

ICES Presentation – Thursday May 6th 17.15

The internationalisation of HEIs in Germany
Comparing International and German Students' Success Rates
with twenty years of data

Aim of the research:

To compare the international and German students' success rates in Germany's HEIs.

Hypothesis:

German students have better success rates than international students.

Research Question:

Do German students produce better success rates in Germany's HEIs than international students in the following fields of study: mechanical engineering; electrical engineering and economics?

The purpose statement:

The aim of the research is to measure and compare the success rates of international and German students in Germany's HEIs. By using the official statistics the research aims to address the transition from diplom to bachelor in three of Germany's most populated fields of study.

Research design:

Quantitative analysis of secondary data. Using the official student (66 million cases) and examination statistics (5,8 million examinations) to carry out a cross-cohort analysis in three of the most populated fields of study in Germany's HEIs. The cross-cohort analysis is of bachelor and diplom students from 1995 – 2015. A synthetic variable was created to combine bachelor and diplom, whereby the common point was the finishing point of the degrees.

The Results:

The results of the cross-cohort analysis showed that the international students' success rates are better than the success rates of German students in mechanical engineering when using the synthetic variable. For electrical engineering the results are variable, but the overall results shows that the international students are marginally better than the German students in the sample HEIs. For economics, as a field of study, the results showed that the German students produced better success rates than the international students' success rates.

Additional Results:

As a by-product of the analysis, the results of the Bildungsinländer were produced. In all three fields of study this group produced the worst success rates, not just at one point in time, but consistently throughout the analysis. However, a positive correlation between time and success rates could only be identified for this group.