

24.8.2025

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Title

Learning environment : relevant or not to students' decision to leave university? / Elisabeth Hovdhaugen and Per Olaf Aamondt

Publication year

2009

Source/Footnote

In: Quality in higher education. - 15 (2009) 2, S. 177 - 189

Inventory number

26556

Keywords

Ausland : Norwegen : Studium, Studenten, Lehre ; Studentenschaft : Studienverhalten ; Studiendauer, Studienerfolg : allgemein

Abstract

This paper presents an analysis of the reasons why students in Norway leave higher education institutions before degree completion and the extent to which these reasons are of the type that can be influenced by the university. As occurs in many countries, a proportion of students starting an undergraduate liberal arts degree in Norway leave their university without completing their degree. The institutions' capacity to influence this decision is limited. The most common reasons for students either transferring or dropping out are beyond the university's control. However, for both types of leavers, the learning environment seems to have been somewhat influential in the decision to leave. Therefore, improving the learning environment through closer contact between students and teachers will probably also enhance retention. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)