



The German Rectors' Conference (HRK) is the association of public and government-recognised universities in Germany. The HRK currently has 268 member institutions, in which around 91 per cent of all students in Germany are enrolled.

Higher Education Institutions in Figures

Higher Education Institutions in Germany

Higher education institutions in total	420 ¹
Universities	120 ¹
Universities of applied sciences	243 ¹
Colleges of art and music	57 ¹

Higher education institutions by type of funding

State (public) higher education institutions	272 ¹
Non-state, state-recognised higher education institutions	148 ¹
- of which private	110 ¹
- of which church maintained	38 ¹

www.hrk.de

2021

Studies

Degree programmes in total by type of degree	20,593 ¹
Diplom (Uni)	129 ¹
Magister	38 ¹
Staatsexamen	1,258 ¹
Diplom (HAW/FH)	92 ¹
Bachelor's	9,243 ¹
Master's	9,692 ¹
Other degrees	141 ¹
Degree programmes by type of higher education institution	
Universities	12,439 ¹
Universities of applied sciences (HAW/FH)	6,900 ¹
Colleges of art and music	1,254 ¹

Students

Students in total	2.9m ²
Women	1.47m ²
Men	1.48m ²
Proportion of foreign students	14.1 % ²
Students by type of higher education institution	
Universities	1.78m ²
Universities of applied sciences	1.13m ²
Colleges of art and music	37,491 ²
First-year students in total in the academic year	488,614 ²
Women	256,639 ²
Men	231,975 ²
Proportion of first-year students among the same-age population	54.8 % ³

Graduates

Degrees gained in total	512,285 ⁴
Women	264,648 ⁴
Men	247,637 ⁴
Proportion of foreign graduates	11.7 % ⁴
Graduates by type of degree	483,595 ⁴
Diplom (Uni) and equivalent degrees	30,862 ⁴
Lehramt (teaching degree incl. BA and MA)	46,454 ⁴
Diplom (HAW/FH)	6,764 ⁴
Bachelor's	254,142 ⁴
Master's	145,373 ⁴
Doctorates in total	28,690 ⁴
Women	13,038 ⁴
Men	15,652 ⁴
Habilitations in total	1,518 ⁴
Women	484 ⁴
Men	1,034 ⁴
Staff	
Staff in total at higher education institutions	737,762 ⁴
Academic, research and artistic staff combined	406,659 ⁴
Full-time staff	260,611 ⁴
- Professors	48,547 ⁴
- Lecturers and assistants	3,929 ⁴
- Academic, research and artistic staff	197,502 ⁴
- Teaching staff for special purposes	10,633 ⁴
Temporary, part-time staff	146,048 ⁴
Administrative, technical and other staff combined	331,103 ⁴

Finances	
Expenditure	
Higher education institutions in total (incl. university hospitals)	61.0bn euros ⁴
Universities (excl. university hospitals)	23.4bn euros ⁴
University hospitals	29.1bn euros ⁴
Universities of applied sciences	7.7bn euros ⁴
Colleges of art and music	0.8bn euros ⁴
Current expenditure	55.8bn euros ⁴
Investment expenditure	5.2bn euros ⁴
Income	
Higher education institutions in total	61.0bn euros ⁴
Administrative income (excl. university hospitals)	2.6bn euros ⁴
Administrative income of hospitals	20.8bn euros ⁴
Core funding for higher education institutions	28.9bn euros ⁴
Third-party funding	8.7bn euros ⁴
Sources of third-party funding	
German Research Foundation (DFG)	2.7bn euros ⁴
Federal Government	2.5bn euros ⁴
Federal States (Länder)	0.1bn 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)	26.8bn euros ⁵
Core funding Federal Government	5.4bn euros ⁵
Core funding: Expenditure of higher education institutions as a proportion of GDP	0.9 % ⁶
Current expenditure (core funding) per student	8,450 euros ⁷
Current expenditure (core funding) by average length of studies per graduate	31,600 euros ⁷

Internationality	
Foreign students in Germany in total	319,902 ⁸
of which from:	
China	41,353 ⁸
India	24,868 ⁸
Syria	15,948 ⁸
Austria	12,020 ⁸
German students abroad in total	133,944 ⁷
of which in:	
Austria	29,053 ⁷
Netherlands	21,314 ⁷
United Kingdom	15,300 ⁷
Switzerland	11,459 ⁷
United States	9,191 ⁷
China	8,079 ⁷
International Comparisons	
First-year student rate for the same-age population*	
Japan	73 % ⁹
United Kingdom	63 % ⁹
Germany	52 % ⁹
Italy	48 % ⁹
United States	46 % ⁹
Spending on tertiary sector education institutions as a percentage of GDP	
United States	2.6 % ¹⁰
Canada	2.3 % ¹⁰
United Kingdom	2.0 % ¹⁰
France	1.4 % ¹⁰
Japan	1.4 % ¹⁰
Germany	1.2 % ¹⁰
Russia	1.0 % ¹⁰
Italy	0.9 % ¹⁰

Research	
Total higher education institution expenditure on R+D	18.4bn euros ⁷
Third-party funds	
Third-party income of higher education institutions in total	8.7bn euros ⁴
Third-party funds by type of higher education institution	
Universities (excl. university hospitals)	5.8bn euros ⁴
University hospitals	2.0bn euros ⁴
Universities of applied sciences	0.8bn euros ⁴
Third-party funds per professor	
Higher education institutions in total	187,630 euros ⁷
Universities (incl. university hospitals)	326,180 euros ⁷
Universities (excl. university hospitals)	281,730 euros ⁷
Universities of applied sciences	36,280 euros ⁷
Colleges of art and music	19,450 euros ⁷
Source and Period under Review	
¹ German Rectors' Conference (HRK): Higher Education Compass, Summer Semester 2021	
² Federal Statistical Office: Winter Semester 2020/2021, (provisional)	
³ Federal Statistical Office: as per November 2020	
⁴ Federal Statistical Office: 2019	
⁵ Federal Statistical Office: 2019, (provisional)	
⁶ Federal Statistical Office: 2018, (provisional)	
⁷ Federal Statistical Office: 2018	
⁸ Federal Statistical Office: Winter Semester 2019/2020	
⁹ OECD: Education at a Glance: 2018	
¹⁰ OECD: Education at a Glance: 2017	
* Limited comparability due to the differing degrees of academisation in the individual vocational training programmes.	