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How Part-Time Studies Can Work: A Computer Science Case Study in Austria

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Abstract

Part-time (work-compatible) degree programs have become a key element of Austria's higher education landscape, particularly within Universities of Applied Sciences. They address the growing need for lifelong learning and enable students to pursue academic qualifications while being employed. This paper examines the development, organizational models, and institutional support structures of part-time programs in Austria, with a specific focus on the Bachelor's program Computer Science and Digital Communications at University of Applied Sciences Campus Wien. Special attention is given to the feasibility of combining work and study, with time management identified as a central success factor. Based on program-level data on applications and an analysis of targeted support measures, the paper highlights a strong and increasing demand for part-time study formats in computer science. The findings suggest that flexible scheduling, blended learning approaches, structured workload distribution, mentoring, and the recognition of relevant professional experience contribute to retention and study progression.

Keywords: Computer Science Education, Higher Education, Part-Time Study