

Higher education in the 2020/2021 academic year (preliminary data)

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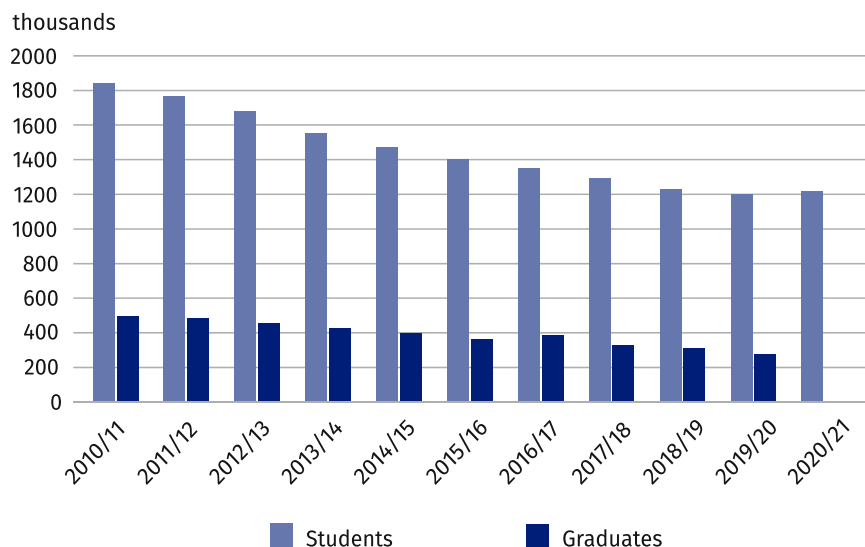
↑ 0.9%
increase in the number of students compared to the 2019/20 academic year

As of 31 December 2020, 1,215.3 thousand people were enrolled in higher education institutions in Poland, by 11.3 thousand more than in the previous year. In the 2019/20 academic year, 293.4 thousand graduates received diplomas, by 20.4 thousand fewer than in the 2018/19 academic year.

349 higher education institutions were operating in the 2020/21 academic year, including 130 public and 219 non-public HEIs (including 10 run by religious organisations).

In recent years, the number of students has been systematically decreasing (from 1,841.3 thousand in the 2010/11 academic year to 1,204.0 thousand in 2019/20), while there was a slight increase to 1,215.3 thousand people in the 2020/21 academic year, including 69.8% in public higher education institutions. A steady decline was also recorded in the number of graduates, from 497.5 thousand in the 2010/11 academic year to 293.4 thousand people in 2019/20 (a slight increase was recorded only in the 2016/17 academic year).

Chart 1. Students and graduates (including foreigners)



Compared to the 2010/11 academic year, the number of students decreased by 34.0% and the number of graduates fell by 41.0%

Students

Women accounted for 58.0% of students in the 2020/21 academic year. 796.7 thousand people were enrolled in full-time programmes (65.6% of students), while 418.6 thousand people studied part-time. First-cycle studies were chosen by 62.7% of all students (761.6 thousand people), second-cycle programmes by 22.9% and long-cycle programmes by 14.1% of students. The most (253.4 thousand) people studied in Mazowieckie Voivodship, while the fewest (11.9 thousand) in Lubuskie Voivodship.

65.6% of students were enrolled in full-time programmes

Business, administration and law with 22.3% of all students was the most frequently chosen broad field, followed by Technology, manufacturing and construction (14.8% respectively), Social sciences, journalism and information, and Health and welfare (11.9% each).

84.7 thousand foreigners, including 42.7 thousand women planned to study in Poland for at least one academic year, by 3.0% more than in the previous academic year. Most of the foreigners came from European countries, primarily from Ukraine (38.5 thousand, 45.4% of all foreigners), Belarus (9.7 thousand – 11.5%) and India (2.6 thousand – 3.0%). Full-time studies were undertaken by 73.2 thousand foreigners (86.5%). Higher education institutions in Mazowieckie Voivodship concentrated nearly one third of all foreigners (24.5 thousand).

Higher education institutions in Mazowieckie Voivodship were the most popular with foreign students

Table 1. Students by voivodships in the 2020/21 academic year

SPECIFICATION	Total	Of which females	In		Of total number – foreigners
			full-time programmes	part-time programmes	
POLAND	1215307	704946	796701	418606	84672
Dolnośląskie	117139	65487	75282	41857	8126
Kujawsko-pomorskie	54827	33633	32026	22801	2168
Lubelskie	67537	40506	51786	15751	7898
Lubuskie	11872	6482	7416	4456	153
Łódzkie	76897	46579	45878	31019	8246
Małopolskie	144302	84460	107644	36658	7896
Mazowieckie	253407	142020	151515	101892	24498
Opolskie	18398	10467	13923	4475	1863
Podkarpackie	44599	25265	31924	12675	2487
Podlaskie	28575	16987	20668	7907	1596
Pomorskie	83641	49164	51673	31968	4123
Śląskie	106411	61766	71239	35172	5560
Świętokrzyskie	22082	13908	13997	8085	987
Warmińsko-mazurskie	23705	13632	18012	5693	457
Wielkopolskie	127771	75391	77679	50092	6888
Zachodniopomorskie	34144	19199	26039	8105	1726

Graduates

In the 2019/20 academic year, 293.4 thousand people obtained higher education diplomas, including 185.6 thousand (63.2%) women. Most of the graduates (180.0 thousand) completed long-cycle and first-cycle programmes, while 38.6% were graduates of second-cycle studies.

Graduates most often completed their studies in the following broad fields:

Business, administration and law (23.6%), Technology, manufacturing and construction (16.5%), Health and welfare (11.2%) and Social sciences, journalism and information (10.6%).

As in the case of students, the most of 14.8 thousand foreign graduates came from Ukraine (51.7%), Belarus (8.7%) and India (6.9%). More than half of the foreign graduates were women (55.3%). 65.5% of foreigners completed full-time studies, mostly Business, administration and law (34.3% of the total number of foreign graduates).

293.4 thousand graduates completed full-time programmes (65.5%), while 101.3 thousand – part-time programmes

Table 2. Graduates by broad fields of education in the 2019/20 academic year

SPECIFICATION	Total	Of which females
Total	293436	185571
Education	24875	21291
Arts and humanities	25090	18465
Social sciences, journalism and information	31241	21707
Business, administration and law	69108	45999
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	11811	8416
Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	12068	1911
Technology, manufacturing and construction	48275	19621
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	5476	3213
Health and welfare	32842	26748
Services	25329	14388
Individual interfield studies	7321	3812

When citing data from the Statistics Poland please provide the following information: "Statistics Poland's data". When publishing calculations made on data published by the Statistics Poland, provide the following information: "Own study based on the Statistics Poland's data".

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