

13.9.2025

Author

NETZ, Nicolai

Title

What deters students from studying abroad? : evidence from four European countries and its implications for higher education policy / Nicolai Netz

Publication year

2015

Source/Footnote

In: Higher education policy. - 28 (2015) 2, S. 151 - 174

Inventory number

38142

Keywords

Mobilität ; Austausch von Wissenschaftlern und Studenten ; Ausland : Niederlande : Studium, Studenten, Lehre ; Ausland : Österreich : Studium, Studenten, Lehre ; Ausland : Schweiz : Studenten, Studium, Lehre

Abstract

This study examines factors that deter students in Austria, Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands from studying abroad. Using an adaptation of the Rubicon model of action phases, the path to gaining study abroad experience is conceptualised as a process involving two thresholds: the decision threshold and the realisation threshold. Theoretical predictions drawn from rational choice, migration and reproduction theories are integrated into this framework. On the basis of nationally representative and internationally comparable student survey data, logistic regressions are calculated for the two thresholds. Five implications for higher education policy are derived: First, the fact that there are various obstacles to studying abroad means that some students may face multiple disadvantages and might therefore need additional support. Second, mobility schemes might have to reflect better that obstacles at the decision threshold differ from obstacles at the realisation threshold. Third, the

13.9.2025

self-perpetuating nature of mobility makes the moments of political intervention crucial. Fourth, the similarity of obstacles between countries suggests certain supranational initiatives. Finally, the achievability of the European mobility targets could be discussed, as increasing mobility and creating equitable access to it might be conflicting goals. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)