

Crossing borders of employability

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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)