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University Education Statistics. 2007-2008 Academic year

The number of students enrolled for university studies decreases 1.0% as compared with the previous academic year

The number of students enrolled for Official Professional Specialisation Programmes (Master's) increases 109.0%

During the 2007-2008 academic year, 1,396,607 students enrolled in first and second cycle university studies, indicating a 1.0% drop as compared with the previous academic year. Of these students, 758,486 were women, accounting for 54.3% of the total.

While enrolment at private universities increased 2.7% as compared with the previous academic year, the student body at public universities decreased 1.4%.

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

	2005-2006 Academic year		2006-2007 Academic year		2007-2008 Academic year	
	Both sexes	%	Both sexes	%	Both sexes	%
TOTAL	1,433,016	100.0	1,410,440	100.0	1,396,607	100.0
Public universities	1,294,767	90.4	1,268,031	89.9	1,250,317	89.5
Private universities	138,249	9.6	142,409	10.1	146,290	10.5

The Distance-Learning University (UNED) topped the list of universities with the largest number of students enrolled during the 2007-2008 academic year, with 142,172. It was followed by the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (76,318), the Universidad de Sevilla (57,426) and the Universidad de Granada (56,091).

The two distance-learning universities (UNED and Oberta de Catalunya) accounted for 13.1% of the total enrolment, 1.7% more than the previous academic year.

By Autonomous Community, and excluding distance-learning universities, Comunidad de Madrid recorded the largest number of university students (with 231,183), followed by Andalucía (226,672) and Cataluña (172,265). At the other end of the scale, the Communities with the least students were La Rioja (6,177) and Cantabria (10,428).

The studies with the most enrolled students: Teaching and Law

The programmes with the highest number of students were Teaching (with 7.3%), the Bachelor's degree in Law (6.8%) and the Bachelor's degree in Business Studies and Management (6.1%).

The number of students enrolled in programmes leading to the simultaneous gaining of two official qualifications (joint degrees) registered an increase of 19.0% as compared with the previous academic year. Among these qualifications, that with the highest number of students was Business Studies and Management and Law (10,300).

Enrolled student body, classified by type of programme and sex

	TOTAL	Technical Architecture and Engineering	Diplomas	Bachelor's degrees	Architecture and Engineering	Joint degrees ¹
Total	1,396,607	201,744	362,182	665,106	146,022	21,553
Men	638,123	152,188	109,709	267,299	99,993	8,934
Women	758,484	49,556	252,473	397,807	46,029	12,619

¹ Studies leading to the simultaneous gaining of two official qualifications.

66.1% of new students enter via university entrance examinations

Out of the 294,239 students enrolling for the first time in university studies, 66.1% did so after passing the University Entrance Examinations (UEE). In turn, 10.7% accessed new programmes, because they already had a university degree or because they had finished the first cycle of a different degree, and the remaining 23.2% entered through Vocational Training, access for persons over 25 years of age, recognition of foreign studies, etc.

In public universities, new enrolment decreased 4.8% as compared with the previous academic year, whereas in private universities, it increased 0.6%.

As with the previous academic year, the four programmes with the highest number of new enrolments were Teaching (28,503), Business Science (20,816), Law (17,350) and Business Studies and Management (16,090). These four programmes together accounted for 28.1% of the new enrolment.

By sex, of note were the Teaching diploma (in which women represented 74.6% of the new enrolment), and Technical Industrial Engineering (in which men represented 85% of the new enrolment).

60.9% of students finishing their studies in 2008 are women

184,535 students finished their university studies during the year 2008. 112,425 of these students were women, accounting for 60.9% of the total, a percentage similar to that registered the previous academic year.

Worth noting was that 50.8% of the students who finished their studies did so at the age of 24 or under (in the case of women, this percentage was 56.9%).

The age at which most persons graduated was 23 years old (15.2% of graduates).

Enrolment for doctorates decreases

For the second consecutive academic year, a decrease was registered in third cycle enrolment. During the 2007-2008 academic year, 66,973 students enrolled for doctoral

programmes, 7.9% less than the previous academic year. 52.3% of these students were women.

94.4% of the students chose public universities to carry out their doctoral programmes, as compared with the 5.6% who chose private universities to do so.

Percentage of students enrolled in third cycle programmes, classified by area of studies and sex

	Total	Experimental and Health Sciences	Social and Legal Sciences	Humanities	Engineering and Technology	Not distributed by area
Both sexes	66,973	20,013	17,842	12,389	8,584	8,145
Men	31,949	7,709	8,573	5,609	5,985	4,073
Women	35,024	12,304	9,269	6,780	2,599	4,072

During the 2007-2008 academic year, a total of 7,302 doctoral dissertations were successfully defended, 2.1% more than the previous academic year. Women accounted for 48.7% of the successfully defended dissertations.

Experimental and Health Sciences was the area with the greatest female participation (54.8% as compared with the 45.2% male participation). In turn, Engineering and Technology was the area with the greatest male participation (70.5% as compared with the 29.5% of dissertations successfully defended by women).

Enrolment for Official Professional Specialisation Programmes increases 109.0%

During the second year in existence of the Official Professional Specialisation Programmes (Master's), nearly 1,300 Master's were taught in Spanish universities.

34,885 students enrolled for these programmes, 109.0% more than the previous academic year. 85.4% of these opted for public universities in order to carry out this type of study. 12,169 students finished these programmes in the year 2008, of whom, 53.4% were women.

37.4% of university lecturers are women

The number of university lecturers rose to 116,581 during the 2007-2008 academic year, with an increase of 2.9% as compared with the previous academic year. Women accounted for 37.4% of the university teaching body.

98,304 lecturers gave lectures in public centres of public universities. 11.2% of them were heads of department, 40.4% were lecturers (of universities or university schools) and 29.0% were associate lecturers. The remaining categories (assistant, hired, emeritus, etc.) accounted for 19.4% of the university teaching body.

In public university centres, 52.6% of the teaching body were civil servants. In these, centres, 69.0% of the teachers worked full-time, whereas in the private centres, only 32.7% of the teaching personnel had this type of dedication.

Methodological note

The University Education Statistics is a comprehensive study aimed at universities and higher-level education centres in Spain, regardless of their type and ownership. It is conducted 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 university-equivalent Higher Education.

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