

**CONFERENCE BERND FRICK**  
**2 MAY 2024**  
**16H30-18H**  
**SYNATHLON 2212**

**Academic Performance and Salary Expectations of Couch Potatoes, Recreational and Elite Athletes: Evidence from Germany**

**Abstract**

Using a large sample with detailed information on some 4,700 students attending 25 different universities and universities of applied sciences in Germany, we show that elite athletes (individuals competing in their respective sport at the national and international level) have better grades and expect higher career earnings than observationally similar couch potatoes and recreational athletes. These findings remain statistically significant when including motivational variables in the different regression models in order to control for the motivation and discipline that inspires “dual career students”.

**Keywords:** Dual Career Students, Academic Performance, Salary Expectations, Elite Sport

**Short Bio**



Bernd Frick is Professor of Organizational, Media, and Sports Economics in the Management Department at Paderborn University, Paderborn, Germany. He has published more than 100 papers in refereed journals. When younger, he was a mediocre football player and a competitive marathon runner (although somewhat slower today, he continues to be a dedicated athlete).