

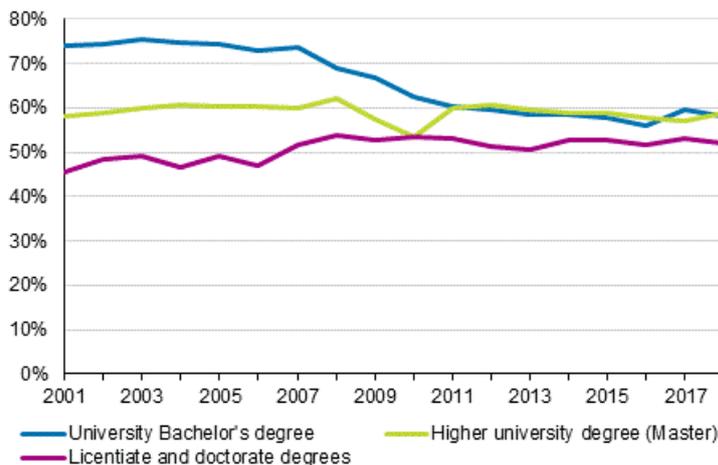
University education 2018

Women completed nearly 60 per cent of all university degrees in 2018

Corrected on 29 October 2019. The corrections are indicated in red.

According to Statistics Finland's Education Statistics, around 30,800 university degrees were completed in 2018, which is just under 250 fewer than in the previous year. For the third successive year, the number of lower university degrees decreased, by three per cent year-on-year. By contrast, slightly more higher university degrees and doctorate degrees were completed than in the year before. Women's share of all those who had completed a university degree was 58 per cent and 51 per cent of those who had completed a doctorate degree.

Women's share of all completed university degrees 2001–2018, per cent



Foreigners completed 25 per cent of doctorate degrees (corrected on 29 October)

In 2018, around 13,600 lower university degrees, slightly under 15,300 higher university degrees, 75 licentiate degrees and around 1,800 doctorate degrees were completed. Most students graduated in the field of business, administration and law, where close on 18 per cent of all degrees were completed. Good 15 per cent of degrees were completed in arts and humanities and close on 14 per cent in both social sciences and engineering, manufacturing and construction. Most doctorate degrees were completed in the

fields of health and welfare, around 23 per cent of all doctorate degrees, and in engineering, manufacturing and construction, where around one-fifth of all completed doctorate degrees were completed.

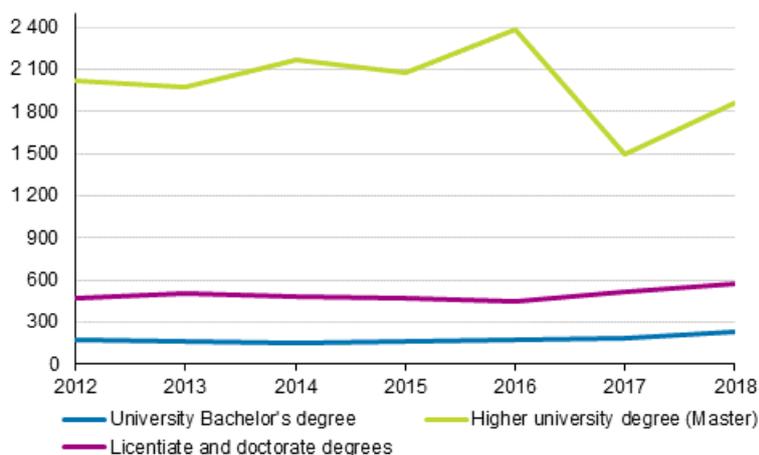
Around 8 per cent degree was attained by foreign students, the figure being 12 per cent for higher university degrees and 25 per cent for doctorate degrees. Foreign students completed most degrees in relative terms in the field of information and communication technologies, 20 per cent of all university degrees in this field. The share of doctorate degrees completed by foreigners was highest in the fields of natural science, mathematics and statistics, information and communication technologies and agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary, where foreigners completed over one-third of the doctorate degrees in each field.

Examined by university, the highest numbers of degrees were completed at the University of Helsinki, good 5,500. The second most degrees were completed at the University of Turku, some 3,700 and the third most at the University of Eastern Finland, just under 3,200. The least number of degrees were completed at the National Defence University, 275 degrees and the University of the Arts Helsinki, close on 450 degrees.

More new students and new foreign students than in the previous year

In 2018, a total of good 26,200 new students started studies, which is almost six per cent more than one year previously. The number of new students studying for higher university degrees grew by nearly 13 per cent and that of new students studying for lower university degrees increased by four per cent. However, the number of new doctoral programme students decreased by nearly eight per cent year-on-year. The number of new foreign university students grew by nearly one-fifth from the previous year. The share of foreigners among all new students was around ten per cent.

New foreign university students in 2012 to 2018



In 2018, a total 153,400 students were studying at universities, which is roughly the same amount as in the previous year. In all, 77,000 students were studying for a lower university degree and 58,000 for a higher university degree. There were 18,300 post-graduate students, of whom good 800 were studying for a licentiate degree and around 17,500 for a doctorate degree.

In 2018, the highest numbers of students were studying in the field of arts and humanities, 17 per cent. The second most students were studying in the fields of business, administration and law and engineering, manufacturing and construction, around 15 per cent of all students. The proportion of women of all students attending education leading to a degree was 54 per cent but the variation was large between fields of education. Good four out of five students in education were women, while in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT), the proportion of women was slightly over 20 per cent and in the field of engineering, manufacturing and construction around 25 per cent. In contrast, both sexes represented

around one-half of students in business, administration and law, and natural sciences, mathematics and statistics.

The number of students was highest at the University of Helsinki, close on 31,300. The second most students were found at Aalto University, nearly 17,500, and the third most at the University of Turku, good 16,100. More detailed time series data on university students and degrees by education and university are available in the [tables in databases](#).

Contents

Tables

Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Students in universities and completed university degrees by level of education, fields of education (National classification of education 2016) and gender in 2018.....5

Appendix table 2. Foreign students in universities and completed university degrees by level of education, fields of education (National classification of education 2016) and gender in 2018 (Corrected on 29 October 2019).....8

Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Students in universities and completed university degrees by level of education, fields of education (National classification of education 2016) and gender in 2018

Level of education	Field of education	New students			Students			Completed degrees		
		Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%
Level of education, total	Fields of education, total	26 247	14 954	57,0	153 429	82 483	53,8	30 773	17 911	58,2
	Education	2 998	2 507	83,6	14 703	12 014	81,7	3 782	3 174	83,9
	Arts and humanities	3 638	2 574	70,8	26 075	17 877	68,6	4 765	3 494	73,3
	Social sciences, journalism and information	3 153	2 352	74,6	19 848	13 670	68,9	4 125	2 955	71,6
	Business, administration and law	4 049	2 127	52,5	22 483	11 211	49,9	5 408	2 870	53,1
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	2 592	1 465	56,5	14 861	7 522	50,6	2 688	1 458	54,2
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	2 705	759	28,1	14 854	3 064	20,6	2 157	475	22,0
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	3 990	1 137	28,5	22 307	5 620	25,2	4 220	1 111	26,3
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	523	355	67,9	3 563	2 341	65,7	668	456	68,3
	Health and welfare	2 100	1 556	74,1	12 716	8 556	67,3	2 411	1 755	72,8
	Services	499	122	24,4	2 019	608	30,1	549	163	29,7
University Bachelor's degree	Fields of education, total	17 108	10 014	58,5	76 957	39 849	51,8	13 607	7 926	58,2
	Education	2 444	2 052	84,0	8 876	7 157	80,6	1 953	1 648	84,4
	Arts and humanities	2 659	1 892	71,2	13 374	9 040	67,6	2 238	1 632	72,9
	Social sciences, journalism and information	2 048	1 539	75,1	9 704	6 583	67,8	1 831	1 296	70,8
	Business, administration and law	2 780	1 349	48,5	12 077	5 476	45,3	2 555	1 270	49,7
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	1 935	1 130	58,4	8 956	4 433	49,5	1 196	655	54,8
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	1 503	387	25,7	7 949	1 405	17,7	889	172	19,3
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	2 389	738	30,9	10 988	2 505	22,8	1 722	430	25,0
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	373	257	68,9	1 757	1 103	62,8	280	191	68,2
	Health and welfare	695	593	85,3	2 281	1 851	81,1	698	581	83,2
	Services	282	77	27,3	995	296	29,7	245	51	20,8

Level of education	Field of education	New students			Students			Completed degrees		
		Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%
Higher university degree (Master)	Fields of education, total	7 394	3 998	54,1	58 006	32 770	56,5	15 281	8 998	58,9
	Education	445	380	85,4	4 704	4 020	85,5	1 753	1 465	83,6
	Arts and humanities	749	539	72,0	9 723	6 992	71,9	2 339	1 741	74,4
	Social sciences, journalism and information	892	675	75,7	7 832	5 645	72,1	2 087	1 521	72,9
	Business, administration and law	1 103	688	62,4	8 929	4 949	55,4	2 744	1 546	56,3
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	440	244	55,5	3 886	2 157	55,5	1 197	665	55,6
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	1 029	321	31,2	5 516	1 341	24,3	1 123	265	23,6
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	1 332	313	23,5	7 984	2 047	25,6	2 136	567	26,5
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	108	65	60,2	1 193	800	67,1	317	218	68,8
	Health and welfare	1 090	735	67,4	7 380	4 561	61,8	1 302	906	69,6
	Services	206	38	18,4	859	258	30,0	283	104	36,7
Professional specialisation in veterinary¹⁾	Fields of education, total	16	15	93,8	159	149	93,7	16	16	100,0
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	16	15	93,8	159	149	93,7	16	16	100,0
Licentiate's degree	Fields of education, total	13	7	53,8	800	369	46,1	75	50	66,7
	Education	0	0	-	24	17	70,8	1	0	0,0
	Arts and humanities	1	0	0,0	50	17	34,0	8	4	50,0
	Social sciences, journalism and information	0	0	-	181	155	85,6	39	31	79,5
	Business, administration and law	8	5	62,5	95	55	57,9	10	5	50,0
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	2	2	100,0	44	21	47,7	7	5	71,4
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	0	0	-	104	12	11,5	1	1	100,0
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	1	0	0,0	285	78	27,4	8	3	37,5
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	0	0	-	2	0	0,0	0	0	-
	Health and welfare	1	0	0,0	15	14	93,3	1	1	100,0

Level of education	Field of education	New students			Students			Completed degrees		
		Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%
Doctoral degree	Fields of education, total	1 716	920	53,6	17 507	9 346	53,4	1 794	921	51,3
	Education	109	75	68,8	1 099	820	74,6	75	61	81,3
	Arts and humanities	229	143	62,4	2 928	1 828	62,4	180	117	65,0
	Social sciences, journalism and information	213	138	64,8	2 131	1 287	60,4	168	107	63,7
	Business, administration and law	158	85	53,8	1 382	731	52,9	99	49	49,5
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	215	89	41,4	1 975	911	46,1	288	133	46,2
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	173	51	29,5	1 285	306	23,8	144	37	25,7
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	268	86	32,1	3 050	990	32,5	354	111	31,4
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	26	18	69,2	452	289	63,9	55	31	56,4
	Health and welfare	314	228	72,6	3 040	2 130	70,1	410	267	65,1
	Services	11	7	63,6	165	54	32,7	21	8	38,1

1) Starting from 1st of February 2015, professional specialisation in medicine, except for veterinary science, is no longer included in education leading to a degree

Appendix table 2. Foreign students in universities and completed university degrees by level of education, fields of education (National classification of education 2016) and gender in 2018 (Corrected on 29 October 2019)¹⁾

Corrected on 29 October 2019. The corrections are indicated in red.

Level of education	Field of education	New students			Students			Completed degrees		
		Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%
Level of education, total	Fields of education, total	2 615	1 155	44,2	10 698	4 699	43,9	2 368	1 059	44,7
	Education	137	89	65,0	564	366	64,9	143	97	67,8
	Arts and humanities	367	251	68,4	1 661	1 020	61,4	308	208	67,5
	Social sciences, journalism and information	168	98	58,3	824	471	57,2	188	117	62,2
	Business, administration and law	302	170	56,3	1 264	661	52,3	278	145	52,2
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	309	135	43,7	1 254	546	43,5	307	133	43,3
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	631	182	28,8	2 029	552	27,2	430	115	26,7
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	566	159	28,1	2 200	614	27,9	545	152	27,9
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	44	19	43,2	256	122	47,7	54	31	57,4
	Health and welfare	77	42	54,5	575	310	53,9	86	47	54,7
	Services	14	10	71,4	71	37	52,1	29	14	48,3
	University Bachelor's degree	Fields of education, total	212	106	50,0	721	352	48,8	92	56
Education		18	13	72,2	72	46	63,9	12	10	83,3
Arts and humanities		59	34	57,6	259	153	59,1	38	28	73,7
Social sciences, journalism and information		10	7	70,0	41	26	63,4	2	1	50,0
Business, administration and law		29	18	62,1	95	46	48,4	27	15	55,6
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics		11	5	45,5	52	21	40,4	2	1	50,0
Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)		41	14	34,1	76	21	27,6	5	1	20,0
Engineering, manufacturing and construction		41	13	31,7	112	29	25,9	6	0	0,0
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary		0	0	0	2	1	50,0	0	0	0
Health and welfare		18	9	50,0	86	43	50,0	21	12	57,1
Services		12	8	66,7	53	25	47,2	24	12	50,0

Corrected on 29 October 2019. The corrections are indicated in red.

Level of education	Field of education	New students			Students			Completed degrees		
		Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%
Higher university degree (Master)	Fields of education, total	1 840	816	44,3	6 223	2 750	44,2	1 827	833	45,6
	Education	93	63	67,7	347	234	67,4	123	83	67,5
	Arts and humanities	256	186	72,7	972	634	65,2	241	163	67,6
	Social sciences, journalism and information	112	70	62,5	449	285	63,5	155	100	64,5
	Business, administration and law	221	129	58,4	880	479	54,4	229	124	54,1
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	218	97	44,5	595	261	43,9	205	91	44,4
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	476	134	28,2	1 455	401	27,6	371	103	27,8
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	400	105	26,3	1 261	325	25,8	426	124	29,1
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	34	15	44,1	125	63	50,4	32	21	65,6
	Health and welfare	18	9	50,0	86	43	50,0	21	12	57,1
	Services	12	8	66,7	53	25	47,2	24	12	50,0
Professional specialisation in veterinary²⁾	Fields of education, total	0	0	0	2	1	50,0	0	0	0
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	0	0	0	2	1	50,0	0	0	0
Licentiate's degree	Fields of education, total	0	0	0	13	6	46,2	2	0	0,0
	Arts and humanities	0	0	0	3	1	33,3	0	0	0
	Social sciences, journalism and information	0	0	0	1	1	100,0	1	0	0,0
	Business, administration and law	0	0	-	1	1	100,0	0	0	-
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	0	0	-	0	0	-	1	0	0,0
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	0	0	0	2	1	50,0	0	0	0
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	0	0	0	7	3	42,9	0	0	0
	Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doctoral degree	Fields of education, total	563	233	41,4	3 739	1 590	42,5	447	170	38,0
	Education	26	13	50,0	145	86	59,3	8	4	50,0
	Arts and humanities	52	31	59,6	427	232	54,3	29	17	58,6
	Social sciences, journalism and information	46	21	45,7	333	159	47,7	30	16	53,3
	Business, administration and law	52	23	44,2	289	136	47,1	22	6	27,3
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	80	33	41,3	607	264	43,5	99	41	41,4
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	114	34	29,8	496	129	26,0	54	11	20,4
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	125	41	32,8	820	257	31,3	113	28	24,8
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	10	4	40,0	127	57	44,9	22	10	45,5
	Health and welfare	56	31	55,4	477	258	54,1	65	35	53,8
	Services	2	2	100,0	18	12	66,7	5	2	40,0

1) Foreign students citizenship other than Finnish.

2) Starting from 1st of February 2015, professional specialisation in medicine, except for veterinary science, is no longer included in education leading to a degree

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