

# Student Dropout in Economics Programmes: Scale, Determinants and Consequences

**Marcin Lipowski**

Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland  
marcin.lipowski@umcs.pl

**Mariusz Lisowski**

Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland  
mariusz.lisowski@mail.umcs.pl

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## Abstract

*The phenomenon of student dropout, understood as the premature discontinuation of studies, constitutes a significant challenge for the higher education system, including in the field of economics programmes. The aim of this article is to determine the scale of this phenomenon, assess the degree of variation across different fields of study, identify its key determinants, and analyse its consequences for both students and higher education institutions.*

*The study is based on statistical analyses of data related to education at the Faculty of Economics of Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, as well as qualitative research conducted among students. The results indicate a varied level of dropout among students of different programmes. The data also reveal, in some cases, a failure to commence studies or enrolment undertaken on a trial basis. Preliminary findings suggest that the most significant factors determining the decision to withdraw from studies include academic difficulties, insufficient motivation, a mismatch between the chosen field of study and students' expectations, as well as economic and personal circumstances.*

*The consequences of the dropout phenomenon are multidimensional and include a decrease in the efficiency of the educational process, financial losses incurred by higher education institutions, and reduced career prospects for individuals who do not complete their studies. However, it should be emphasised that in some cases, withdrawal from studies may constitute a rational decision leading to a change in educational or career pathways.*

*The findings of the analysis indicate the need to implement comprehensive preventive measures, including, in particular, academic support, the development of educational counselling systems, and the adaptation of study programmes to the needs of students and the requirements of the labour market.*

**Keywords:** student dropout, higher education, economics students, determinant of dropout