

Student mobility and students' assessment of preparation for the labour market in Luxembourg



Irina Gewinner



Overview

□ FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, HUMANITIES, ARTS AND EDUCATION



1. Introduction
2. Data and Methods
3. Preliminary findings
4. Conclusion

- Education is not only a mechanism of marketing and generating income for higher education institutions, but also an investment in future leaders and country interests
- Students are a valuable human capital resource => preparing and retaining professionals in national labour markets is one of the higher education priorities
- Luxembourg has a clearly internationalised tertiary system and the student body is very diverse, with increasing numbers of international students with each subsequent degree (Harmsen & Powell 2018, Kmiotek-Meier et al. 2020, Gewinner et al. 2021)

=> where do students see their future employment? How do they get prepared to it?

Higher education in Luxembourg

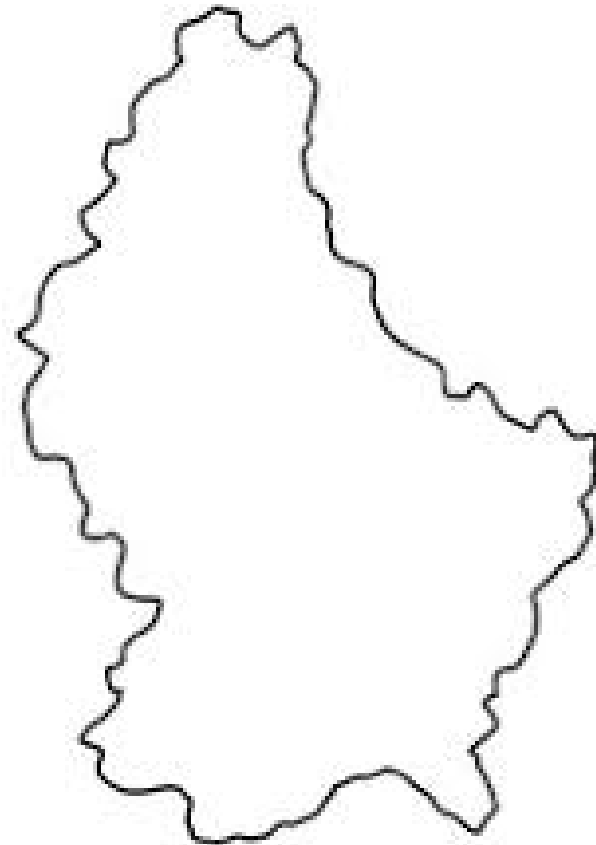
□ FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, HUMANITIES, ARTS AND EDUCATION



- One public research university (UniLu, founded 2003)
- Few smaller, specialised HE providers
- Short cycle post-secondary degrees (BTS, mostly in secondary schools)

- 8% international students at BTS
- 59,4% at Master level
- 76% at PhD level

- 2018/2019: ~ 7.000 students in public HE



What do we know?

□ FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, HUMANITIES, ARTS AND EDUCATION



- Better situated students opt for short stays abroad during their studies (Hauschildt et al. 2018), while disadvantaged students are more likely to opt for working while studying (Sarcletti 2015)
- Working while studying extends students' time budget, but reduces time for studies & personal study time (EUROSTUDENT intelligence brief 4/2019)
- Research mostly focused on other countries => lack of knowledge on Luxembourg
 - patterns of preparation to the labour market might look differently due to the national context

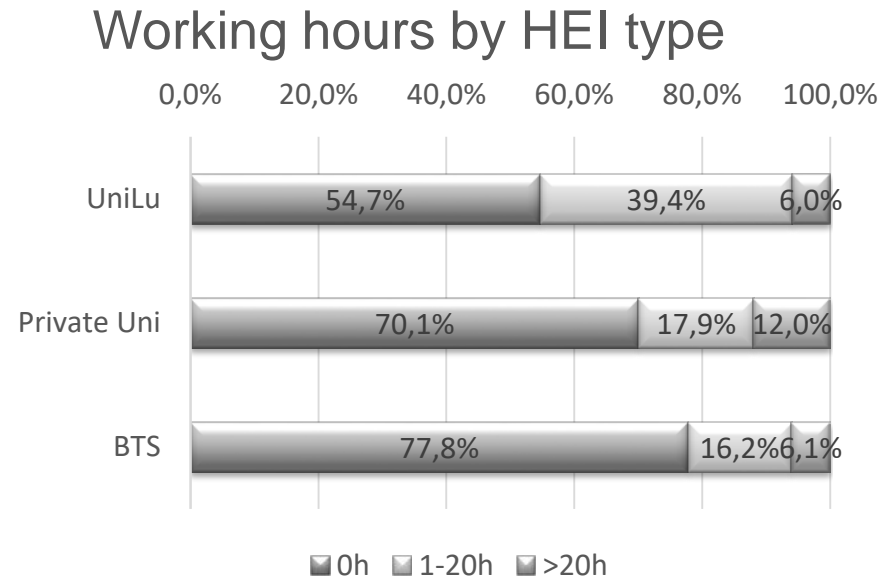
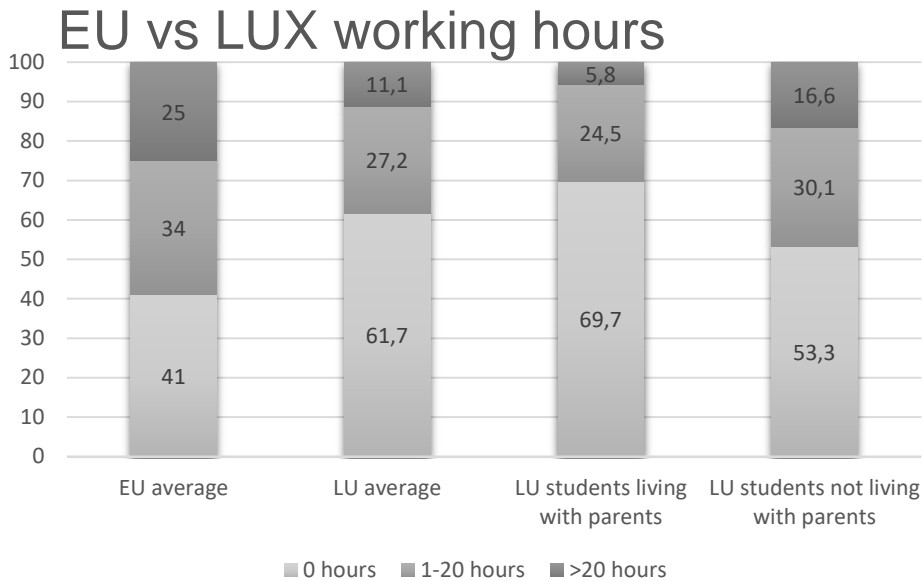
- Online survey of Luxembourgish higher education students in
 - Short cycle programs (BTS)
 - Bachelor
 - Master
 - PhD programs

- Online recruitment via email in May 2019 + incentives

- Sample of 871 cases

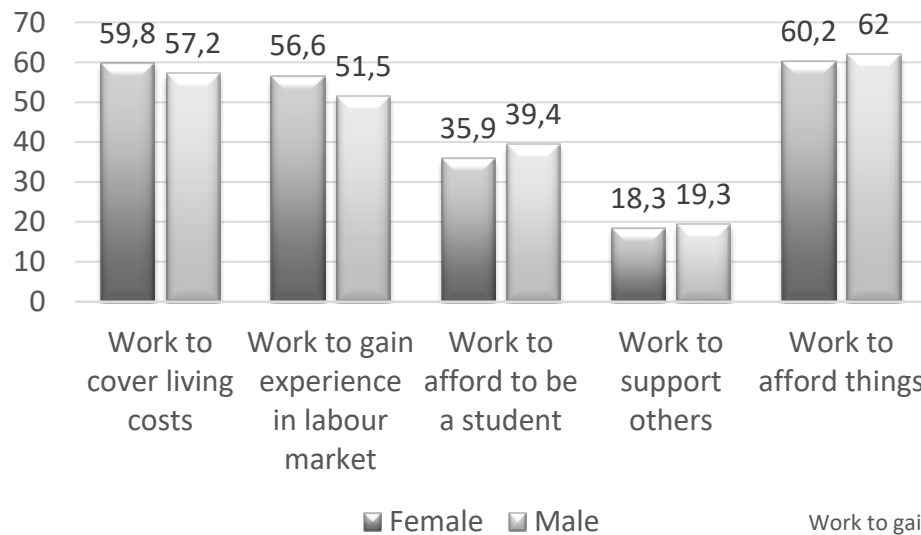
Working hours during a typical term

FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, HUMANITIES, ARTS AND EDUCATION

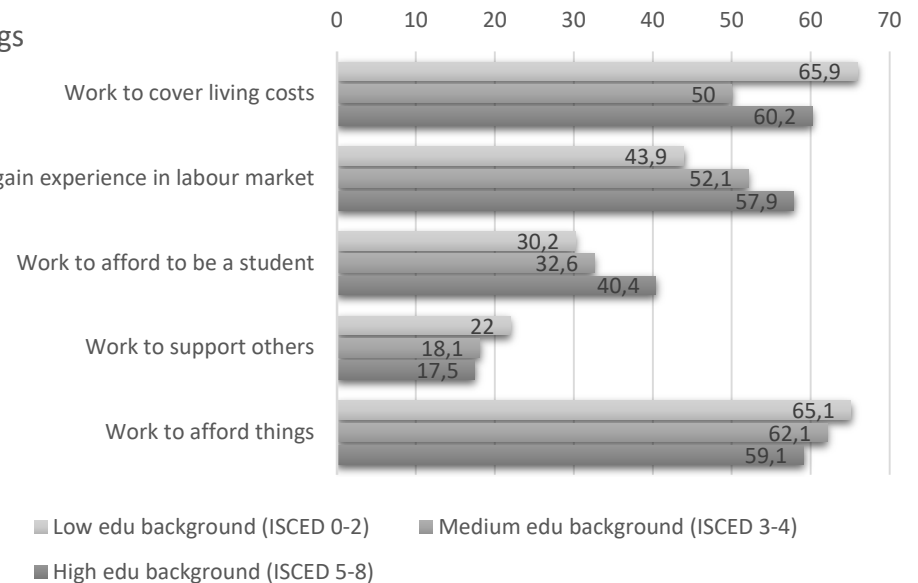


Reasons for working while studying

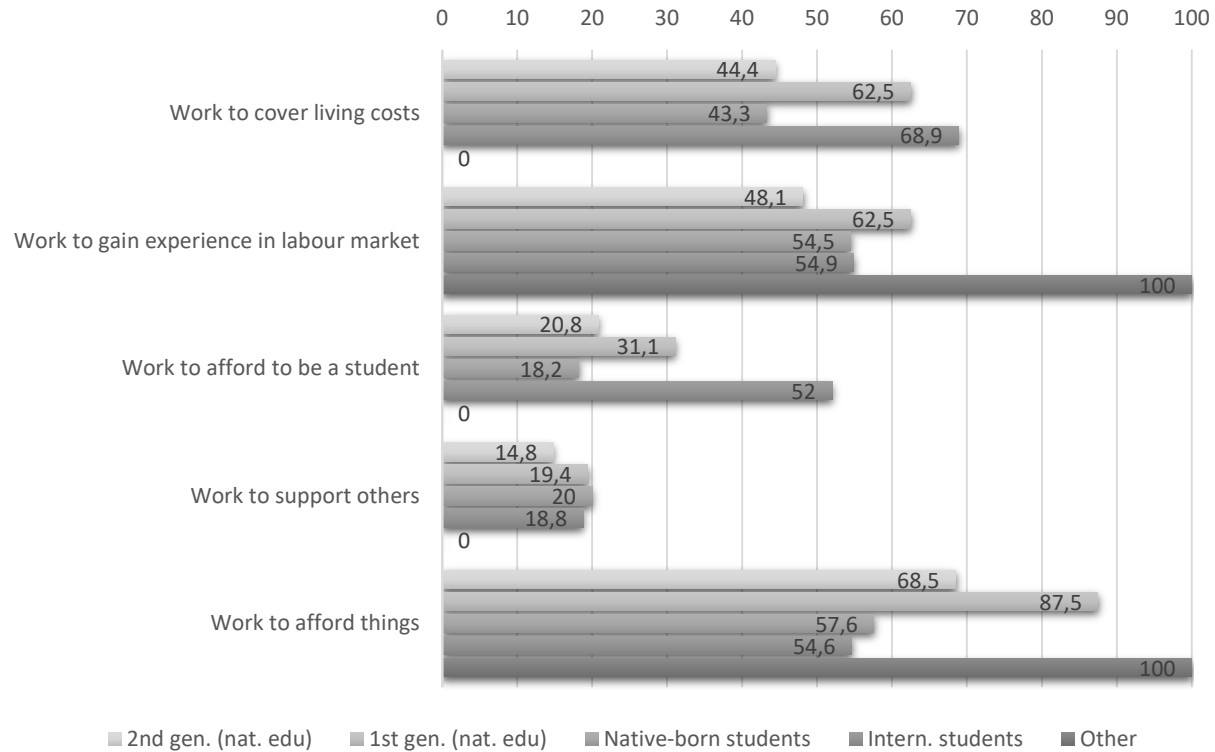
Reasons to combine studies with work



Reasons by educ. background

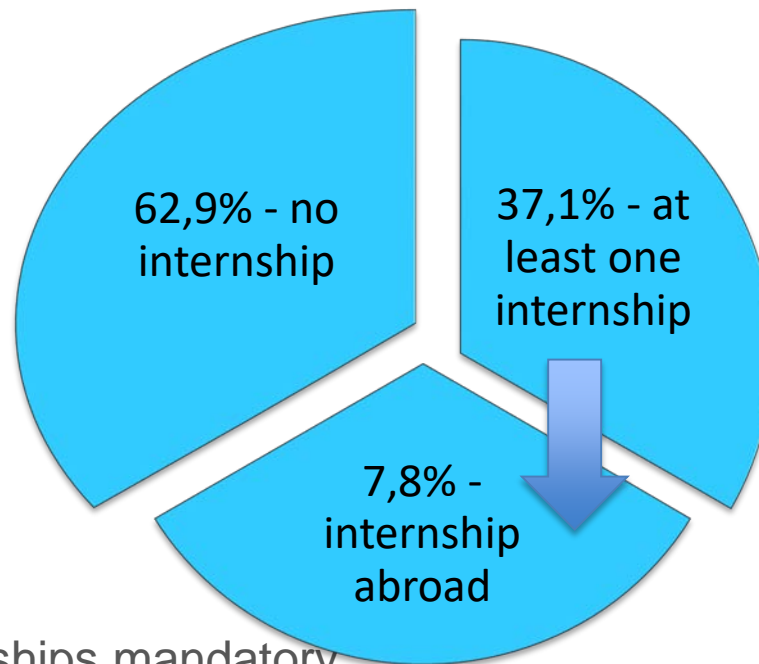


Reasons for work by migration background



Internships in Luxembourg & abroad

□ FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, HUMANITIES, ARTS AND EDUCATION

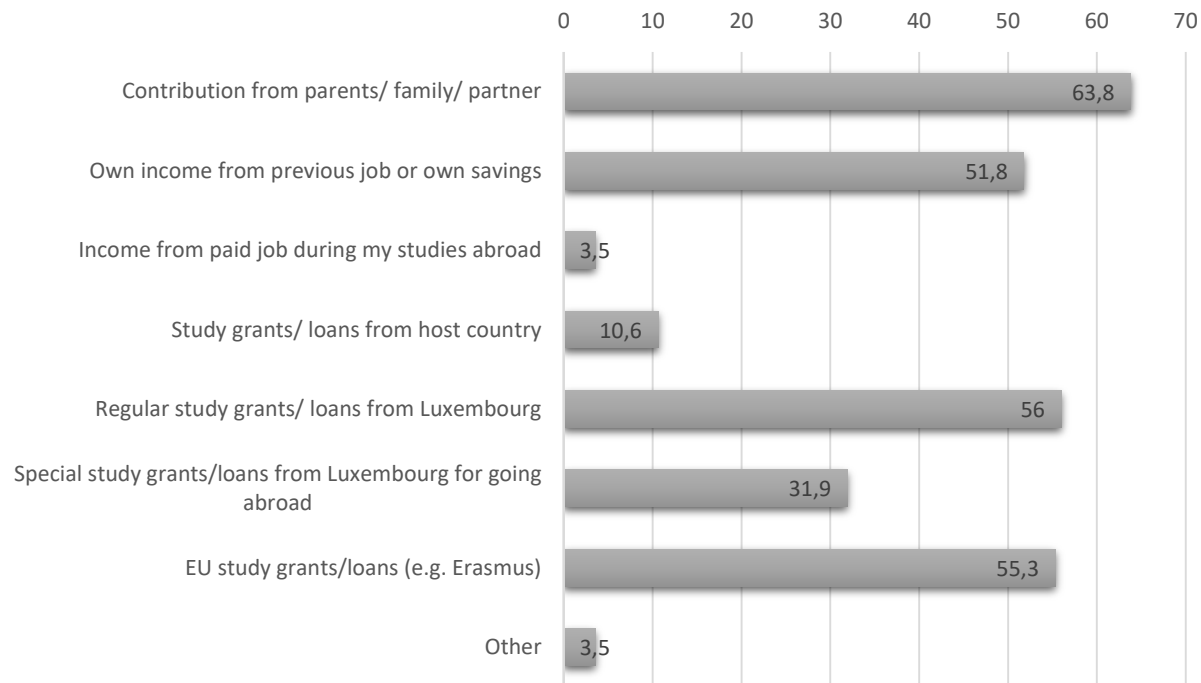


- 71,4% of internships mandatory
- 59,1% of internships not rewarded
 - 44,3% ♂ received payment, 38,5% ♀ were rewarded
- 7,8% => internship abroad, no gender differences
- 77,3% ♀ and 66,7% ♂ organised internship independently

Temporary study related stays abroad & funding

□ FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, HUMANITIES, ARTS AND EDUCATION

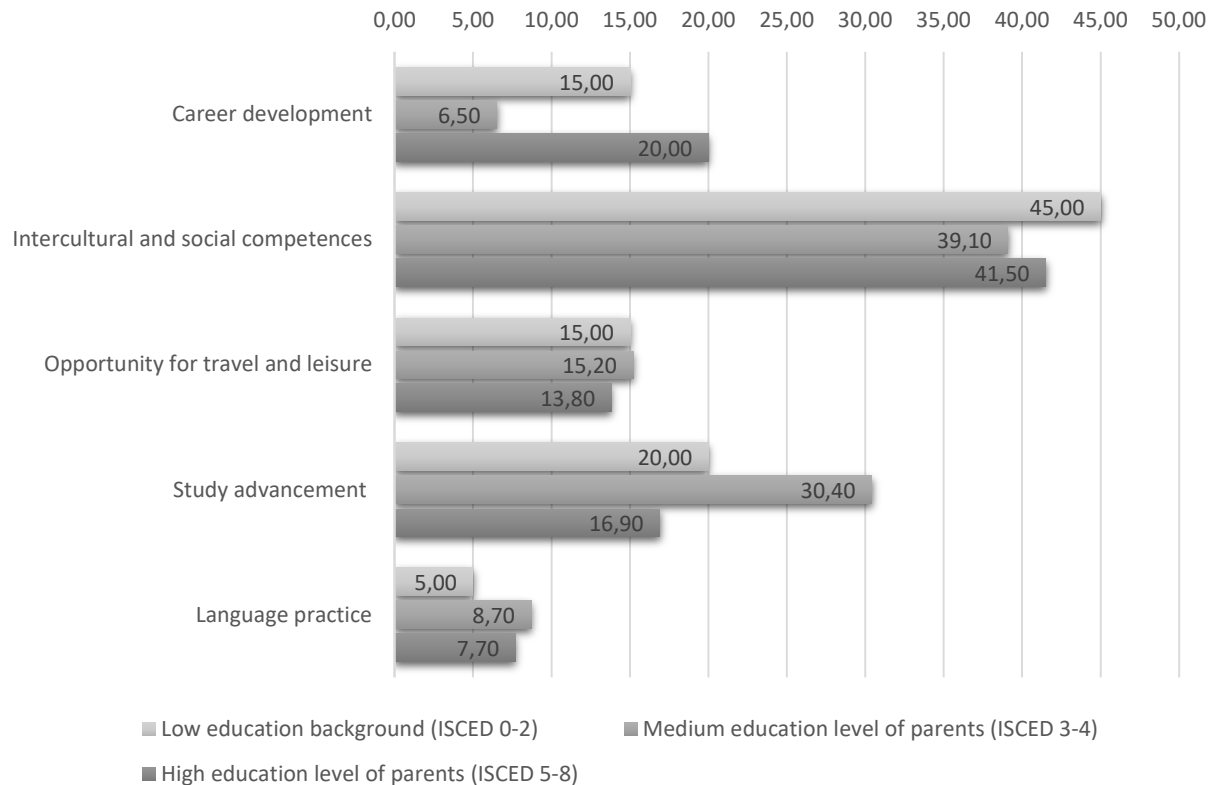
- 16% – temporary study periods abroad
 - 73,8% via Erasmus program (no gender differences)
 - 10,6% organised a temporary study period independently (♂ 3 times more than ♀)
 - 88,6% of students at undergraduate level



Temporary study related stays abroad & educational background

□ FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, HUMANITIES, ARTS AND EDUCATION

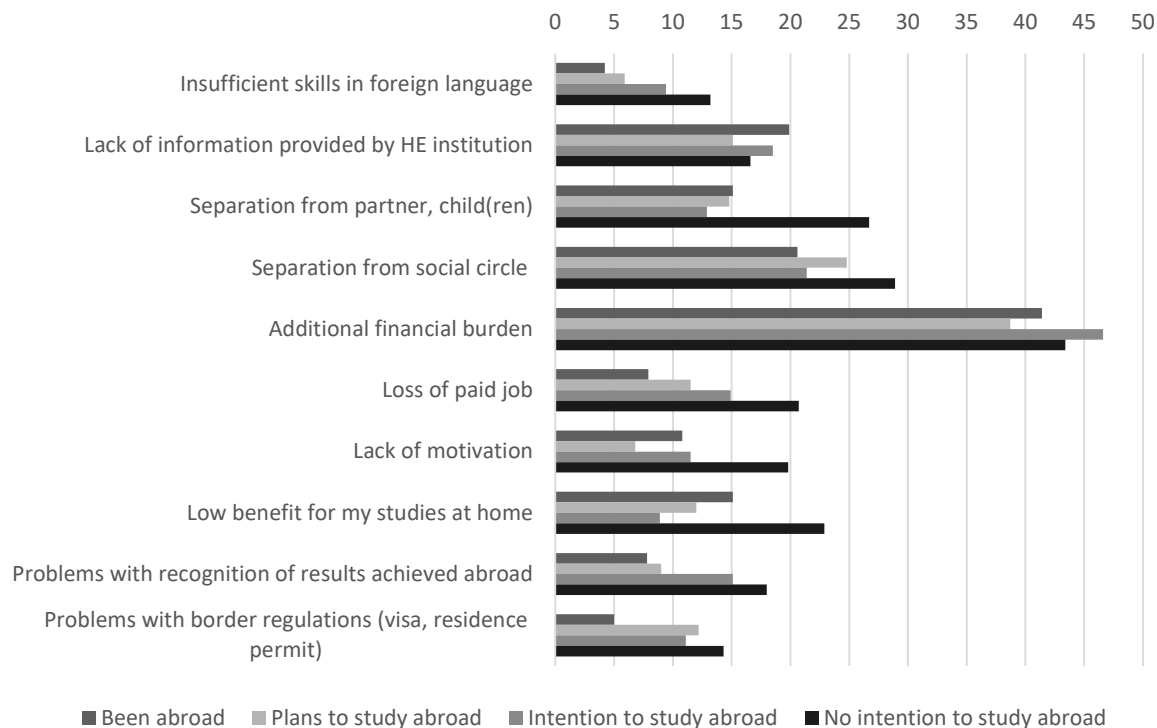
- Lower ed. background: study advancement & soft skills
- High ed. background: career development



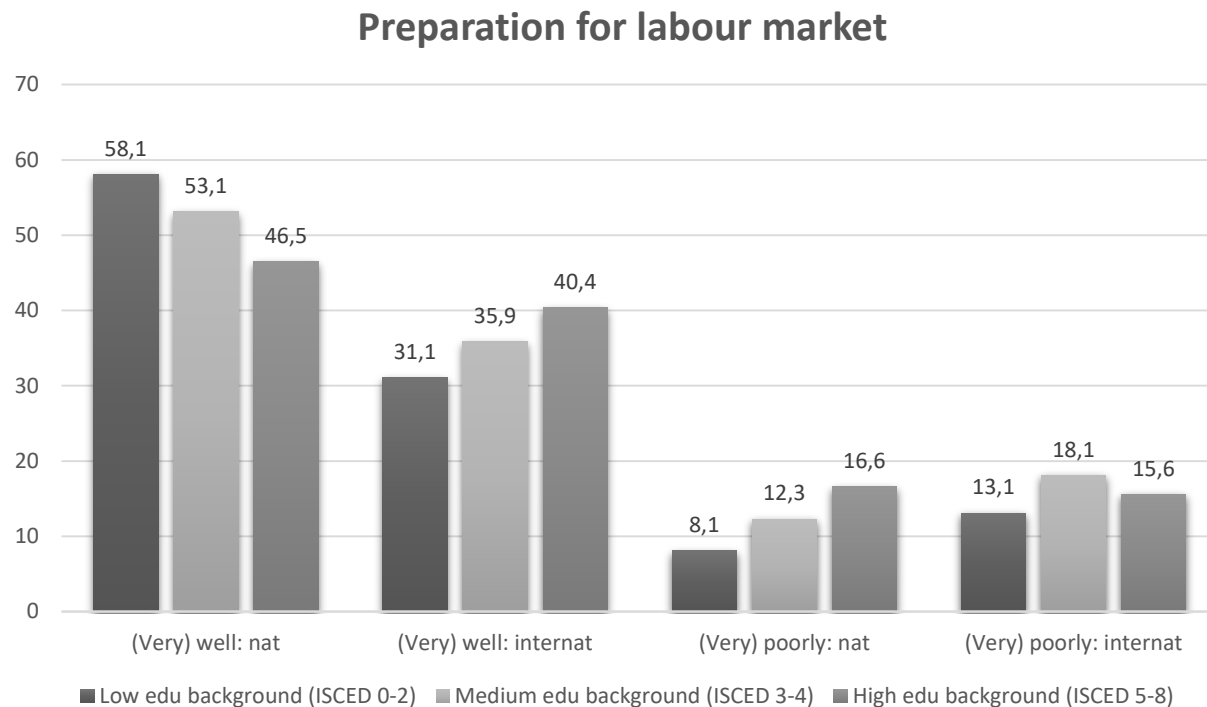
Obstacles for not studying abroad

□ FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, HUMANITIES, ARTS AND EDUCATION

- Financial burden
- Separation from the family and friends
- Lack of social contacts at the host institution
- Differences in perception of temporary stay abroad by those who did and those who do not intend



- Differences in potential orientation towards (inter)national labour market
 - High edu background vs low



- Luxembourgish students deviate from the EU average in terms of working while studying patterns
 - Mostly do not work, especially when living with parents

- Students with different edu backgrounds differ in their motives pertinent to internships and temporary study related stays abroad
 - Differences between students with low and high educational backgrounds
 - Differences between students with 1st and 2nd generation migration background

- Internships & temporary stays abroad mostly at Bachelor level
 - Funding by parents and Luxembourgish grants
 - At host institutions, men are supported by grants more than women

- Potential differences in labour market orientation

Implications and future research

□ FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, HUMANITIES, ARTS AND EDUCATION



- Valuable information that can be utilised in creating support schemes and offers that fit students' needs
- Support for disadvantaged students
- Comparative analysis with other EUROSTUDENT countries

Thank you! 😊

irina.gewinner@uni.lu

Stay connected with us!

