

Abstract

Sharing research across Switzerland: Higher Education and Science

Workshop REHES

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Baccalaureate School, Specialised School and Vocational Education and Training as pathways to Universities for Teacher Education in Switzerland: On the relevance of the category of gender

In Switzerland, teacher education has undergone major changes in recent decades. It was raised to tertiary level and is now institutionalised at Universities of Teacher Education (UTE). Young people can enter UTE via three pathways at upper secondary level – baccalaureate school (BS), specialised school (SS) and vocational education and training (VET) – the latter two require additional achievement and certificates. Furthermore, the proportion of women in the teaching professions has risen steadily.

Previous research has focused exclusively on the access to teacher education via the BS. The aim of this paper is to examine the relevance of all three pathways and the category of gender – controlling for social origin and migration background – for entry into UTE. What is the relevance of gender and of the core subject / occupational field within the respective path, what further educational qualifications do the students complete before entering UTE, and which study programs do they choose?

Theoretically we refer to gender theories that link individual and institutional aspects for explaining gender segregated educational trajectories and choice of occupation. Descriptive and multivariate analyses are based on the LABB data from the Federal Statistical Office. We analyse educational trajectories of the cohort with a first upper secondary degree in 2012 over 54 months.

First results show that VET has the lowest transition rate, and the SS the highest. On all three pathways, women more often opt for a study at UTE than men. However, since men are overrepresented in VET, they are quantitatively more present within this access route than in the other two. Contrary to BS, where the chosen core subject predispose entry into UTE for

both genders, the occupational field in VET has no relevance. In the pedagogical field of the SS, both genders very often choose the teaching profession.

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