

## An Alternative to Affirmative Action: Contextualized Admissions and Labor Market Outcomes

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### **Abstract:**

Abstract In this paper, using linked administrative and survey data, I study the effect of contextualized admissions on academic and labor market outcomes. The policy uses the applicants' background information when making decisions on whom to admit to university to increase the number of students coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. The analysis reveals that the policy change has reduced academic outcomes while it had little effect on the labor market outcomes. The policy decreased the likelihood of being in further education after graduation and it had little effect on the likelihood of holding a job where the subject studied in the university is important. Results hold for both low and high SES students which confirms the policy affected both target and non-target groups.

**Keywords:** Affirmative Action, Returns to Education, Inequality of Opportunity, Labor Market Outcomes

**JEL Codes:** I23, I24, I26, J24