



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	426 ¹
Universities	120 ¹
Universities of applied sciences (HAW/FH)	249 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	153 ¹
- of which private	115 ¹
- of which church maintained	38 ¹

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2024

Studies

Degree programmes in total by type of degree	22,078 ¹
Diplom (Uni)	127 ¹
Magister	36 ¹
Staatsexamen	1,345 ¹
Diplom (HAW/FH)	81 ¹
Bachelor's	9,980 ¹
Master's	10,349 ¹
Other degrees	160 ¹

Degree programmes by type of higher education institution

Universities	13,061 ¹
Universities of applied sciences (HAW/FH)	7,695 ¹
Universities of the arts	1,322 ¹

Students

Students in total	2.9m ²
Women	1.46m ²
Men	1.41m ²
Proportion of foreign students	16.4% ²

Students by type of higher education institution

Universities	1.69m ²
Universities of applied sciences	1.14m ²
Universities of the arts	37,040 ²

First-year students in total in the academic year

481,962 ²	
Women	252,750 ²
Men	229,212 ²
Proportion of first-year students among the same-age population	54.7% ³

Graduates

Degrees gained in total	505,650 ⁴
Women	265,959 ⁴
Men	239,691 ⁴
Proportion of foreign graduates	13.5% ⁴
Graduates by type of degree	477,958 ⁴
Diplom (Uni) and equivalent degrees	29,716 ⁴
Lehramt (teaching degree incl. BA and MA)	47,107 ⁴
Diplom (HAW/FH)	8,456 ⁴
Bachelor's	246,802 ⁴
Master's	145,877 ⁴
Doctorates in total	27,692 ⁴
Women	12,754 ⁴
Men	14,938 ⁴
Habilitations in total	1,592 ⁵
Women	588 ⁵
Men	1,004 ⁵

Staff

Staff in total at higher education institutions	787,537 ⁴
Academic, research and artistic staff combined	428,457 ⁴
Full-time staff	278,235 ⁴
- Professors	51,161 ⁴
- Lecturers and assistants	3,591 ⁴
- Academic, research and artistic staff	212,320 ⁴
- Teaching staff for special purposes	11,163 ⁴
Temporary, part-time staff	150,222 ⁴
Administrative, tech. and other staff combined	359,080 ⁴

Finances	
Expenditure	
Higher education institutions in total (incl. university hospitals)	70.9bn euros ⁴
Universities (excl. university hospitals)	26.2bn euros ⁴
University hospitals	34.4bn euros ⁴
Universities of applied sciences	9.4bn euros ⁴
Universities of the arts	0.8bn euros ⁴
Current expenditure	64.8bn euros ⁴
Investment expenditure	6.0bn euros ⁴
Income	
Higher education institutions in total	70.9bn euros ⁴
Administrative income (excl. university hospitals)	3.3bn euros ⁴
Administrative income of hospitals	24.5bn euros ⁴
Core funding for higher education institutions	32.7bn euros ⁴
Third-party funding	10.4bn euros ⁴
Sources of third-party funding	
German Research Foundation (DFG)	3.1bn euros ⁴
Federal Government	3.3bn euros ⁴
Federal States (Länder)	0.2bn euros ⁴
European Union	1.0bn euros ⁴
Foundations and similar sources	0.7bn euros ⁴
Business, industry and similar sources	1.5bn euros ⁴
Core funding	
Core funding Federal States (Länder)	30.5bn euros ⁶
Core funding Federal Government	4.9bn euros ⁶
Core funding: Expenditure of higher education institutions as a proportion of GDP	0.9 % ⁶
Current expenditure (core funding) per student	9,740 euros ⁷
Current expenditure (core funding) by average length of studies per graduate	37,400 euros ⁷

Internationality	
Foreign students in Germany in total	379,939 ²
of which from:	
India	49,008 ²
China	38,262 ²
Türkiye	18,084 ²
Austria	15,379 ²
German students abroad in total	136,816 ⁷
of which in:	
Austria	36,095 ⁷
Netherlands	24,442 ⁷
Switzerland	12,375 ⁷
United Kingdom	11,116 ⁷
United States	8,550 ⁷
France	4,566 ⁷
International Comparisons	
Educational attainment of 25-64 year-olds: Completion of tertiary education*	
United Kingdom	51 % ⁸
United States	50 % ⁸
France	42 % ⁸
Germany	33 % ⁸
Italy	20 % ⁸
Spending on tertiary sector education institutions as a percentage of GDP	
United States	2.5 % ⁹
Canada	2.4 % ⁹
United Kingdom	2.1 % ⁹
France	1.6 % ⁹
Germany	1.3 % ⁹
Italy	1.0 % ⁹

Research	
Total higher education institution expenditure on R+D	22.0bn euros ⁶
Third-party funds	
Third-party income of higher education institutions in total	10.4bn euros ⁴
Third-party funds by type of higher education institution	
Universities (excl. university hospitals)	6.8bn euros ⁴
University hospitals	2.5bn euros ⁴
Universities of applied sciences	1.0bn euros ⁴
Third-party funds per professor	
Higher education institutions in total	205,210 euros ⁷
Universities (incl. university hospitals)	354,640 euros ⁷
Universities (excl. university hospitals)	298,420 euros ⁷
Universities of applied sciences	46,280 euros ⁷
Universities of the arts	17,530 euros ⁷
Source and Period under Review	
¹ German Rectors' Conference (HRK): Higher Education Compass, Summer Semester 2024	
² Federal Statistical Office: Winter Semester 2023/2024	
³ Federal Statistical Office: as per November 2023	
⁴ Federal Statistical Office: 2022	
⁵ Federal Statistical Office: 2023	
⁶ Federal Statistical Office: 2022, (provisional)	
⁷ Federal Statistical Office: 2021	
⁸ OECD: Education at a Glance: 2022	
⁹ OECD: Education at a Glance: 2020	
* Limited comparability due to the differing degrees of academisation in the individual vocational training programmes.	