

28 January 2013

(Updated on 1 February 2013)

**University Entrance Exams
Year 2012**

278,475 students take the University Entrance Exams in 2012, that is, 2.6% more than the previous year

83.9% of the students who take the exam pass it

A total of 278,475 students took the University Entrance Exams (PAU) in 2012, with a 2.6% increase, as compared with the previous year. Of the total who took it, 55.3% were women.

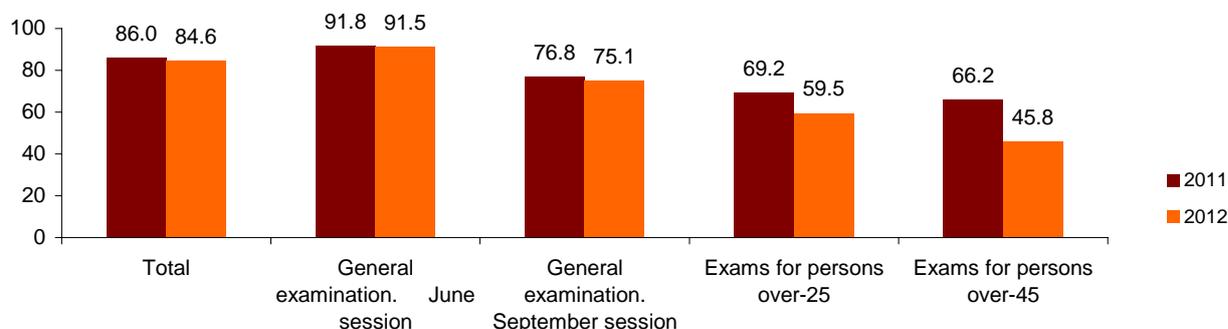
The percentage of passing marks reached 83.9%, which was similar for women and men (84.0%, as compared with 83.8%).

198,644 students sat the exam in June, and 90.7% of them passed. In the September examination session, 45,666 students sat the exam and 73.6% passed.

In turn, in the entrance exams for persons over 25 years of age, 28,221 students took the exams, 11.4% less than the previous year, and 59.5% of them passed. 4.2% of the students who took these tests did so in private universities, half of a point less than in 2011. 59.0% of the students who took the exams in public universities passed it, while the percentage reached 72.8% in private universities.

5,944 students took the exams for persons over 45 years of age, which was 0.2% less than in 2011. 48.5% of them passed, which was 17.7 points lower than the previous year. For this exam, 3.2% of the students who took it did so in private universities. 47.7% passed the exams in public universities, while this figure was 72.0% in private universities.

**Percentage of students who passed by examination session.
Years 2011 and 2012**



Student body taking and passing the exams by phases

77.8% of the total of students who sat the general exam took both phases, the general phase and the specific phase, in the same session. 91.5% of them passed.

In June, 159,130 students took the general and specific phases, and 94.5% of them passed. In the extraordinary September examination session, this percentage dropped to 76.2%.

Conversely, 9.0% of the students (21,971) preferred to take only the general phase, and 70.8% of them passed it.

This year, 32,385 students took only any of the specific phase exams (students who wished to improve their marks obtained in previous exams, or their marks obtained in the modules of the Advanced Education Cycles). 75.6% 71.6% of these students passed the exam in some subject they were being tested on.

Students taking the PAU and percentage of pass marks, by phase, examination session and sex. Year 2012

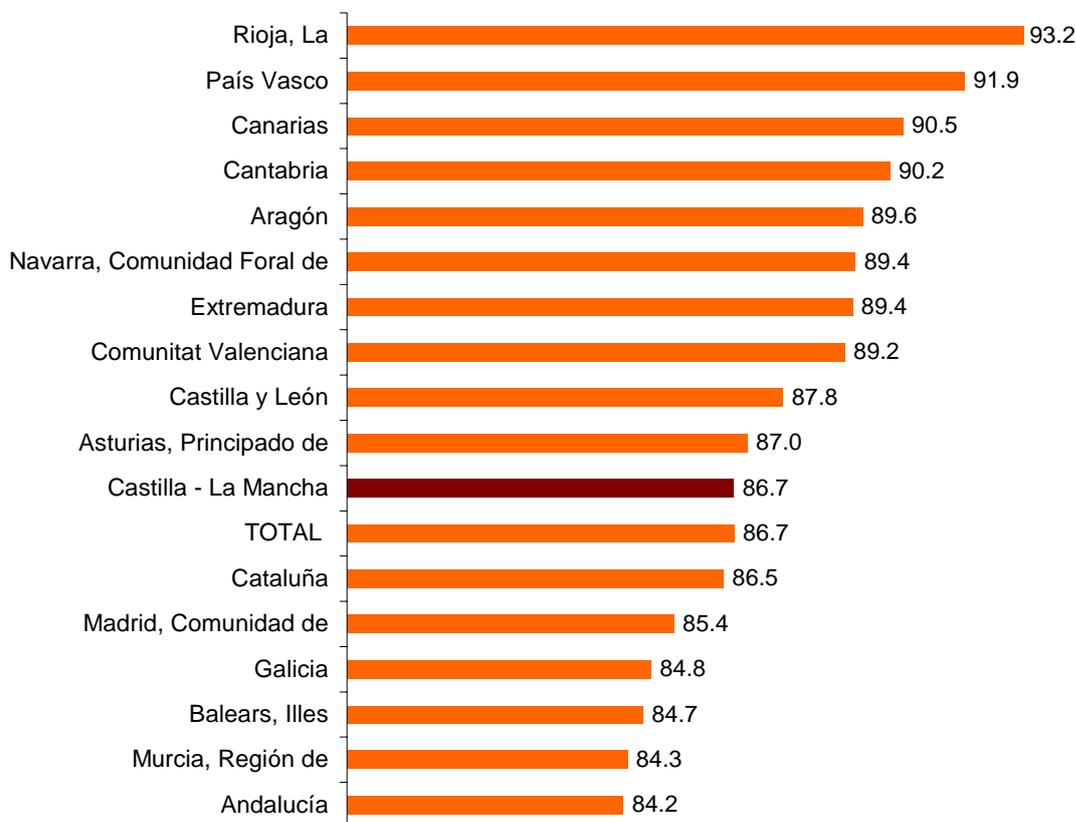
	Students taking the exam			Percentage of pass marks		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
TOTAL						
Total	278,818	124,684	154,134	84.6	84.5	84.7
June	198,952	988	112,964	91.5	91.7	91.3
September	45,701	21,681	24,020	75.1	76.1	74.2
Persons over 25 years of age	28,221	14,548	13,673	59.5	61.1	57.9
Persons over 45 years of age	5,944	2,467	3,477	48.5	44.8	51.0
General phase and Specific phase						
Total	189,954	83,520	106,434	92.4	92.7	92.2
June	159,130	68,607	90,523	95.2	95.5	95.0
September	30,824	14,913	15,911	77.8	79.6	76.2
General phase only						
Total	21,971	10,798	11,173	72.9	72.9	72.9
June	13,923	6,727	7,196	78.3	78.0	78.5
September	8,048	4,071	3,977	63.7	64.6	62.8
Specific phase only						
Total	32,728	13,351	19,377	75.6	75.6	75.6
June	25,899	10,654	15,245	75.4	75.9	75.0
September	6,829	2,697	4,132	76.3	74.5	77.5

Students who passed the exams in on-site universities and in distance universities.

In the on-site universities, 257,442 students took the exams. 85.9% of them passed.

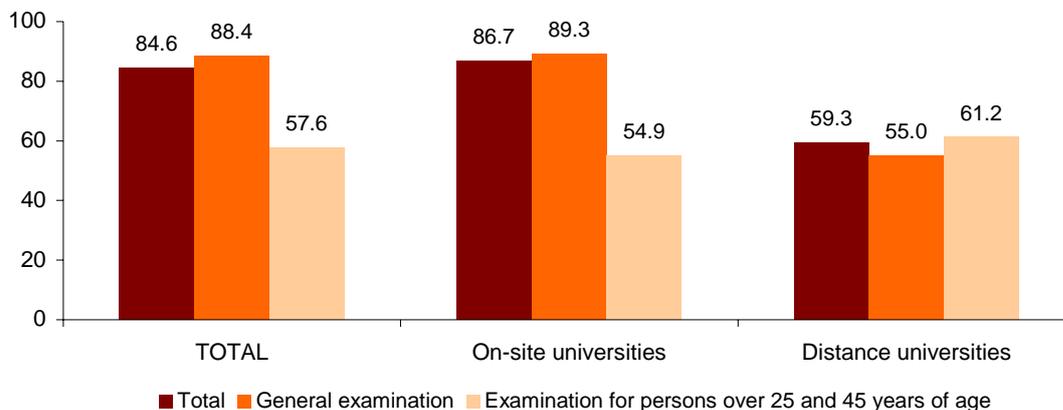
The Autonomous Communities with the greatest percentages of pass marks were La Rioja (93.2%), País Vasco (91.9%) and Canarias (90.5%). In turn, Andalucía (84.2%), Región de Murcia (84.3%), Illes Balears (84.7%) and Galicia (84.8%) were the Autonomous Communities with the lowest percentage of pass marks.

Students who passed the exams in relation to those who took them in on-site universities by Autonomous Community (%)



Regarding to distance universities, 21,033 students sat the exams, 7.6% of the total. The percentage of students who passed the exams was 59.3%.

Students who passed the exams in relation to those who took them by type of examination and modality (%)



Percentage of students who passed the PAU by

Autonomous Community and type of examination

	Percentage of pass marks		
	Total	General examinations	Examination for persons over 25 and 45 years of age
TOTAL	84.6	88.4	57.6
On-site universities	86.7	89.3	54.9
Andalucía	84.2	86.3	57.8
Aragón	89.6	92.3	32.9
Asturias, Principado de	87.0	89.6	53.4
Balears, Illes	84.7	91.8	47.0
Canarias	90.5	94.0	52.5
Cantabria	90.2	91.7	60.3
Castilla y León	87.8	90.4	49.8
Castilla - La Mancha	86.7	89.4	56.9
Cataluña	86.5	90.0	51.8
Comunitat Valenciana	89.2	92.6	63.4
Extremadura	89.4	91.8	57.3
Galicia	84.8	85.5	44.3
Madrid, Comunidad de	85.4	87.3	49.5
Murcia, Región de	84.3	88.6	55.9
Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	89.4	89.7	70.0
País Vasco	91.9	93.2	56.3
Rioja, La	93.2	94.6	58.2
Distance universities	59.4	55.0	61.2

Methodological note

The University Entrance Exams Statistics are a comprehensive study, targeting universities holding said exams. It is carried out annually.

These exams are taken both in on-site universities and distance universities. The exams for persons over 25 and 45 years of age are taken both in public universities and private universities, and there is only one session.

The main objective is to provide data regarding the students taking and passing these exams, as well as the most relevant characteristics thereof (sex, university and examination session).

In the year 2010, the entrance exams were amended with regard to previous years. The General exams (June and September session) were structured into two phases:

- the general phase, compulsory in nature, whose purpose is to evaluate the maturity and basic skills that the student must attain at the end of Post-Secondary Education in order to pursue official Degree-level university education
- the specific phase, which is voluntary, whose purpose is to assess the knowledge and reasoning ability in specific disciplines related to the intended course of study. This enables improving marks obtained in the general phase, in order to embark on the chosen field of study. It is also possible for students to take exams in this phase for the purpose of improving their marks from the Advanced Education Cycles.