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Title

Do I need research skills in working life? : university students? motivation and difficulties in quantitative methods courses / Mari Murtonen ...

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Abstract

This study explored university students' views of whether they will need research skills in their future work in relation to their approaches to learning, situational orientations on a learning situation of quantitative methods, and difficulties experienced in quantitative research courses. Education and psychology students in both Finland (N = 46) and the USA (N = 122), who thought that they would need research skills in their future work, differed significantly from the students who were not sure whether they would need these skills. The students, who considered research skills important for their future work, were more task-oriented, used a deeper approach to learning and experienced fewer difficulties in the learning of research skills than other students. This finding implies that experiences in learning, learning approaches and situational orientations are related to expectations about future work. For instruction, this means that if we were somehow able to change students' experiences and orientations towards research into a more positive direction, students might be better prepared for their future work. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Murtonen, Mari, E-Mail: mari.murtonen@utu.fi