

Press release: 13 157-185/23

More female, fewer male students in 2022/23

Proportion of female students at Austrian universities at 56%

Vienna, 2023-09-12 – In the winter semester 2022/23, 393 234 people studied at Austria's higher education institutions, 219 754 women (0.9% more than in the previous winter semester) and 173 480 men (0.2% less than in the winter semester 2021/22), according to Statistics Austria. The number of regular studies enrolled has been declining.

“In the winter semester of 2022/23, the number of students at Austria's universities increased very slightly. However, there was only an increase in the number of female students, while the number of male students actually declined minimally compared with the previous year. Around 56% of university students are now women, which means that the proportion of female students at Austrian universities has grown by 2 percentage points in the past five years,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Higher proportion of women and more teacher training students

219 754 women and 173 480 men studied at Austria's universities and university colleges in the winter semester 2022/23 (see Table 1). With the exception of the theological colleges, more female than male students were enrolled in all university sectors. At public universities, the proportion of women was 54%, at private universities and university colleges 61%, at universities of applied sciences 52% and at university colleges of teacher education 77%. Overall, the proportion of women was around 56%. Compared to the previous winter semester, the number of female students increased by 0.9% and the number of male students decreased by 0.2%.

The number of regular students at public universities (–1.1%) and universities of applied sciences (–1.6%) declined. On the other hand, the number of regular students at private universities (+4.9%) and the number of teacher training students at university colleges of teacher education (+4.3%) increased significantly. All higher education sectors show significant increases compared to the previous winter semester in the number of course students; such courses include fee-based offers for continuing education and are counted as extraordinary studies (see Table 1).

Declines in regular studies

In line with the partly declining student numbers, the number of regular studies enrolled is also declining: It decreased by 1.8% compared to the previous year's winter semester (see Table 2), whereby the decline in the number of regular degree programmes enrolled in by men (–2.0%) was greater than the decline in the number of degree programmes enrolled in by women (–1.5%).

In terms of fields of education, there were significant declines in the arts and humanities (–5.6%), in the field of natural sciences, mathematics and statistics (–4.1%) and in the field of business, administration and law (–3.0%). The fields of information and communication technologies (+3.4%) and health and welfare (+3.1%) were able to increase significantly.

Gender differences can also be seen in the regular studies enrolled: the fields of education (72%), health and welfare (67%), social sciences, journalism and information (65%) and arts and humanities (64%) showed particularly high proportions of women. Their proportion was particularly low in the fields of information and communication technologies (22%) and engineering, manufacturing and construction (32%). However, the proportion of women in these two training fields is increasing: In Information and communication technologies, the number of regular studies enrolled in by women increased by 5.1% and in the field of engineering, manufacturing and construction by 0.5%.

For detailed results and further information please refer to our [website](#).

Table 1: Students at Austrian universities and university colleges in the winter semester 2022/23 by gender

Educational institution	Students			Change compared to the winter semester 2021/22 in %		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total (without multiple counts)	393 234	173 480	219 754	+0,4	-0,2	+0,9
Public universities						
Regular students	263 375	120 981	142 394	-1,1	-1,1	-1,1
Course students	16 479	7 481	8 998	+1,5	-0,8	+3,4
Private universities and university colleges						
Regular students	16 001	6 508	9 493	+4,9	+3,3	+6,0
Course students	4 037	1 293	2 744	+10,5	+6,9	+12,4
Universities of applied sciences						
Regular students ¹	58 726	27 968	30 758	-1,6	-2,0	-1,2
Course students ¹	11 869	5 837	6 032	+19,3	+19,9	+18,9
Pädagogische Hochschulen						
Teacher training students ¹	20 920	4 992	15 928	+4,3	+3,4	+4,6
Course students ^{1 2}	16 985	3 845	13 140	+6,0	+6,1	+6,0
Theological colleges						
Regular students	233	181	52	+6,9	+8,4	+2,0
Course students	15	6	9	0,0	-14,3	+12,5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, University Statistics. – 1) Sum of studies enrolled. – 2) Without courses for further training < 5 ECTS.

Table 2: Regular studies enrolled at Austrian universities and university colleges in the winter semester 2022/23 by field of education and gender

ISCED Fields of Education and Training 2013	Regular studies enrolled			Change compared to the winter semester 2021/22 in %		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total	392 886	176 569	216 317	-1,8	-2,0	-1,5
01 Education	50 150	14 004	36 147	+0,2	-0,4	+0,4
02 Arts and humanities	51 014	18 353	32 661	-5,6	-4,5	-6,2
03 Social sciences, journalism and information	41 015	14 357	26 658	-2,1	-2,8	-1,6
04 Business, administration and law	84 024	37 794	46 230	-3,0	-2,9	-3,1
05 Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	39 706	19 462	20 244	-4,1	-4,8	-3,4
06 Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	26 016	20 381	5 635	+3,4	+2,9	+5,1
07 Engineering, manufacturing and construction	51 174	34 728	16 446	-1,8	-2,8	+0,5
08 Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	4 534	1 794	2 740	-1,4	-1,6	-1,3
09 Health and welfare	40 515	13 282	27 233	+3,1	+2,0	+3,6
10 Services	3 900	2 050	1 850	+0,8	-1,4	+3,3
99 Field unknown	838	364	474	-2,0	-2,2	-1,9

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, University Statistics.

Information on methodology, definitions:

The international classification ISCED Fields of Education and Training 2013 of UNESCO was used to classify the studies according to **fields of education**.

Ordinary studies are bachelor's, diploma, master's and doctoral studies.

Course studies are fee-based offers for further education, which are counted as extraordinary studies. They can comprise various formats: seminars, courses, certificate courses up to courses leading to a Bachelor's or Master's degree.

Of the 393 234 persons studying in the winter semester 2022/23, 51 had the **gender** diverse, two had the gender open and one no gender information. Due to the low number of cases of these persons, they are assigned to the binary expressions male or female in the evaluations by imputation for data protection reasons.

If you have any questions on this topic, please contact:

Guido Sommer-Binder, Phone: +43 1 711 28-7349, E-mail: guido.sommer-binder@statistik.gv.at

Sarah Klem, Phone: +43 1 711 28-7261, E-mail: sarah.klem@statistik.gv.at

Media owner, producer and publisher:

STATISTICS AUSTRIA | Federal Institution under Public Law | Guglgasse 13 | 1110 Vienna | www.statistik.at

Press: Phone: +43 1 711 28-7777 | E-mail: presse@statistik.gv.at

© STATISTICS AUSTRIA