

1 **Supplementary File 1**

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3 **Data and econometric estimates**

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5 *Table 1: Data collected and measurements*

	Question wording	Measurement	Remark
Student socio-economic characteristics	What is your:		
Age	Age?	Discrete, the number of years	
Sex	Gender?	Dummy: 1 = male and 0 = female	
Civil status	Civil status?	Dummy: 1 = single and 0 = married	
Religion	Religion?	Categorical: 1 = Catholic, 2 = protestant, 3 = other Christian religions; 4 = Muslim, 5 = animism, 6 = other religions.	
University type	University attended?	Dummy: 1 = public university; 2 = private university	
Education	Level of education?	Categorical: 1 = <i>freshman</i> ; 2 = <i>sophomore</i> ; 3 = <i>bachelor</i> ; 4 = <i>master, 1st year</i> ; 5 = <i>master, 2nd year</i> and 6 = <i>doctorate</i> .	
The field of study	Field of study?	<i>Categorical: 1 = economics and management, 2 = law and political science; 3 = human and other social science ; 4 = engineer science; 5 = pure science; 6 = Study of languages and 7 = other languages.</i>	
Education of the student's father	Father educational level?	1 = <i>none</i> ; 2 = <i>primary</i> ; 3 = <i>secondary 1</i> ; 4 = <i>secondary 2</i> ; 5 = <i>university</i> ; 99 = <i>don't know</i> .	
Foreign languages (French, Germany, Spanish)	Do you speak the following foreign language? (English, Chinese, Spanish)	Dummy: 1 = the student speaks the language and 0 = if not	<i>Each language is measured as dummy variable.</i>
Preferred destination country.	If you have the opportunity, in which country would you like to study?	Categorical: 1 = <i>African countries</i> ; 2 = <i>EU countries</i> , 3 = <i>North America</i> ; 4 = <i>Mainland China</i> , and 5 = <i>other countries</i> .	This is the dependent variable in the regression framework.
Institution quality	To which extent do you agree on the following?	7-point Likert scale	
<i>The judiciary is efficient (I1)</i>		1 = SD; 2 = D; 3 = SoD; 4 = NAD; 5 = SoA; 6 = A; 7 = SA	<i>The respondent was asked this question two times. Firstly for Benin's institutions and</i>
<i>Property right is protected (I2)</i>		and 99 = don't know	

Corruption is low (I4)
Administrative
procedures are efficient
(I5)
Democratic freedoms
are protected (I5)

secondly for his/her preferred destination country's institutions.

Education quality	To which extent do you agree on the following?	A 7-point Likert scale
<i>Educational system is efficient (E1)</i> <i>Education infrastructures exist (E2)</i> <i>Scholarship opportunities exist (E3)</i>		1 = SD; 2 = D; 3 = SoD; 4= NAD; 5 = SoA; 6 = A; 7 = SA and 99 = don't know

The respondent was asked this question two times. Firstly for Benin's institutions and secondly for his/her preferred destination country's institutions.

Level of discrimination in the host country	Do you preferred [the destination country] because there is:	A 7-point Likert scale
<i>Less discrimination against women ?</i> <i>Less discrimination against foreigners?</i> <i>Less discrimination in general?</i>		1 = SD; 2 = D; 3 = SoD; 4= NAD; 5 = SoA; 6 = A; 7 = SA and 99 = don't know

Host country's economic conditions (development)	Do you prefer study in [the destination country] because	A 7-point Likert scale
<i>The living conditions are of good quality?</i> <i>Wages are high?</i> <i>There is chance of getting highly paid-job?</i> <i>There is more job opportunities?</i>		1 = SD; 2 = D; 3 = SoD; 4= NAD; 5 = SoA; 6 = A; 7 = SA and 99 = don't know

Culture of the preferred destination country	Do you prefer study in [the destination country] because of	A 7-point Likert scale
<i>Religious proximity to Benin?</i> <i>Linguistic proximity to Benin?</i> <i>Cultural proximity to Benin</i>		1 = SD; 2 = D; 3 = SoD; 4= NAD; 5 = SoA; 6 = A; 7 = SA and 99 = don't know

SD, strongly disagree; D, disagree; SoD, somewhat disagree; NAD, neither agree or disagree; SoA, somewhat agree; A, agree and SA, strongly agree. 99, "don't know" is treated as missing data.

8 *Table 2: Variables and expected signs*

<i>Variables</i>		<i>Expected sign</i>
P_i	Age	+/-
	Sex of the respondent (Male/Female)	+/-
	University attended (private/public)	+/-
	Respondent educational level	+/-
	Respondent's father educational level	+
Cul_i	Host country's index of culture	+
E^d_i	Host country's index of economic conditions	+
D^d_i	Host country's Index of discrimination	+
$Ed^d_i - Ed^b_i$	Differential in educational capacity	+
$I^d_i - I^b_i$	Differential in institutional quality	+

9 **Source:** Author, 2020

10 *Table 3: Descriptive statistics*

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std.Dev.	Min	Max
Age	414	23.8	4.1	17	47
Sex of the respondent (Male/Female)	414	-	-	1	2
University attended (private/public)	414	-	-	0	1
Respondent educational level	414	-	-	1	6
Respondent's father educational level	410	-	-	1	5
Host country's index of culture	414	-1.64e-08	1.2	-1.3	5.7
Host country's index of economic conditions	410	2.95e-10	0.6	-2.2	1.4
Host country's Index of discrimination	411	4.50e-09	1.6	-1.9	3.6
Differential in educational capacity	378	0.01	1.9	-9.7	5.7
Differential in institutional quality	329	-0.02	0.8	-2.1	2.4

11 **Source:** Author's computation, 2020

12 *Table 4: Socio-economic characteristics of respondents*

	Categories	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative (%)
Age group	15-19	47	11	
	20-24	213	51	62
	25-29	118	29	91
	30-34	36	9	100
French	Yes	414	100	100
	No	0	0	0
English	No	271	65	65
	Yes	143	35	100
Germany	No	404	98	98
	Yes	10	2	100
Chinese	No	406	98	98
	Yes	8	1.93	100
Spanish	No	390	94	94
	Yes	24	6	100

Sex	<i>Female</i>	128	30	30
	<i>Male</i>	286	70	100
Civil status	<i>Married</i>	46	11	11
	<i>Single</i>	368	89	100
University type	<i>Private</i>	71	17	17
	<i>Public</i>	343	83	100
	<i>Freshman</i>	46	11	11
Educational level	<i>Sophomore</i>	157	38	49
	<i>Bachelor</i>	58	14	63
	<i>Master, 1st year</i>	42	10	73
	<i>Master, 2nd year</i>	42	10	83
	<i>Doctorate</i>	69	17	100
Father educational level	<i>None</i>	83	20	20
	<i>Primary</i>	83	20	40
	<i>Secondary</i>	133	32	72
	<i>University</i>	111	27	99
	<i>Don't know</i>	4	1	100
Fields	<i>Economics and Management</i>	148	36	36
	<i>Law and Political science</i>	78	19	55
	<i>Human and other social science</i>	70	17	72
	<i>Engineer science</i>	31	7	79
	<i>Pure science</i>	29	7	86
	<i>Study of languages</i>	46	11	97
	<i>Other fields</i>	12	3	100
		<i>Animism</i>	8	2
Religion	<i>Catholic</i>	238	57	59
	<i>Muslim</i>	45	11	70
	<i>Other Christian religion</i>	109	26	97
	<i>Protestant</i>	14	3	100

13 Source: Field survey, 2020

14 Table 5: Mean scores of institutional and educational quality

	Potential destination countries					
	Benin	Other African Countries	EU-countries	North America	Mainland China	Other destination
Educational variables						
Educational system is efficient	3.120	4.733	5.566	5.564	5.72	5.29
Education infrastructures exist	2.811	4.906	5.751	5.726	5.96	5.70
Scholarship opportunities exist	2.904	3.1	2.84	2.936	3	2.625
<i>Sum of averages</i>	8.803	14.370	16.427	16.182	16.76	15.647
Institutional variables						
The judiciary is efficient	3.007	4.464	5.270	5.293	5.260	4.625
Property right is protected	2.536	4.451	4.967	5.164	4.88	4.764
Corruption is low	2.922	3.833	4.411	4.570	4.625	4.538
Administrative procedures are efficient	3.435	3.896	2.850	3.088	3.25	2.6

Democratic freedoms are protected	2.365	3.781	5.019	5.197	4.125	4.117
<i>Sum of averages</i>	14.268	20.61	22.952	23.6	22.476	21.636

Note: N = 414; Likert scale ranges from 1 to 7.

15 Source: Field survey 2020.

16 **Table 6:** Regression output of the multinomial logistic model predicting country choice, Benin 2020

Dependent variable	Preferred destination countries compared to African countries			
	(1) EU-Country	(2) North America	(3) Mainland China	(4) Other destination
<i>Age</i>	.384 (.359)	.277 (.357)	-.114 (.510)	0.681 (.526)
<i>Sex (male)</i>	-.975 (.761)	-1.359* (.748)	-1.421 (.891)	-2.599** (1.022)
<i>University type (public)</i>	.552 (.781)	.453 (.757)	.618 (1.020)	.403 (1.220)
<i>Student education</i>	-.118 (.155)	-.040 (.152)	-.495** (.241)	.281 (.262)
<i>Father education</i>	.098 (.200)	.338* (.199)	.226 (.264)	.071 (.314)
<i>Host country's index of culture</i>	-.211 (.247)	-.049 (.240)	-.114 (.333)	.382 (.336)
<i>Host country's index of economic conditions</i>	.414 (.445)	.450 (.444)	-.380 (.571)	-.362 (.629)
<i>Host country's index of discrimination</i>	-.201 (.189)	-.040 (.187)	-0.066 (.238)	-.278 (.294)
<i>Differential in education</i>	.386** (.142)	.290** (.140)	.504** (.199)	.206 (.211)
<i>Differential in institutions</i>	.677* (.349)	1.085*** (.352)	.444 (.474)	1.028* (.581)
<i>Constant</i>	2.546 (1.811)	2.797 (1.786)	3.145 (2.254)	.786 (2.542)

Observations: 226 full observations; Likelihood = -325.097, Chi2 = 78.33, Prob> chi2 = 0.0003, () = standard errors; * significant at 10%; ** significant at 5%; *** significant at 1%. Given are the risk relative ratios

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