

16.12.2025

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Title

Why are ethnic minority applicants less likely to be accepted in higher education? / Derek Leslie ; Andrew Abbott ; David Blackaby

Publication year

2002

Source/Footnote

In: Higher education quarterly. - 56 (2002) 1, S. 65 - 91

Inventory number

15168

Keywords

Ausland : Großbritannien : Auslandsbeziehungen ; Ausland : Großbritannien : Studium, Studenten, Lehre ; Ausländer

Abstract

The government is committed to widening access to higher education, yet applicants from ethnic minorities have 5.8 per cent less chance of gaining an acceptance than white. For some groups, for example Black-Caribbeans, the difference is even larger. Is this the result of institutional racism or because ethnic minorities have weaker qualifications than whites? The paper explores UCAS statistics from 1996?2000, which give around 1.38 million usable observations. Qualifications are the main determinant of success; but ethnicity has an additional positive effect. The paper investigates the reasons for this. Finally, it explores whether ethnic minorities are disproportionately concentrated in lower quality institutions. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)