



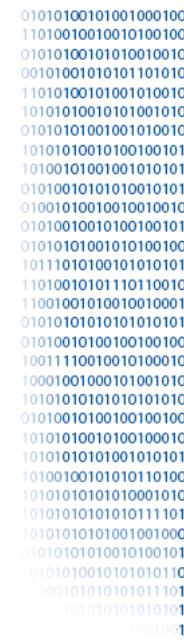
Study of dropouts

Heilo Altin

Data

- Since 2013 autumn
informatics dropout – 30 students
computer science – 21 student
- Phone interviews to ask one question

Whys is student not studying in that field any more?



Structure of the interview

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Case 1

- Sex: Male
- Length of studies: one semester
- Reason to study ICT: interest
- Current activity: software development
- What should be done differently in university: connections between theory and real life are weak. All knowledge is needed, but learning it is made unnecessarily difficult. It is easier to learn theory through practical examples

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Case 2

- Sex: Male
- Length of studies: one semester
- Reason to study ICT: work related
- Current activity: construction engineer
- What should be done differently in university: make IT studies available without attendance studies

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Case 3

- Sex: Male
- Length of studies: one semester
- Reason to drop out: health problems - anxiety
- Would be coming back – yes

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Case 4

- Sex: Male
- Length of studies: one semester
- Reason to study ICT: free laptop
- Reason for quitting: Did not feel right
- Current activity: servicing
- What should be done differently in university: DME was too difficult, programming was too difficult. DME should be done later
- Would be coming back – yes, but different field

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Case 5

- Sex: Male
- Length of studies: one semester
- Reason to study ICT: second choice, first was medicine
- Reason for quitting: was not able to learn programming without textbook
- Current activity: construction engineer

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Case 6

- Sex: Male
- Length of studies: one semester
- Reason to study ICT: has been programming and sitting behind the computer for all of his life. Only thing would like to learn
- Reason for quitting: Not enough motivation, question for psychologists
- Current activity: construction
- What should be done differently in university: DME was too much work. Not difficult. Math should be added step by step later
- Would be coming back – yes, but is afraid of little motivation

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Case 7

- Sex: Male
- Length of studies: one year
- Reason to study ICT: interest towards computers, challenge
- Reason for quitting: did not interest any more. Likes math more
- Current activity: studying math
- What should be done differently in university: Too many subjects that does not concern programming, did not feel of learning many new things.

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Case 8

- Sex: Male
- Length of studies: one year
- Reason to study ICT: always interested in IT, did not have a better choice
- Reason for quitting: more hardware, second semester was difficult, personal reasons
- Current activity: studying computer engineering
- What should be done differently in university: Nothing, everything is possible

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Case 9

- Sex: Male
- Length of studies: one year
- Reason to study ICT: friends entered, free laptop
- Reason for quitting: field was not right
- Current activity: mechatronics in TTÜ
- What should be done differently in university: IT was not taught in first year, math and other subjects

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Case 10

- Sex: Male
- Length of studies: one year
- Reason to study ICT: wanted to know if it suits or not.
- Reason for quitting: did not get new knowledge, was working already before university
- Current activity: working in IT field
- What should be done differently in university: Some subjects are boring, math is necessary but difficult, math should be more connected to other subjects

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Case 11

- Sex: Male
- Length of studies: 2 weeks
- Reason to study ICT: to get away from home, to Tartu.
- Reason for quitting: Defence forces, back home
- Current activity: studying IT in TTÜ

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Case 12

- Sex: Male
- Length of studies: one year
- Reason to study ICT: new field, nobody from family had done this before, just to try if likes this.
- Reason for quitting: Did not like, likes more technology
- Current activity: studying Technology and in University of Life Sciences

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Case 13

- Sex: Female
- Length of studies: one year
- Reason to study ICT: did not know what to study, IT seemed best choice in terms of income
- Reason for quitting: Realized that IT is not for her
- Current activity: studying law in University of Tartu

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Case 14

- Sex: Female
- Length of studies: one year
- Reason to study ICT: father is working in IT, why not to try
- Reason for quitting: Medicine was first choice
- Current activity: studying in University of Tartu to become a doctor

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Case 15

- Sex: male
- Length of studies: one year
- Reason to study ICT: new and perspective field, mother works in IT, suggested
- Reason for quitting: Financial reasons, living in Tartu would become too expensive
- Current activity: studying in TTÜ electrical engineering

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Case 16

- Sex: male
- Length of studies: one year
- Reason to study ICT: connection of IT field to natural sciences
- Reason for quitting: law was first choice, did not get in first year
- Current activity: studying law in TÜ

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Case 17

- Sex: male
- Length of studies: one year
- Reason to study ICT: good job opportunities
- Reason for quitting: works as a pilot, got a job
- Current activity: pilot

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Case 18

- Sex: male
- Length of studies: 2 weeks
- Reason to study ICT: did not get in EITC, came to TÜ for some interesting courses
- Reason for quitting: went back to work
- Current activity: working in IT
- What should be done differently in university: quick changes, university is behind in web and software development

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Conclusions

- Should we attract students to learn IT and accept that first year works as a filter

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