

Does the Immigrant Overeducation Penalty Persist Across Generations?

The Role of Gender, Parenthood, and Part-time Jobs

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Abstract

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A growing number of studies show that first-generation immigrants face a significantly higher likelihood of being overeducated than natives (i.e. overeducation penalty). However, when it comes to assessing their descendants' overeducation, existing evidence is almost nonexistent. Therefore, we contribute to the literature with a comprehensive analysis of the intergenerational relationship between overeducation and origin among tertiary-educated workers in Belgium using a granular matched employer-employee database and generalized ordered logit regressions. We find that the overeducation penalty for immigrants originating from developing countries disappears after two generations, except for those from the Maghreb. However, our gender-interacted estimates suggest that second-generation female immigrants from developing countries experience a double overeducation penalty due to their gender and migration background, albeit to a lesser extent than their first-generation same-sex peers. Moreover, among workers with children, second-generation immigrants from developing countries are more likely to be overeducated than natives but considerably less than their first-generation peers. Finally, focusing on part-time jobs, the overeducation penalty for immigrants originating from developing countries remains remarkably sizeable after two generations.

Keywords: First- and second-generation immigrants, Labor market integration, Overeducation, Generalized Ordered logit, Moderating factors.

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