

Estimating the effect of the study abroad program on the English ability: Evidence from the undergraduate students in Japan¹

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Abstract

The study estimates the causal effect of the short-study abroad program on the English ability. We use the administrative data set containing information about undergraduates in a Japanese university, the Hiroshima University. A part of those students participates the START program by which they can freely study abroad in two weeks. Moreover, almost students in the Hiroshima University take English test (TOEIC) before and after the START program, which allows us to use the difference-in-difference identification strategy. Even through the program supports just two-weeks study abroad, our estimation results show the significant average effects of the program on both reading and listening scores.