

# The Impact of Student Numbers on the Quality of Teachers – The Situation in Vienna and a Possible Way Out

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## Outline

- Introduction
- Impact of tight budgets
- Impact of student numbers
- Student numbers in Vienna
- How to increase the student numbers
- Conclusions

## Introduction (1)

Quality of education influenced by

- Quality of curriculum
- Quality of the equipment
- Access to recent publications
- Quality and motivation of teachers

Improvement of curriculum may be useless  
if other influences are ignored

## Introduction (2)

Focus here: Quality of Teachers in Vienna

Questions

- How does the budget influence the quality?
- How does the number of students influence the quality?
  
- What can be done to improve the situation?

## Impact of Tight Budgets

Costs for teachers are

- Salary
- Training for teachers
- Excursions/field trips with students
- Library, equipment, etc.

Bad conditions mean

- Difficult to attract internationally renowned experts
- Possible effect on motivation of available teachers

## Do Projects Help?

- Positive effects
  - Projects improve knowledge
  - Projects allow to hire additional staff
- Negative effects
  - Projects cause administrative costs
  - Project acquisition requires time of high quality teachers

## Impact of Student Numbers

2 different aspects:

- Small communities have a lower influence than large ones (e.g., surveying vs. computer science)
- From which group do possible teachers come from? Graduates!  
Small number of graduates → small group to select from

We must keep the student numbers high!

## Student Numbers in Vienna

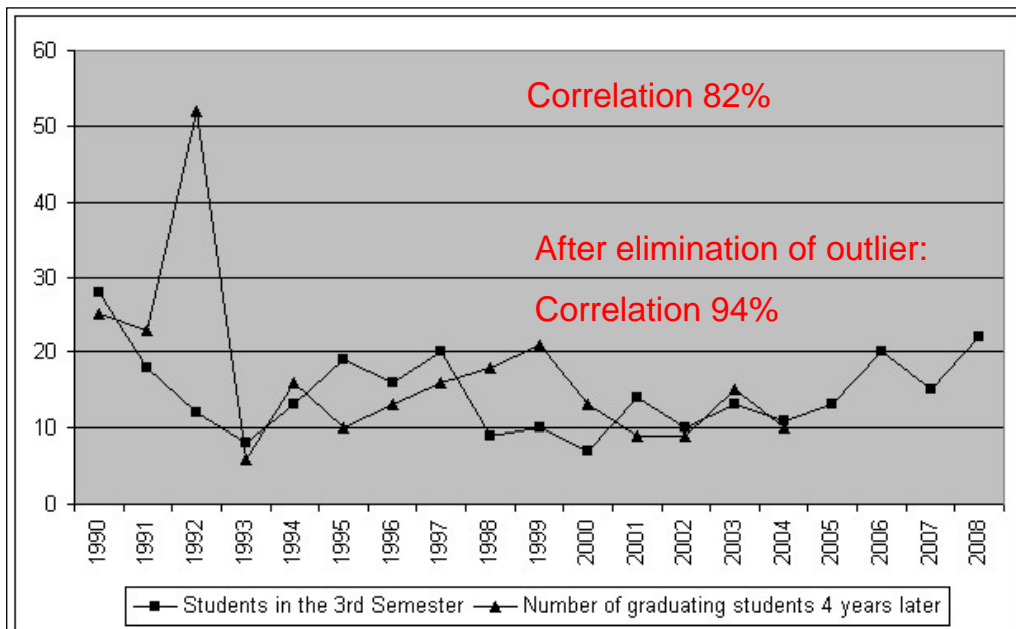
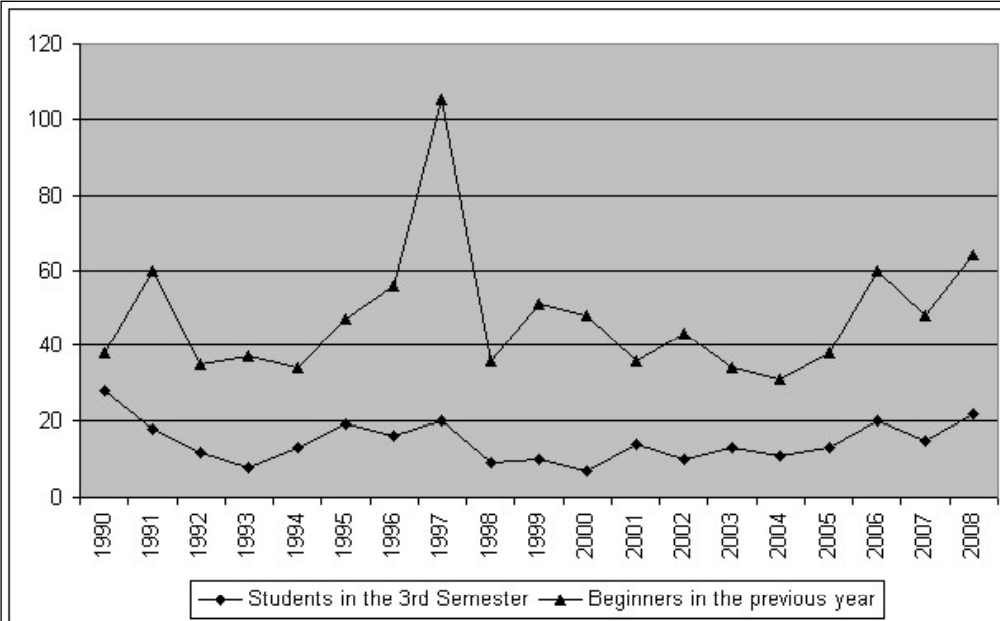
How to assess the number of students?

Beginners?

How to eliminate ERASMUS-students?

# Important Questions

- How many graduates will be available?
- How many graduates are necessary?



## Necessary Number of Graduates at Universities?

Number of researchers at

- Vienna University of Technology 74
  - Graz University of Technology 30
  - University of Applied Life Sciences 11
  - Innsbruck University 6
- 120

3 graduates per year are necessary

## Problem 1

10 -15 graduates available  
1/4 required for university staff  
plus:

- Industry needs graduates
- Public administration needs graduates

**Currently:** All positions can be filled (1 – 2 applicants per position)

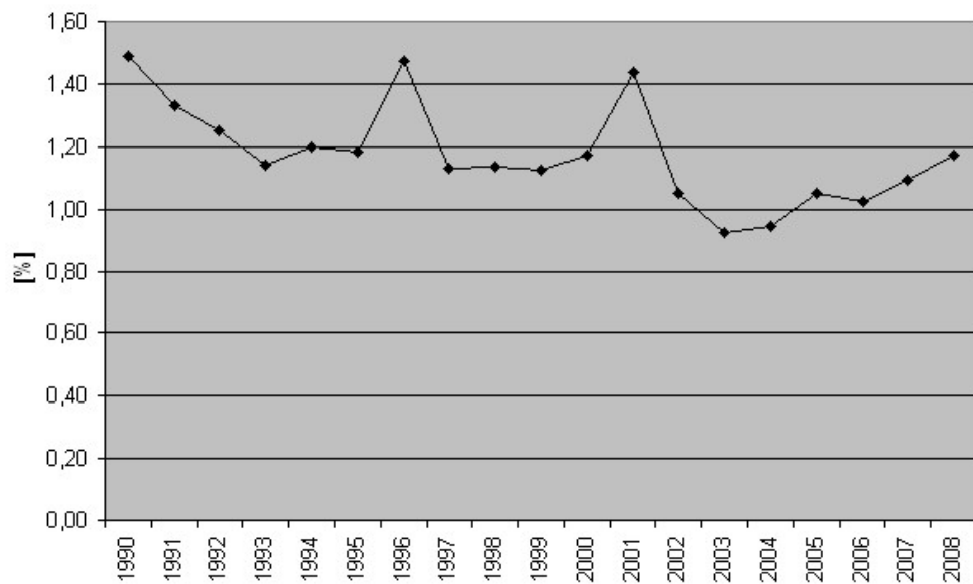
**But:** Not much selection possible → quality will drop in the long run

## Problem 2

Organizational decisions within the university based on student numbers  
Low relative numbers of students in Vienna (1,5% in 1990 to 0,9% in 2003, positive trend since 2003)

Graduates are easy to count!

**Danger:** Closing curriculum (as in Innsbruck, Delft, Berlin)



## How to increase Student Numbers?

- Children of surveyors – already here
- Contact with surveying (summer work, presentations at schools, promotion material) – may be attracted
- Promote other interests? Cartography, geography, geoinformation, geophysics, etc. **Attracts different students!**

## Conclusions

- We need more students to keep the quality of education
- We should aim at students with different interests
- We need to advertise additional fields of work



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## Thank You for Your Attention

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