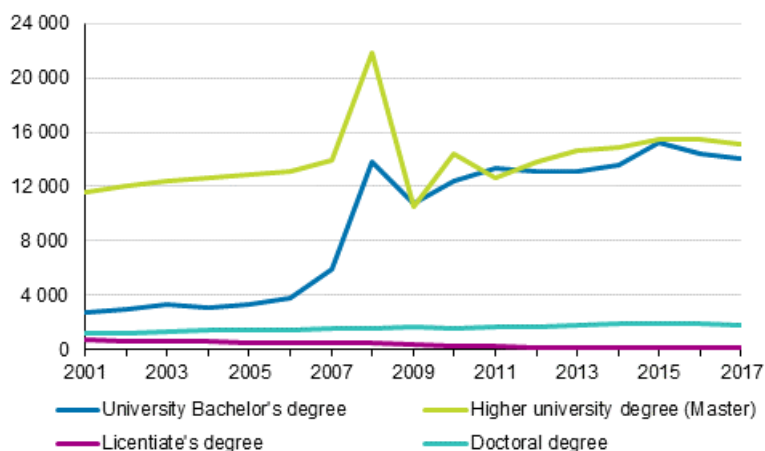


University education 2017

Number of doctorate degrees fell by 7 per cent from the previous year

According to Statistics Finland's Education Statistics, 31,000 university degrees were completed in 2017, which is almost 900 fewer than in the previous year. The number of doctorate degrees fell proportionally most, by seven per cent compared with the previous year. The number of lower university degrees decreased by three per cent and that of higher university degrees by two per cent from the year before.

Completed university degrees 2001–2017



University degrees

In all, 14,000 lower university degrees, 15,100 higher university degrees, 100 licentiate degrees and 1,750 doctorate degrees were completed. Fifty-eight per cent of those having completed a degree in 2017 were women. Nearly seven per cent of the degrees were attained by foreign students, the figure being almost 11 per cent for higher university degrees and 23 per cent for doctorate degrees.

According to the national classification of education (2016), most degrees in 2017 were completed in the field of business, administration and law, 18 per cent of all degrees. Sixteen per cent of degrees were completed in arts and humanities and around 14 per cent of degrees were completed in both social sciences, journalism and information and engineering, manufacturing and construction. Most doctorate degrees

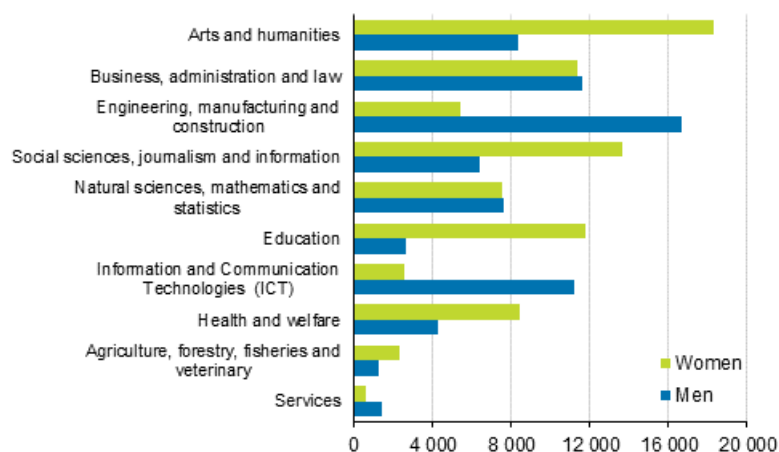
were completed in the fields of health and welfare, and engineering, manufacturing and construction, in both around one-fifth of all completed doctorate degrees.

Examined by university, the highest numbers of degrees were completed at the University of Helsinki, good 6,000. The second most degrees were completed at the University of Turku, nearly 3,500 and the third most at Aalto University, 3,400.

University students

In 2017, a total of 24,900 new students started studies, which is 700 fewer than one year previously. The number of new students studying for higher university degrees decreased by 10 per cent. By contrast, the number of new students studying for lower university degrees went down by only one per cent and the number of new doctoral programme students, in turn, grew by 11 per cent compared with the year before. In all, 16,400 students started studying for a lower university degree and close on 6,600 for a higher university degree. Nearly 1,900 students started studies for a doctorate degree.

University students by fields of education (Finnish Standard Classification of Education) and gender in 2017



In 2017, a total of 153,300 students were studying at universities, which is one per cent lower than in the previous year. In all, 78,300 students were studying for a lower university degree and 56,200 for a higher university degree. There were 18,600 post-graduate students, of whom good 900 were studying for a licentiate degree and around 17,700 for a doctorate degree.

In 2017, 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 field of business, administration and law, 15 per cent. Fourteen per cent of students were studying in the field of engineering, manufacturing and construction and 13 per cent in social sciences, journalism and information. The proportion of women of all students attending education leading to a degree was 53 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 technology (ICT), the proportion of women was nearly one-fifth of students. In arts and humanities and social sciences, journalism and information, women made up good two-thirds of students. Health and welfare, and agriculture and forestry were also female-dominated: around two-thirds of students were women. In contrast, both sexes represented around one-half of students in business, administration and law, and natural sciences.

The number of students was highest at the University of Helsinki, 31,300. The second most students were found at Aalto University, good 17,300, and the third most at the University of Turku, about 16,200. More

detailed time series data on university students and degrees by education and university are available in the [tables in databases](#).

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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 2017

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	24 888	14 052	56,5	153 262	81 860	53,4	31 014	18 012	58,1
	Education	2 816	2 299	81,6	14 427	11 779	81,6	3 707	3 116	84,1
	Arts and humanities	3 701	2 593	70,1	26 618	18 248	68,6	4 973	3 578	71,9
	Social sciences, journalism and information	3 097	2 250	72,7	20 014	13 640	68,2	4 215	2 983	70,8
	Business, administration and law	4 043	2 119	52,4	22 947	11 340	49,4	5 453	2 920	53,5
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	2 472	1 329	53,8	15 111	7 501	49,6	2 765	1 474	53,3
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	1 981	458	23,1	13 734	2 527	18,4	1 881	405	21,5
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	3 582	980	27,4	22 103	5 441	24,6	4 355	1 173	26,9
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	534	348	65,2	3 579	2 337	65,3	743	503	67,7
	Health and welfare	2 168	1 552	71,6	12 716	8 440	66,4	2 294	1 678	73,1
	Services	494	124	25,1	2 013	607	30,2	628	182	29,0
	University Bachelor's degree	Fields of education, total	16 419	9 301	56,6	78 257	40 137	51,3	14 044	8 382
Education		2 261	1 843	81,5	8 802	7 090	80,5	2 077	1 779	85,7
Arts and humanities		2 630	1 848	70,3	13 862	9 382	67,7	2 423	1 760	72,6
Social sciences, journalism and information		1 989	1 442	72,5	9 965	6 687	67,1	1 933	1 342	69,4
Business, administration and law		2 714	1 324	48,8	12 650	5 664	44,8	2 677	1 368	51,1
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics		1 900	1 043	54,9	9 274	4 451	48,0	1 253	677	54,0
Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)		1 259	261	20,7	7 578	1 196	15,8	771	152	19,7
Engineering, manufacturing and construction		2 319	627	27,0	10 910	2 314	21,2	1 595	405	25,4
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary		377	249	66,0	1 814	1 136	62,6	348	244	70,1
Health and welfare		691	585	84,7	2 415	1 934	80,1	702	584	83,2
Services		279	79	28,3	987	283	28,7	265	71	26,8

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	6 567	3 726	56,7	56 215	31 739	56,5	15 087	8 623	57,2
	Education	432	369	85,4	4 473	3 818	85,4	1 556	1 284	82,5
	Arts and humanities	745	543	72,9	9 709	6 981	71,9	2 325	1 679	72,2
	Social sciences, journalism and information	864	671	77,7	7 649	5 433	71,0	2 064	1 501	72,7
	Business, administration and law	1 156	707	61,2	8 813	4 902	55,6	2 639	1 475	55,9
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	348	198	56,9	3 785	2 088	55,2	1 203	632	52,5
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	612	176	28,8	4 773	1 031	21,6	977	223	22,8
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	1 001	261	26,1	7 741	2 038	26,3	2 428	667	27,5
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	96	51	53,1	1 142	760	66,5	314	204	65,0
	Health and welfare	1 115	710	63,7	7 276	4 419	60,7	1 232	855	69,4
	Services	198	40	20,2	854	269	31,5	349	103	29,5
Professional specialisation in veterinary¹⁾	Fields of education, total	27	26	96,3	169	159	94,1	23	21	91,3
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	27	26	96,3	169	159	94,1	23	21	91,3
Licentiate's degree	Fields of education, total	18	9	50,0	919	440	47,9	107	77	72,0
	Education	1	1	100,0	33	24	72,7	6	5	83,3
	Arts and humanities	0	0	-	53	20	37,7	4	1	25,0
	Social sciences, journalism and information	1	1	100,0	228	200	87,7	52	46	88,5
	Business, administration and law	13	6	46,2	105	57	54,3	13	10	76,9
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	2	1	50,0	48	24	50,0	16	9	56,3
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	1	0	0,0	114	15	13,2	5	1	20,0
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	0	0	-	319	84	26,3	7	2	28,6
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	0	0	-	2	0	0,0	1	0	0,0
	Health and welfare	0	0	-	17	16	94,1	3	3	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	1 857	990	53,3	17 702	9 385	53,0	1 753	909	51,9
	Education	122	86	70,5	1 119	847	75,7	68	48	70,6
	Arts and humanities	326	202	62,0	2 994	1 865	62,3	221	138	62,4
	Social sciences, journalism and information	243	136	56,0	2 172	1 320	60,8	166	94	56,6
	Business, administration and law	160	82	51,3	1 379	717	52,0	124	67	54,0
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	222	87	39,2	2 004	938	46,8	293	156	53,2
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	109	21	19,3	1 269	285	22,5	128	29	22,7
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	262	92	35,1	3 133	1 005	32,1	325	99	30,5
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	34	22	64,7	452	282	62,4	57	34	59,6
	Health and welfare	362	257	71,0	3 008	2 071	68,8	357	236	66,1
	Services	17	5	29,4	172	55	32,0	14	8	57,1

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 2017¹⁾

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	2 190	1 017	46,4	10 761	4 703	43,7	2 088	892	42,7
	Education	166	107	64,5	572	375	65,6	114	74	64,9
	Arts and humanities	345	226	65,5	1 688	1 032	61,1	234	148	63,2
	Social sciences, journalism and information	155	96	61,9	897	517	57,6	175	93	53,1
	Business, administration and law	270	143	53,0	1 389	718	51,7	278	150	54,0
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	259	123	47,5	1 268	547	43,1	290	109	37,6
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	356	105	29,5	1 775	428	24,1	374	89	23,8
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	488	135	27,7	2 210	592	26,8	449	136	30,3
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	49	24	49,0	273	131	48,0	54	28	51,9
	Health and welfare	88	53	60,2	593	320	54,0	91	55	60,4
	Services	14	5	35,7	96	43	44,8	29	10	34,5
University Bachelor's degree	Fields of education, total	179	91	50,8	673	338	50,2	87	40	46,0
	Education	32	18	56,3	64	42	65,6	4	3	75,0
	Arts and humanities	58	30	51,7	255	158	62,0	31	18	58,1
	Social sciences, journalism and information	10	9	90,0	37	22	59,5	5		0,0
	Business, administration and law	25	11	44,0	107	46	43,0	22	14	63,6
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	16	9	56,3	59	28	47,5	5	2	40,0
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	5	3	60,0	47	11	23,4	8	1	12,5
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	30	8	26,7	89	20	22,5	10	1	10,0
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	1	1	100,0	3	2	66,7	1		0,0
	Health and welfare	2	2	100,0	12	9	75,0	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	%
Higher university degree (Master)	Fields of education, total	1 497	710	47,4	6 468	2 857	44,2	1 593	694	43,6
	Education	111	76	68,5	369	247	66,9	100	66	66,0
	Arts and humanities	220	156	70,9	1 002	645	64,4	181	119	65,7
	Social sciences, journalism and information	104	70	67,3	539	333	61,8	137	81	59,1
	Business, administration and law	206	113	54,9	1 006	545	54,2	227	123	54,2
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	150	79	52,7	601	260	43,3	179	60	33,5
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	292	89	30,5	1 301	311	23,9	321	78	24,3
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	346	92	26,6	1 338	355	26,5	344	110	32,0
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	35	17	48,6	143	76	53,1	36	22	61,1
	Health and welfare	21	14	66,7	104	58	55,8	40	26	65,0
	Services	12	4	33,3	65	27	41,5	28	9	32,1
Professional specialisation in veterinary²⁾	Fields of education, total	2	1	50,0	2	1	50,0	0	0	-
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	2	1	50,0	2	1	50,0	0	0	-
Licentiate's degree	Fields of education, total	2	2	100,0	15	7	46,7	2	2	100,0
	Education	1	1	100,0	1	1	100,0	0	0	-
	Arts and humanities	0	0	-	3	1	33,3	0	0	-
	Social sciences, journalism and information	1	1	100,0	1	1	100,0	0	0	-
	Business, administration and law	0	0	-	1	0	0,0	0	0	-
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	0	0	-	2	1	50,0	1	1	100,0
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	0	0	-	7	3	42,9	1	1	100,0
Doctoral degree	Fields of education, total	510	213	41,8	3 603	1 500	41,6	406	156	38,4
	Education	22	12	54,5	138	85	61,6	10	5	50,0
	Arts and humanities	67	40	59,7	428	228	53,3	22	11	50,0
	Social sciences, journalism and information	40	16	40,0	320	161	50,3	33	12	36,4
	Business, administration and law	39	19	48,7	275	127	46,2	29	13	44,8
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	93	35	37,6	608	259	42,6	106	47	44,3
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	59	13	22,0	425	105	24,7	44	9	20,5
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	112	35	31,3	776	214	27,6	94	24	25,5
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	11	5	45,5	125	52	41,6	17	6	35,3
	Health and welfare	65	37	56,9	477	253	53,0	50	28	56,0
	Services	2	1	50,0	31	16	51,6	1	1	100,0

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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Source: Education. Statistics Finland