

Higher and lower-order personality traits as potential predictors of students' mobility

International student mobility programmes expand learning mobility, making an important contribution to the personal, educational and professional development of their participants. Thus, it is of crucial importance to understand not only how, why and to what degree the immersive experience is beneficial for learners' language and personal growth but also what influences students' decision to take part in the programme. Several studies (Greischel, Noack and Neyer, 2016; Niehoff, Petersdotter and Freund, 2017; Ożańska-Ponikwia and Carlet, 2021; Zimmermann and Neyer, 2013) have suggested that personality differences may be a relevant factor in understanding mobility patterns. Hence, the main aim of the present study is to investigate the relationship between psychological factors (emotional intelligence, personality) and self-selection processes in the mobility context. The participants of the study were 102 second-year students in the Humanities and Social Sciences department at the University of Bielsko-Biala. Quantitative data analysis revealed that more than 84% of the research sample had positive attitudes towards the Erasmus+ mobility programme. At the same time, only 40% declared considering taking part in such a programme. Further analyses showed that those informants who scored higher on such personality traits as Extraversion, Openness and trait Emotional Intelligence were the ones who considered taking part in the mobility programmes. Further statistical analyses (linear regression) showed that mentioned above traits were significant predictors of declaring to take part in the mobility programme which explained almost 54% of the variance ($F(3,98) = 40.225, p < .000$), with an R^2 of .538). Consequently, it could be concluded that among the participants of this study, more than 50% of factors related to the self-selection process in the study abroad context were linked to one's personality profile.

Keywords: personality, the Big-Five personality traits, emotional intelligence, Erasmus+ mobility programme, self-selection;

References:

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