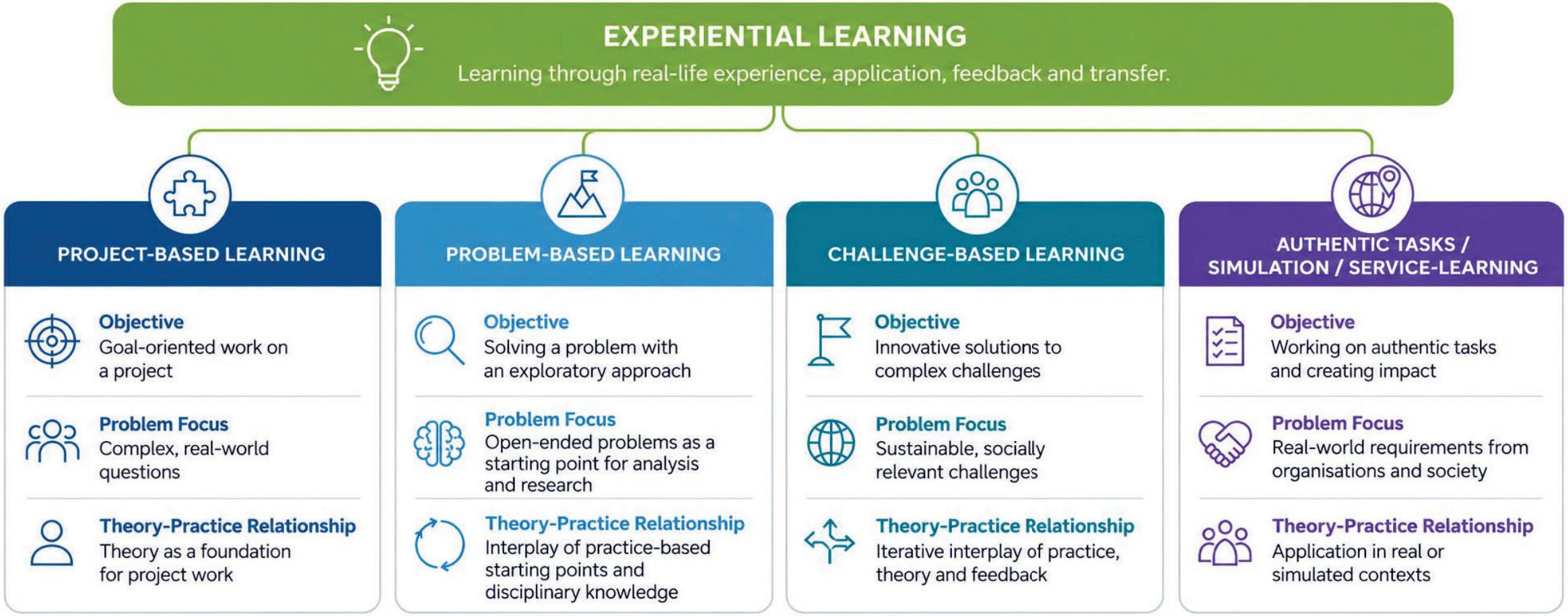
➲ **The goal is not replication, but contextual adaptation**

Co-Creation of Experiental Learning at UASTW



Shift from isolated innovation to **evidence-based educational development**

What means Experiental Learning at UASTW?

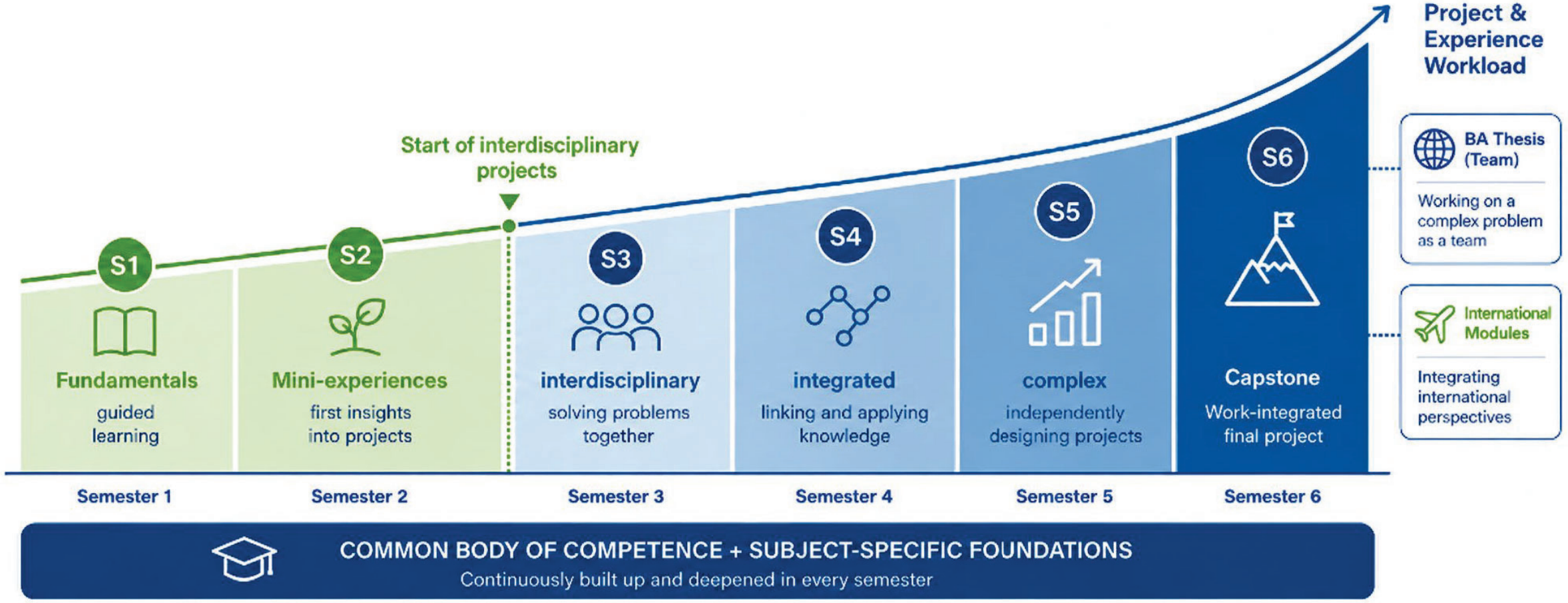


Experiential Learning goes beyond project-based learning – it provides a **common quality framework** for different approaches.

From Guided Learning to Experience-Based Learning

Increasing project and experience components throughout the study program

With each semester: **more openess * more personal responsibility * more interdisciplinary work**



Embedding Innovation into Quality Assurance

- Teaching innovations integrated into formal QA processes
- New approaches supported by:
  - Clear quality criteria
  - Systematic evaluation
  - Student and faculty feedback
- Shift from isolated innovation to evidence-based educational development

➲ **Quality assurance becomes a catalyst for innovation rather than just compliance.**

Key Takeaways: International Collaboration as a Quality Driver

- International benchmarking strengthens institutional quality standards
- External perspectives enrich curriculum development
- Faculty engage in continuous reflection and improvement
- Quality becomes a shared culture, not just a formal process

➲ Long-term international partnerships can transform teaching quality by combining structured knowledge exchange, innovative didactics, and robust quality assurance into sustainable institutional change.

Thank you!

We are happy to hear from you:

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