

Michael Grüttner, Stefanie Schröder & Jana Berg

DZHW

gruettner@dzhw.eu, st.schroeder@dzhw.eu, berg@dzhw.eu

## **Intention to drop-out of study preparation and subjective probability of success of international students with and without refugee background**

We will present research on student success of international students with a background of forced migration as well as their fellow international students that take part in preparatory courses at German higher education institutions and “Studienkollegs” (preparatory colleges). Our study is the first to investigate the success of study preparation for prospective refugee students in Germany and in comparison with other international students.

We seek to go beyond established models of student attrition and student success by integrating specific aspects to develop a more target group oriented perspective. Among these aspects are biographical disruptions as well as biographical resources, the subjective security of residence, as well as different modes of integration and belonging. We further investigate classical factors like social and academic integration, motivation and the level of course composition. Our dependent variables are the intention to drop-out on a five point scale as well as the subjective probability to succeed in the final exam of the preparatory courses (the so-called “Feststellungsprüfung” or German language test C1) on a seven point scale.

We present data from seminar room paper and pencil interviews at “Studienkollegs” and higher education institutions in Germany. We collect the data within the DZHW project “Wege von Geflüchteten an deutsche Hochschulen – WeGe” (“Refugees' pathways to German higher education institutions”). Our presentation will be based on the first wave of a panel study to investigate the transitions from preparatory courses to regular university studies. We will describe drop-out intentions and subjective probabilities to succeed in different groups of international students, respective those with and without a background of forced migration. We model drop-out intentions and subjective probabilities to succeed within a structural equation model framework.

The collection of data will be finished in winter semester 2018/2019 and exclusive results will be presented at the fdz.DZHW User Conference.

**Keywords:** international students, refugee background, student attrition, study preparation, student success