

Higher education in the 2022/2023 academic year (preliminary data)

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↑ 0.4%

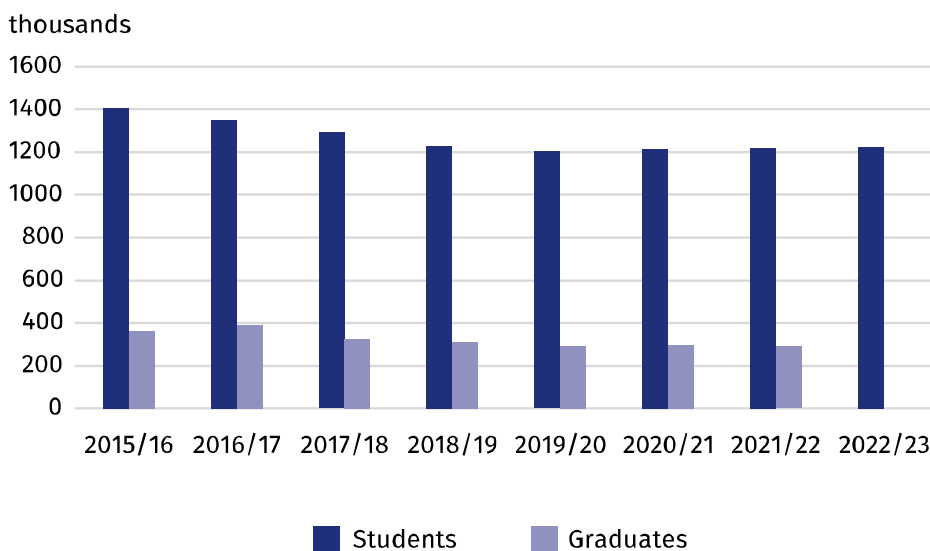
Increase in the number of students compared to the 2021/22 academic year

As of 31 December 2022, there were 1,223.6 thousand people enrolled in higher education institutions in Poland, by 5.5 thousand more than in 2021. 292.6 thousand graduates received diplomas in the 2021/22 academic year, by 4.8 thousand fewer than in 2020/21.

According to the POL-on register, 359 higher education institutions operated in Poland in the 2022/23 academic year. This study covers 341 HEIs which filed statistical reports.

The number of students decreased from 1,405.1 thousand to 1,204.0 thousand in the 2015/16-2019/20 academic years, but it has increased to 1,223.6 thousand people since the 2020/21 academic year. A steady decline, from 364.6 thousand people in the 2015/16 academic year to 292.6 thousand in 2021/22, was also recorded in the number of graduates (a slight increase was recorded only in the 2016/17 and 2020/21 academic years).

Chart 1. Students and graduates (including foreigners)



Compared to the 2015/16 academic year, the number of students decreased by 12.9% while the number of graduates fell by 19.8%

Students

Women accounted for 58.2% of students in the 2022/23 academic year. 786.2 thousand people were enrolled in full-time programmes (64.3% of students), while 437.4 thousand people studied part-time. First-cycle studies were chosen by 61.4% of all students (751.6 thousand people), second-cycle programmes by 21.1% and long-cycle programmes by 17.1%. The most (274.6 thousand) people studied in Mazowieckie Voivodship, while the fewest (11.3 thousand) in Lubuskie Voivodship.

64.3% of students were enrolled in full-time programmes

Business, administration and law with 22.7% of all students was the most frequently chosen broad field, followed by Health and welfare (13.3% respectively), Engineering, manufacturing and construction (13.2%), and Social sciences, journalism and information (13.0%).

105.4 thousand foreigners, including 48.7 thousand women, studied in Poland, by 17.9% 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 (48.1 thousand, 45.6% of all foreigners), Belarus (12.0 thousand – 11.4%) and Türkiye (3.8 thousand – 3.6%). Full-time studies were undertaken by 94.5 thousand foreigners (89.6%). Higher education institutions in Mazowieckie Voivodship concentrated more than a quarter of all foreigners (31.5 thousand).

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

Table 1. Students by voivodships in the 2022/23 academic year

SPECIFICATION	Total	Of which females	In		Of total number – foreigners
			full-time programmes	part-time programmes	
POLAND	1223629	711584	786245	437384	105404
Dolnośląskie	114712	64409	72158	42554	9194
Kujawsko-pomorskie	57213	35806	32285	24928	3603
Lubelskie	65256	39179	49773	15483	9637
Lubuskie	11268	6361	7074	4194	334
Łódzkie	74171	44571	44393	29778	7580
Małopolskie	144221	85259	106197	38024	8733
Mazowieckie	274620	155305	161348	113272	31505
Opolskie	18179	9759	13767	4412	2917
Podkarpackie	42233	23773	30352	11881	3086
Podlaskie	28825	17381	20720	8105	1766
Pomorskie	86439	51120	51919	34520	5683
Śląskie	107362	62309	70794	36568	7725
Świętokrzyskie	21583	13540	13760	7823	1112
Warmińsko-mazurskie	21684	12682	16095	5589	588
Wielkopolskie	124105	72214	72436	51669	9545
Zachodniopomorskie	31758	17916	23174	8584	2396

Graduates

In the 2021/22 academic year, 292.6 thousand people obtained higher education diplomas, including 183.8 thousand (62.8%) women. Most of the graduates (183.8 thousand) completed long-cycle and first-cycle programmes, while 37.2% were graduates of second-cycle studies.

Graduates most often completed their studies in the following broad fields: Business, administration and law (24.3%), Engineering, manufacturing and construction (15.2%), Health and welfare (12.5%) and Social sciences, journalism and information (10.8%).

The most of 15.8 thousand foreign graduates came from Ukraine (43.6%), Belarus (11.8%) and India (3.4%). More than half of the foreign graduates were women (56.7%). 89.6% of foreigners completed full-time studies, mostly Business, administration and law (33.2% of the total number of foreign graduates).

188.4 thousand graduates completed full-time programmes (64.4%), while 104.2 thousand – part-time programmes

Table 2. Graduates by broad fields of education in the 2021/22 academic year

SPECIFICATION	Total	Of which females
Total	292605	183817
Education	19909	16533
Arts and humanities	26524	19232
Social sciences, journalism and information	31690	22118
Business, administration and law	71112	46989
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	10978	7768
Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	13512	2131
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	44431	17415
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	5403	3185
Health and welfare	36533	29582
Services	25466	15450
Individual inter-field studies	7047	3414

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

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Terms used in official statistics

[Student](#)

[Degree programmes](#)

[Full-time programmes](#)

[Part-time programmes](#)