



The German Rectors' Conference (HRK) is the association of public and government-recognised universities in Germany. The HRK currently has 270 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	422¹
Universities	122 ¹
Universities of applied sciences (HAW/FH)	243 ¹
Universities of the arts	57 ¹

Higher education institutions by type of funding

State (public) higher education institutions	274 ¹
Non-state, state-recognised higher education institutions	148 ¹
- of which private	110 ¹
- of which church maintained	38 ¹

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2025

Studies

Degree programmes in total by type of degree	22,310¹
Diplom (Uni)	113 ¹
Magister	35 ¹
Staatsexamen	1,348 ¹
Diplom (HAW/FH)	76 ¹
Bachelor's	10,130 ¹
Master's	10,458 ¹
Other degrees	150 ¹

Degree programmes by type of higher education institution

Universities	13,163 ¹
Universities of applied sciences (HAW/FH)	7,945 ¹
Universities of the arts	1,202 ¹

Students

Students in total	2.9m²
Women	1.47m ²
Men	1.40m ²
Proportion of foreign students	17.2 % ²

Students by type of higher education institution

Universities	1.68m ²
Universities of applied sciences	1.15m ²
Universities of the arts	37,312 ²

First-year students in total in the academic year

Women	255,694 ²
Men	235,709 ²
Proportion of first-year students among the same-age population	55.4 % ³

Graduates

Degrees gained in total	501,925⁴
Women	265,244 ⁴
Men	236,681 ⁴
Proportion of foreign graduates	14.0 % ⁴
Graduates by type of degree	475,355⁴
Diplom (Uni) and equivalent degrees	29,820 ⁴
Lehramt (teaching degree incl. BA and MA)	47,550 ⁴
Diplom (HAW/FH)	7,868 ⁴
Bachelor's	243,633 ⁴
Master's	146,484 ⁴
Doctorates in total	26,570⁴
Women	12,292 ⁴
Men	14,278 ⁴
Habilitations in total	1,564⁵
Women	568 ⁵
Men	996 ⁵

Staff

Staff in total at higher education institutions	792,305⁴
Academic, research and artistic staff combined	425,751⁴
Full-time staff	281,588 ⁴
- Professors	51,873 ⁴
- Lecturers and assistants	3,638 ⁴
- Academic, research and artistic staff	214,879 ⁴
- Teaching staff for special purposes	11,198 ⁴
Temporary, part-time staff	144,163 ⁴
Administrative, tech. and other staff combined	366,554⁴

Finances

Expenditure

Higher education institutions in total (incl. university hospitals)	75.2bn euros ⁴
Universities (excl. university hospitals)	27.6bn euros ⁴
University hospitals	36.8bn euros ⁴
Universities of applied sciences	10.0bn euros ⁴
Universities of the arts	0.9bn euros ⁴
Current expenditure	68.5bn euros ⁴
Investment expenditure	6.7bn euros ⁴

Income

Higher education institutions in total	75.2bn euros ⁴
Administrative income (excl. university hospitals)	3.6bn euros ⁴
Administrative income of hospitals	26.1bn euros ⁴
Core funding for higher education institutions	33.7bn euros ⁴
Third-party funding	10.7bn euros ⁴

Sources of third-party funding

German Research Foundation (DFG)	3.2bn euros ⁴
Federal Government	3.3bn euros ⁴
Federal States (Länder)	0.2bn euros ⁴
European Union	1.2bn euros ⁴
Foundations and similar sources	0.8bn euros ⁴
Business, industry and similar sources	1.5bn euros ⁴

Core funding

Core funding Federal States (Länder)	31.4bn euros ⁶
Core funding Federal Government	5.1bn euros ⁶
Core funding: Expenditure of higher education institutions as a proportion of GDP	0.9 % ⁶
Current expenditure (core funding) per student	10,180 euros ⁷
Current expenditure (core funding) by average length of studies per graduate	39,500 euros ⁷

Internationality

Foreign students in Germany in total	379,939 ⁸
of which from:	
India	49,008 ⁸
China	38,262 ⁸
Türkiye	18,084 ⁸
Austria	15,379 ⁸
German students abroad in total	137,756 ⁷
of which in:	
Austria	37,766 ⁷
Netherlands	22,637 ⁷
Switzerland	12,485 ⁷
United Kingdom	9,625 ⁷
United States	8,550 ⁷
France	4,701 ⁷

International Comparisons

Educational attainment of 25-64 year-olds: Completion of tertiary education*

United Kingdom	53 % ⁹
United States	51 % ⁹
France	42 % ⁹
Germany	33 % ⁹
Italy	22 % ⁹

Spending on tertiary sector education institutions as a percentage of GDP

United States	2.3 % ¹⁰
United Kingdom	2.1 % ¹⁰
Canada	2.0 % ¹⁰
France	1.6 % ¹⁰
Germany	1.3 % ¹⁰
Italy	1.0 % ¹⁰

Research

Total higher education institution expenditure on R+D	22.4bn euros ⁶
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Third-party funds

Third-party income of higher education institutions in total	10.7bn euros ⁴
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Third-party funds by type of higher education institution

Universities (excl. university hospitals)	7.0bn euros ⁴
University hospitals	2.6bn euros ⁴
Universities of applied sciences	1.1bn euros ⁴

Third-party funds per professor

Higher education institutions in total	220,670 euros ⁷
Universities (incl. university hospitals)	381,100 euros ⁷
Universities (excl. university hospitals)	326,400 euros ⁷
Universities of applied sciences	51,220 euros ⁷
Universities of the arts	21,810 euros ⁷

Source and Period under Review

¹ German Rectors' Conference (HRK): Higher Education Compass, Summer Semester 2025

² Federal Statistical Office: Winter Semester 2024/2025, (prov.)

³ Federal Statistical Office: as per November 2024

⁴ Federal Statistical Office: 2023

⁵ Federal Statistical Office: 2024

⁶ Federal Statistical Office: 2023, (provisional)

⁷ Federal Statistical Office: 2022

⁸ Federal Statistical Office: Winter Semester 2023/2024

⁹ OECD: Education at a Glance: 2023

¹⁰ OECD: Education at a Glance: 2021

* Limited comparability due to the differing degrees of academisation in the individual vocational training programmes.