

Skills and the employability of university graduates

Citation for published version (APA):

Humburg, M. (2014). *Skills and the employability of university graduates*. ROA.
<https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20141002mh>

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2014

DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20141002mh](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20141002mh)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

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PROPOSITIONS
ACCOMPANYING THE DISSERTATION

SKILLS AND THE EMPLOYABILITY OF UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

BY
MARTIN HUMBURG

1. Knowledge work requires graduates to have the ability to direct their actions independently towards the organizational goal. (Chapter 2)
2. Recruiting university graduates is more a matter of avoiding lemons than picking cherries. (Chapter 3)
3. General academic skills cannot fully compensate for a lack of professional expertise. (Chapter 3)
4. As common stereotypes suggest, engineering students are introverted, whereas law students have a propensity to talk. (Chapter 4)
5. The labour market is so complex that it is impossible for upper-secondary school leavers to make a fully-informed choice about their professional future.
6. There is merit in extending discrete choice experiment (DCE) methods to a wider range of research questions in labour economics.
7. "Carefully applied to coherent causal questions, regression and 2SLS almost always make sense." (Angrist and Pischke)
8. Research on the transition from university education to work is not only relevant for higher education graduates, but also for identifying the conditions under which these graduates crowd out those with lower levels of education.
9. In labour economics, the attention researchers pay to dressing up for presentations is inversely related to the impact factor of their publications.