

23.12.2024

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**Title**

Student success in university education : a multi-measurement study of the impact of student and faculty Factors on study progress / M. N. van den Berg ; W. H. A. Hofman

**Publication year**

2005

**Source/Footnote**

In: Higher education. - 50 (2005) 3, S. 413 - 446

**Inventory number**

19759

**Keywords**

Ausland : Niederlande : Studium, Studenten, Lehre ; Studentenschaft : Studienverhalten ;  
Studentenschaft : allgemein

**Abstract**

A sample of public universities and private colleges are compared in terms of their enrolments, costs, facilities and quality of provision. The purpose is to illuminate an important policy issue for Malaysia and to contribute to the general debate on the role of the private sector in the provision of higher education. The general findings are that public universities appear to be more efficient in satisfying public demand in terms of quality of provision. (HRK / Abstract übernommen), Wilkinson, Roy, E-Mail: r.wilkinson@sheffield.ac.uk This study focuses on the factors that determine study progress and numerical success rate in higher education. Study progress is influenced at three levels, namely the student level, course/institute level and government level. It is expected that various groups of economic, social, psychological and organisational factors will together influence the study progress. This study uses a multi-level and multi-disciplinary framework, in so far as it considers all of these factors at the different levels. The database contains about 9,000 students and 60 courses at the

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institutional level. The results show the relative importance of student level and institutional factors on study progress. (HRK / Abstract übernommen), Hofman, W. H. A., hofman@risbo.eur.nl