

Surviving to learn – learning to survive

Student retention is high on the agenda in Denmark as well as in many other European countries. Making student complete the study programmes they enter is a matter of concern for not only the students themselves, but also, among others, for teachers, heads of studies and departments or politicians. Research into student non-completion points out that there is not one reason for students' not completing their study programmes and this also means that there is not one quick fix to reduce non-completion rates.

The presentation will address the question of students' non-completion focusing on the level of the teaching and learning experiences of the students – that is, at the level of the teaching and learning activities and the curricula, particularly during the first years at university. It will present research findings and how these can be used by teachers, by course planners and by the educational management to mitigate students' opting out of university.