THE 7i MODEL

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Note: This model is not yet finalised.
We are currently running a survey study to help
us validate and refine our categorisation of
graduate attributes.

If you would like to take part, please visit:
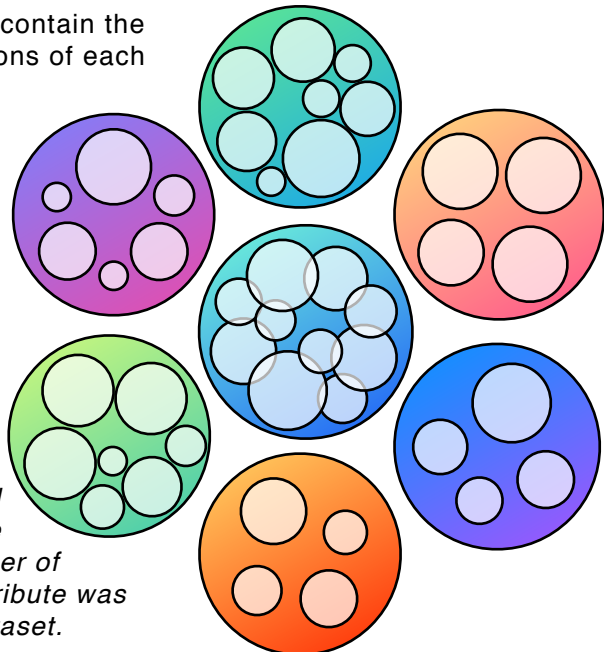surveys.graduateattributes.uk

SUMMARY

Our aim was to construct a universal model of graduate attributes.

We did this by 'boiling down' a set of **27 lists of graduate attributes** from universities across the UK into one single model.

These lists were taken from the websites of 12 Scottish Universities, 12 English Universities, 2 Welsh Universities and 1 Northern-Irish University (Full list on page 16).

The resulting model contains **43 graduate attributes** grouped into **7 categories**.

The following pages contain the names and descriptions of each category and of the attributes in that category.
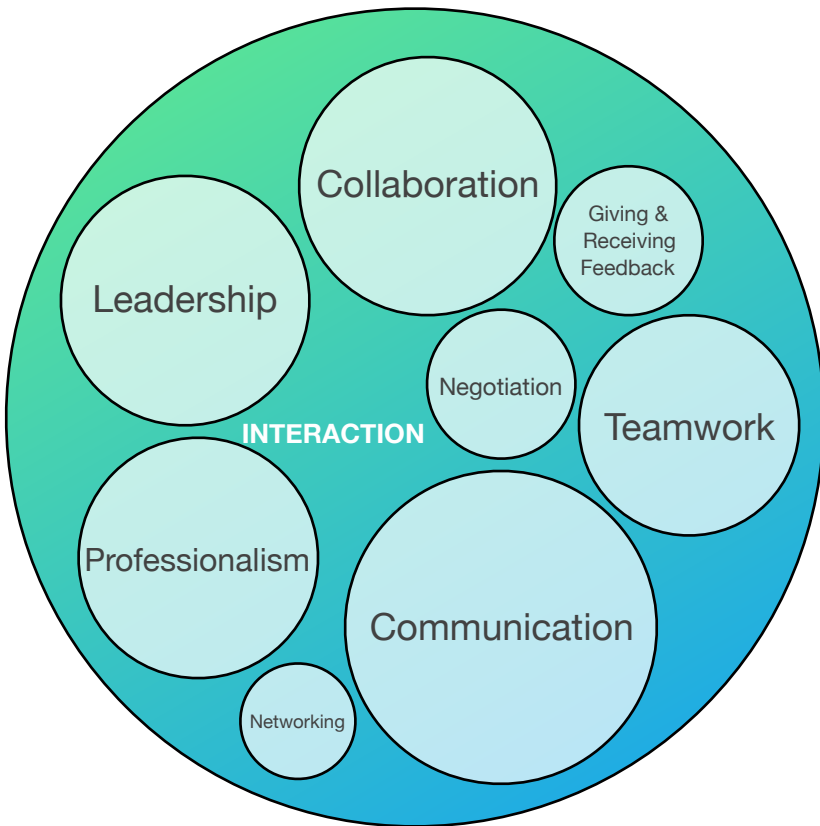
The size of the small circles in each figure represents the number of times a graduate attribute was mentioned in our dataset.

1

Graduate attribute name	Description
Collaboration	Being able to work together with others to reach a common goal.
Communication	Being able to communicate with others in different contexts, for different purposes and audiences, and in various ways (e.g. oral, visual, written, listening, electronic)
Giving and receiving feedback	Being able to respond positively to feedback, as well as being able to offer feedback to others.
Leadership	Having the ability to lead others, directing, influencing them positively, and inspiring them.
Negotiation	Having the ability to negotiate with others to reach a consensus or shared vision.
Networking	Having the ability to establish and maintain professional connections with others.
Professionalism	Conducting oneself appropriately in different contexts.
Teamwork	Being able to work individually within a team, towards a common goal, understanding their role and the role of others in the team.

INTERACTION

Interacting and working with others.

Collaboration

Giving & Receiving Feedback

Leadership

Negotiation

INTERACTION

Teamwork

Professionalism

Communication

Networking

Number of universities mentioning
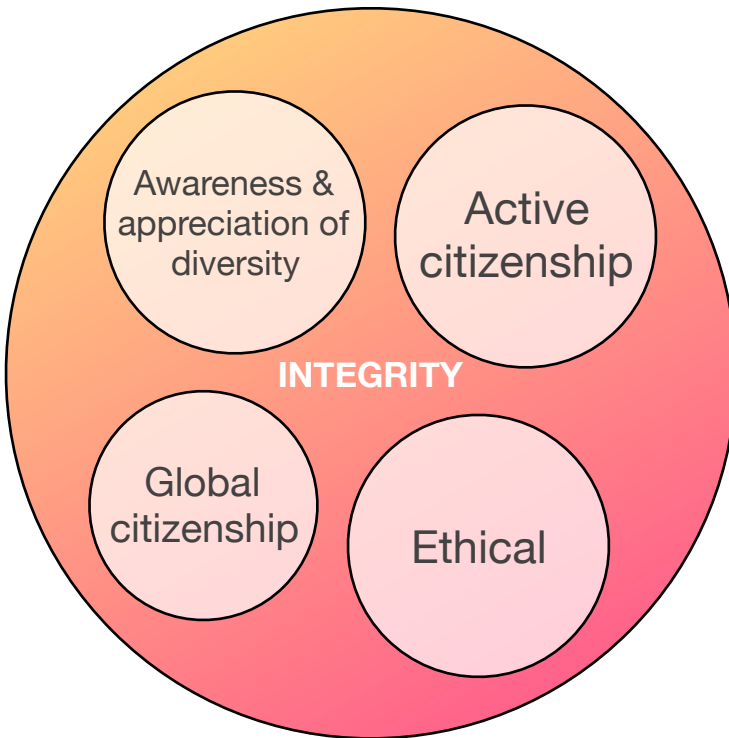
24/27

Number of total mentions

138

Graduate attribute name	Description
Awareness and appreciation of diversity	Having an awareness and understanding of diversity in all its forms. Being inclusive, accepting and respecting diversity.
Active citizenship	Being aware and recognising one's own responsibility when it comes to social and civic issues.
Ethical	Having a strong moral compass and being aware of ethical issues in their field. Behaving ethically.
Global citizenship	Seeing themselves as primarily a citizen of the world and being engaged with and aware of international issues.

INTEGRITY

Having a strong moral compass, an awareness and respect for diversity, and displaying a willingness to get involved for the good of the community at local, national and international levels.

Awareness & appreciation of diversity

Active citizenship

INTEGRITY

Global citizenship

Ethical

Number of universities mentioning

26/27
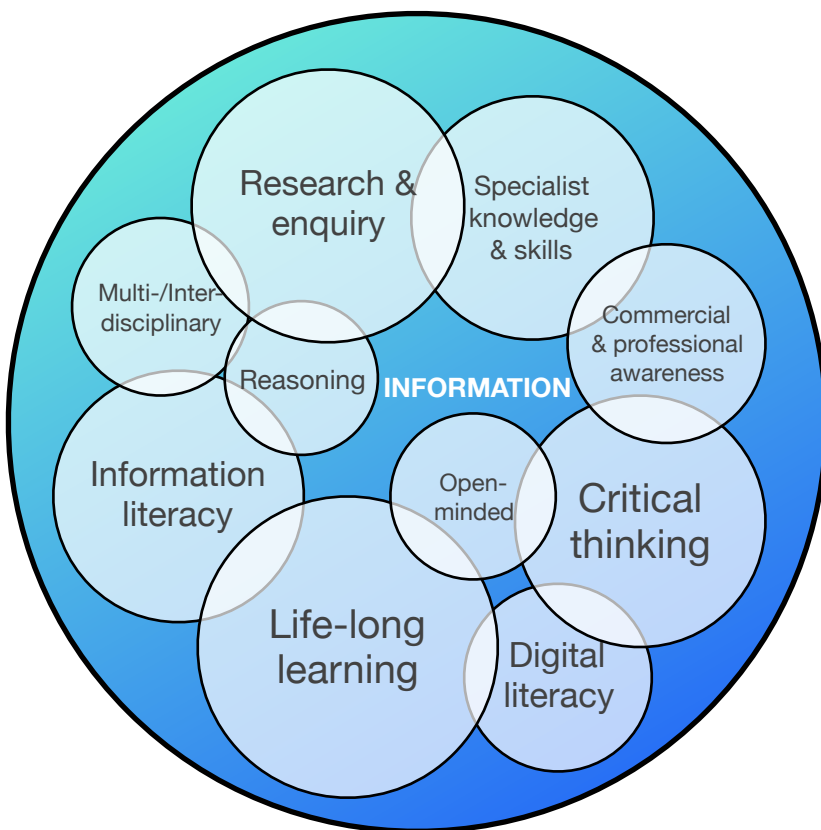
Number of total mentions

138

Graduate attribute name	Description
Commercial and professional understanding	Having a real world understanding of how businesses and professionals work.
Critical thinking	Being able to critically analyse and evaluate information to reach an unbiased conclusion or make a decision.
Digital literacy	Being able to use digital platforms to find, manage, and share information, and to communicate.
Information literacy	Being able to recognise when information is needed, to find, analyse, and synthesise it. This includes traditional literacy as well as numeracy.
Life-long learning	Being intellectually curious and having the ability and desire to continue learning throughout life for personal or professional reasons.
Multi-/Inter-disciplinary	Having knowledge and understanding beyond their academic subject, and understanding the links between own and other subjects.
Open-minded	Being receptive to new ideas and change.
Reasoning	Being able to process information in a logical way.
Research and enquiry	Knowing how and being able to conduct research and enquiry.
Specialist knowledge and skills	Having skills and knowledge relevant to their academic subject.

INFORMATION

Knowing, managing, and acquiring information.

Research &
enquiry

Specialist
knowledge
& skills

Multi-/Inter-
disciplinary

Commercial
& professional
awareness

Reasoning   **INFORMATION**

Information
literacy

Open-
minded

Critical
thinking

Life-long
learning

Digital
literacy

Number of universities mentioning

27/27
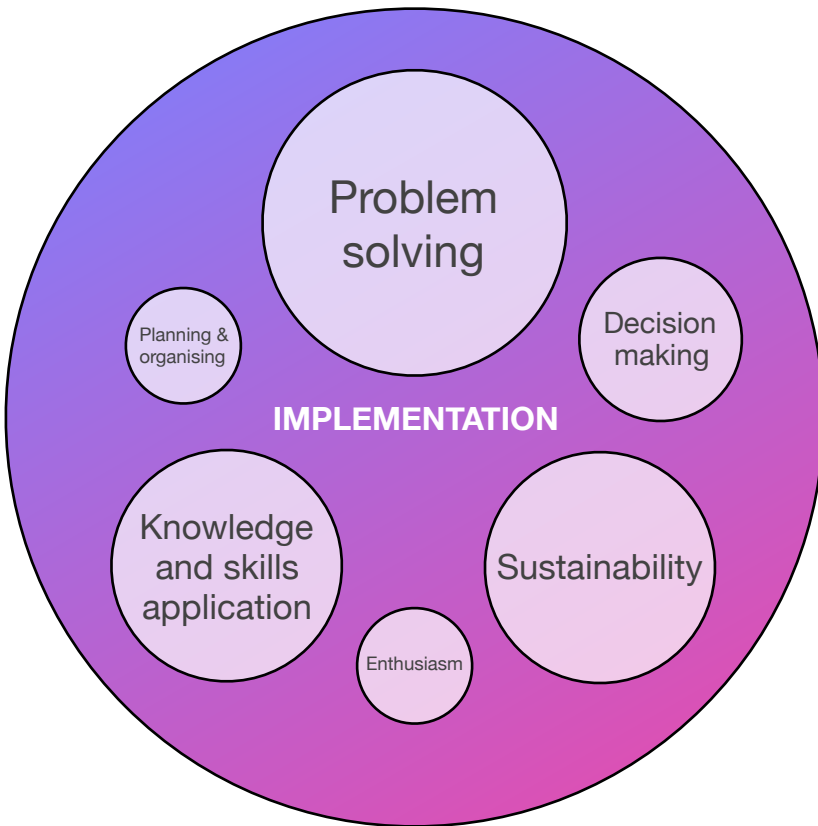
Number of total mentions

203

Graduate attribute name	Description
Decision making	Being able to weigh possibilities in order to make effective decisions.
Enthusiasm	Demonstrating passion and keenness when it comes to work or an academic subject.
Knowledge and skills application	Being able to contextually apply knowledge and skills.
Planning and organising	Being able to lay out plans and organise resources to carry out these plans effectively.
Problem solving	Being able to identify, define and solve complex problems in a variety of contexts.
Sustainability	Demonstrating commitment to sustainability, especially when solving problems and making decisions.

IMPLEMENTATION

Solving problems and putting plans and decisions into effect.

Problem solving

Planning & organising

Decision making

IMPLEMENTATION

Knowledge and skills application

Enthusiasm

Sustainability

Number of universities mentioning

24/27

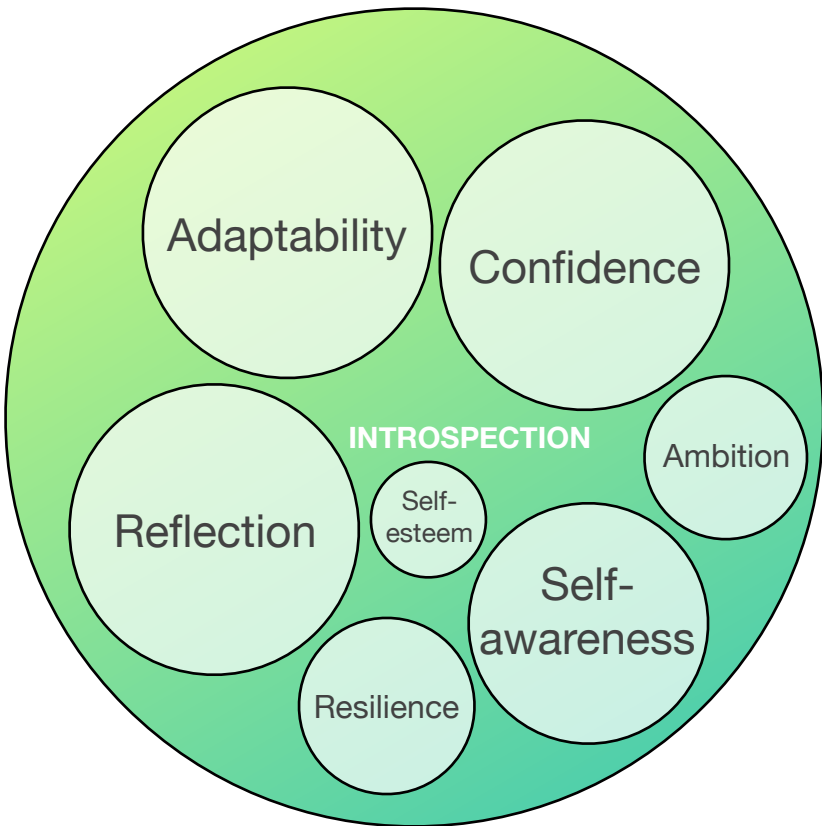Number of total mentions

93

Graduate attribute name	Description
Adaptability	Being able to adjust to new environments and situations, as well as when seeking solutions to problems.
Ambition	Having a strong desire and determination to achieve success.
Confidence	Having faith in and relying on oneself and one's own skills, knowledge, and decisions.
Reflection	Being able to reflect on own work, progress, achievements, and self-identity.
Resilience	Being able to develop and use coping strategies to recover from difficult, stressful and challenging situations.
Self-awareness	Being conscious of own skills, knowledge, character and feelings, and how these can influence behaviour and decisions.
Self-esteem	Having an overall sense of self-worth or personal value and pride.

INTROSPECTION

Knowing oneself, appreciating one's own value, and being able to adapt and change.

Number of universities mentioning

24/27

Number of total mentions
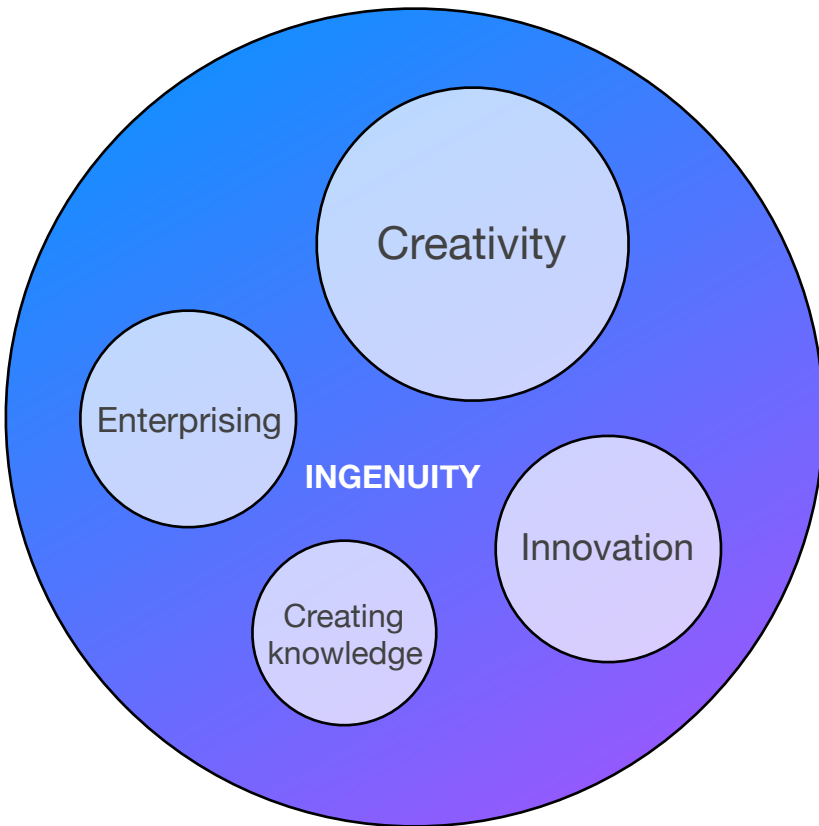
135

Graduate attribute name	Description
Creating knowledge	Being able to develop new ideas and create new knowledge, using research and enquiry.
Creativity	Being able to use imagination and original ideas to create something new or to combine existing concepts and ideas in a new way.
Enterprising	Showing initiative and resourcefulness.
Innovation	Being able to bring creative changes to already existing ideas, methods, products, or services. Similar to creativity but more focused on improving a certain product or idea.

INGENUITY

Being original, creating something new, or improving an existing idea, product or process in a new way.

Number of universities mentioning
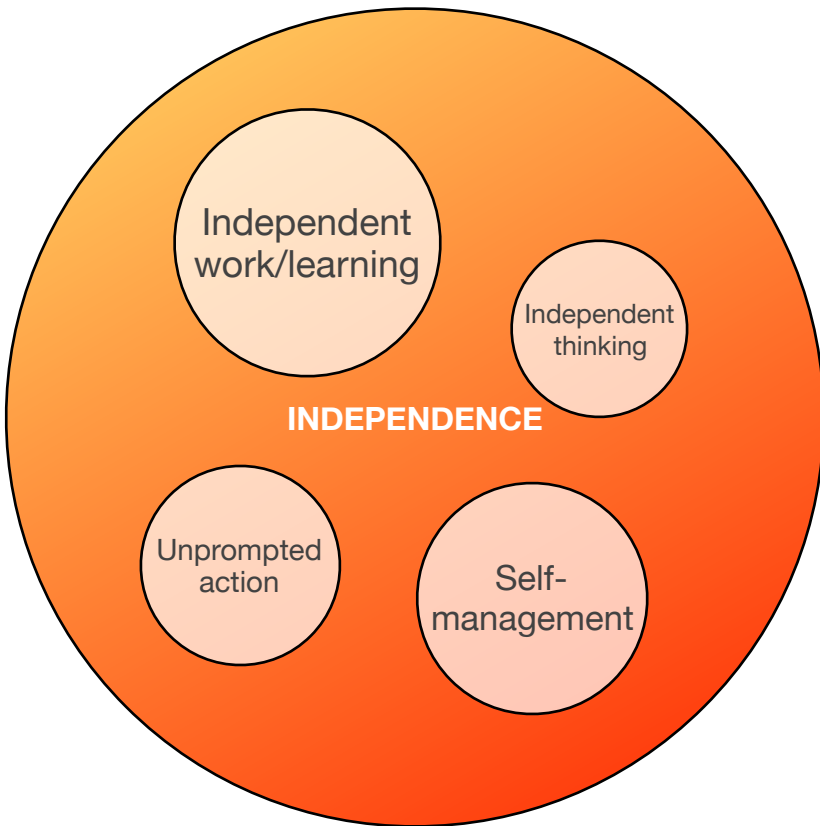
25/27

Number of total mentions

71

Graduate attribute name	Description
Independent work/learning	Being able to self-direct and work or learn independently.
Independent thinking	Being able to think for oneself and question existing ideas, rather than just adopting others' thoughts or ideas.
Self-management	Being able to manage oneself, take care of own needs, and take responsibility for own actions and behaviour.
Unprompted action	Being able to take the initiative, and being proactive rather than reactive.

INDEPENDENCE

Performing, thinking, and acting independently.

Independent work/learning

Independent thinking

INDEPENDENCE

Unprompted action

Self-management

Number of universities mentioning

24/27

Number of total mentions

68

List of universities included in our sample

SCOTLAND	ENGLAND
University of Aberdeen	University of Bolton
Abertay University	University of Bradford
University of Dundee	University of Cumbria
Edinburgh Napier University	University of East Anglia
University of Edinburgh	University of Essex
Glasgow Caledonian University	University of Leeds
University of Glasgow	Leeds Trinity University
Heriot-Watt University	London Metropolitan University
University of Highlands and Islands	University of Northampton
Queen Margaret University	University of Reading
University of Stirling	University of Sheffield
University of Strathclyde	University of Sussex
WALES	**NORTHERN IRELAND**
Cardiff Metropolitan University	Ulster University
University of South Wales	

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