

**Nomination for Aurora Equality and
Diversity Award – Chance hoch 2**



Project:

Chance hoch 2 - Qualification program for first generation students
Prorektorat für Diversity Management
Universität Duisburg-Essen

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1 Program overview

Since 2010 the University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE) in cooperation with the Foundation Mercator (Stiftung Mercator) has been supporting the educational advancement of non-academic children with and without a migration background with the program "Chance hoch 2". Each year 25 pupils with talent and potential from different countries of origin as China, Turkey, Russia, Ghana, Kongo, Afghanistan, Togo, Nigeria, Mosambik, Ukraine and Germany are admitted into the program and accompanied at their qualification phase before the A-Level (Abitur), during the transition period and the first year of study, so altogether over a period of three years. Due to the high number of applications a procedure has been installed which, after a detailed personal application including a CV, a motivation letter and an apprenticeship, provides for a selection by a commission composed of representatives from the University, the Foundation Mercator and the participating schools.

The program participants have two chances to get the best possible higher school certificate and then to study their course successfully. During the years in school the participants receive an ideal support through mentoring, seminars appropriate to the school runway and personal development, coaching, participation in university and teaching events, remedial teaching, as well as individual counseling talks for the study and career selection orientation. In addition there is financial support in the form of an educational allowance of 50 Euros per month, which can be spent for example for literature, Laptop, school materials and event visits. The mentoring is realized throughout the school period at regular meetings in small groups by UDE students. Together with the students the pupils open up the UDE's rooms, visit the university library and the cafeteria at both campuses, attend lectures at various faculties and learn first-hand how to create a timetable or apply for BAföG. In addition parents / educators are included in the program through information events.

If the students decide to study at the University of Duisburg-Essen or within the University Alliance Ruhr they are particularly supported during the initial phase and during their studies, especially through seminars in the field of scientific work, preparation for examinations, stress management, stays abroad, career planning, workshops of the writing workshop and the forum oral communication. Personal counseling and support as well as individual coaching are additional components of the

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student program. Furthermore the participants receive a scholarship of 300 Euros per month in the first year of study.

"Chance hoch 2" aims to improve the educational opportunities of disadvantaged young people, thus improving the educational potential of the region and developing a signal effect in the region to develop educational chains in order to strengthen the scientific and economic location of the Ruhr region. Specifically, the proportion of students with an immigration background and from "non-educational" classes who are granted a university entrance qualification is to be increased, the proportion of pupils with a high school diploma who are subsequently taken up for studies, the number of study courses and study breaks as well as the graduation rate with a migration background, and the duration of the study can be reduced while successfully completing the degree course.

The program has already undergone a scientific evaluation in 2012, all educational programs are subject to a permanent evaluation by participants and lecturers and from 2019 a detailed study will examine the impact of the program. The experiences and results of "Chance hoch 2" are intended to show how universities, schools and educational institutions in the region can help to attract more non-academy children for a study.

2 Innovative nature of the program

Like a few regions in Germany the Ruhr region is characterized by the structural change from industrial to service - a structural change that involves manifold economic and social difficulties, but also opportunities. The development of the region results in an above-average share of the population with an immigration background and in households with below-average income.

The University of Duisburg-Essen as a university of the Ruhr region is aware of its special situation and responsibility for this region. It traditionally recruits a high proportion of students from the region. Compared to other universities, the percentage of students with a migration background and from economically weak backgrounds is above-average. However, many of the children and young people of the region, which are potentially suitable for their studies, are still denied access to the university. They often lack the necessary ideological and material support on their way to university entrance qualification and finally to study. The promotion of talented young people who are suitable for a

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study can't begin at the university, but rather have to start in the educational career earlier. And it should not end with the attainment of the university entrance qualification, but the transition to the university and the need for support in a subsequent study with in the view.

In order to achieve equality of opportunity for children and young people in education, access to education, education and qualifications must be independent of the educational background, income, origin and social status of parents. In this regard, the University of Duisburg-Essen is launching its funding and scholarship program. It endeavors to take responsibility as an educational partner of the region in its possible framework by contributing to the increased permeability of the education system through the establishment of educational chains.

Gifted but disadvantaged young people with an immigration background and /or uneducated backgrounds are given the opportunity to participate in university education through the coordinated program of ideal and financial support. In the medium and long term, UDE intends to use the program to attract (potential) students to study at the university, in order to take account of the demographic change and the foreseeable decline in student numbers and thus also to strengthen the scientific community of the Ruhr region.

The innovative nature of the program is that

- the UDE - in the awareness of the importance of the entire education chain - is oriented towards the school sector or the community (community outreach) and talented but disadvantaged young people.
- existing funding approaches in the region are bundled, coordinated and supplemented.
- a targeted contribution to the improvement of education justice in the Ruhr area, so that this region as a place of education is decisively strengthened.
- the co-ordination of the promotion of pupils and studies under one roof is consciously supported by a longer part of the education chain. A later expansion of the downward chain of funding (even earlier identification and prolonged promotion of talented young people) in the sense of a complete supply chain throughout the educational process from early childhood is also desirable.

3 Objectives

The University of Duisburg-Essen, together with the Foundation Mercator, launched the program "Chance hoch 2" from the self-understanding as a university open to the goal of education and open to different groups. The theme of diversity was taken into account right from the beginning, and "Chance hoch 2" has contributed to the fact that the UDE was awarded a diversity university at the end of 2014 by the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Research of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The following overall objectives are of central importance:

- The program "Chance hoch 2" intends to prevent fractures by the formation of educational chains in educational biographies.
- The aim is to achieve a lasting improvement in educational equality.
- Strengthening the science and business location Ruhr region: The successful graduates supported by the scholarship program develop a positive attitude towards the University of Duisburg-Essen and the Ruhr region and become ambassadors of the region in their further education and life.
- Vision of "Integral Integration": Through mentoring in mixed small groups of young people with and without a migration background, working in a protected area is a reflection on the success factors of successful integration and the participating scholarship holders can thus become ambassadors of a plural society in the medium term.

This concept of a two-stage subsidy program has been unique to the whole of Germany, but can be applied to the situation of other universities in the region, which are partly already cooperating at the level of the University Alliance Ruhr.

Currently the program is focused on the region of the Ruhr area. This region can be regarded as a laboratory in which the educational requirements of the coming years are anticipated in a certain way for the entire Federal Republic.

A successful concept of the grant and scholarship program can therefore not be extended to the other universities in the Ruhr area alone. "Chance hoch 2" could also become a potentially interesting model for the whole of Germany due to the social demographic development of the Federal Republic. Therefore, it was included as a measure in the National Action Plan for Integration.

Corresponding concepts could be made available, which would then be implemented by the other universities, especially within the Aurora

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Network, in cooperation with their respective regional cooperation partners and with their own resources.

The achievement of the objectives of the program will be directly reflected in the educational biographies of the sponsored scholarship holders (pupils and students). Possible criteria for measuring the success are e.g.

- the transfer to higher classes
- the improvement of grades
- the attainment of the university entrance qualification
- the decision to study
- the duration of the studies until successful completion
- Study and examination scores (compared to control groups)
- Successful completion of studies
- the self-assessment of the scholarship holders
- the development of the social commitment of the scholarship holders
- the recognition of the program and the number of pupils participating in the respective schools.

4 Program partners

The University of Duisburg-Essen as a university of the Ruhr region has a large regional catchment area, from which it recruits a large proportion of its (potential) students. Since the main target group for this program has relatively limited mobility, the focus of the program lies in the region of the Ruhr area and the western Lower Rhine, which UDE is already committed to as an educational partner anyway.

The expansion of the program would be conceivable by including other cooperation partners in the Ruhr region, some of which have already been contacted. The implementation of the "Chance hoch 2" program is especially useful in this region, as the Ruhr region anticipates a situation that is largely due to its demographic development.

At the moment the most important external cooperation partners are the 28 comprehensive schools and grammar schools from Bochum, Dortmund, Duisburg, Essen, Gelsenkirchen, Gladbeck, Moers, Mülheim and Wesel. In cooperation with these schools, sponsors, committed students and citizens of the region as well as with the help of stakeholders close to the children (teachers, parents, representatives, youth welfare, migrant organizations) the talented pupils are identified and receive all information on the application procedure for "Chance hoch 2" in school events.

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The subsequent selection process is also supported by teachers, as well as the entire further course of the program. As a positive side-effect the schools perceive that the first vintages of "Chance hoch 2" are meanwhile active as mentors for the pupils from the following years and in this way are connected to their former schools.

Other external cooperation partners are:

- RAA NRW / Office for Intercultural Work
- Regional Education Council of the City of Duisburg (Bildungsholding Duisburg)
- City of Essen, Youth Division, Education and Social Affairs, participation in the "1. Municipal Education Conference "
- Intercultural education and support association for pupils and students (IBFS)
- Debt director conferences in the Ruhr region
- RAG Foundation
- DGB Educational Union
- TalentMetropole Ruhr.

Without the internal project partners who contribute both human resources and their knowledge and the expertise relevant to the program, "Chance hoch 2" would not be implemented in this dimension and diversity. These are the following central service facilities of UDE with their respective tasks:

- Academic Advisory Center for Study and Profession (ABZ): organization of school contacts, numerous offers for the target groups of pupils and students
- UNIAKTIV - Center for Social Learning and Social Responsibility: recruitment, training, mentoring and coaching for the pupils
- Faculty of Humanities: Supporting teaching for children and young people with an immigration background
- Center for Higher Education and Quality Development (ZfH): Development and support of the tutor program for the students;
Competence evaluation: support for internal evaluation
- Center for teacher training (ZLB): establishment of school contacts; Support for the acquisition of students as mentors, among other things in cooperation with the department of education sciences
- Forum Oral communication of UDE
- The UDE writing workshop
- Talentscouting / Talentkolleg Ruhr of UDE.

5 Past performance

The cooperation of all program partners, with the support and commitment of the parents and the teachers to be emphasized, contributes to the success of the participating pupils, which is documented among other things, by the fact that the first five years of the participants have taken their first chance and almost without exception passed the higher education entrance qualification successfully.

Most of the participants study at the University of Duisburg-Essen, some have postponed a voluntary social year before their studies or have taken a dual degree or a vocational training. The course selection is characterized by a wide variety, including architecture, psychology, medicine, civil engineering, lectureship, rehabilitation education, economics, law, sociology, physics, business informatics, geology, international management and applied cognitive and media sciences. Meanwhile the participants of the first vintages were successful by taking their second chance and complete their Bachelor's degree and already are planning their Master's degree.

A large proportion of the participants are already volunteered from the school day onwards, whether in the different school committees, in child and youth welfare facilities, in refugee aid, in the church community or in the mosque society. Within the framework of the program the students supported the participating pupils in the context of the mentoring program and were awarded by the "Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft" in 2015 for this commitment within the competition "Macht was draus!".

Numerous presentations at conferences and press articles, as well as radio and TV reports, testify to the high interest of university professionals and the general public to "Chance hoch 2" and create an attention to the issues of education advancement and educational justice.

The entire program "Chance hoch 2" is a role model for other programs like "Talentscouting" or "Ruhrtalente" and was named "Place of progress NRW 2016" by the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia in recognition of its past and future achievements for society.

Essen, 21.06.2017