

# CAREER CHOICE AMONG LOW SOCIOECONOMIC-STATUS NEWCOMERS IN HIGHLY SELECTIVE CHILEAN UNIVERSITIES<sup>1</sup>

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## ABSTRACT

*This research aimed to identify and describe the factors associated with career choice among low socioeconomic-status newcomers enrolled in highly selective universities at the Metropolitan Region of Chile. In addition, it sought to detect similarities and differences among students entering through regular admission (PSU) versus affirmative programs. From a qualitative approach, the research is based on the Social Cognitive Career Theory and included semi-structured group interviews and thematic content analysis. Results are classified into three categories: personal, contextual and agency. Finally, the document presents findings and forecasts for future studies.*

*Keywords: vocational decision, career choice, higher education, affirmative programs, university students.*

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