



The German Rectors' Conference (HRK) is the association of public and government-recognised universities in Germany. The HRK currently has 272 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	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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2026

Studies

Degree programmes in total by type of degree	22,345²
Diplom (Uni)	111 ²
Magister	35 ²
Staatsexamen	1,341 ²
Diplom (HAW/FH)	46 ²
Bachelor's	10,214 ²
Master's	10,458 ²
Other degrees	140 ²

Degree programmes by type of higher education institution

Universities	13,244 ²
Universities of applied sciences (HAW/FH)	7,840 ²
Universities of the arts	1,261 ²

Students

Students in total	2.9m³
Women	1.47m ³
Men	1.40m ³
Proportion of foreign students	17.2 % ⁴

Students by type of higher education institution

Universities	1.67m ³
Universities of applied sciences	1.17m ³
Universities of the arts	38,054 ³

First-year students in total in the academic year

Women	255,257 ³
Men	236,393 ³
Proportion of first-year students among the same-age population	56.8 % ³

Graduates

Degrees gained in total	511,606⁵
Women	271,596 ⁵
Men	240,010 ⁵
Proportion of foreign graduates	14.7 % ⁵

Graduates by type of degree

Diplom (Uni) and equivalent degrees	31,035 ⁵
Lehramt (teaching degree incl. BA and MA)	49,684 ⁵
Diplom (HAW/FH)	7,820 ⁵
Bachelor's	245,604 ⁵
Master's	149,292 ⁵

Doctorates in total

28,171 ⁵	
Women	13,024 ⁵
Men	15,147 ⁵

Habilitations in total

Women	568 ⁵
Men	996 ⁵

Staff

Staff in total at higher education institutions

Academic, research and artistic staff combined

Full-time staff	284,396 ⁵
- Professors	52,078 ⁵
- Lecturers and assistants	3,600 ⁵
- Academic, research and artistic staff	217,514 ⁵
- Teaching staff for special purposes	11,204 ⁵
Temporary, part-time staff	141,812 ⁵

Administrative, tech. and other staff combined

379,472⁵

Finances

Expenditure

Higher education institutions in total (incl. university hospitals)	79.2bn euros ⁵
Universities (excl. university hospitals)	28.7bn euros ⁵
University hospitals	39.2bn euros ⁵
Universities of applied sciences	10.3bn euros ⁵
Universities of the arts	0.9bn euros ⁵
Current expenditure	72.4bn euros ⁵
Investment expenditure	6.8bn euros ⁵

Income

Higher education institutions in total	79.2bn euros ⁵
Administrative income (excl. university hospitals)	3.8bn euros ⁵
Administrative income of hospitals	27.8bn euros ⁵
Core funding for higher education institutions	34.5bn euros ⁵
Third-party funding	10.7bn euros ⁵

Sources of third-party funding

German Research Foundation (DFG)	3.2bn euros ⁵
Federal Government	3.4bn euros ⁵
Federal States (Länder)	0.2bn euros ⁵
European Union	0.9bn euros ⁵
Foundations and similar sources	0.8bn euros ⁵
Business, industry and similar sources	1.7bn euros ⁵

Core funding

Core funding Federal States (Länder)	33.1bn euros ⁶
Core funding Federal Government	5.2bn euros ⁶
Core funding: Expenditure of higher education institutions as a proportion of GDP	0.9 % ⁶
Current expenditure (core funding) per student	10,970 euros ⁷
Current expenditure (core funding) by average length of studies per graduate	42,800 euros ⁷

Internationality

Foreign students in Germany in total	402,083 ⁴
of which from:	
India	58,833 ⁴
China	38,580 ⁴
Türkiye	20,900 ⁴
Iran	17,248 ⁴
German students abroad in total	136,483 ⁷
of which in:	
Austria	40,666 ⁷
Netherlands	21,133 ⁷
Switzerland	12,599 ⁷
United Kingdom	8,415 ⁷
United States	6,850 ⁷
Türkiye	4,957 ⁷

International Comparisons

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

United Kingdom	54 % ⁸
United States (year of reference 2023)	51 % ⁸
France	43 % ⁸
Germany	34 % ⁸
Italy	22 % ⁸

Spending on tertiary sector education institutions as a percentage of GDP

United States (year of reference 2021)	2.3 % ⁹
United Kingdom	2.1 % ⁹
Canada	2.0 % ⁹
France	1.7 % ⁹
Germany	1.3 % ⁹
Italy	1.0 % ⁹

Research

Total higher education institution expenditure on R+D	24.1bn euros ⁵
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Third-party funds

Third-party income of higher education institutions in total	10.7bn euros ⁵
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Third-party funds by type of higher education institution

Universities (excl. university hospitals)	6.8bn euros ⁵
University hospitals	2.7bn euros ⁵
Universities of applied sciences	1.1bn euros ⁵

Third-party funds per professor

Higher education institutions in total	223,660 euros ⁷
Universities (incl. university hospitals)	384,370 euros ⁷
Universities (excl. university hospitals)	332,190 euros ⁷
Universities of applied sciences	53,160 euros ⁷
Universities of the arts	19,970 euros ⁷

Source and Period under Review

¹ German Rectors' Conference (HRK): Higher Education Compass, Winter Semester 2025/2026

² German Rectors' Conference (HRK): Higher Education Compass, Summer Semester 2026

³ Federal Statistical Office: as per November 2025

⁴ Federal Statistical Office: Winter Semester 2024/2025

⁵ Federal Statistical Office: 2024

⁶ Federal Statistical Office: 2024, (provisional)

⁷ Federal Statistical Office: 2023

⁸ OECD: Education at a Glance: 2024

⁹ OECD: Education at a Glance: 2022

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