

# Higher education in the 2021/2022 academic year (preliminary data)

15.06.2022

 **0.2%**

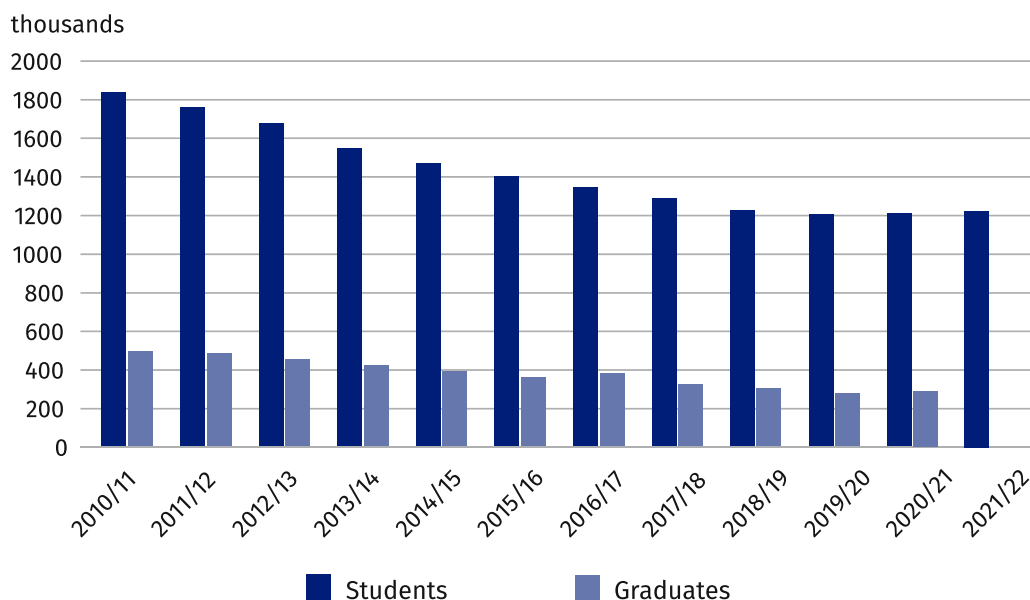
Increase in the number of students compared to the 2020/21 academic year

As of 31 December 2021, there were 1,218.2 thousand people enrolled in higher education institutions in Poland, by 2.9 thousand more than in the previous year. 297.4 thousand graduates received diplomas in the 2020/21 academic year, by 3.9 thousand more than in 2019/20.

According to the POL-on register, 362 higher education institutions operated in Poland in the 2021/22 academic year. This study covers 347 HEIs which filed statistical reports.

The number of students decreased from 1,841.3 thousand to 1,204.0 thousand in the 2010/11-2019/20 academic years, but it has increased to 1,218.2 thousand people since the 2020/21 academic year. A steady decline, from 497.5 thousand people in the 2010/11 academic year to 293.4 thousand in 2019/20, was also recorded in the number of graduates (a slight increase was recorded only in the 2016/17 academic year). Their number edged up to 297.4 thousand in the 2020/21 academic year.

**Chart 1. Students and graduates (including foreigners)**



Compared to the 2010/11 academic year, the number of students decreased by 33.8% and the number of graduates fell by 40.2%

## Students

Women accounted for 58.4% of students in the 2021/22 academic year. 783.4 thousand people were enrolled in full-time programmes (64.3% of students), while 434.7 thousand people studied part-time. First-cycle studies were chosen by 61.7% of all students (751.7 thousand people), second-cycle programmes by 22.2% and long-cycle programmes by 15.7%. The most (264.2 thousand) people studied in Mazowieckie Voivodship, while the fewest (11.7 thousand) in Lubuskie Voivodship.

64.3% of students were enrolled in full-time programmes

Business, administration and law with 22.5% of all students was the most frequently chosen broad field, followed by Engineering, manufacturing and construction (14.0% respectively), Health and welfare (12.8%) and Social sciences, journalism and information (12.3%).

84.9 thousand foreigners, including 45.3 thousand women, studied in Poland, by 5.6% more than in the previous year (this applies to people studying in Poland for at least one academic year). Most of the foreigners came from European countries, primarily from Ukraine (36.0 thousand, 40.3% of all foreigners), Belarus (11.1 thousand – 12.4%) and Turkey (2.9 thousand – 3.2%). Full-time studies were undertaken by 77.2 thousand foreigners (86.4%). Higher education institutions in Mazowieckie Voivodship concentrated more than a quarter of all foreigners (26.4 thousand).

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

**Table 1. Students by voivodships in the 2021/22 academic year**

SPECIFICATION	Total	Of which females	In		Of total number – foreigners
			full-time programmes	part-time programmes	
<b>POLAND</b>	<b>1218166</b>	<b>711805</b>	<b>783420</b>	<b>434746</b>	<b>89420</b>
Dolnośląskie	116280	65378	73230	43050	8314
Kujawsko-pomorskie	54715	34123	31711	23004	2708
Lubelskie	66290	40110	51041	15249	8648
Lubuskie	11661	6489	7177	4484	168
Łódzkie	76589	46784	44381	32208	8821
Małopolskie	144403	84860	106640	37763	7858
Mazowieckie	264245	149224	155353	108892	26375
Opolskie	17871	10278	13376	4495	1780
Podkarpackie	43668	24952	30916	12752	2366
Podlaskie	29045	17510	20740	8305	1525
Pomorskie	84117	50001	50433	33684	3750
Śląskie	107303	62871	70784	36519	6106
Świętokrzyskie	22053	14108	14007	8046	927
Warmińsko-mazurskie	22827	13340	16997	5830	498
Wielkopolskie	124310	73097	72486	51824	7742
Zachodniopomorskie	32789	18680	24148	8641	1834

## Graduates

In the 2020/21 academic year, 297.4 thousand people obtained higher education diplomas, including 187.2 thousand (62.9%) women. Most of the graduates (185.4 thousand) completed long-cycle and first-cycle programmes, while 37.7% were graduates of second-cycle studies.

Graduates most often completed their studies in the following broad fields: Business, administration and law (24.0%), Engineering, manufacturing and construction (15.7%), Health and welfare (11.2%) and Social sciences, journalism and information (10.6%).

The most of 15.7 thousand foreign graduates came from Ukraine (49.3%), Belarus (10.1%) and India (4.6%). More than half of the foreign graduates were women (56.4%). 89.2% of foreigners completed full-time studies, mostly Business, administration and law (32.4% of the total number of foreign graduates).

195.4 thousand graduates completed full-time programmes (65.7%), while 102.0 thousand – part-time programmes

**Table 2. Graduates by broad fields of education in the 2020/21 academic year**

SPECIFICATION	Total	Of which females
<b>Total</b>	<b>297368</b>	<b>187156</b>
Education	25232	21586
Arts and humanities	26722	19402
Social sciences, journalism and information	31669	21932
Business, administration and law	71416	46959
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	11768	8255
Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	13392	2119
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	46619	18746
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	5277	3097
Health and welfare	33313	26840
Services	24751	14662
Individual inter-field studies	7209	3558

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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**Data available in databases**

[Local Data Bank - Higher education](#)

**Terms used in official statistics**

[Student](#)

[Degree programmes](#)

[Full-time programmes](#)

[Part-time programmes](#)