

CHANGE YOUR MIND

Long Term Effects of a Reciprocal Student Exchange Program



Results analysed by the University of Regensburg in Germany

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Reciprocal Student Exchange:

- Reciprocal (students are matched)
- Exchange duration: 10 weeks
- AGTV has coordinated the BJR Exchange since 1988



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Evaluation development:

- 1. First Study 1997/1998

- 2. Study 2004 of long term effects
 - Bavaria/Germany: BJR
 - Victoria/Australia: AGTV



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Research design:

- One off written questionnaire with standardised questions containing predominantly closed questions

Participants:

- Former exchange students between Bayern/Germany - Victoria/Australia from 1988/1989 until 1997/1998
- Selection Procedure:
 - All participants mailed and invited to participate



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Survey Timeframe: March-May 2004

Response Data:

Rücklauf je Land, prozentuiert je Austauschjahrgang und insgesamt

Austauschjahrgang	Bayern/Deutschland			Victoria/Australien		
	versandte Fragebögen	zurückerhaltene Fragebögen	Rücklauf-%	versandte Fragebögen	zurückerhaltene Fragebögen	Rücklauf-%
1988/1989	39	19	48,7%	29	8	27,6%
1989/1990	38	19	50,0%	30	11	36,7%
1990/1991	41	24	58,5%	31	4	12,9%
1991/1992	35	21	60,0%	27	7	25,9%
1992/1993	45	25	55,6%	37	10	27,0%
1993/1994	42	21	50,0%	31	11	35,5%
1995/1996	51	37	72,6%	41	13	31,7%
1996/1996	52	34	65,4%	38	9	23,7%
1996/1997	46	30	65,2%	38	6	15,8%
1997/1998	53	32	60,4%	---	---	---%
insgesamt	442	262	59,3%	302	79	26,2%

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Evaluation:

- Comparison between Germany and Australia
- German Participants: differences according to sex



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Driving Questions for the Research:

- Was the country of exchange re-visited?
- How strongly are the social contacts developed during the exchange still maintained?
- Would it be meaningful for the exchange organisers to develop a means of contact for past exchange students to access?
- Are there career and / or personal advantages to be gained from the exchange experience?

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Driving Questions for the Research :

- Are decisions made which without the exchange experience would not be taken?
- Does the return visit pose a learning experience for the exchange partners?
- Are there personality changes which can be directly linked with the exchange experience?
- What significance does participation in the exchange have in comparison with other experiences?

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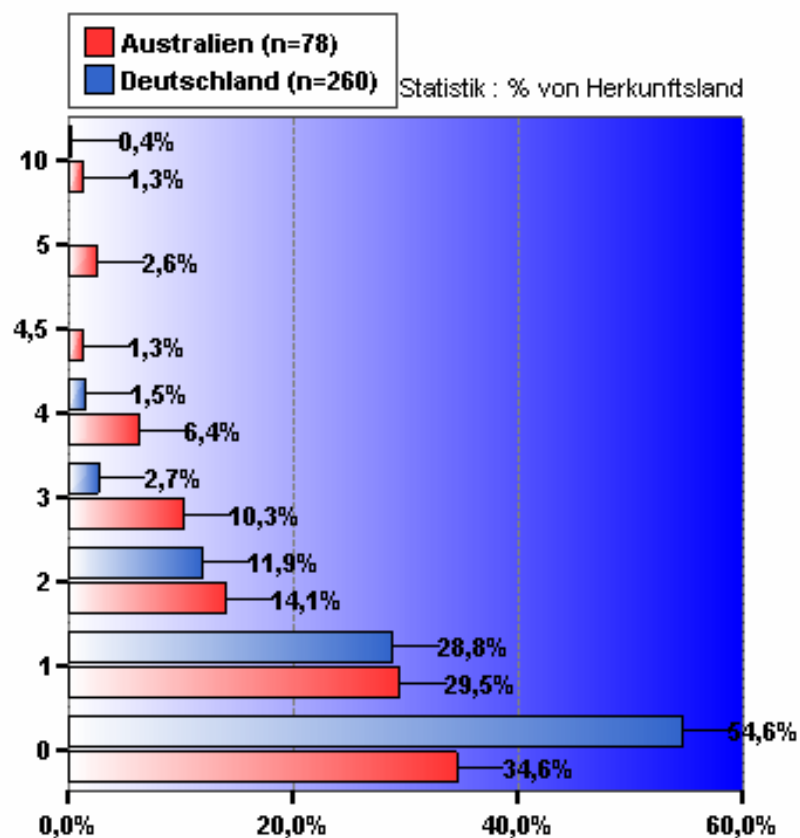
Long Term Effects:

- Substantial, long lasting personal changes
- Multifaceted impact on later life (further more extensive travel overseas, career choice)
- The exchange is seen as highly significant in their life
- Many career and personal advantages

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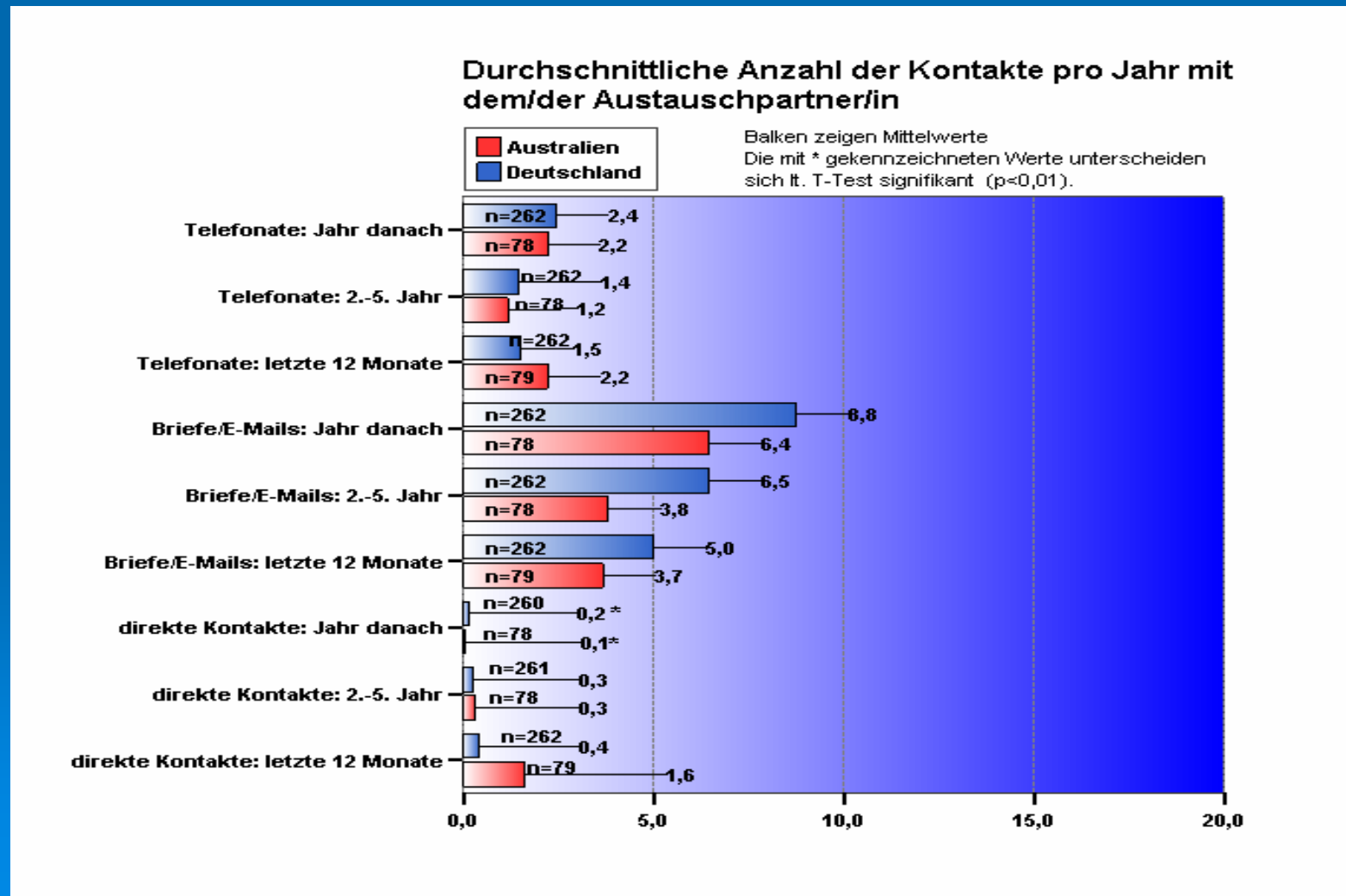
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Anzahl der Aufenthalte im Austauschland
seit der Austauschteilnahme



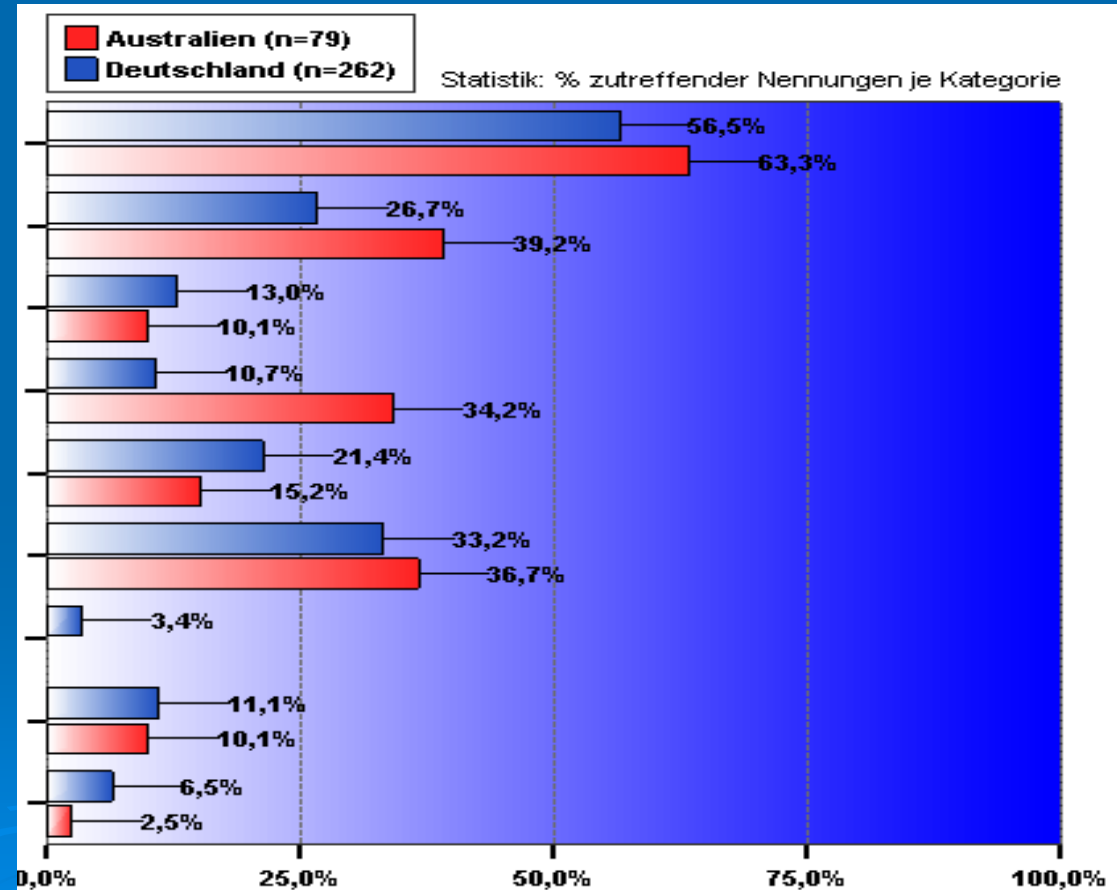
Number of return stays
in country of exchange
since the exchange

Average number of contacts per year with host family (parents, host brothers and sisters, host grandparents etc)



Professional advantages from participation in the exchange (multiple responses were possible)

- Improved academic performance at school
- More effective learning / work
- Advantage gaining a training place
- Advantage gaining a tertiary study place
- Advantage gaining a scholarship
- Advantage gaining a job
- Other: Advantage gaining work experience
- Other: Advantage gained from language skills
- Other reasons

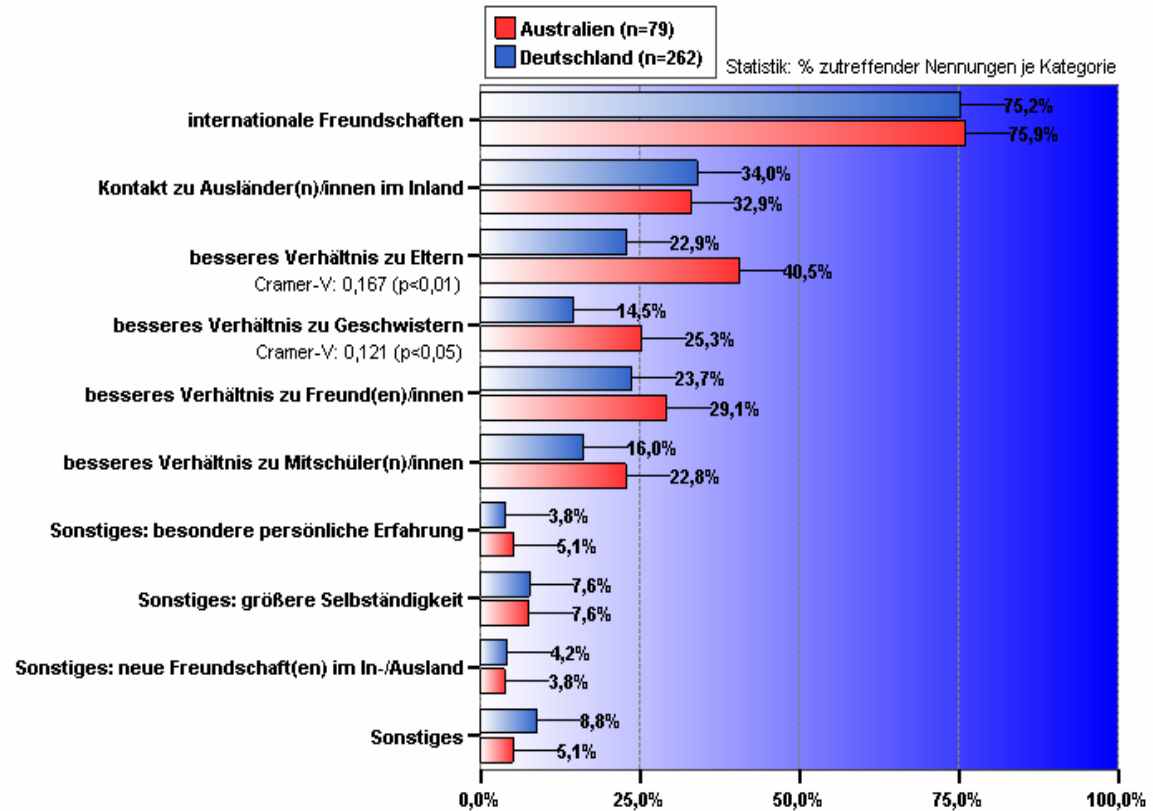


Anmerkung: "Vorteil bei Praktikumsvergabe" und "Vorteil durch Sprachkenntnisse" wurden aus den sonstigen Nennungen heraus vercodet und waren keine vorgegebene Kategorie im Fragebogen.

Personal advantages from participation in the exchange (multiple responses were possible)

- International friendships
- Contact with other nationalities within the country
- Better relationship with parents
- Better relationship with brothers & sisters
- Better relationship with friends
- Better relationship with school friends
- Other: special personal experience
- Other: increased independence
- Other: new friendships overseas and within country
- Other

Private Vorteile durch die Austauschteilnahme
(Mehrfachnennungen waren möglich)



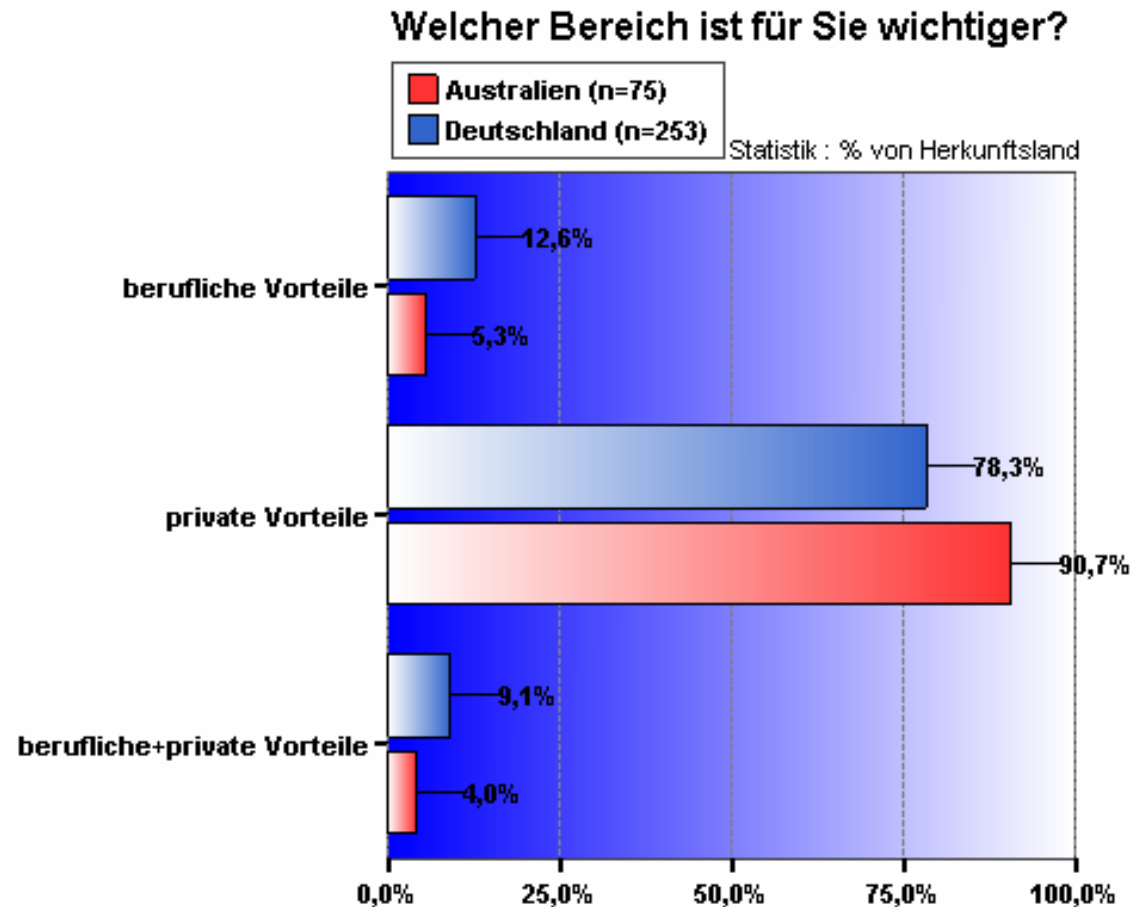
Anmerkung: "besondere persönliche Erfahrung", "größere Selbständigkeit" und "neue Freundschaft(en) im In-/Ausland" wurden aus den sonstigen Nennungen heraus decodet und waren keine vorgegebene Kategorie im Fragebogen.

Which area is more important for you?

Professional advantages

Personal advantages

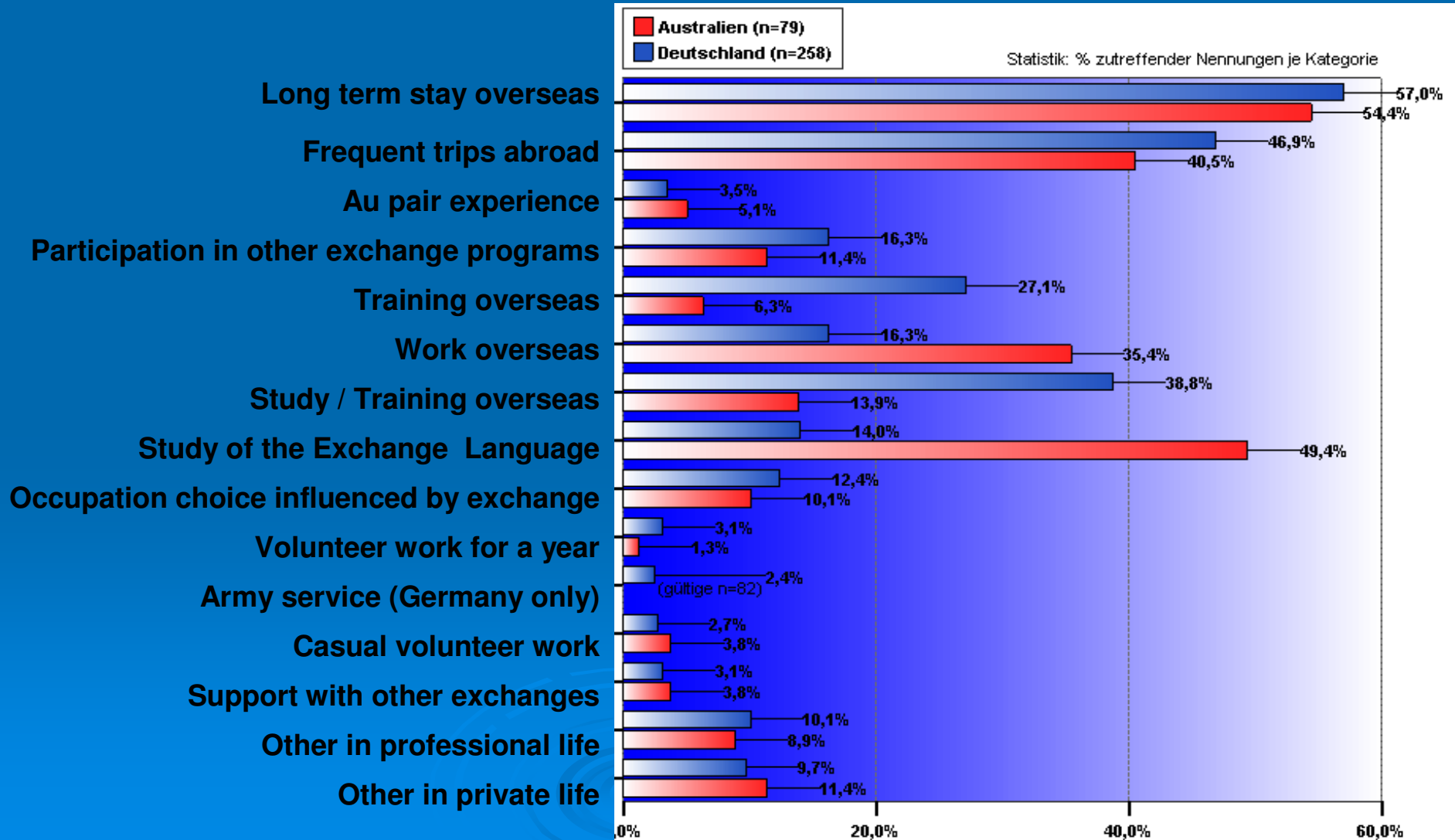
Career and personal advantages



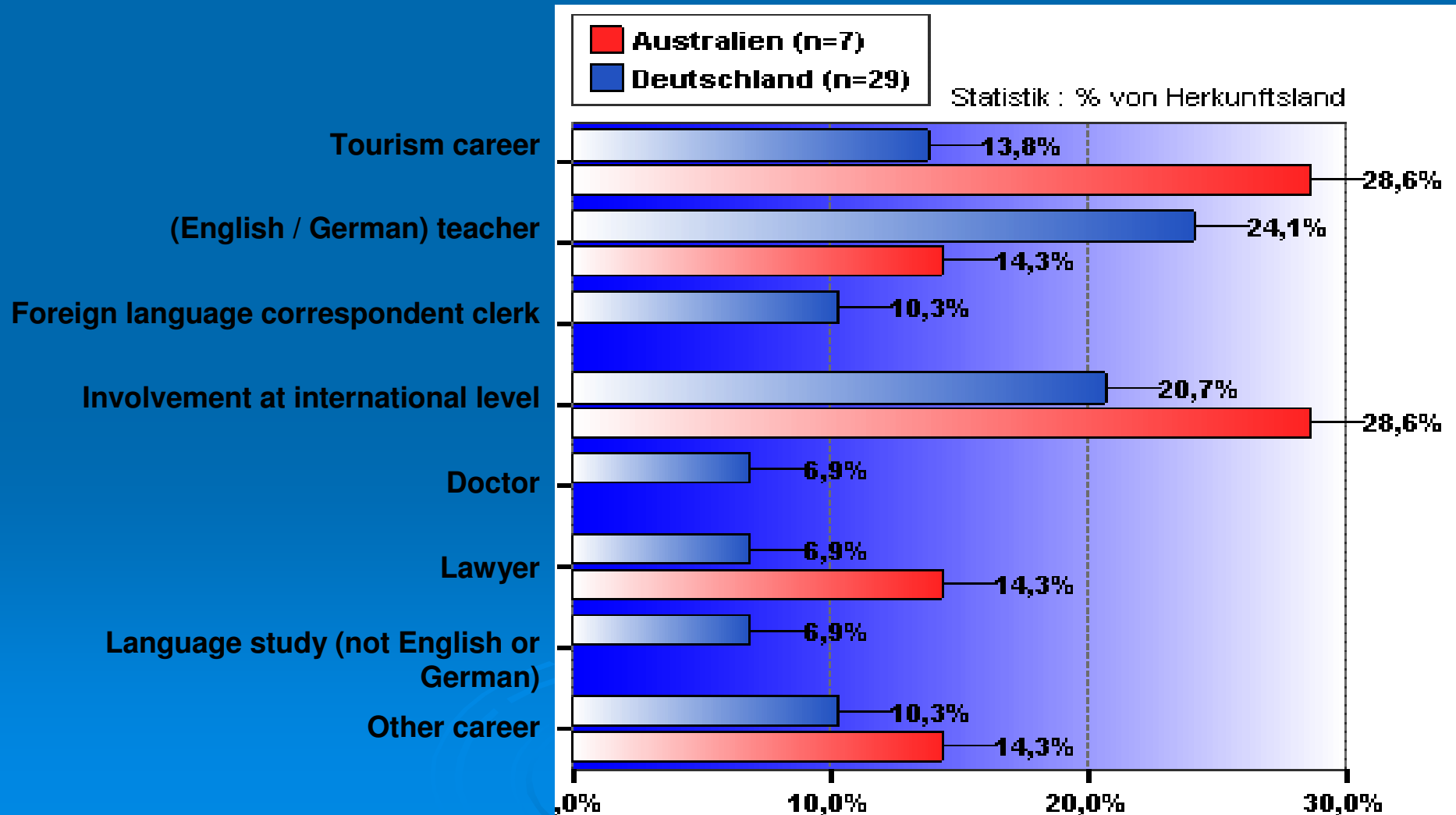
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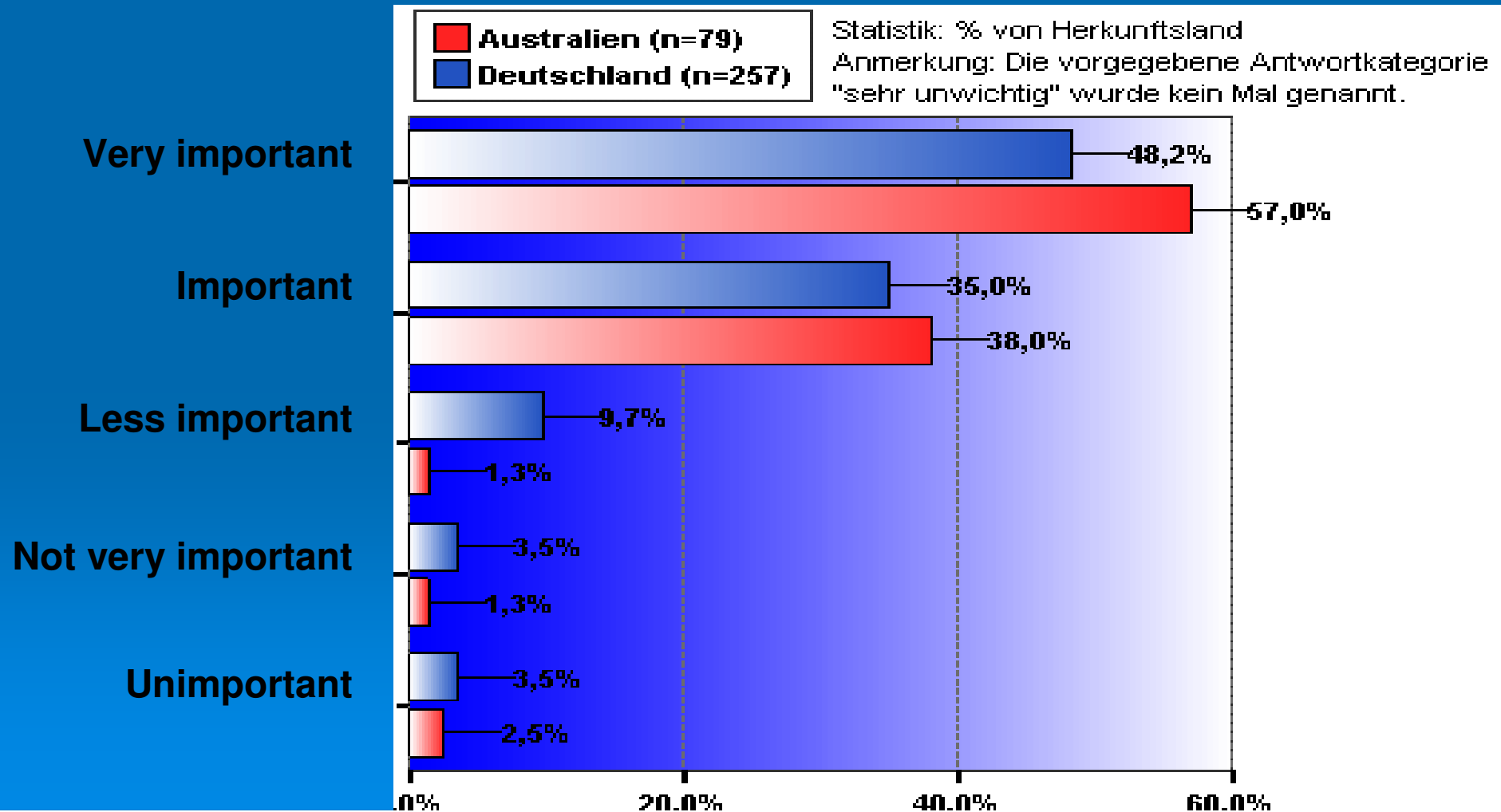
“If I hadn’t gone on exchange, I would NOT have undertaken the following”:
(multiple responses were possible)



Career choice, which was influenced by participation in the exchange

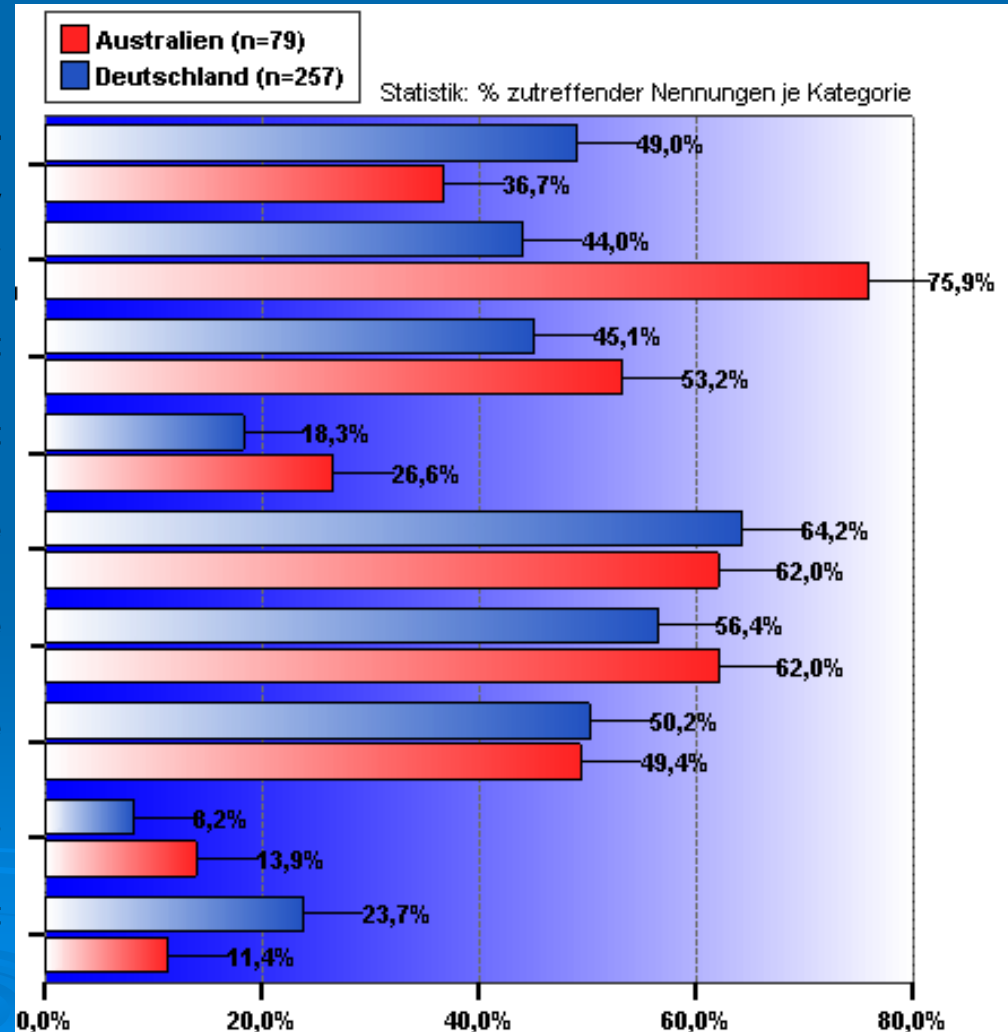


The importance of the hosting of the exchange partner in your country from your current perspective

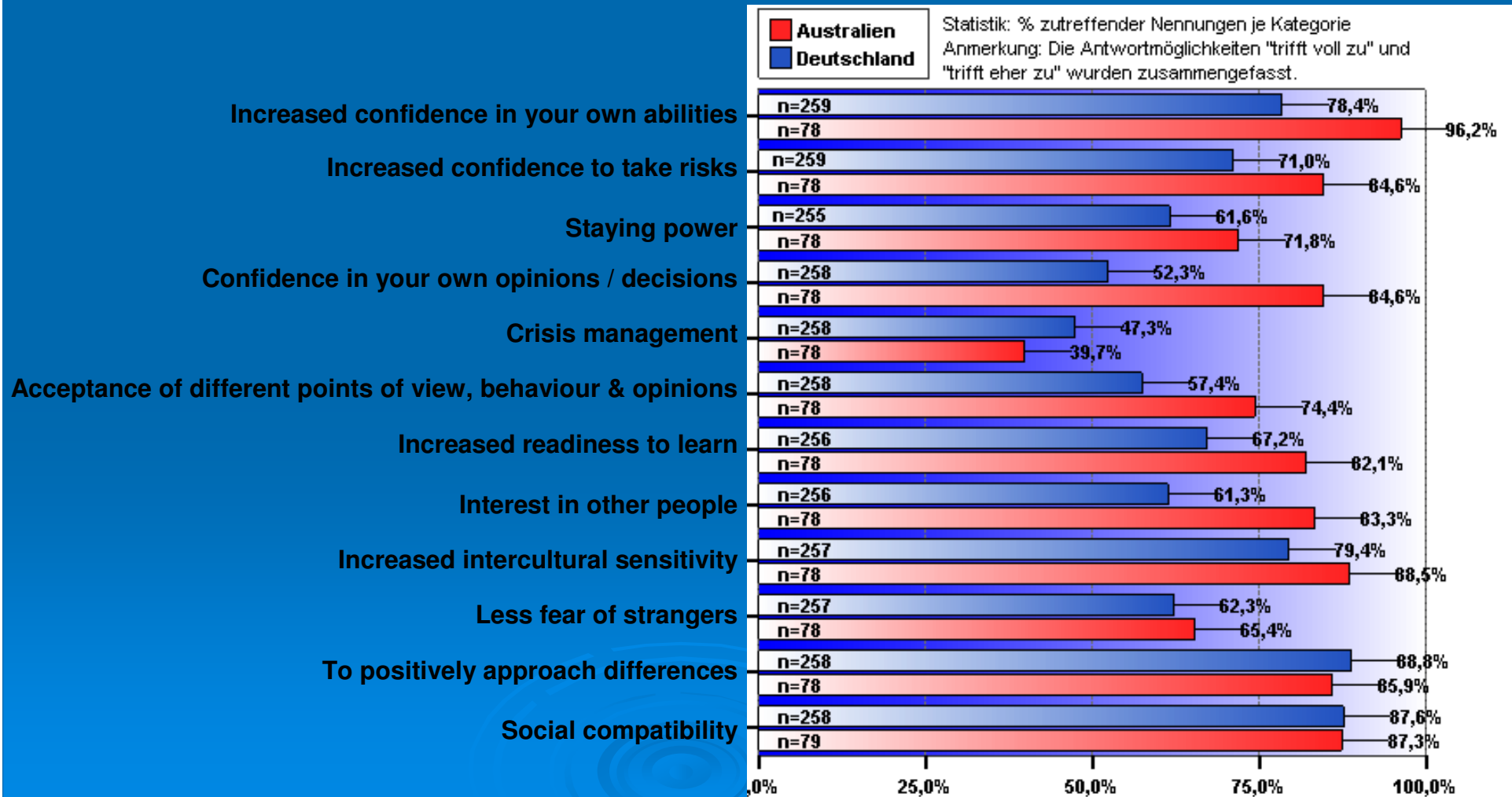


Care of the partner in your country as a learning experience

- Increased sensitivity towards people from other countries in my own country
- Increased understanding for other points of view
- Increased ability to cope with conflict
- Personal differences become less important
- Easier acceptance of diverse people
- Increased tolerance
- Greater sense of responsibility for other people
- More understanding for minorities
- My own pretensions are less important

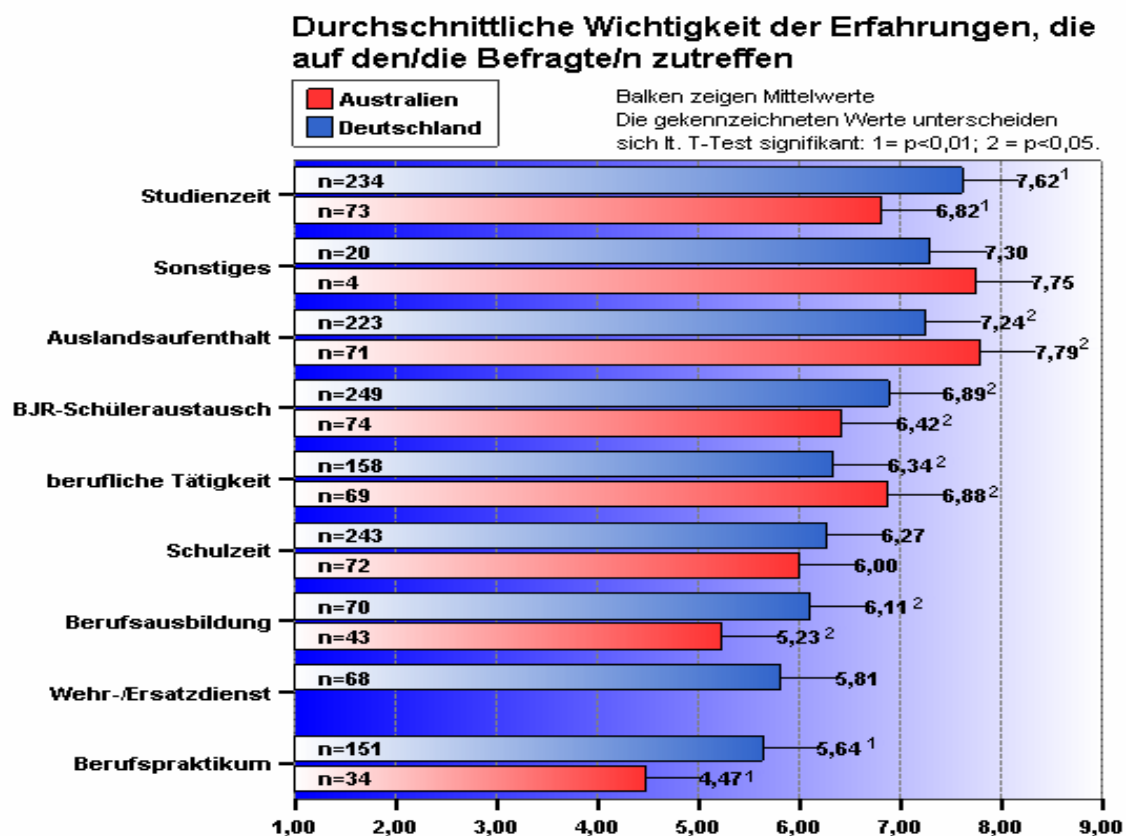


Agreement with personal changes from the exchange



Important experiences averaged according to participants' responses

- Years of Study
- Other
- Overseas trip
- AGTV / BJR student exchange
- Job or work
- School years
- Vocational training
- Military / community service
- Internship



Anmerkung: Da es in Australien keinen Wehr-/Ersatzdienst gibt, wurden hier von den Befragten nur acht mögliche Erfahrungen gerankt.
 Die Rangnoten wurden für die Auswertung wie folgt invertiert:
 deutsche Befragte: 9 ("wichtigste Erfahrung") bis 1 ("unwichtigste Erfahrung")
 australische Befragte: 9 ("wichtigste Erfahrung") bis 2 ("unwichtigste Erfahrung")



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Summary / Outlook:

- The experience of an exchange is held very dear
- The lasting effects are important
- Diverse impact on later life e.g. further extended overseas experiences
- Substantial long term personal changes
- Intensive long term social contacts made during the exchange
- Importance of reciprocity highly rated
- Maintenance and development of the exchange program highly desirable