



Call for Papers:

Transitions and Mobilities

International students' aspirations

**Final conference of the BMBF research project MigIng
Migration, Diversity and Institutional Change in the STEM Field**

July 18-19, 2022, Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Conference Venue: Morgensternhaus Fulda, Germany

Conference Convenors: Prof. Dr. Carola Bauschke-Urban, Dorina Dedgjoni, M.A.

International student flows have increased rapidly over the last decades – with 6.1 million in 2019, more than twice as many since 2007 (OECD, 2021) – with the US, the UK, Australia and Germany being the most popular destinations. Internationalization, and particularly the growth in international students' mobility, is considered an important vehicle for the creation and transfer of knowledge, with benefits accruing to both higher education institutions and knowledge-based economies. In this light, many host countries are implementing more active migration policies, aiming to facilitate the transition of international higher education students to employment and to tackle skills gaps in the labor markets.

While studying abroad results in a variety of advantages for the students, transitioning across countries, educational systems and later on, into and within the labor markets, also confronts them with challenges. Within these multiple contextual transitions, international students are faced with differences in social and organizational cultures of countries and institutions, languages, as well as interpersonal expectations, realities and relationships (Jindal-Snape & Rienties, 2016), which can also have a large impact on their overall experiences and future academic success (Hellstén, 2007).

International students are highly diverse in terms of their social class, gender, age, nationality, citizenship and ethnicity, which is also tightly entangled with international students' transitions within higher education and their aspirations and subsequent strategies accessing the labor markets. These

transitions are also coined by the multiple roles of international students (King & Raghuram, 2012) as actual and potential workers, refugees, temporary or permanent migrants and transnational family members.

Reflecting on current trends and complexities surrounding international student mobilities, the conference “Transitions and Mobilities. International Students Aspirations” explores international students’ trajectories – from ‘home’ to the ‘host’ institution, from returning back to their home countries as well as from staying abroad. These diverse transitional experiences of international students are mediated by intersecting social inequalities such as social class, gender, age, nationality, citizenship and ethnicity. The conference highlights these multiple inequalities, including, but not limited to, the following fields:

- higher education structures and policies
- study experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic
- transitions from higher education to the labor markets
- exchanging views on the practical implications for higher education institutions in dealing with the diverse academic experiences of international students.

We particularly welcome conference papers, which are related to transitions, mobilities and international students’ aspirations within higher education and into/within the labor markets.

Please send your abstract of up to 250 words, your title and institutional affiliation to Prof. Dr. Carola Bauschke-Urban (carola.bauschke-urban@sk.hs-fulda.de) and Dorina Dedgjoni (dorina.dedgjoni@sk.hs-fulda.de) by Sunday, 15th of May 2022. Notification of acceptance will be given by May 23rd, 2022.