

Determinants of academic achievement in Japanese university students: gender, attitude to learning
and choice of university

Mamiko Takeuchi, Kyushu University

Abstract

In this study, we analyzed the determinants of academic achievement in Japanese university students. Using a survey conducted in 2008, we confirmed that female students had significantly higher academic achievement levels than their male counterparts, in line with previous studies. This result was partly explained by gender differences in attitude to learning at university. We also found that attitudes towards learning held during high school continued at university, and affected academic achievement. Enrollment in the student's preferred university increased achievement, but choosing a university made as a result of recommendations from others, or because of the type of entrance examinations lowered academic achievement. Larger monetary allowance from parents and earning more from part time jobs also had potential to lower academic achievement. Subgroup estimations, such as for national universities, private universities, and different faculties, confirmed that the results were robust. In the quantile regression model, the effect of gender decreased with increasing quantiles, but remained significant.

Key Words: Academic Achievement, Learning Attitude, Study Attitude, Choice of University, Japanese Students