

Refugees impact on Bologna reform – Recognition of Prior Learning and inclusion in the light of increased migration, 12-13<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Recognition of Prior Learning in practice –Test for Academic Studies (TestAS), a test for access to Higher Education in Germany



Hanna Reuther, Dipl.-Psych., MBA, International Office Director International Student Advisory Services, International Office

## Agenda



- Part I: Background Information:
   How Germans HEI and the government dealt with the flow of refugees
- Part II: TestAS
   TestAS and it's functions for international applicants and refugees in Germany
- Excursus:
   Anlayses of predictability of study success on basis of foreign grades at Goethe-University Frankfurt
- Lessons learned

#### How Germans HEI and the government dealt with the flow of refugees in 2015



#### Start of student initiatives, e.g.

- Law Clinique, University of Gießen
- Academic experience worldwide (Goethe-University Frankfurt, since 12/2013: Tandem program, seminar)

Start of first official services for refugees in 2014 by a few universities (e.g. University of Bremen), joined by a few more in Wintersemester 2015/16 (e.g. Goethe-University Frankfurt):

e.g. Openig guest auditor programs (without charge), waiving fees for German language courses (mainly without additional staff/financial resources)

Start of first foundations and states to financially support initiatives for refugees at HEIs, e.g.

- Sachsen-Anhalt: 4.5 Mio. Euro for 3 HEIs for 3 years (summer 2015)
- Hessen: 2 Mio. Euro for 12 HEIs for 1 year (Dezember 2015)

Helpful legislation: e.g. KMK-Resolution Missing Documents (12/2015), better access to work, lang.courses

Helpful tools: website HE for refugees, uni-assist (checking documents without costs), TestAs, OnSet etc.

Announcement funding programs by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) INTEGRA and WELCOME (Nov./Dez. 2015, deadline end of Feb. 2016) > Decisions in April 2016

#### **DAAD INTEGRA:**

- ✓ 172 projects (135 HEIs, 37 Studienkollegs)
- ✓ 54% Lang. courses, 11% specialised courses (STK), 31% mixed courses, 4% subject-specific courses

#### **DAAD WELCOME:**

- ✓ 162 projects (68 Universities of Applied Sciences, 63 Universities, 4 other)
- √ 449 funded student initiatives, 731 funded students

#### Helpful tools, accesses, information for HEIs in Germany



Information for refugees: studying in Germany (DAAD/ BMBF)

www.study-in.de/refugees

Fall 2015



- 1. Find programmme and university
- 2. Meet the requirements
- 3. Finance your studies
- 4. Apply for your programme (incl. recognition procedures)



www.uni-assist.de

Spring 2016

- Validation of foreign school/university certificates without charge by the University Application Service for intern. Students) for registered refugees if
- ► having passed the <u>TestAS test</u> (aptitude test) or
- ▶ submit a certificate of consultation from a uni-assist member HEI
- **2. Admission Tool** for some HEIs for preparatory programs for refugees

Favoured faculties:

- 1. Medicine/pharmacy 2. Informatics 3. Engineering
- 4. Economics 5. natural sciences
- 1. One option to examine one's certificates via uni-assist without charge
- 2. selection criteria for some HEIs for preparatory programs
- 3. One optional tool for HEIs when documents are missing

Core test + modules: 1. Mathematics, Computer & Natural Sciences (39%)

2.Engineering (28%) 3. Humanities & Social Sciences (19%) 4.Economics (14%)

Test for Academic
Studies (German,
English, Arabic)

www.testas.de https://refugees.testas.de

Arabic: since Spring 2016

OnSET for Refugees

Spring 2016

www.refugees.onset.de https://refugees.onset.de



#### **Online Language Placement Test (A2-C1)**

- **German & English**; needed: a computer + internet
- PDF document confirming one's test result

Bearbeiten Ansicht Favoriten Extras ?













Welcome to uni-assist, the University Application Service for International Students



#### APPLYING

Bachelor programme Master programme Application documents Certification Applying again



#### **GOOD TO KNOW**

Preparing your studies Certain countries Special diplomas Downloads FAQ News



#### ONLINE PORTAL

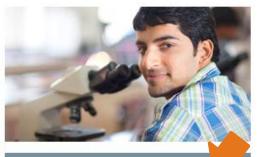
FAQ online application Special procedures VPD procedure DoSV procedure Applying in 5 steps Preliminary review





#### COSTS AND PAYMENT

**Handling Costs Payment Options** Bank Details Cost Coverage Refunds





#### UNIVERSITIES

Universities Universities (Master) Deadlines

Portal for universities



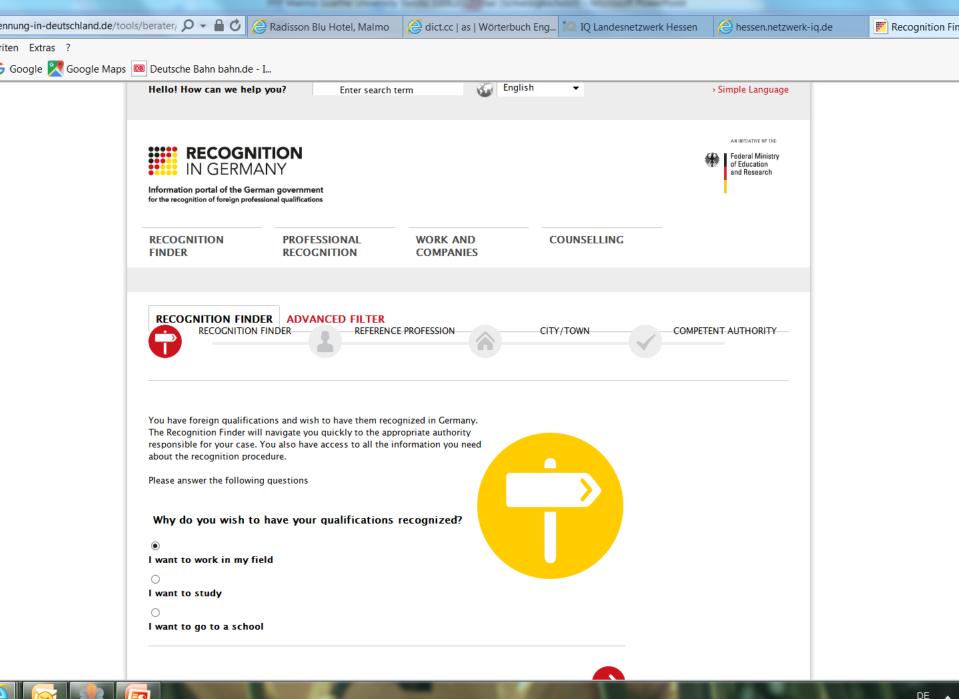
#### **UNI-ASSIST**

Foundation and articles Articles of association Terms and conditions Data privacy Contact



#### **INFO FOR REFUGEES**

Free assessment procedure Requirements Portal for cost exemption University application Helpful Links Information for universities



#### Helpful legislation (right of asylum and of residence): Examples

**New legislation** 

ABH = Foreigners' Registration Office

Old legislation

BA = Agency for Employment



Registration: "Ankunftsnachweis" Arrival attestation

Application for Asylum "Aufenthaltsgestattung" (temp.resid. permission) Decision on Asylum "Asylbescheid" Approval / Tolerance /Non-Approval

Access to HΕ

With valid HE entrance qualification + language requirements

Dez. 2015 resolution for missing documents

**BAföG Federal** Ed. Assist. no BAföG

(social assist. while studying in first 15 mths

2016

Approval: BAföG without waiting period:

Tolerance: after 15 mths

>48 mths

Dez. 2015

>48 mths

Integration courses A1-B1

Free Access for Syria, Iraq, Iran, Eritrea, Somalia

Nov. 2015

No access

Approval/Duldung: access

Social assistance Asylbewerberleistungen / Assistance as asylum seeker (after 15 mths: analog SGB XII)

Approval: SGB II/ XII; Duldung: AsylbewLG (after 15 mths: analog SGB XII)

Access to

2014,2015, 2016

work

>9/12 mths

>3 mths subordinate access (approval ABH, ggf.BA)\* (equal access for highly qualified), >15 mths equal access

15 mths temp work (3 mths for highly qualified) + apprenticeship >48 m. \*also better access to internships

Approval: unrestricted access; Duldung: subordinate access

>48 m.

Source: BAMF, adapted 7

## Agenda



- Part I: Background Information:
   How Germans HEI and the government dealt with the flow of refugees
- Part II: TestAS
   TestAS and it's functions for international applicants and refugees in Germany
- Excursus:
   Anlayses of predictability of study success on basis of foreign grades at Goethe-University Frankfurt
- Lessons learned





# Test for Academic Studies TestAS <u>www.testas.de</u>

- Is available since 2007 and administered worldwide by the TestDaF Institute
- Is a cognitive aptitude test: measuring people's general and subject-specific study aptitude (it does not require or test spezialized knowledge)
- Is assisting universities to select foreign applicants from Non-EU countries with a good fit

Is standardised, transparent, fair, efficient and valid

 Is available as TestAS for Refugees since 2016 (funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) through means of the Federal Ministry of Education & Research)

 Can be taken in English and German (general programme) and additionally in Arabic (refugee programme, May 2016)

Requires language skills from A2 to B2
 CEFR







# Why TestAS?

 There has been a sharp increase in the no. of foreign students in Germany in recent years

 To increase the successrate of foreign students (so far on average significantly lower than that of German students)

foreign school certificates cannot be compared easily and foreign grades are not a

good predictor for study success (own analyses at Goethe-University

Frankfurt: please see below)

 There is a need for a good predictor of study access in order to identify those applicants who have the

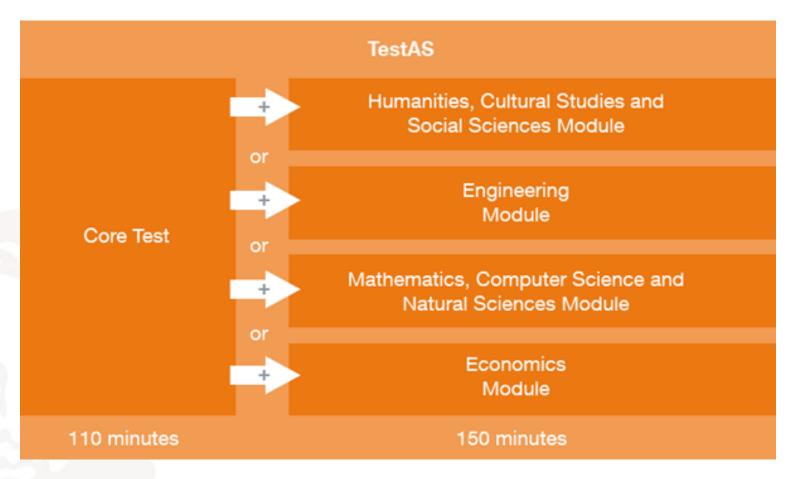
necessary study abilities





#### Test construct: Modules





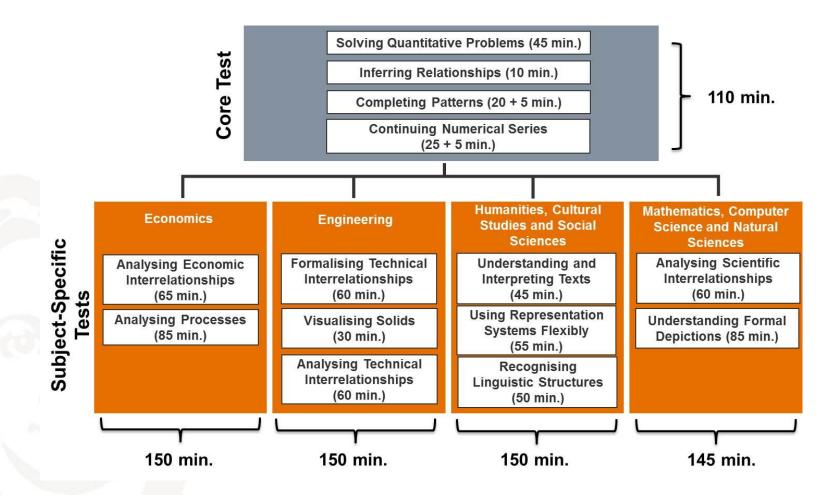
Core Test is mandatory for all participants. Subject-specific module can be chosen according to preference or study programme intended.



## Test construct: Modules and subtests



Test für Ausländische Studierende Test for Academic Studies





## **Availability**





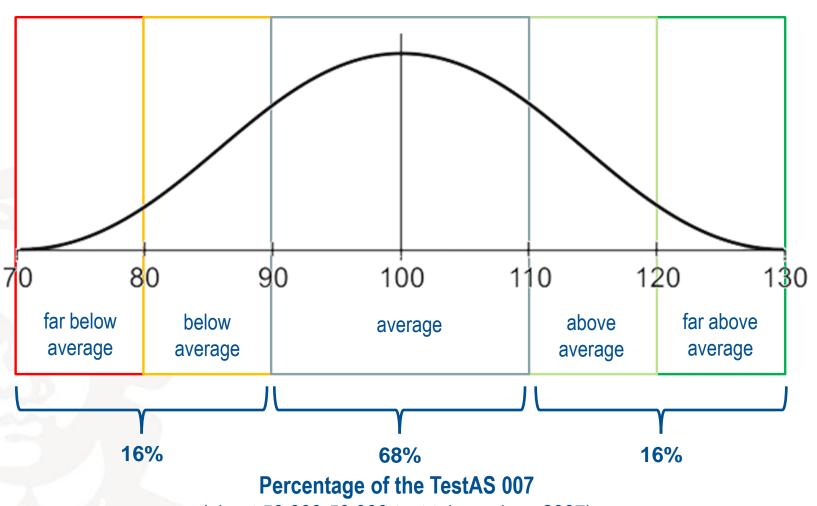
- TestAS is offered by the Society for Academic Study Preparation and Test Development (g.a.s.t.), a registered association. The worldwide organisation of TestAS is conducted by the TestDaF-Institut, Bochum.
- More than 300 test centres in more than 80 countries
- Minimum 3 tests per year world-wide (general programm) plus on demand testing
- Refugee programme: app. 1 test per month plus on demand
- 50 universities require or take into account the TestAS
- App. 6.000 participants per year (regular programme)



# Scoring: Standard values



#### **Scale 70-130**



(about 50.000 50.000 test takers since 2007)



#### TestAS users



- HEIs in Germany to select suitable students (non-EU quota in undergraduate programs)
- HEIs in Germany to enrol refugees in preparatory programs (e.g. TestAS is one main selection criteria at Goethe-University)
- One option for refugees: validation of school/university certificates via uni-assist without charge (the University Application Service for International Students <a href="https://www.uni-assist.de">www.uni-assist.de</a>)
- One optional tool for HEIs when documents of refugees are missing (KMK resolution):
   www.kmk.org/fileadmin/Dateien/veroeffentlichungen\_beschluesse/2015/2015\_12\_03-Hochschulzugang-ohne-Nachweis-der-Hochschulzugangberechtigung ENGLISCH.pdf

#### Furthermore:

- Universities in the federal states of North Rhine-Westphalia, Bremen and Brandenburg are enrolling using the TestAS (open admission process for international students without direct university entrance qualification)
- Vietnamese-German University as Entrance Examination for Bachelor Programs
- Academic Evaluation Centre (APS) in China and Vietnam
- DAAD: for the candidate selection in the DAAD-scholarship programs (PASCH etc.)
- Some HEIs recommend TestAs as a tool for orientation: to know the typical requirements of the field of study / to better assess the chances of successfully completing one's studies at a German university



# TestAS participants: Refugees



- 4136 participants (since January 2016): 82% M / 18% F
- Core test + modules: 1. Mathematics, Computer & Natural Sciences (43%)
   2.Engineering (23%)
   3. Humanities & Social Sciences (20%)
   4.Economics (13%)
- Arabic: 75%, English 13%, German 11%
- Age: 17-24 Y. 59%, 25-29 Y. 26%, 30-34 Y. 9%, 35+ Y. 5%
- Countries: Syria 79%, Afghanistan 5%, Iran 5%, Irak 3%, Pakistan, Eritrea, Palestine, Ethiopia –
   each up to 1%



## TestAS participants

TestAS participants: Refugees at Goethe-University "Academic Welcome Program for highly qualified refugees" (AWP) <a href="https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/awp">www.uni-frankfurt.de/awp</a>

October 2015: 176 applicants > on average 94 p.

April 2016: 56 applicants > on average 94 p.

Refugees (except Syrians): usually below standard score)

June 2017: 136 Participants in Academic Welcome Program at Goethe-

University:

Syrians > on average 100 p.

Non-Syrians > on average 94 p. (e.g. Ø Afghans 92 p., Ø Eritrea 89 p.)

#### KMK-Resolution for missing documents

5. Aptitude Tests at art colleges/universites

6. case-by-case decision

Dezember 2015

Access and Admission to Institutions of Higher Education for Applicants who are Unable to Provide Evidence of a Higher Education Entrance Qualification obtained in their Home Country on Account of their Flight

The Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK)

www.kmk.org/fileadmin/Dateien/veroeffentlichungen\_beschluesse/2015/2015\_12\_03-Hochschulzugang-ohne-Nachweis-der-Hochschulzugangberechtigung\_ENGLISCH.pdf

#### Three-step procedure **Goethe-University Frankfurt Determination of the personal premises** √ (premises are checked) Summer 2016 ✓ (is done, with document from uni-assist: "Explana-Plausibility check of the educational tion of Educational Path for Missing Documents") biography Proof of the alleged higher education **Version for Hessen (in preparation):** entrance qualification **Working group of Hessen State Ministry** of Higher Educ., Research & the Arts 1. Acceptance of indirect proofs (at least certified copy) √ (is applied) (e.g. study record, student identity card) 2. Validation procedure 1. Assessment tests: (exception, since too few places available and - Acceptance into "Studienkolleg" (1 year pre-course in Germany) admission test is only language-based in Frankf.) Final Assessment Test of Studienkolleg, possibly as external student (low success, when Kolleg is not attended) - Aptitude Test for Access to HEIs due to vocational qualifications (not apt) Aptitude Tests or Exams ✓ TestAS (min. 100/95. p. > direct/indirekt aaccess) ( ) in planning for access to MA & PhD (candidates 2. Assessment oral exams can write a second thesis + oral exams at faculty) (esp. when CPs can be recognized) 3. Propaedeutic Pre-Study (assessment of eligibility) ( / ) (bridge programs, only few places available) 4. **Temporary studies** (in non-restricted study programs) -- (in Hessen, so far no regulations exist for temporary enrolement with

-- (not apt)

( ✓ ) (if missing documents are tolerable)

later switch to permanent studies, if successful)

27. Juli 2017 Further procedures of the Länder / HEIs

## **KMK-Resolution for missing documents:**

# **Examples of Applications at Goethe-University Frankfurt**



1. Syria, no Secondary School Certificate, presumably scientific section, 98%, 2015, region: Idlib, 1. exam period



> Direct access (to all subjects)
with full documents

2. Eritrea, no Secondary School Certificate, Admission Card 2007 (without grades), Enrolment certificate: 2 Semesters Medicine



- > Direct access (subject-specific!)
  with full documents if:

  1 successful year of study + Eritrean
  Secondary Education Certificate:
  Ø grade of min. 5 subjects (Englisch,
  Mathematics obligatory) is C (= 2,00)
  - > Indirect access (all subjects)

- TestAS: 95 core test (<100!), 102 subject-specific test (MIN = Mathematics, Informatics & natural sciences)
- wants to study Medicine
- -,,Documents lost in sea on flight"?



- irritating: not found on highscore list in Syria which are still accessible (via KMK/Central Office for Foreign Education)
   granted: Subject-specific direct access to natural sciences
   Grade is transferred from TestAS result 2,6 (95=2,8 / 102=2,4)
- TestAS: 91 core test, 93 subject specific test (MIN) = quite low
- wants to study Physics



- > Direct access: to low scores (TestAs)
- > granted due to indirect proofs: indirect access
  Studienkolleg (all subjects > Engineering)
  > Grade 3,0 (TestAs 91 = 3,1 / 93 = 2,9)

## Explanation of Educational Path for Missing Documents (uni-assist, extract)





#### documents:

#### I. Secondary schooling

1.	Country	
2.	Location of the school	
3.	Name of the school	
4	Duration of secondary school attendance	from(month/year)
5.	Type of secondary school certificate	until(month/year)
6.	Specialization	
7.	Results/final grades	
8.	Graduation date	
9.	Can you provide information about the grading scale of your school?	□Yes
	If so: a) What was the best grade that one could receive for your secondary school certificate?	□No
	b) What was the minimum grade required for obtaining a secondary school certificate?	
II.U	niversity entrance exam	
1.	Have you taken a university entrance exam?	Yes No
2.	Country	

Please describe your educational path for which you cannot provide verifying

#### **Explanation of Educational Path for Missing Documents**

Surname, first name:
uni-assist applicant number:
My documents are only available as simple copies (uncertified)
I can submit the following educational certificates/report cards only as simple copies: (Description of the document, may require separate sheet)
Please explain why you can only submit simple copies: (May require separate sheet)
2. My documents are missing
I am unable to submit the following educational certificates/report cards: (Description of the document, may require separate sheet)

Please explain why these reports cannot be submitted: (May require separate sheet)

## Missing documents of Refugees in Germany

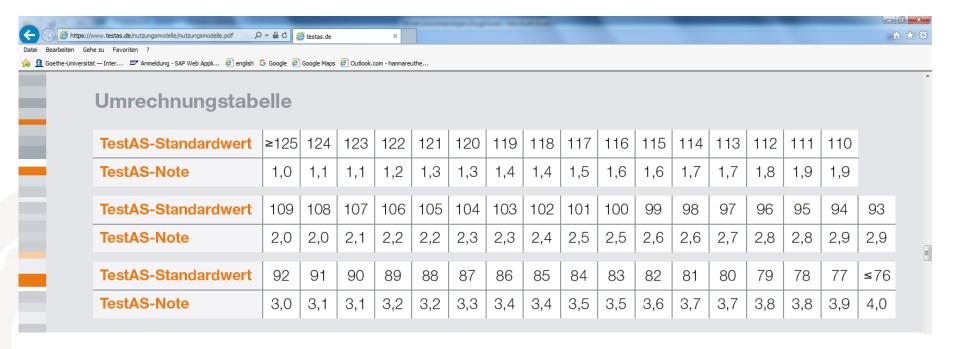


Berlin Institute for empirical research about Integration and Migration (11/2016): In how many cases could refugees not provide any documents at all?

0 applications	46 HEIs	
1-5 applications	17 HEIs	
6-10 applications	1 HEIs	
11-20 applications	1 HEIs	
21-30 applications	1 HEIs	
No answer possible	15 HEIs	



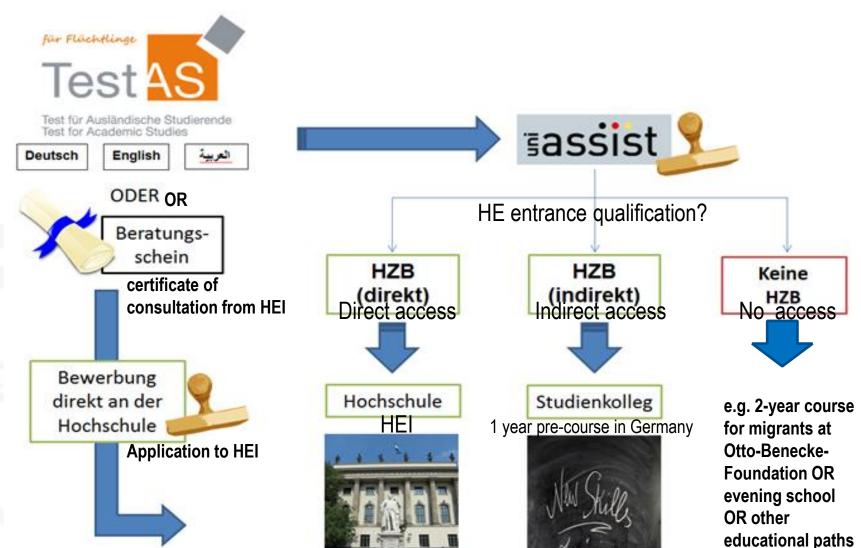
## Conversion standard score > grade (1,0 best grade - 4,0 lowest grade)



# Overview: Direct /Indirect Access at German HEIs (including validation of school/university certificates without charge for refugees)



etc.



is 75 Euro; charge is waived for refugees, when TestAs is passed or HEI has been consulted.

Explanation: charge for validation of certificates via uni-assist

27. Juli 2017

## Agenda



- Part I: Background Information:
   How Germans HEI and the government dealt with the flow of refugees
- Part II: TestAS
   TestAS and it's functions for international applicants and refugees in Germany
- Excursus:
   Anlayses of predictability of study success on basis of foreign grades at Goethe-University Frankfurt
- Lessons learned

# Analysis of students at Goethe-University Frankfurt enrolled in October 2011 & 2012 only BA programs mit study duration of 6 semesters $\frac{\text{GOETH}}{\text{UNIVER}}$

GOETHE UNIVERSITÄT FRANKFURT AM MAIN

> analysis of 6 semester + 2 semester = 8 semester

## Alltogether

Group	Degree / Exams passed	Dropout	Still studying	Degree / Exams passed %	Dropout %	Still studying %
Germans	2.431	5.306	1.795	26%	56%	19%
EU-students	85	292	95	18%	62%	20%
Non-EU students	140	606	216	15%	63%	22%

## Dropout per semester

Group/Semes	ter 1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
Germans	1.622	1.585	580	683	280	259	147	150
EU	85	69	35	47	15	19	11	11
Non-EU	171	184	76	72	28	30	26	19
Germans	31%	30%	11%	13%	5%	5%	3%	3%
EU	29%	24%	12%	16%	5%	7%	4%	4%
Non-EU	28%	30%	13%	12%	5%	5%	4%	3%

# Analysis of students at Goethe-University Frankfurt enroled in October 2011 & 2012 only BA programs mit study duration of 6 semesters $\frac{\text{GOET}}{\text{UNIV}}$



> analysis of 6 semester + 2 semester = 8 semester

#### Study success (degree) according to school grade (Germany, EU, Non-EU)

Group	Grade of HE entrance qualification	Dropout	Degree / Exams passed	Still studying	Dropout %	Degree / Exams passed %	Still studying %
0	Very good	1202	1038	333	47%	40%	13%
German students Results	Good	2609	1139	937	56%	24%	20%
	satisfying	1386	251	492	65%	12%	23%
Ell atualenta	Very good	105	39	33	59%	22%	19%
EU-students Results	Good	84	35	39	53%	22%	25%
	satisfying	86	9	18	76%	8%	16%
Non Ellotudonto	Very good	135	45	46	60%	20%	20%
Non-EU students Results	Good	246	52	86	64%	14%	22%
	satisfying	188	42	76	61%	14%	25%

# Analysis of students at Goethe-University Frankfurt enroled in October 2011 & 2012 only BA programs mit study duration of 6 semesters $\frac{\text{GOET}}{\text{UNIV}}$



> analysis of 6 semester + 2 semester = 8 semester

#### Study access (degree) according to school grade and region

		Grade of HE		Degree /			Degree /	
Group	Continent		Dropout	Exams	Still studying		Exams	Still studying %
		qualification		passed		%	passed %	
German		Very good	1.202	1.038	333	47%	40%	13%
Students	Europe	Good	2.609	1.139	937	56%	24%	20%
Results		satisfying	1.386	251	492	65%	12%	23%
		Very good	105	39	33	59%	22%	19%
EU-students Results	Europe	Good	84	35	39	53%	22%	25%
Results		satisfying	86	9	18	76%	8%	16%
Non-EU		Very good	77	35	27	55%	25%	19%
students	Europe	Good	110	27	43	61%	15%	24%
Results		satisfying	108	31	43	59%	17%	24%
Non-EU	Africa	Very good	0	0	4	0%	0%	100%
students		Good	16	4	. 3	70%	17%	13%
Results		satisfying	29	2	9	73%	5%	23%
Non-EU	America	Very good	3	4	1	38%	50%	13%
students		Good	17	7	4	61%	25%	14%
Results		satisfying	7	0	6	54%	0%	46%
Non-EU	Asia	Very good	54	6	14	73%	8%	19%
students		Good	101	14	. 36	67%	9%	24%
Results		satisfying	44	9	18	62%	13%	25%

Analyses by: Christoph Götz, Coordinator Students' Data, Student-Service-Center

## Agenda



- Part I: Background Information:
   How Germans HEI and the government dealt with the flow of refugees
- Part II: TestAS
   TestAS and it's functions for international applicants and refugees in Germany
- Excursus:
   Anlayses of predictability of study success on basis of foreign grades at Goethe-University Frankfurt
- Lessons learned

#### Some lessons learned (examples): TestAs & Refugees



- refugees enrolled in preparatory programs at Goethe University which have been selected mainly by TestAs scores: more focused, higher motivated, achieve better results in German languages courses; grades from home countries not comparable and low predictability > however long-term studies on predictors of study success at German HEIs required
- Standardized procedure
- Advantage: Option to converse test scores into grades
- Organization at campus time-consuming but manageable > alternative: students / refugees register at official TestAS centres in Germany (no effort and costs at all)
- Lower test results for students from countries with less developed educational systems?
   Effects of quality of education system or language barrier? Further analyses necessary and / or alternative procedures for different candidates required
- In Hessen (in process): consideration / recommendation to use TestAs as initial validation procedure for missing documents of refugees (besides further or other instruments)
- Different procedures in different states/HEIs of Germany in the case of missing documents of refugees, however: after 2 semesters of successful studies > continuing studies at another HEI possible
- Recognizing successful studies at Kiron (e.g. at least 20 CPs/semester) as a validation option, if documents are missing?

## Lessons to be learned (examples): International Students & overarching themes



- Procedures and flexible exceptions made available for refugees > use partly as a blueprint for all/specific groups of international students?
- Improving the study access and removing barriers for all/specific groups of international students:
  - providing alternate, more flexible ways of access to HE, if study abilities have been demonstrated, but no formal HE entrance qualification is given?
  - providing free/cheaper German language and preparatory classes, stipends/educational assistance/ (at least) loans etc. for successful candidates? (funds?)
- Study success and predictors of international students: broad long-term studies with various predictors (foreign grades, TestAS, other criteria e.g. German language level, preparatory courses) necessary, since profound data is still missing in Germany
- regulations on admission to HEI for international Non-EU students on state-level in Germany partially outdated > update needed
- Recognition of competencies acquired outside Higher Education: so far focus mainly on competencies acquired in Germany itself (difficult enough) > competencies acquired from abroad?
- Recognition of informal and nonformal learning: so far development of recognition procedures for professions and for HE separate (2 institutions: workplace/vocational training: The Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), HE: German Rectors' Conference (HRK) > need to work together more closely?)
- Bridge training (4-12 mths) for migrants who have a recognized first degree from abroad (formally equal, but often not accepted by the employers) = also a way for international students
   27. Juli 2017 who drop out at a German HEI? (drop out quota still high in Germany)





Thank you very much for your attention! Hanna.Reuther@em.uni-frankfurt.de

27. Juli 2017 31