

# Attending a more selective college and return on the labor and marriage markets in Japan

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## Abstract

The Japanese government has gradually strengthened the strict selection of priority universities to attract top researchers and students and to collaborate with industry. The fact that even the individuals who have made a considerable educational investment for and entering high-ranking college or graduate school sometimes are unable to achieve their full potential might account of the differences in people's evaluations for higher education. This paper used individual data, which were collected using a nationwide Internet survey in Japan to estimate the effects on the productivity in the labor market and household income level after graduation among university graduates, especially for the who graduated from high-ranking college and graduate school. We present evidence that college and graduate education have significant effects of worker's wage level. While if the workers come from a high-ranking university background, it has distinct effect on different genders. The high-ranking background seems has little effect on female workers' wage in Japan, but significant impact on their spouse's wage level.

*Keywords:* Graduate education, High-ranking university, Wage disparity.