



The German Rectors' Conference (HRK) is the association of public and government-recognised universities in Germany. The HRK currently has 271 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	422 ¹
Universities	120 ¹
Universities of applied sciences (HAW/FH)	245 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	149 ¹
- of which private	111 ¹
- of which church maintained	38 ¹

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Studies

Degree programmes in total by type of degree	21,593 ¹
Diplom (Uni)	131 ¹
Magister	35 ¹
Staatsexamen	1,315 ¹
Diplom (HAW/FH)	83 ¹
Bachelor's	9,745 ¹
Master's	10,136 ¹
Other degrees	148 ¹

Degree programmes by type of higher education institution	
Universities	12,816 ¹
Universities of applied sciences (HAW/FH)	7,469 ¹
Colleges of the arts	1,308 ¹

Students

Students in total	2.9m ²
Women	1.48m ²
Men	1.44m ²
Proportion of foreign students	15.7 % ²

Students by type of higher education institution	
Universities	1.73m ²
Universities of applied sciences	1.16m ²
Colleges of the arts	36,716 ²

First-year students in total in the academic year	473,665 ²
Women	247,627 ²
Men	226,038 ²
Proportion of first-year students among the same-age population	54.7 % ³

Graduates

Degrees gained in total	517,944 ⁴
Women	273,784 ⁴
Men	244,160 ⁴
Proportion of foreign graduates	12.6 % ⁴

Graduates by type of degree	489,791 ⁴
Diplom (Uni) and equivalent degrees	30,494 ⁴
Lehramt (teaching degree incl. BA and MA)	48,415 ⁴
Diplom (HAW/FH)	8,384 ⁴
Bachelor's	257,716 ⁴
Master's	144,782 ⁴

Doctorates in total	28,153 ⁴
Women	12,927 ⁴
Men	15,226 ⁴

Habilitations in total	1,535 ⁵
Women	561 ⁵
Men	974 ⁵

Staff

Staff in total at higher education institutions	781,182 ⁴
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Academic, research and artistic staff combined	427,698 ⁴
Full-time staff	275,599 ⁴
- Professors	50,260 ⁴
- Lecturers and assistants	3,663 ⁴
- Academic, research and artistic staff	210,769 ⁴
- Teaching staff for special purposes	10,907 ⁴
Temporary, part-time staff	152,099 ⁴

Administrative, technical and other staff combined	353,484 ⁴
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Finances	
Expenditure	
Higher education institutions in total (incl. university hospitals)	67.2bn euros ⁴
Universities (excl. university hospitals)	24.6bn euros ⁴
University hospitals	33.0bn euros ⁴
Universities of applied sciences	8.7bn euros ⁴
Colleges of the arts	0.8bn euros ⁴
Current expenditure	61.5bn euros ⁴
Investment expenditure	5.7bn euros ⁴
Income	
Higher education institutions in total	67.2bn euros ⁴
Administrative income (excl. university hospitals)	2.8bn euros ⁴
Administrative income of hospitals	23.4bn euros ⁴
Core funding for higher education institutions	31.5bn euros ⁴
Third-party funding	9.5bn euros ⁴
Sources of third-party funding	
German Research Foundation (DFG)	3.0bn euros ⁴
Federal Government	3.0bn euros ⁴
Federal States (Länder)	0.2bn euros ⁴
European Union	0.8bn 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)	29.2bn euros ⁶
Core funding Federal Government	4.7bn euros ⁶
Core funding: Expenditure of higher education institutions as a proportion of GDP	0.9 % ⁶
Current expenditure (core funding) per student	9,270 euros ⁷
Current expenditure (core funding) by average length of studies per graduate	35,200 euros ⁷

Internationality	
Foreign students in Germany in total	367,578 ²
of which from:	
India	42,578 ²
China	38,743 ²
Syria	15,563 ²
Austria	14,762 ²
German students abroad in total	119,711 ⁷
of which in:	
Austria	33,836 ⁷
Netherlands	24,494 ⁷
United Kingdom	12,670 ⁷
Switzerland	11,932 ⁷
United States	5,364 ⁷
Türkiye	4,261 ⁷
International Comparisons	
First-year student rate for the same-age population*	
Japan	74 % ⁸
United Kingdom	69 % ⁸
Germany	55 % ⁸
Italy	51 % ⁸
United States	45 % ⁸
Spending on tertiary sector education institutions as a percentage of GDP	
United States	2.5 % ⁹
Canada	2.2 % ⁹
United Kingdom	2.0 % ⁹
France	1.5 % ⁹
Japan	1.4 % ⁹
Germany	1.3 % ⁹
Italy	0.9 % ⁹

Research	
Total higher education institution expenditure on R+D	20.0bn euros ⁷
Third-party funds	
Third-party income of higher education institutions in total	9.5bn euros ⁴
Third-party funds by type of higher education institution	
Universities (excl. university hospitals)	6.1bn euros ⁴
University hospitals	2.4bn euros ⁴
Universities of applied sciences	0.9bn euros ⁴
Third-party funds per professor	
Higher education institutions in total	195,240 euros ⁷
Universities (incl. university hospitals)	335,890 euros ⁷
Universities (excl. university hospitals)	287,470 euros ⁷
Universities of applied sciences	43,380 euros ⁷
Colleges of the arts	18,300 euros ⁷
Source and Period under Review	
¹ German Rectors' Conference (HRK): Higher Education Compass, Summer Semester 2023	
² Federal Statistical Office: Winter Semester 2022/2023	
³ Federal Statistical Office: as per November 2022	
⁴ Federal Statistical Office: 2021	
⁵ Federal Statistical Office: 2022	
⁶ Federal Statistical Office: 2021, (provisional)	
⁷ Federal Statistical Office: 2020	
⁸ OECD: OECD.Stat: 2020	
⁹ OECD: Education at a Glance: 2019	
* Limited comparability due to the differing degrees of academisation in the individual vocational training programmes.	