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**Abstract**

This study investigates the extent to which ethnic-specific differences occur in higher education and the underlying factors behind them. The research sample was made up of about 7,000 students at universities in the Netherlands. The authors established that ethnic-specific differences in achievement do indeed exist, even after background variables such as sex have been corrected. Structural modeling shows that prior education, financial (income) factors, and effort have a significant impact on study success. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)