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## **Application and Impact of Learning Outcomes on Institutional Cooperation, Accreditation and Assessment – A German Case**

### **Abstract**

The aim of describing degree programmes, modules and courses in the terminology of learning outcomes (LO) is to help make degree programmes more skills- and career-oriented, to facilitate the accreditation of extra-university knowledge and skills and to increase student mobility. Be that as it may, how can learning outcomes contribute in practice towards achieving these objectives? In the scope of the HE\_LEO project, we examined the impact and benefit of learning outcomes at the Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg.

The first section of this article shows the significance of learning outcomes in connection with transnational student mobility. This mobility assumes co-operation between higher education institutions, which is assisted by learning outcomes.

The first case study focused on the learning outcomes of the newly established Bachelor programme in Education. The extent to which the descriptions of learning outcomes contributed towards the degree programme's level of skills and career orientation was explored. Specific design proposals were elaborated, with the aim of gearing the "Teaching and Organisation" area of specialisation in particular more closely towards learning outcomes.

The second case study focused on the continuing education Bachelor programme in Business Administration. This Bachelor programme primarily caters for students with many years of work experience who have already completed numerous advanced and vocational training programmes in the course of their life. Such students would like the knowledge and skills they have already acquired to be accredited. On the basis of learning outcomes, the procedure for recognising prior learning was revised and improved within this case study.

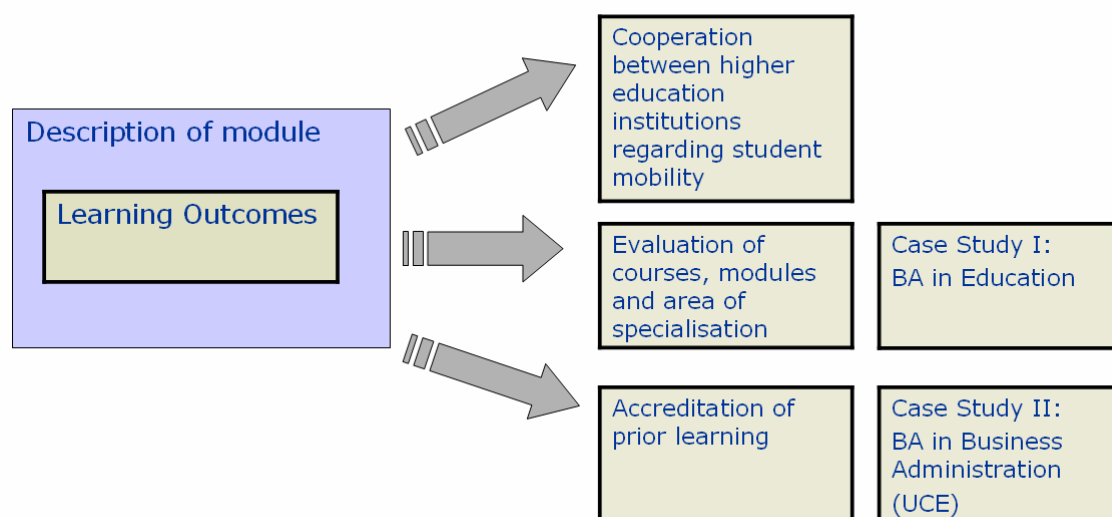


Figure 1: Application of learning outcomes

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## Abstract in German

Die Darstellung von Studiengängen, Modulen und Kursen in der Terminologie von Learning Outcomes soll dazu beitragen, Studiengänge kompetenz- und berufsorientierter zu gestalten, die Anrechnung außerhochschulischer Kenntnisse und Kompetenzen zu erleichtern und die Mobilität von Studierenden zu erhöhen. Doch wie können Learning Outcomes in der Praxis dazu beitragen, diese Ziele zu erreichen? Im Rahmen des HE\_LEO-Projektes untersuchten wir an der Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg die Wirkung und den Nutzen von Learning Outcomes. Der erste Abschnitt des Beitrages beschäftigt sich mit der Bedeutung von Learning Outcomes im Zusammenhang mit der transnationalen Mobilität von Studierenden. Diese Mobilität setzt eine Kooperation von Hochschulen voraus, die durch Learning Outcomes unterstützt wird. Im Mittelpunkt einer ersten Fallstudie standen die Learning Outcomes des neu eingerichteten Bachelor-Studiengangs „Pädagogik“. Es wurde untersucht, inwieweit die Learning Outcome-Beschreibungen zu einer Kompetenz- und Berufsorientierung des Studiengangs beitragen. Konkrete Gestaltungsvorschläge wurden erarbeitet, die helfen sollen, insbesondere den Schwerpunkt „Lehren und Organisieren“ verstärkt auf Learning Outcomes auszurichten. Die zweite Fallstudie bezog sich auf den weiterbildenden Studiengang „Business Administration“. Dieser Bachelor-Studiengang wird insbesondere von Personen mit langjähriger Berufserfahrung studiert, die im Laufe ihres Lebens bereits eine Vielzahl von Fort- und Weiterbildungen absolviert haben. Diese Studierenden wünschen eine Anrechnung ihrer bereits vorhandenen Kenntnisse und Kompetenzen. Auf der Grundlage von Learning Outcomes konnte im Rahmen dieser Fallstudie das Verfahren zur Anrechnung früheren Lernens überarbeitet und verbessert werden.

## Keywords

university cooperation, accreditation of prior learning, multidisciplinary skills, course evaluation, learning outcome matrix

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