

Promoting student agency in an open learning environment in higher education

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Agency in education

The capacity to intentionally and reflectively construct one's learning path and influence one's functioning and circumstances. We focus on Social-cognitive perspective.
(Bandura, 2006; 2018)

The learning environment

Agency develops in the social context (Bandura, 2018; Biesta & Tedder, 2017).
An **open learning environment** can promote students' agency (Bovill et al., 2016; De Bruin & Verkoeijen, 2022; Hannafin et al., 2013).

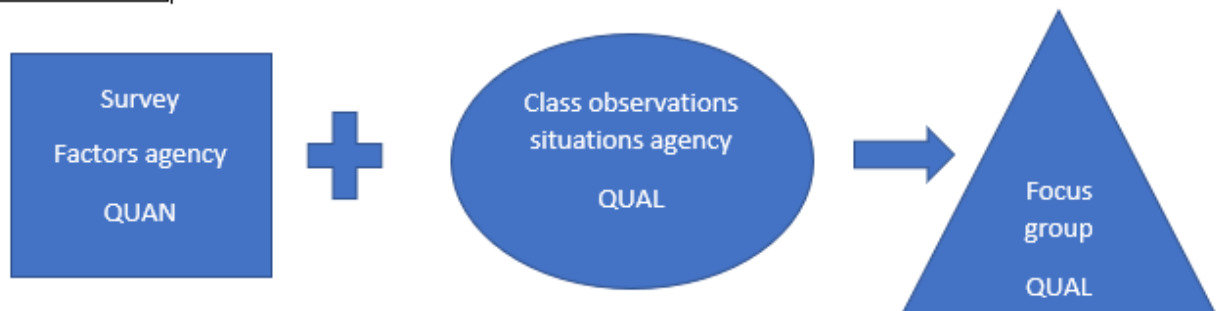
Factors that promote students' agency:

- personal factors;
- learning skills;
- Relational factors;
- Educational design factors.

*How do students and teachers perceive the **factors** that are put forward as fostering **student agency** in an **open learning environment**?*

25-50 first-year students and 4 teachers	Open learning environment of a UAS
Follow them during one year with a mixed methods explanatory design	

3x during year



Survey

personal factors	competence beliefs, self-efficacy, interest and utility values, and intentionality
learning skills	forethought, self-reactiveness, self-reflectiveness and help seeking
Relational factors	equal treatment, teacher support, safe learning climate and peer support
Educational design factors	agentic engagement, influence in learning outcomes, learning activities, assessment, content, study material and coaching

Class observations

Interactions and group dynamics	Relational factors	equal treatment, teacher support, safe learning climate and peer support
Space to influence	Educational design factors	agentic engagement, influence in learning outcomes, learning activities, assessment, content, study material and coaching

Focus groups

1.	Reaching consensus about three factors (survey) and two agency situations (observations)
2.	All participants explain their meaning of each factor (no consensus needed).
3.	All participants explain their meaning of the two situations (no consensus needed).
4.	All participants explain whether and why the factors and situations are (not) important for student agency.

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