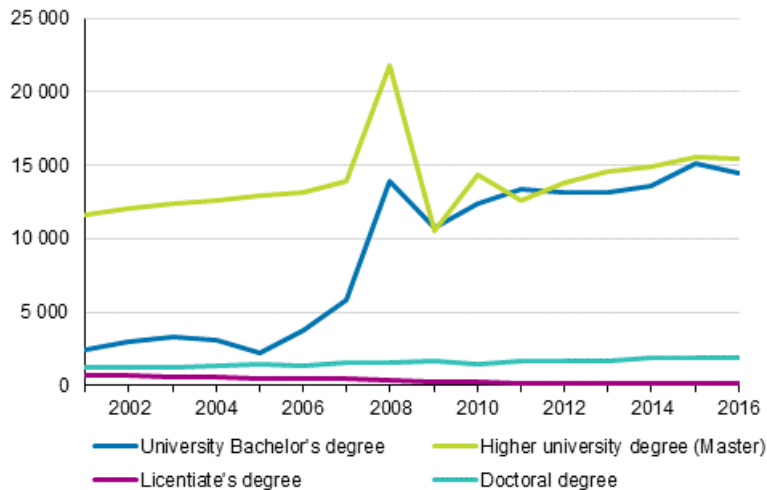


# University education 2016

## Number of university degrees fell by 3 per cent from the previous year

According to Statistics Finland's Education Statistics, 31,900 degrees were completed in 2016, which is 800 fewer than in the previous year. The number of lower university degrees fell most, by five per cent from the year before. The number of higher university degrees fell only a little, by under one per cent. The number of doctorate degrees and licentiate degrees completed was unchanged from the year before.

### Completed university degrees 2001–2016



## University degrees

In all, 14,400 lower university degrees, 15,400 higher university degrees, 120 licentiate degrees and 1,900 doctorate degrees were completed. Fifty-seven per cent of those having completed a degree in 2016 were women. Nearly seven per cent of the degrees were attained by foreign students, the figure being good 10 per cent for higher university degrees and 23 per cent for doctorate degrees.

According to the new national classification of education (2016), most degrees in 2016 were completed in arts and humanities, 17 per cent of all degrees. Nearly as many, 16 per cent, were completed in the field of business, administration and law, and technology. Most doctorate degrees were completed in the field

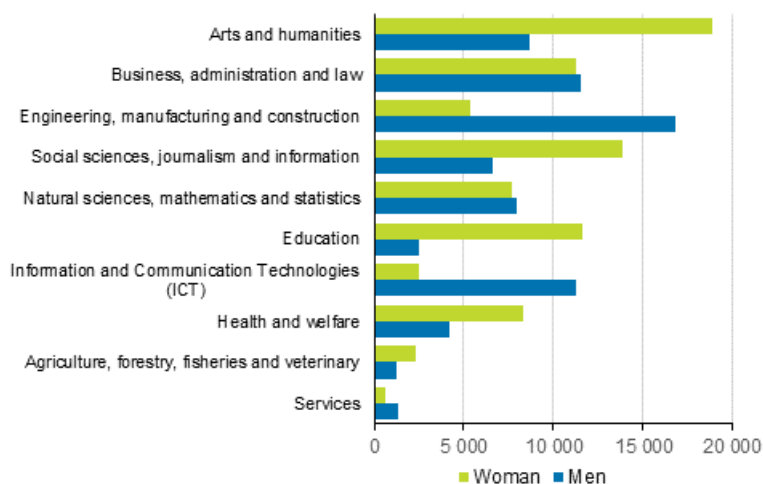
of health and welfare, natural sciences and technology, in total around 1,050, with about 350 doctors graduating from each field.

Examined by university, the highest numbers of degrees were completed at the University of Helsinki, 6,000. The second most degrees were completed at Aalto University, 4,200 and the third most at the University of Turku, 3,500.

## University students

In 2016, a total of 25,600 new students started studies, which is 300 fewer than one year previously. The number of new students studying for higher university degrees increased by seven per cent. The number of new students studying for lower university degrees went down by four per cent and the number of new doctoral programme students decreased by three per cent in 2016. In all, 16,600 students started studying for a lower university degree and 7,300 for a higher university degree. Nearly 1,700 students started studies for a doctorate degree.

### University students by fields of education (Finnish Standard Classification of Education) and gender in 2016



In 2016, a total 154,700 students were studying at universities, which is two per cent lower than in the previous year. In all, 81,300 students were studying for a lower university degree and 54,400 for a higher university degree. There were 18,900 post-graduate students, around 1,050 were studying for a licentiate degree and nearly 17,800 for a doctorate degree

In 2016, the highest numbers of students were studying in the field of arts and humanities, 18 per cent. The second most students were studying in the field of business, administration and law, 15 per cent. Nearly as many students, 14 per cent, were studying in the field of technology. The proportion of women of all students attending education leading to a degree was 53 per cent but the variation was large when viewed by field of education. In education good four out of five were women, in arts and humanities and in social sciences good two-thirds of students were women. Health and welfare, and agriculture and forestry were also female-dominated: around two-thirds of students were women. Women's share was smallest in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT), nearly one-fifth of students.

The number of students was highest at the University of Helsinki, 32,000. The second most students were found at Aalto University, 17,600, and the third most at the University of Turku, 16,100. More detailed time series data on university students and degrees by education and university are available in the [tables in databases](#)

# Contents

## Tables

### 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 2016.....	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 2016.....	7

## 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 2016**

Level of education/Fields of education		New students			Total number of students			Completed degrees, total		
		Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%
<b>Level of education, total</b>	<b>Fields of education, total</b>	<b>25 614</b>	<b>14 136</b>	<b>55,2</b>	<b>154 736</b>	<b>82 405</b>	<b>53,3</b>	<b>31 881</b>	<b>18 020</b>	<b>56,5</b>
	Education	2 769	2 300	83,1	14 146	11 610	82,1	3 550	2 946	83,0
	Arts and humanities	4 075	2 843	69,8	27 538	18 855	68,5	5 452	3 878	71,1
	Social sciences, journalism and information	3 067	2 173	70,9	20 467	13 855	67,7	4 136	2 926	70,7
	Business, administration and law	4 071	2 103	51,7	22 828	11 258	49,3	5 182	2 827	54,6
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	2 600	1 336	51,4	15 651	7 684	49,1	2 798	1 508	53,9
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	2 242	499	22,3	13 795	2 534	18,4	2 284	458	20,1
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	3 568	925	25,9	22 191	5 374	24,2	5 067	1 249	24,6
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	514	335	65,2	3 578	2 306	64,4	748	502	67,1
	Health and welfare	2 203	1 491	67,7	12 564	8 330	66,3	2 163	1 584	73,2
	Services	505	131	25,9	1 978	599	30,3	501	142	28,3
<b>University Bachelor's degree</b>	<b>Fields of education, total</b>	<b>16 610</b>	<b>9 309</b>	<b>56,0</b>	<b>81 265</b>	<b>41 758</b>	<b>51,4</b>	<b>14 426</b>	<b>8 065</b>	<b>55,9</b>
	Education	2 174	1 818	83,6	8 972	7 307	81,4	1 843	1 550	84,1
	Arts and humanities	2 950	2 056	69,7	14 838	10 082	67,9	2 585	1 821	70,4
	Social sciences, journalism and information	1 966	1 435	73,0	10 397	6 913	66,5	1 893	1 311	69,3
	Business, administration and law	2 722	1 293	47,5	13 073	5 870	44,9	2 428	1 258	51,8
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	1 971	1 012	51,3	9 814	4 638	47,3	1 247	645	51,7
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	1 279	249	19,5	7 543	1 191	15,8	1 014	187	18,4
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	2 182	545	25,0	11 230	2 298	20,5	2 300	547	23,8
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	359	240	66,9	1 828	1 125	61,5	331	219	66,2
	Health and welfare	716	581	81,1	2 561	2 034	79,4	552	470	85,1
	Services	291	80	27,5	1 009	300	29,7	233	57	24,5

Level of education/Fields of education		New students			Total number of students			Completed degrees, total		
		Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%
<b>Higher university degree (Master)</b>	<b>Fields of education, total</b>	<b>7 301</b>	<b>3 900</b>	<b>53,4</b>	<b>54 446</b>	<b>30 487</b>	<b>56,0</b>	<b>15 425</b>	<b>8 901</b>	<b>57,7</b>
	Education	508	418	82,3	4 012	3 422	85,3	1 589	1 308	82,3
	Arts and humanities	875	627	71,7	9 625	6 856	71,2	2 645	1 927	72,9
	Social sciences, journalism and information	892	615	68,9	7 570	5 337	70,5	2 023	1 465	72,4
	Business, administration and law	1 189	721	60,6	8 231	4 596	55,8	2 626	1 501	57,2
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	444	228	51,4	3 721	2 014	54,1	1 187	685	57,7
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	827	216	26,1	4 802	1 035	21,6	1 114	243	21,8
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	1 132	307	27,1	7 468	1 970	26,4	2 416	590	24,4
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	99	55	55,6	1 115	738	66,2	325	220	67,7
	Health and welfare	1 131	664	58,7	7 091	4 271	60,2	1 249	885	70,9
	Services	204	49	24,0	811	248	30,6	251	77	30,7
	<b>Professional specialisation in veterinary<sup>1)</sup></b>	<b>Fields of education, total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>90,5</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>94,8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	21	19	90,5	155	147	94,8	18	16	88,9
<b>Licentiate's degree</b>	<b>Fields of education, total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>53,8</b>	<b>1 046</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>49,6</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>70,5</b>
	Education	0	0	-	40	29	72,5	6	6	100,0
	Arts and humanities	3	2	66,7	61	26	42,6	11	3	27,3
	Social sciences, journalism and information	0	0	-	304	262	86,2	65	55	84,6
	Business, administration and law	7	2	28,6	102	55	53,9	7	6	85,7
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	3	3	100,0	50	23	46,0	16	9	56,3
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	0	0	-	123	18	14,6	7	1	14,3
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	0	0	-	344	88	25,6	6	3	50,0
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	0	0	-	2	0	0,0	2	1	50,0
	Health and welfare	0	0	-	20	18	90,0	2	2	100,0

Level of education/Fields of education		New students			Total number of students			Completed degrees, total		
		Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%
<b>Doctoral degree</b>	<b>Fields of education, total</b>	<b>1 669</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>54,0</b>	<b>17 824</b>	<b>9 494</b>	<b>53,3</b>	<b>1 890</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>50,4</b>
	Education	87	64	73,6	1 122	852	75,9	112	82	73,2
	Arts and humanities	247	158	64,0	3 014	1 891	62,7	211	127	60,2
	Social sciences, journalism and information	209	123	58,9	2 196	1 343	61,2	155	95	61,3
	Business, administration and law	153	87	56,9	1 422	737	51,8	121	62	51,2
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	182	93	51,1	2 066	1 009	48,8	348	169	48,6
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	136	34	25,0	1 327	290	21,9	149	27	18,1
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	254	73	28,7	3 149	1 018	32,3	345	109	31,6
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	35	21	60,0	478	296	61,9	72	46	63,9
	Health and welfare	356	246	69,1	2 892	2 007	69,4	360	227	63,1
	Services	10	2	20,0	158	51	32,3	17	8	47,1

1) Starting from 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 2016<sup>1)</sup>**

Level of education/Fields of education		New students			Total number of students			Completed degrees, total		
		Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%
<b>Level of education, total</b>	<b>Fields of education, total</b>	<b>3 005</b>	<b>1 353</b>	<b>45,0</b>	<b>11 194</b>	<b>4 860</b>	<b>43,4</b>	<b>2 155</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>43,3</b>
	Education	171	120	70,2	513	343	66,9	110	74	67,3
	Arts and humanities	449	308	68,6	1 693	1 032	61,0	282	184	65,2
	Social sciences, journalism and information	225	119	52,9	981	553	56,4	173	101	58,4
	Business, administration and law	442	242	54,8	1 482	754	50,9	284	150	52,8
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	313	132	42,2	1 417	577	40,7	280	126	45,0
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	559	133	23,8	1 912	451	23,6	438	102	23,3
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	686	208	30,3	2 188	622	28,4	419	121	28,9
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	37	22	59,5	285	145	50,9	65	29	44,6
	Health and welfare	92	52	56,5	611	331	54,2	79	39	49,4
	Services	31	17	54,8	112	52	46,4	25	7	28,0
	<b>University Bachelor's degree</b>	<b>Fields of education, total</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>54,8</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>50,8</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>51</b>
Education		11	10	90,9	42	33	78,6	8	5	62,5
Arts and humanities		67	48	71,6	253	163	64,4	33	18	54,5
Social sciences, journalism and information		7	3	42,9	38	17	44,7	6	0	0,0
Business, administration and law		29	11	37,9	111	50	45,0	38	15	39,5
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics		17	9	52,9	68	31	45,6	6	4	66,7
Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)		6	1	16,7	45	10	22,2	8	3	37,5
Engineering, manufacturing and construction		33	9	27,3	76	15	19,7	6	3	50,0
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary		0	0	-	4	1	25,0	1	1	100,0
Health and welfare		7	6	85,7	14	11	78,6	2	2	100,0

Level of education/Fields of education		New students			Total number of students			Completed degrees, total		
		Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%	Total	Of whom women	%
<b>Higher university degree (Master)</b>	<b>Fields of education, total</b>	<b>2 382</b>	<b>1 079</b>	<b>45,3</b>	<b>6 873</b>	<b>2 985</b>	<b>43,4</b>	<b>1 613</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>45,5</b>
	Education	151	104	68,9	332	223	67,2	90	62	68,9
	Arts and humanities	333	234	70,3	1 025	650	63,4	217	152	70,0
	Social sciences, journalism and information	184	99	53,8	597	355	59,5	140	89	63,6
	Business, administration and law	375	211	56,3	1 089	578	53,1	217	125	57,6
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	233	98	42,1	735	286	38,9	184	93	50,5
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	473	112	23,7	1 409	333	23,6	362	90	24,9
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	546	172	31,5	1 339	379	28,3	320	91	28,4
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	29	17	58,6	150	83	55,3	43	15	34,9
	Health and welfare	27	15	55,6	114	61	53,5	18	10	55,6
	Services	31	17	54,8	83	37	44,6	22	7	31,8
<b>Professional specialisation in veterinary<sup>2)</sup></b>	<b>Fields of education, total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100,0</b>
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	0	0	-	0	0	-	1	1	100,0
<b>Licentiate's degree</b>	<b>Fields of education, total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>45,0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0,0</b>
	Arts and humanities	1	1	100,0	5	3	60,0	0	0	-
	Social sciences, journalism and information	0	0	-	1	-	-	0	0	-
	Business, administration and law	0	0	-	2	1	50,0	0	0	-
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	0	0	-	0	0	-	1	0	0,0
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	0	0	-	2	1	50,0	0	0	-
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	0	0	-	10	4	40,0	0	0	-
<b>Doctoral degree</b>	<b>Fields of education, total</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>39,6</b>	<b>3 650</b>	<b>1 535</b>	<b>42,1</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>34,0</b>
	Education	9	6	66,7	139	87	62,6	12	7	58,3
	Arts and humanities	48	25	52,1	410	216	52,7	32	14	43,8
	Social sciences, journalism and information	34	17	50,0	345	181	52,5	27	12	44,4
	Business, administration and law	38	20	52,6	280	125	44,6	29	10	34,5
	Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	63	25	39,7	614	260	42,3	89	29	32,6
	Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	80	20	25,0	456	107	23,5	68	9	13,2
	Engineering, manufacturing and construction	107	27	25,2	763	224	29,4	93	27	29,0
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	8	5	62,5	131	61	46,6	20	12	60,0
	Health and welfare	58	31	53,4	483	259	53,6	59	27	45,8
	Services	0	0	-	29	15	51,7	3	0	0,0

1) Foreign students citizenship other than Finnish.



2) Starting from 2015, professional specialisation in medicine, except for veterinary science, is no longer included in education leading to a degree.

## Inquiries

Tarja Seppänen            029 551 3220  
Director in charge:  
Jari Tarkoma

koulutustilastot@stat.fi  
www.stat.fi  
Source: Education. Statistics Finland