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Access to university through unusual pathways: difficulties and facilitators



An investigation analyses the factors that influence the decision-making to access the university through unusual routes, thus different from the baccalaurat and university's entry exams (PAU). It aims at identifying the reasons that lead university students to select these entries and to find difficulties and facilitators that they might have experienced during compulsory secondary education. The results highlight the need for action to achieve an increasingly equitable and inclusive university.

The expansion of higher education in recent decades has allowed greater democratization of university. However, there is still a low representation of students from different backgrounds and social classes. In this sense, several studies point out that the unusual access pathways act as collecting the highest percentage of students of low socioeconomic origin.

This study, developed within the framework of the Centre of Research and Studies for the Organization (CRIEDO) of the UAB, focuses on the access through the over 25-year-old test and entry by a vocational course (CFGS). To carry out the field work, 21 interviews and 369 questionnaires were carried out with students who have accessed through one of these routes in public universities in the Barcelona region.

The M25 entrance test allows entry to older students without the need to prove higher studies. It shows that more than half of those registered end up passing the test and the total number of registered hardly exceeds 100. The study identifies participants with very heterogeneous profiles and educational trajectories, as well as students

