

The implications of universal basic income for higher education in Austria.

Bachelor Thesis for Obtaining the Degree

Bachelor of Science in

International Management

Submitted to David Leonard, PhD

Sandro E. Mangold

61902530

Vienna, 09 June 2023

Abstract

Universal basic income (UBI) has emerged as a promising policy proposal to address the concerns of established welfare systems and growing income disparities. While the theoretical benefits seem to offer direly required solutions, further investigations into hitherto unexplored aspects of the subject must be accomplished to assess its potential for success. This research study examines the potential effects of UBI on the tertiary education sector and its implications on the career trajectory of young adults living in Austria between the ages of 18 and 27. By examining existing literature as well as conducting a mixed data collection in the form of a self-administered questionnaire, this research aims to provide policymakers with the necessary information about the impact of UBI on higher education.

From the 222 valid responses received, the results revealed that UBI does not have a significant influence on the quantity of higher education demanded, although the reduction of financial constraints notably influenced the preferred field of education. Furthermore, it was discovered that financial imperatives currently play a crucial role in the choice of work, as respondents chose a profession more aligned with their interests and likely less remunerated under UBI. Lastly, the study demonstrated a significant yet modest reduction in the average amount of time participants would invest in work under a universal basic income, with many aspiring for a four-day workweek.

Keywords: Universal basic income, higher education, career aspirations, Austria