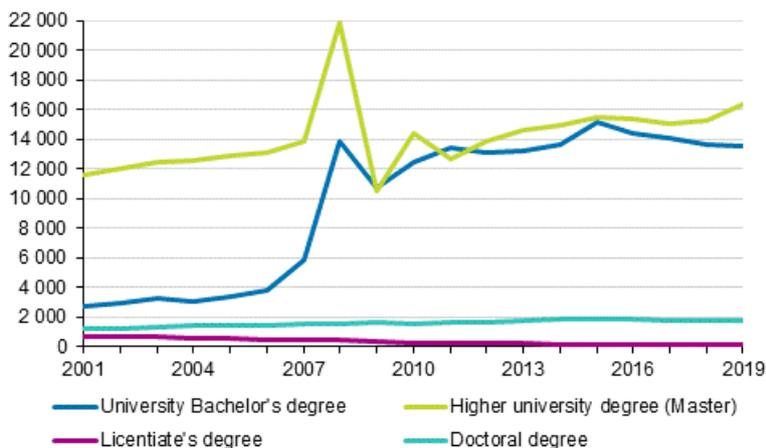


University education 2019

Number of university degrees began to grow

The number of completed university degrees started to grow in 2019 after three successive years of decline. In 2019, a total of around 31,700 university degrees were completed in Finland, which is around 900 more than one year earlier. The rise in the number of degrees focused on higher university degrees, whose number (good 16,000) went up by good one thousand. These data derive from Statistics Finland's education statistics.

Number of university degrees in 2001 to 2019



Number of completed doctorate degrees fell

The number of completed lower university degrees was good 13,500 in 2019, which is slightly lower than one year earlier. Around 1,700 students completed doctorate degrees. The number has fallen by around 70 from the previous year, and compared to the peak year 2015, the number of those having defended their doctorate thesis fell by around 160 in 2019. In 2019, altogether 79 students completed a licentiate degree, which is four more than one year before.

Women completed the majority of university degrees, nearly 60 per cent. The share was on level with the previous year.

Foreign students completed around eight per cent of the degrees in 2019. Their proportion is the same as in the previous year. One in four of the doctorate degrees were completed by a foreign citizen.

Most degrees, good 6,100, were completed at the University of Helsinki. Over 3,500 degrees were also attained at the University of Tampere, Aalto University and the University of Turku. The smallest universities based on the number of degrees were the National Defence University (around 350 degrees) and the University of the Arts Helsinki (UniArts) (about 550 degrees).

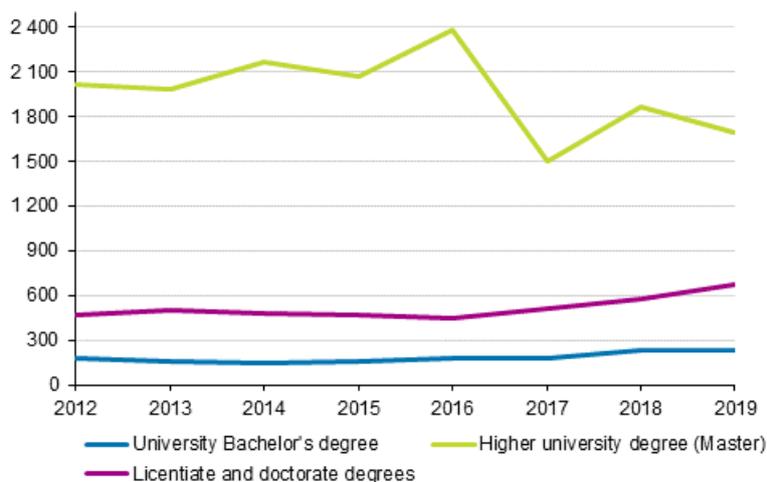
The most common content for completed degrees was trade, administration and law, in which field around 18 per cent of students graduated. Degrees attained in humanities and arts made up 16 per cent of all degrees and degrees attained in technology 14 per cent. Among those who were doctorate holders, the most common contents of education were health and welfare (one in four of those who were doctorate holders) and technology (nearly one in five of those who were doctorate holders).

Number of new students grew

Around 27,000 new students began their university studies in 2019. The number is nearly 800 students higher than one year earlier. In particular, the number of doctorate students rose clearly. In 2019, the number of students starting doctorate studies was good 2,100, which was around 400 more than in 2018.

The number of new foreign students remained almost on level with 2018, at around 2,600 persons. For them, the number of students having started studies leading to a higher university degree fell, but the number of those studying for a doctorate degree went up correspondingly.

New foreign university students in 2012 to 2019



In 2019 the number of students attending university education leading to a degree was close on 154,000, which is around 350 more than in 2018. There were around 77,000 students studying for a lower university degree and about 58,000 persons studying for a higher university degree. Some 18,500 students studied in education leading to a post-graduate degree, around 700 of whom were studying for a licentiate's degree and around 18,000 for a doctor's degree. Women made up 54 per cent of all students.

The highest numbers of university students were studying in the fields of business, administration and law, and humanities and arts, around 17 per cent of all university students. Around 15 per cent of them studied in the field of technology. Women studied clearly more often than men in the fields of education (eight out of ten were women), arts and humanities, health and welfare, and social sciences, journalism and information (seven out of ten were women). Men, in turn, studied more often than women in the fields of information and communication technologies (eight out of ten were men), services and engineering, manufacturing and construction (seven out of ten were men).

In 2019, the University of Helsinki had clearly the highest number of students, around 31,600. The next biggest universities by the number of students were the University of Tampere (close on 21,000 students) and Aalto University (close on 18,000 students). More detailed time series data on university students and degrees by education and university are available in the [database tables](#).

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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 2019

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	27 021	15 806	58,5	153 767	83 636	54,4	31 707	18 309	57,7
	Education	3 162	2 704	85,5	15 043	12 372	82,2	3 808	3 200	84,0
	Arts and humanities	3 780	2 702	71,5	25 615	17 648	68,9	5 111	3 602	70,5
	Social sciences, journalism and information	3 289	2 547	77,4	19 708	13 788	70,0	4 140	2 998	72,4
	Business, administration and law	4 223	2 194	52,0	22 441	11 206	49,9	5 586	2 999	53,7
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	2 773	1 648	59,4	15 042	7 861	52,3	2 640	1 423	53,9
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	2 573	716	27,8	15 298	3 348	21,9	2 278	515	22,6
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	4 005	1 225	30,6	22 467	5 867	26,1	4 362	1 183	27,1
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	472	322	68,2	3 333	2 189	65,7	740	515	69,6
	Health and welfare	2 253	1 616	71,7	12 877	8 755	68,0	2 415	1 704	70,6
	Services	491	132	26,9	1 943	602	31,0	627	170	27,1
	University Bachelor's degree	Fields of education, total	17 579	10 314	58,7	76 795	40 246	52,4	13 563	7 972
Education		2 496	2 126	85,2	9 046	7 365	81,4	1 924	1 621	84,3
Arts and humanities		2 695	1 949	72,3	12 968	8 835	68,1	2 308	1 638	71,0
Social sciences, journalism and information		2 036	1 587	77,9	9 549	6 584	68,9	1 801	1 302	72,3
Business, administration and law		2 885	1 360	47,1	11 972	5 389	45,0	2 555	1 296	50,7
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics		2 037	1 221	59,9	9 061	4 653	51,4	1 182	664	56,2
Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)		1 641	443	27,0	8 260	1 631	19,7	923	179	19,4
Engineering, manufacturing and construction		2 547	800	31,4	11 177	2 722	24,4	1 682	460	27,3
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary		297	207	69,7	1 523	953	62,6	320	226	70,6
Health and welfare		648	539	83,2	2 216	1 806	81,5	623	526	84,4
Services		297	82	27,6	1 023	308	30,1	245	60	24,5

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	7 262	4 246	58,5	58 373	33 432	57,3	16 328	9 376	57,4
	Education	506	447	88,3	4 809	4 116	85,6	1 803	1 512	83,9
	Arts and humanities	785	562	71,6	9 646	6 946	72,0	2 619	1 859	71,0
	Social sciences, journalism and information	993	780	78,5	7 916	5 792	73,2	2 113	1 551	73,4
	Business, administration and law	1 127	713	63,3	8 972	5 014	55,9	2 919	1 651	56,6
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	424	261	61,6	3 920	2 241	57,2	1 194	627	52,5
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	792	241	30,4	5 625	1 398	24,9	1 231	305	24,8
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	1 186	340	28,7	8 068	2 145	26,6	2 351	618	26,3
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	106	62	58,5	1 228	824	67,1	350	239	68,3
	Health and welfare	1 173	799	68,1	7 450	4 719	63,3	1 375	908	66,0
	Services	170	41	24,1	739	237	32,1	373	106	28,4
	Professional specialisation in veterinary	Fields of education, total	14	13	92,9	145	132	91,0	17	17
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary		14	13	92,9	145	132	91,0	17	17	100,0
Licentiate's degree	Fields of education, total	46	28	60,9	706	306	43,3	79	65	82,3
	Education	0	0	0	22	16	72,7	2	2	100,0
	Arts and humanities	0	0	0	44	17	38,6	5	2	40,0
	Social sciences, journalism and information	0	0	0	113	94	83,2	52	48	92,3
	Business, administration and law	42	27	64,3	123	69	56,1	5	4	80,0
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	3	1	33,3	43	18	41,9	5	5	100,0
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	0	0	0	88	10	11,4	0	0	0
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	1	0	0	253	65	25,7	10	4	40,0
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Health and welfare	0	0	0	18	17	94,4	0	0	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	2 120	1 205	56,8	17 748	9 520	53,6	1 720	879	51,1
	Education	160	131	81,9	1 166	875	75,0	79	65	82,3
	Arts and humanities	300	191	63,7	2 957	1 850	62,6	179	103	57,5
	Social sciences, journalism and information	260	180	69,2	2 130	1 318	61,9	174	97	55,7
	Business, administration and law	169	94	55,6	1 374	734	53,4	107	48	44,9
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	309	165	53,4	2 018	949	47,0	259	127	49,0
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	140	32	22,9	1 325	309	23,3	124	31	25,0
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	271	85	31,4	2 969	935	31,5	319	101	31,7
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	55	40	72,7	435	280	64,4	53	33	62,3
	Health and welfare	432	278	64,4	3 193	2 213	69,3	417	270	64,7
	Services	24	9	37,5	181	57	31,5	9	4	44,4

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 2019

Level of education	Fields 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	2 604	1 224	47,0	10 544	4 655	44,1	2 626	1 160	44,2
	Education	140	104	74,3	518	364	70,3	164	111	67,7
	Arts and humanities	363	255	70,2	1 622	1 029	63,4	389	243	62,5
	Social sciences, journalism and information	197	114	57,9	748	423	56,6	165	104	63,0
	Business, administration and law	292	145	49,7	1 147	598	52,1	327	161	49,2
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	349	181	51,9	1 253	567	45,3	307	139	45,3
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	481	131	27,2	2 115	552	26,1	498	156	31,3
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	591	192	32,5	2 193	624	28,5	595	160	26,9
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	66	33	50,0	276	129	46,7	53	23	43,4
	Health and welfare	110	59	53,6	610	334	54,8	97	45	46,4
	Services	15	10	66,7	62	35	56,5	31	18	58,1
University bachelor degree	Fields of education, total	230	99	43,0	857	378	44,1	137	70	51,1
	Education	24	17	70,8	72	49	68,1	25	15	60,0
	Arts and humanities	53	41	77,4	246	156	63,4	51	32	62,7
	Social sciences, journalism and information	3	0	0,0	31	16	51,6	2	1	50,0
	Business, administration and law	26	8	30,8	93	41	44,1	29	12	41,4
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	18	5	27,8	61	21	34,4	7	2	28,6
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	35	13	37,1	182	50	27,5	6	2	33,3
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	66	13	19,7	158	37	23,4	14	4	28,6
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	1	1	100,0	3	2	66,7	0	0	0
	Health and welfare	4	1	25,0	11	6	54,5	3	2	66,7

Level of education	Fields 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	1 695	812	47,9	5 662	2 555	45,1	2 042	908	44,5
	Education	89	66	74,2	282	208	73,8	118	81	68,6
	Arts and humanities	226	163	72,1	920	616	67,0	308	193	62,7
	Social sciences, journalism and information	145	87	60,0	400	248	62,0	141	95	67,4
	Business, administration and law	213	113	53,1	756	419	55,4	270	140	51,9
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	211	110	52,1	556	251	45,1	202	94	46,5
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	360	101	28,1	1 361	360	26,5	445	142	31,9
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	368	130	35,3	1 133	326	28,8	465	120	25,8
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	47	20	42,6	141	65	46,1	34	14	41,2
	Health and welfare	25	14	56,0	78	41	52,6	32	14	43,8
	Services	11	8	72,7	35	21	60,0	27	15	55,6
	Professional specialisation in medicine, veterinary and dentistry	Fields of education, total	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Licentiate's degree	Fields of education, total	0	0	0	13	5	38,5	4	1	25,0
	Arts and humanities	0	0	0	3	1	33,3	2	0	0
	Social sciences, journalism and information	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	100,0
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	0	0	0	2	1	50,0	0	0	0
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	0	0	0	8	3	37,5	0	0	0
Doctoral or equivalent level	Fields of education, total	679	313	46,1	4 011	1 717	42,8	443	181	40,9
	Education	27	21	77,8	164	107	65,2	21	15	71,4
	Arts and humanities	84	51	60,7	453	256	56,5	28	18	64,3
	Social sciences, journalism and information	49	27	55,1	317	159	50,2	21	8	38,1
	Business, administration and law	53	24	45,3	298	138	46,3	28	9	32,1
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	120	66	55,0	636	295	46,4	97	42	43,3
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	86	17	19,8	570	141	24,7	47	12	25,5
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	157	49	31,2	894	258	28,9	116	36	31,0
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	18	12	66,7	131	62	47,3	19	9	47,4
	Health and welfare	81	44	54,3	521	287	55,1	62	29	46,8
	Services	4	2	50,0	27	14	51,9	4	3	75,0

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Source: Education. Statistics Finland