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Author

LIN, Eric S. (CHIN, Shih-Yung)

Title

Can a doctoral degree be completed faster overseas than domestically? : evidence from Taiwanese doctorates / Eric S. Lin ; Shih-Yung Chiu

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Abstract

This paper investigates the role that studying overseas or domestically plays in Taiwanese students obtaining a doctoral degree and, in particular, whether doctorates can be completed faster overseas than domestically. This feature is quite different from the literature in the sense that previous studies focus mainly on students with different countries of origin earning their doctoral degrees in a host program/institution/country and could provide a professional reference for main source countries with a great number of students studying abroad. By taking advantage of a large data set compiled by the National Profiles of Human Resources in Science and Technology in Taiwan, we find that Taiwanese students studying in foreign schools (and who will come back to Taiwan) on average take 9.61 months (reflecting approximately a

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60,000 opportunity cost) less than those earning PhD degrees domestically after netting out other

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controls. Other factors such as males, starting a PhD when older, younger cohorts, holding a master's degree, school types matching, and studying in non-top