The Effects of Student Work on Post-College Labor Market Outcomes

Tjaša Bartolj
Institute for Economic Research, Ljubljana & Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Sašo Polanec
Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Abstract

In this paper we study the implications of student-work experience gained during college studies for post-study labor market outcomes. We find strong positive effects of student-work experience on subsequent probability of employment, but rather modest effects on wages that are significant only if student gained several years of experience. The size of effects on employment probability varies with the amount and type of student work. In contrast to existing studies we find that the marginal returns of student-work experience tend to decline. Moreover, they are generally higher if students perform jobs during later studies and that are more demanding in terms of professional qualifications. Finally, we show that the impact of student work is diminished once we include work experiences obtained in regular work, which have a much larger influence on labor market outcomes than student employment.