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University evaluation toolkit: Navigating evaluative practices across all levels with RUFDATAE

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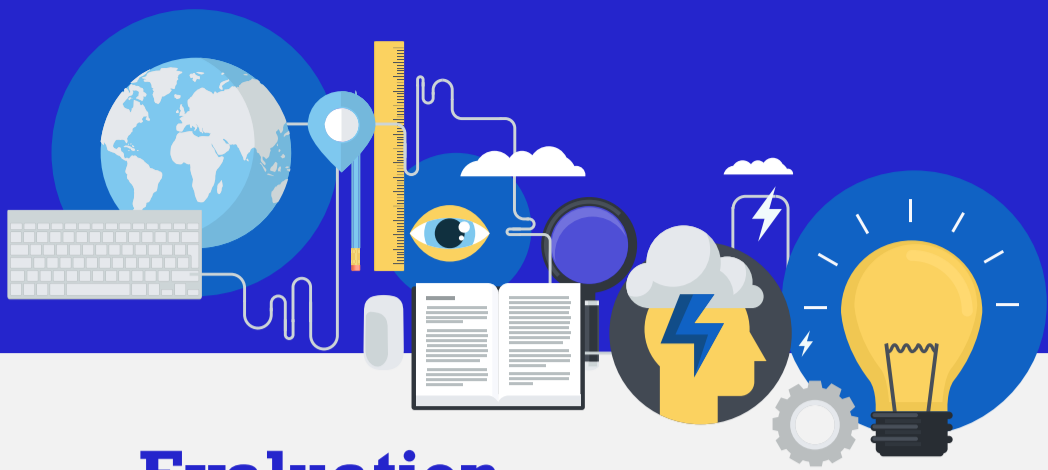*Edith Cowan University*
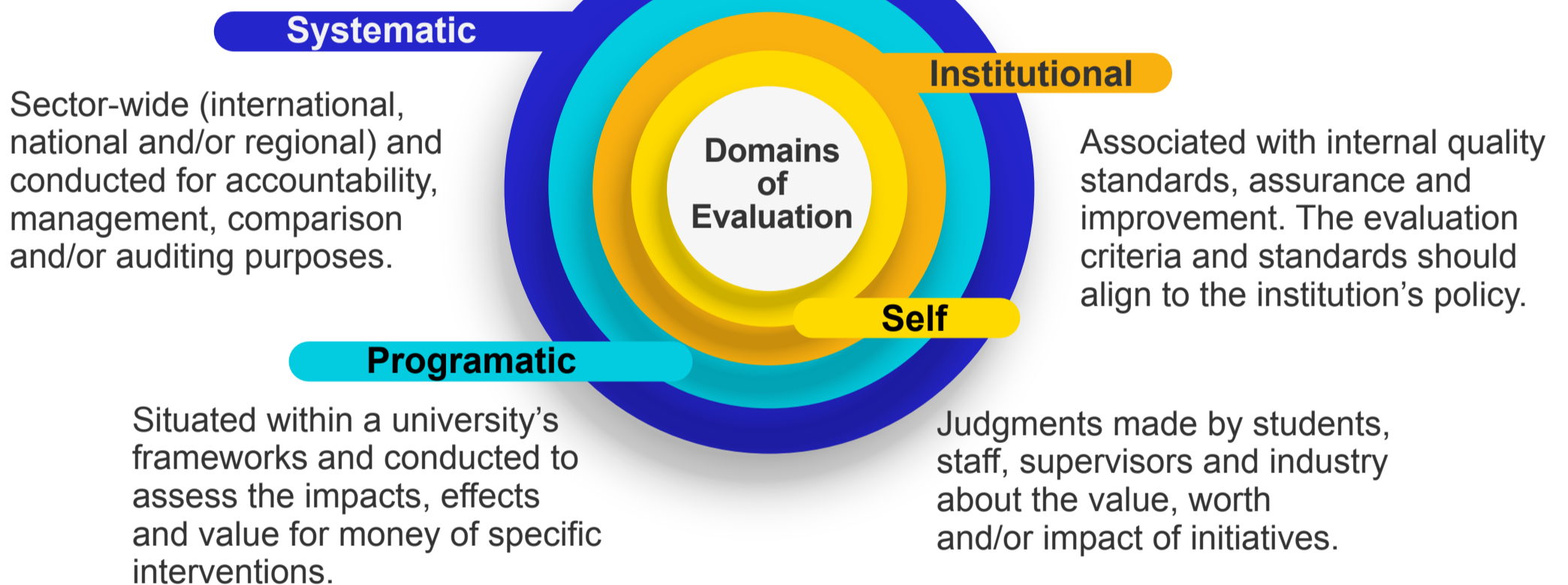
University Evaluation *toolkit*

Evaluation

"the generation of a credible and systematic determination of merit, worth, and/or significance of an object through the application of defensible criteria and standards to demonstrably relevant empirical facts" (Gullickson, 2020, p. 4).

Difference between evaluation and research

"**Evaluation** is distinct from research in its use of criteria and standards to form judgments, which are used for decision-making, development and/or accountability purposes" (Cook, 2021, p. 215).

University Evaluation

Domains of Evaluation

Systematic

Sector-wide (international, national and/or regional) and conducted for accountability, management, comparison and/or auditing purposes.

Institutional

Associated with internal quality standards, assurance and improvement. The evaluation criteria and standards should align to the institution's policy.

Programatic

Situated within a university's frameworks and conducted to assess the impacts, effects and value for money of specific interventions.

Self

Judgments made by students, staff, supervisors and industry about the value, worth and/or impact of initiatives.

RUFDATAE Evaluation planning framework (building on the work of Saunders, 2000)

Prompts reflection and decision-making for evaluation planning at any level (i.e., systemic, programmatic, institutional and/or self). It has no rules or limitations and can be used as a checklist or planning tool.

R What are the **Reasons** and purposes for the evaluation?
U How will the university **Use** the evaluation?
F What are the evaluation **Foci**?
D What **Data** and evidence should be collected and analysed?
A Who is the **Audience**?
T When should evaluation **Take place** (or Timing)?
A Whose **Agency** will be required?
E What are the **Ethical** considerations?

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