

28 May 2012

University Education Statistics in Spain
2010-2011 Academic year

**The number of students enrolled for university studies increases
3.1% as compared with the previous academic year**

**The student body on Official Professional Specialisation
Programmes registers a 29.5% increase**

During the 2010-2011 academic year, 1,455,885 students enrolled for first- and second-cycle university studies, indicating a 3.1% increase as compared with the previous academic year. Of these students, 785,157 were women, accounting for 53.9% of the total.

While enrolment at private universities increased 5.9% as compared with the previous academic year, the student body increased 2.7% at public universities.

Evolution of the enrolled student body, classified by type of university

	2007/2008 Academic year		2008/2009 Academic year		2009/2010 Academic year	
	Both sexes	%	Both sexes	%	Both sexes	%
TOTAL	1,391,253	100.0	1,412,472	100.0	1,455,885	100.0
Public universities	1,240,488	89.2	1,249,883	88.5	1,283,743	88.2
Private universities	150,765	10.8	162,589	11.5	172,142	11.8

The Distance University (UNED) topped the list of universities with the largest number of students enrolled in the 2010-2011 academic year, with 166,420, ahead of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (71,025), the Universidad de Sevilla (59,433) and the Universidad de Granada (57,142).

The distance-learning universities (UNED, Oberta de Catalunya, UDIMA, Internacional de La Rioja and Internacional Valenciana) accounted for 14.7% of the total enrolment, 1.3 points above than the previous academic year.

Student body enrolled in first- and second-cycle and degree studies

In the third year of implementation of degree programmes, adapted to the European Space for Higher Education (ESHE), 2,737 programmes of this type have been taught, as compared with 1,249 the previous academic year. 550,656 students enrolled for these programmes, as compared with 197,726 the previous academic year. 54.8% of them were women.

In terms of programmes not adapted to the ESHE, those with the greatest number of students were the Bachelor's degree in Law, the Teaching diploma (both with 7.5%) and the Degree in Business Studies and Management (6.6%).

The number of students enrolled in programmes leading to the simultaneous gaining of two official qualifications (joint degrees), also outside the European Space for Higher Education (ESHE), decreased 14.6% as compared with the previous academic year. Among these qualifications, the one with the highest number of students was Business Studies and Management and Law (8,264).

Enrolled student body, classified by type of programme and sex

	TOTAL	Architecture and Technical Engineering	Diplomas	Bachelor's degrees	Architecture and Engineering	Joint degrees ¹	Degree studies
Both sexes	1,455,885	119,164	212,288	439,881	116,567	17,329	550,656
Males	670,728	90,942	67,529	176,685	79,920	6,950	248,702
Females	785,157	28,222	144,759	263,196	36,647	10,379	301,954

¹ Programmes leading to the simultaneous gaining of two official qualifications

Newly enrolled student body

Out of the 363,683 students enrolling for the first time for university studies, 345,056 enrolled in degree programmes. 56.5% did so after passing the University Entrance Examinations (UEE). On the other hand, 14.2% accessed new programmes, because they already had a university degree or because they had finished the first cycle of a different degree, 11.1% entered through Vocational Training and the remaining 18.1%, access for persons over 25 and 45 years of age, recognition of foreign studies, etc.

In public universities, new enrolment increased 7.8% as compared with the previous academic year, and in private universities, it increased 0.4%.

The programmes with the highest number of new enrolments, grouped by study sector, these were Business and administration programmes (14.3%), Social and behavioural sciences (12.8%) and Training of teaching personnel and Education Sciences (12.0%).

Outside the ESHE, the sectors with the greatest number of new enrolments were Training of teaching personnel and Education Sciences (30.8%), Business and administration programmes (29.6%) and Social and behavioural sciences (14.8%).

Student body who completed their studies in 2011

During the year 2011, a total of 220,583 students completed their university studies. 58.6% of these students were women.

It is also worth noting that 52.8% of students finishing their studies did so at the age of 24 or under. The age at which most persons graduated was 21 years old (14.6% of the graduates), taking as the reference date for calculating ages 31 December 2010.

The sectors with the highest number of qualified students outside the ESHE were Education Sciences (19.4%), Business and administration programmes (17.3%) and Health (12.1%).

Among the studies adapted to the ESHE, the greatest number of graduates was accounted for in the Architecture and construction (59.9%), Health (14.5%), and Education Sciences (7.1%) sectors.

Enrolments for Official Professional Specialisation Programmes

During the 2010-2011 academic year, 2,930 Master's were taught in Spanish universities, almost 670 more than the previous academic year. 108,433 students enrolled for these programmes, 29.57% more than the previous academic year. Eight out of ten students of these opted for public universities.

45,748 students completed these programmes in the year 2011, of whom 56.6% were female.

Enrolment for doctoral programmes

In the 2010/2011 academic year, registrations increased 8.5%, with a total of 68,865 students enrolled for doctoral programmes. 51.0% of these students were women.

93.6% of students chose public universities to carry out their doctoral programmes, as compared with the 6.4% who chose private universities to do so.

During the 2010-2011 academic year, a total of 8,915 doctoral dissertations were successfully defended, 3.7% more than that registered the previous academic year. Experimental and Health Sciences was the area with the greatest female participation (56.7% of dissertations successfully defended as compared with 43.3% by male). In turn, Engineering and Technology was the area with the greatest male participation (69.1% as compared with the 30.9% women participation).

Student body enrolled in postgraduate studies and number of doctoral theses approved, classified by sex

	Official Master's	Doctorate			Thesis approved
		Total	Training period	Research period	
Both sexes	108,433	68,865	13,942	54,923	8,915
Male	50,622	33,749	6,598	27,151	4,534
Female	57,811	35,116	7,344	27,772	4,381

University teaching body

The number of university lecturers increased to 123,704 during the 2010-2011 academic year, indicating an increase of 2.6% as compared with the previous academic year. Women accounted for 38.7% of the university teaching body.

102,378 lecturers taught classes in public centres of public universities. 11.5% of them were tenured professors, 37.2% were lecturers (of universities or university schools) and 30.0% were associate lecturers. The remaining categories (assistant, hired, emeritus, etc.) accounted for 21.4% of the teaching body.

In public university centres, 49.1% of the teaching body was comprised of civil servants, indicating a 1.3% decrease as compared with the previous academic year. The number of teachers hired increased 2.1%, and staff in another administrative situation registered an increase of 116.1%. In these centres, 66.1% of the teaching personnel worked there full-time, while in private universities, only 27.9% of the teaching personnel did likewise.

Methodological note

The University Education Statistics is an exhaustive study aimed at the universities and higher level education centres in Spain, regardless of their type and ownership. It is carried out annually, with the data reference period being the corresponding academic year.

The fundamental objective is to ascertain the most relevant characteristics of the student body (enrolment, new entries, completion of studies) broken down by programme, sex and age, as well as of the teaching personnel and the centres. This information allows for obtaining an overall perspective of higher education in Spain.

The research encompasses University Education (1st and 2nd cycles), Doctorate (3rd university cycle), Official Professional Specialisation Programmes (Master's) and Higher Education equivalent to University studies.

Degree programmes and Official Master's are implemented in order to adapt university programmes to the European Space for Higher Education (ESHE). Construction of this space receives a decisive impulse with the Bologna Declaration, which gives its name to the Bologna Process, whose goal is to establish a European Space for Higher Education in the year 2010.