



The German Rectors' Conference (HRK) is the association of public and government-recognised universities in Germany. The HRK currently has 269 member institutions, in which around 90 per cent of all students in Germany are enrolled.

Higher Education Institutions in Figures

Higher Education Institutions in Germany

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Higher education institutions in total | 423 ¹ |
| Universities | 120 ¹ |
| Universities of applied sciences | 246 ¹ |
| Colleges of the arts | 57 ¹ |

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Higher education institutions by type of funding | |
| State (public) higher education institutions | 273 ¹ |
| Non-state, state-recognised higher education institutions | 150 ¹ |
| - of which private | 112 ¹ |
| - of which church maintained | 38 ¹ |

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Studies

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Degree programmes in total by type of degree | 21,087 ¹ |
| Diplom (Uni) | 128 ¹ |
| Magister | 35 ¹ |
| Staatsexamen | 1,289 ¹ |
| Diplom (HAW/FH) | 91 ¹ |
| Bachelor's | 9,436 ¹ |
| Master's | 9,941 ¹ |
| Other degrees | 167 ¹ |
| Degree programmes by type of higher education institution | |
| Universities | 12,598 ¹ |
| Universities of applied sciences (HAW/FH) | 7,201 ¹ |
| Colleges of the arts | 1,288 ¹ |

Students

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Students in total | 2.9m ² |
| Women | 1.48m ² |
| Men | 1.47m ² |
| Proportion of foreign students | 15.0 % ² |
| Students by type of higher education institution | |
| Universities | 1.75m ² |
| Universities of applied sciences | 1.15m ² |
| Colleges of the arts | 37,084 ² |
| First-year students in total in the academic year | 472,354 ² |
| Women | 247,305 ² |
| Men | 225,049 ² |
| Proportion of first-year students among the same-age population | 55.8 % ³ |

Graduates

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Degrees gained in total | 476,913 ⁴ |
| Women | 246,760 ⁴ |
| Men | 230,153 ⁴ |
| Proportion of foreign graduates | 12.1 % ⁴ |
| Graduates by type of degree | 450,693 ⁴ |
| Diplom (Uni) and equivalent degrees | 28,777 ⁴ |
| Lehramt (teaching degree incl. BA and MA) | 43,248 ⁴ |
| Diplom (HAW/FH) | 7,664 ⁴ |
| Bachelor's | 236,472 ⁴ |
| Master's | 134,532 ⁴ |
| Doctorates in total | 26,220 ⁴ |
| Women | 11,825 ⁴ |
| Men | 14,395 ⁴ |
| Habilitations in total | 1,621 ⁵ |
| Women | 550 ⁵ |
| Men | 1,071 ⁵ |
| Staff | |
| Staff in total at higher education institutions | 759,065 ⁴ |
| Academic, research and artistic staff combined | 414,832 ⁴ |
| Full-time staff | 269,275 ⁴ |
| - Professors | 49,293 ⁴ |
| - Lecturers and assistants | 3,728 ⁴ |
| - Academic, research and artistic staff | 205,387 ⁴ |
| - Teaching staff for special purposes | 10,867 ⁴ |
| Temporary, part-time staff | 145,557 ⁴ |
| Administrative, technical and other staff combined | 344,233 ⁴ |

| Finances | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Expenditure | |
| Higher education institutions in total (incl. university hospitals) | 64.4bn euros ⁴ |
| Universities (excl. university hospitals) | 24.0bn euros ⁴ |
| University hospitals | 31.5bn euros ⁴ |
| Universities of applied sciences | 8.2bn euros ⁴ |
| Colleges of the arts | 0.8bn euros ⁴ |
| Current expenditure | 58.5bn euros ⁴ |
| Investment expenditure | 5.9bn euros ⁴ |
| Income | |
| Higher education institutions in total | 64.4bn euros ⁴ |
| Administrative income (excl. university hospitals) | 2.5bn euros ⁴ |
| Administrative income of hospitals | 22.2bn euros ⁴ |
| Core funding for higher education institutions | 30.8bn euros ⁴ |
| Third-party funding | 8.9bn euros ⁴ |
| Sources of third-party funding | |
| German Research Foundation (DFG) | 2.7bn euros ⁴ |
| Federal Government | 2.7bn euros ⁴ |
| Federal States (Länder) | 0.2bn euros ⁴ |
| European Union | 0.9bn euros ⁴ |
| Foundations and similar sources | 0.6bn euros ⁴ |
| Business, industry and similar sources | 1.5bn euros ⁴ |
| Core funding | |
| Core funding Federal States (Länder) | 28.5bn euros ⁶ |
| Core funding Federal Government | 4.7bn euros ⁶ |
| Core funding: Expenditure of higher education institutions as a proportion of GDP | 1.0 % ⁶ |
| Current expenditure (core funding) per student | 8,870 euros ⁷ |
| Current expenditure (core funding) by average length of studies per graduate | 33,200 euros ⁷ |

| Internationality | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Foreign students in Germany in total | 349,438 ² |
| of which from: China | 40,055 ² |
| India | 33,753 ² |
| Syria | 16,712 ² |
| Austria | 14,601 ² |
| German students abroad in total | 136,571 ⁷ |
| of which in: Austria | 30,231 ⁷ |
| Netherlands | 22,439 ⁷ |
| United Kingdom | 14,145 ⁷ |
| Switzerland | 11,536 ⁷ |
| United States | 9,242 ⁷ |
| China | 8,079 ⁷ |
| International Comparisons | |
| First-year student rate for the same-age population* | |
| Japan | 72 % ⁸ |
| United Kingdom | 66 % ⁸ |
| Germany | 56 % ⁸ |
| Italy | 49 % ⁸ |
| United States | 45 % ⁸ |
| Spending on tertiary sector education institutions as a percentage of GDP | |
| United States | 2.5 % ⁹ |
| Canada | 2.3 % ⁹ |
| United Kingdom | 2.0 % ⁹ |
| France | 1.5 % ⁹ |
| Japan | 1.4 % ⁹ |
| Germany | 1.2 % ⁹ |
| Russia | 1.0 % ⁹ |
| Italy | 0.9 % ⁹ |

| Research | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Total higher education institution expenditure on R+D | 19.2bn euros ⁷ |
| Third-party funds | |
| Third-party income of higher education institutions in total | 8.9bn euros ⁴ |
| Third-party funds by type of higher education institution | |
| Universities (excl. university hospitals) | 5.8bn euros ⁴ |
| University hospitals | 2.2bn euros ⁴ |
| Universities of applied sciences | 0.8bn euros ⁴ |
| Third-party funds per professor | |
| Higher education institutions in total | 193,370 euros ⁷ |
| Universities (incl. university hospitals) | 332,340 euros ⁷ |
| Universities (excl. university hospitals) | 286,960 euros ⁷ |
| Universities of applied sciences | 41,820 euros ⁷ |
| Colleges of the arts | 20,010 euros ⁷ |
| Source and Period under Review | |
| ¹ German Rectors' Conference (HRK): Higher Education Compass, Summer Semester 2022 | |
| ² Federal Statistical Office: Winter Semester 2021/2022 | |
| ³ Federal Statistical Office: as per November 2021 | |
| ⁴ Federal Statistical Office: 2020 | |
| ⁵ Federal Statistical Office: 2021 | |
| ⁶ Federal Statistical Office: 2020, (provisional) | |
| ⁷ Federal Statistical Office: 2019 | |
| ⁸ OECD: Education at a Glance: 2019 | |
| ⁹ OECD: Education at a Glance: 2018 | |
| * Limited comparability due to the differing degrees of academisation in the individual vocational training programmes. | |