

SKILLS FOR HERE OR TO TAKE AWAY?

Outcomes of the academic mobility in Europe

Expectations and outcome of study

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Research questions

- Do international researchers acquire new skills due to the experience of mobility?
- Which particular skills do international researchers acquire through mobility?
- What are the possible underlying mechanisms explaining this process of skills development?



Research approach

Mixed-methods research combining qualitative analysis of 20 interviews and quantitative analysis of 300 survey responses with international researchers.

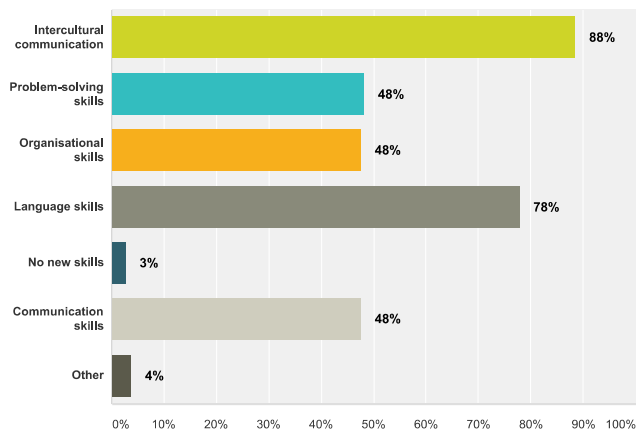


Description of sample

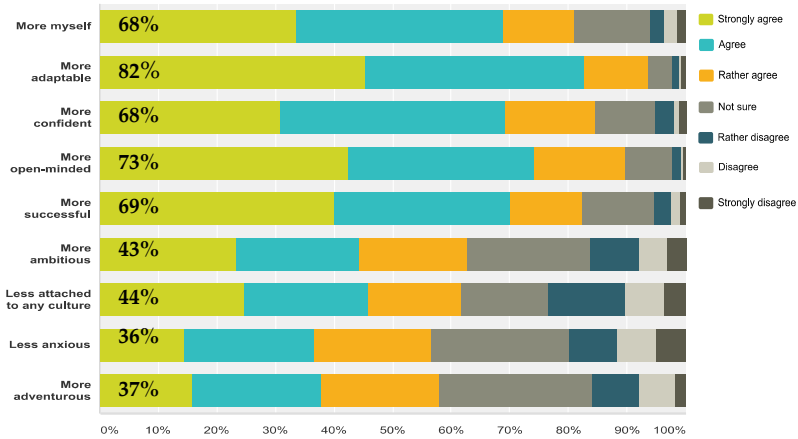
Sample of this research includes individuals, who:

- are PhD holders in social sciences,
- were awarded a doctoral degree from 1 to 10 years ago,
- have completed a PhD abroad within the EU,
- are citizens of a European country or hold a work permit for the EU labour market.

Survey results: Skills acquired through mobility



Survey results: Personality change



Summary of findings: Skills development

Communication skills

- Intercultural communication
- Language skills
- Networking skills

Problem-solving skills

- Organizational skills
- Adaptability
- Information search skills

Reflection skills

- Self-awareness
- Critical thinking

Interview with Laura

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As a student, it's a bit of a struggle to find a job. I've been looking for a while now, but I haven't found anything yet. I'm a bit of a perfectionist, so I want to make sure I have the best possible experience. I'm a bit of a perfectionist, so I want to make sure I have the best possible experience. I'm a bit of a perfectionist, so I want to make sure I have the best possible experience.

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Interview with Tim

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Explaining skills development

Intercultural communication

- Meeting many strangers
- Requiring more support of strangers

Problem-solving skills

- Knowing which problems should be expected
- Awareness of the own ability to solve these problems

Reflection skills

- Experiencing a broader range of different behavior
- Independence from the culture back home

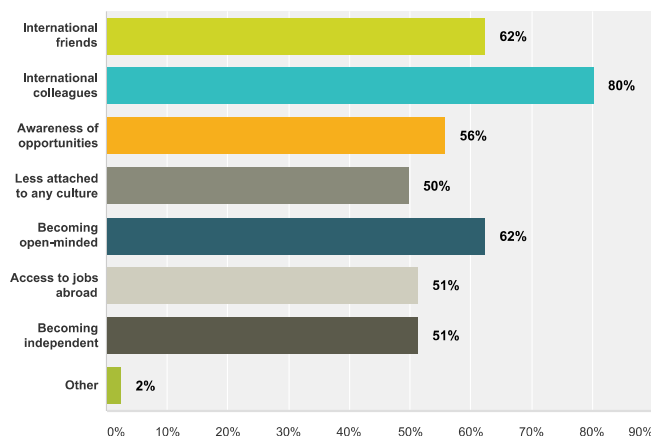
Interview with Tim



Conclusion remarks

- This research provides evidence that communication skills, problem-solving skills, and reflection skills can be acquired or developed through the experience of mobility.
- This research highlights the special role of the adjustment period in a foreign country for developing new skills because of intense communication with strangers, facing numerous problems spontaneously, and experiencing different cultures.
- Interview analysis demonstrates that the set of skills acquired through the experience of mobility can lead to the growing confidence of an individual.

Survey results: Benefits of mobility



Interview with Laura

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I believe that the advantage for me is the flexibility, which I have.

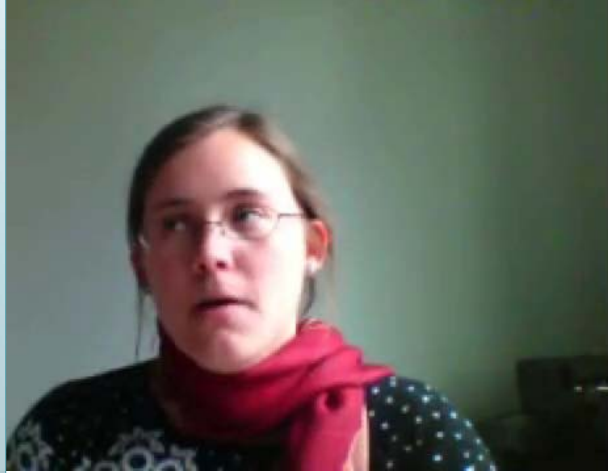
As I have seen people struggling because of wanting to stay in the same place.

Actually, it is good that I can just move when I want to.

I am not scared to pack my luggage and to say: "Goodbye, I am going now".

It is always another adventure to move somewhere else.

This makes the life exciting.



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Voices from the interviews

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I think working abroad and working with different people is an enriching experience. You learn and you grow up in a way. You learn different languages. With the language you learn different cultures.

Alice

It is hard to survive in a new country in a new situation. So, definitely survival skills are developing due to staying abroad.

Azra

This experience of mobility made me to become myself rather than to change myself. I think it would be really difficult for me to be who I feel that I've always been, if I have not had this experience.

Sarima

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