

Crossing borders of employability

Citation for published version (APA):

Kovačević, M. (2024). *Crossing borders of employability: the career preparedness of Dutch liberal arts graduates*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Maastricht University.
<https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20240411mk>

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2024

DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20240411mk](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20240411mk)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

[Link to publication](#)

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal.

If the publication is distributed under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license above, please follow below link for the End User Agreement:

www.umlib.nl/taverne-license

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at:

repository@maastrichtuniversity.nl

providing details and we will investigate your claim.

Propositions accompanying the dissertation

Crossing Borders of Employability: The Career Preparedness of Dutch Liberal Arts Graduates

by Milan Kovačević

1. “A jack of all trades is a master of none, but often times better than the master of one.” (Author Unknown)
2. “The student learning that makes for strong claims to employability comes from years, not semesters; through programmes, not modules; and in environments, not classes.” (Knight & Yorke, 2003)
3. An undergraduate curriculum that offers more breadth and flexibility does not represent an obstacle to further specialization. (This dissertation)
4. Dutch employers demonstrate limited familiarity with university colleges and tend to assign less significance to the bachelor’s degree when it is accompanied by a master’s degree in a relevant field. (This dissertation)
5. In the ongoing debate on optimal educational paradigms for the 21st century, liberal arts education should not be perceived as the sole and definitive solution, but rather as an alternative pathway leading to the same destination. (This dissertation)
6. Liberal arts programmes fulfil a valuable role in the education system and society by assisting individuals who are uncertain about their preferred field of study, preventing the financial costs, psychological strain, and time loss associated with dropping out due to wrong study choices. (This dissertation)
7. A well-rounded education that fosters a holistic understanding of the world can also serve as a stepping-stone to a fulfilling career, equipping students with the skills and knowledge required in the contemporary job market. (This dissertation)
8. A PISA-like testing for higher education needs to be introduced: universities should monitor their students’ progress in crucial and comparable skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, verbal and quantitative reasoning, information literacy, and creativity.
9. “The biggest mistake is to anticipate the outcome of the fight; you should not think about whether it ends in victory or defeat.” (Bruce Lee)
10. “Coming up with new questions—is the best way of taking care of the old.” (Witold Gombrowicz)
11. “*Forse altri canterà con miglior plettro.*” (Cervantes/Ariosto)