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New HRK data: more degree programmes, stable admission restrictions

Anyone currently looking to study in Germany can choose from more than 17 000 different degree programmes starting this semester. We are also pleased to report that universities have stabilised their admission restrictions with the number of restrictions for both bachelor's and master's degree programmes even falling slightly. There are no restrictions whatsoever for a good half of bachelor's courses and close to two thirds of master's programmes.

These are just two findings from the latest statistical data on courses available at universities in Germany published by the German Rectors' Conference (HRK).

The growth in the number of master's courses is particularly marked: for the first time ever, the total number available has ever so slightly exceeded that of bachelor's courses. The ratio of master's to bachelor's courses varies depending on the type of higher education institution: Universities offer considerably more master's courses (5000) than bachelor's programmes (4000) whereas the opposite is true at universities of applied sciences. Yet the latter lead the way in lifelong learning master's courses.

Disregarding state and church qualifications, only around one percent of the courses available from universities and universities of applied sciences culminate in traditional qualifications.

The positive trend in graduate numbers continues with a healthy 400 000 students graduating in the 2013 academic year – twice as many as ten years ago.

Background

"Statistische Daten zu Studienangeboten an Hochschulen in Deutschland – Wintersemester 2014/2015" (Statistical data on higher education courses in Germany - winter semester 2014/2015) is a continuation of the data on the introduction of bachelor's and master's courses regularly published by the HRK. The figures are based on the details provided by universities in the HRK Higher Education Compass and data from the Federal Statistical Office.

The printed version appears as part of the HRK series "Statistiken zur Hochschulpolitik" (Statistics on Research and Higher Education Policy) and can be ordered free of charge from publikationen@hrk.de.