

Graduate Surveys as Measures in University Rankings

Gero Federkeil
CHE – Centre for Higher Education Development

www.che.de

IMHE 2008 General Conference,
Outcomes of higher education,
Paris, 8 -10 September 2008

Presentation

- I. The CHE – Centre for Higher Education Development
- II. The CHE ranking
- III. Graduate surveys in Germany
- IV. CHE graduate studies
- V. Conclusions

I. CHE – Center of Higher Education Development

- private, not-profit organisation
- founded in 1994 by Bertelsmann Foundation and German Rectors Conference
- purpose: promotion of reforms in German higher education
- Ranking of German universities among founding tasks of CHE
- activities:
 - HE policy issues
 - consulting
 - ranking, since 1998
- staff: ~ 30 people
- more information: www.che.de

II. The CHE ranking



- First ranking published in 1998
- Published in co-operation with media partner:
since 2005 weekly newspaper „Die Zeit“
 - responsibility for concept & data exclusively at CHE
 - „Zeit“: publication / distribution
- High international reputation
(studies by Usher & Savino, Tavenas, OECD)
- Since 2004 Internationalisation of the ranking
 - Austria, Switzerland
 - Netherlands & single institutions

II. THE CHE approach – an alternative



No ranking of whole universities

Ranking of single fields / programmes

No overall score from weighted indicators

Multidimensional ranking

No individual ranks in league tables

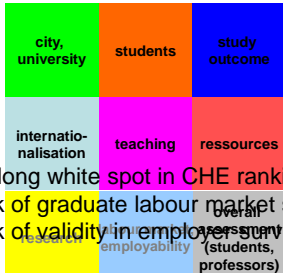
Rank groups
top intermediate
bottom

II. The CHE ranking: Data sources



- Survey among universities / departments
- Student survey
- Professor survey
- Graduate Survey
- Bibliometric analysis
- Patent analysis
- Official higher education statistics

II. The CHE-Ranking: Indicators



- For long white spot in CHE ranking
 - Lack of graduate labour market statistics
 - Lack of validity in employer surveys
- Inclusion of labour market perspective by graduate surveys

III. Graduate studies in Germany



- Existing studies
 - either do not disaggregate for individual institutions but only for fields/subjects (his)
 - or are single case (institutions) studies (INCHER Kassel)
- Problems
 - lack of alumni tradition in German universities
 - lack of (up-dated) addresses of graduates
 - difficulty to get access to field

III. Graduate studies in Germany



- But: there is a growing interest in graduate studies
 - recommendation by German Science Council
 - demand by programme accreditation
 - growing importance of employability issues

IV. Results: findings for fields



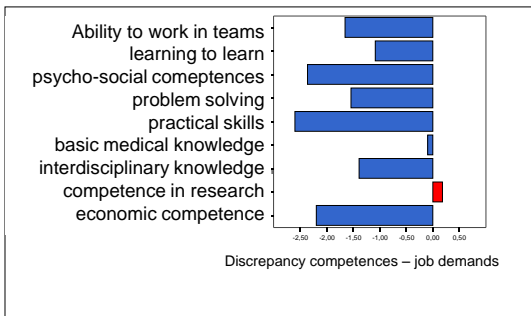
Example medicine: evaluation of competences by field of work (practitioners, research)

Background: German medical education is *uniform* education both to become a medical doctor and for medical research careers

IV. Results: findings for fields



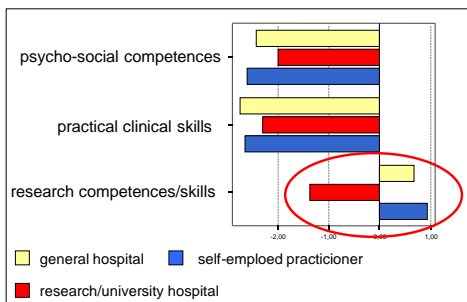
General evaluation of competences by graduates



IV. Results: findings for fields



... and by field of employment



V. Conclusions



- Graduate surveys can enrich the information given by rankings
- Subjective evaluation of programmes and competences based on work experience of graduates
- Insight into fields and into profiles (strengths/weaknesses) of institutions
- Problem (Germany) : access to graduates / participation

V. Perspectives



- Extension to other fields (currently mathematics, IT, physics, chemistry, biology)
- Co-operation with other institutions to avoid multiple surveys (as graduates are a „scarce“ resource)
- Development of methods to control for regional labour market effects /effects of regional economic structure
