



## National student fee and support systems in European higher education

### A

#### Data description (metadata)

##### Data description

This domain covers statistics and indicators on key aspects of the education systems across Europe. The data show the fee requirements and financial support (direct and indirect) for full-time and part-time higher education students in public and government-dependent private higher education institutions. Data cover short-cycle tertiary education, bachelor's or equivalent and master's or equivalent levels (i.e. ISCED levels 5, 6 and 7 according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)). Fee data refer to all costs charged to students, including for tuition, registration, admission and certification, but excluding payments to student unions. Administrative fees include registration, certification and examination fees. Tuition fees refer to costs charged for teaching.

Financial support data refer to direct financial support (grants and loans) provided to students and indirect financial support (allowances, tax benefits or other benefits made available to students and/or their families).

The standards on international information/statistics on student fee and financial support are set by the Unit A.6 – 'Platforms, Studies and Analysis' of the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) administering the annual update of this data collection.

Data are collected via the [37 Eurydice network member countries](#). The following topics are covered:

- Student fees: fee requirements; criteria influencing the amounts; minimum, maximum (standard performance), maximum (insufficient credit/extended length of study), most common amounts; shares of fee payers; waivers and reductions.
- Direct financial support: grants (availability, amounts, shares of grant beneficiaries); loans (availability, amounts, share of loan borrowers); combination of grants and loans.
- Indirect financial support: tax benefits to students' parents; family allowances for students' parents; This tax benefits for students with an income.

Data on fee requirements are disseminated by country and are available per:

- Education level (short-cycle tertiary education, bachelor's or equivalent and master's or equivalent levels)
- Student category: home and international students, students on non-state subsidised places, students studying in specific disciplines, students studying in a foreign language, students with extended length of study.
- Student status: full-time and part-time
- Type of amounts: minimum, maximum (standard performance), maximum (insufficient European Credit and Accumulation Transfer System (ECTS) credit/extended length of study, most common amount.)

Breakdowns are available for the following dimensions:

- by ISCED level (5, 6 and 7)
- by amount of fee (minimum, maximum and most common)
- by type of direct financial support (grants and loans)
- by type of indirect financial support

Data on direct financial support include:

- Grants - public financial support provided directly to students, which does not need to be paid back. Funding from European sources (e.g. Erasmus + mobility grants) is not included.
- Loans - repayable financial aid where the government bears a part of the costs. This can take the form of a government guarantee, where student loans are guaranteed or insured by the government against the risk of default and loss. Private loans with no public guarantee are not considered in this data collection.

Data on financial support include age limit for being eligible to apply.

Data on indirect financial support are disseminated by country and include information on the type of indirect financial support (allowances, tax and other benefits) available to students and /or their families.

Statistical population	Students in short-cycle tertiary education, bachelor's or equivalent and master's or equivalent levels (i.e. ISCED levels 5, 6 and 7).
Reference period	Data refer to the academic year. Any deviation is indicated in the country-specific notes on the <a href="#">web-based visualisation tool</a> .
Frequency of dissemination	Yearly.
Geographical reference area	The information is available for the 37 countries participating in the EU's Erasmus+ programme (27 EU Member States, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Türkiye). For Belgium, information is provided by education system (French, German-speaking and Flemish Communities).
Unit of measure	Countries provide the data in the national currency. The information is disseminated as absolute numbers in EUR. For countries not in the euro zone, the conversion into EUR uses Eurostat's Euro/ECU exchange rates - annual data [ert_bil_eur_a] (STATINFO: Average; UNIT: National Currency). For all conversions, the Year value usually corresponds to the reference year of the data collection; for instance, 2024 for the 2023/2024 school year.
Basic statistical concepts and definitions	<p>Countries participating in this data collection are compiling their data according to the concepts and definitions of the <a href="#">glossary</a> on student fee and support.</p> <p><b>Higher education institution</b> is an institution providing services in the field of higher and/or tertiary education, as defined by national steering documents. Three types of higher education institutions are distinguished. Data in the web tool covers only two of these: public higher education institutions and government-dependent private higher education institutions. Private higher education institutions are excluded.</p> <p><b>ECTS credits</b> express the volume of learning based on the defined learning outcomes and their associated workload. 60 ECTS credits are allocated to the learning outcomes and associated workload of a full-time academic year or its equivalent, which normally comprises a number of educational components to which credits (on the basis of the learning outcomes and workload) are allocated. ECTS credits are generally expressed in whole numbers.</p> <p><b>Full-time student</b> is a student enrolled in an education programme whose intended study load is more than 75% of the annual study load.</p> <p><b>Part-time student</b> is a student taking fewer course credits compared to full-time students, e.g. fewer than 60 ECTS per year.</p> <p>The <b>fee</b> includes all costs charged to students in higher education, including for tuition, registration, admission and certification, but excluding payments to student unions. Administrative fees include registration, certification, examination fees. Tuition fees refer to cost of teaching.</p> <p><b>Grants</b> are public financial support provided directly to students, which do not need to be paid back. Funding from European sources (e.g. Erasmus + mobility grants) is not included.</p> <p><b>Loans</b> are repayable financial aid where the government bears a part of the costs. This can take the form of a government guarantee, where student loans are guaranteed or insured by the government against the risk of default and loss. Private loans with no public guarantee are not considered in this data collection.</p> <p>Further definitions are available in the Glossary worksheet of the Questionnaire for the data collection.</p> <p>There are country-specific notes to countries' information, when applicable.</p>
Classifications used	<a href="#">ISCED 2011 International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)</a> .
Statistical Confidentiality	<a href="#">Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics</a> (recital 24 and Article 20(4)) of 11 March 2009 (OJ L 87, p. 164), stipulates the need to establish common principles and guidelines ensuring the confidentiality of data used for the production of European statistics and the access to those confidential data with due account for technical developments and the requirements of users in a democratic society.

## B Data quality

Relevance	<p>The <a href="#">Council Resolution on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021-2030) (2021/C 66/01 - Publications Office of the EU)</a> emphasizes the need for inclusive, accessible, and affordable education, including in higher education, to promote social mobility and equal opportunities for all. In this context, the collection of data on higher education student fees and support systems is crucial to inform policy decisions that aim to reduce barriers to education and ensure that students from diverse backgrounds have equal chances to succeed. Policymakers can assess the effectiveness of existing measures to support students, identify areas where additional support is needed, and develop evidence-based policies to achieve the European Education Area's objectives, including the goal of making higher education more inclusive and accessible.</p> <p>The data sent by participating countries are overall complete and match the requirements set out in the Questionnaire. Nevertheless, some national datasets are not always fully matching the expected format because some content is missing or is not applicable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data missing is displayed as 'not available' ('.' or 'm') or not displayed in charts. It means that the</li> </ul>
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- country could not collect the variable for some reason.
- Data not applicable is displayed as 'not applicable' ('-' or 'a') or not displayed in charts. It means that the concept does not exist in the country.

Timeliness	5 months after end of the reference period.
Accuracy and reliability	Data are collected on the basis of a common glossary and a common questionnaire. Data collected by national providers come from administrative data sources. To ensure a high quality of data, all data provided by the Eurydice network members undergo a cleaning phase by EACEA.A6 secretariat. Following this process, the pre-final cleaned data are checked and validated by the Eurydice network to ensure that all corrections have been integrated in an appropriate manner in Eurydice published information.
Accessibility and clarity	<b>Publication:</b> All data are available in a <a href="#">web-based visualisation tool</a> , with varied possibilities of visualisation and download. Data are available as of the 2022/2023 academic year. <b>Quality documentation:</b> The Questionnaire and the Glossary used for the data collection are available on the Eurydice web-site in the <a href="#">web-based visualisation tool</a> .
Coherence and comparability	<b>Over time:</b> The web-tool provides data for different reference years. <b>Geographical:</b> The organisation of the education systems differs between countries. The <a href="#">ISCED 2011 classification</a> is therefore used.

## Contact and update

Contact organisation	European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)
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