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Number of students in Austria at an all-time high

407 485 students in the 2025/26 winter semester; number of graduation degrees in 2024/25 also reached a record high

Vienna, 2026-09-24 – In the 2025/26 winter semester, there were more students at Austria's universities and university colleges than ever before. According to Statistics Austria, a total of 407 485 students were enrolled at higher education institutions across Austria. A new record was also set for the number of degrees awarded, with 62 850 regular graduations in the 2024/25 academic year.

"In the 2025/26 winter semester, 1.9% more students were enrolled at Austria's universities and university colleges than in 2024/25 – the highest number ever recorded. Student numbers have risen significantly, particularly at universities of applied sciences and university colleges of teacher education. At the same time, the number of graduations is also rising. In the 2024/25 academic year, 3.9% more regular degree programmes were successfully completed at Austrian universities and university colleges than in the previous year – another record high," says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics of Statistics Austria.

Strong growth at universities of applied sciences and university colleges of teacher education

In the winter semester 2025/26, 407 485 people were studying at Austrian higher education institutions (see table 1). This is 1.9% more than in the previous winter semester. The number of regular students increased across all higher education sectors, while the number of students in courses of study (Lehrgang) fell in all areas except university colleges of teacher education. The declines in course enrolments were to be expected: due to the continuing education amendment, some courses could only be started up to 30 September 2023, which had previously led to significant increases in the number of course participants. Meanwhile, those courses have largely come to an end.

Universities of applied sciences recorded particularly strong growth in regular student numbers, at +6.5%, as did university colleges of teacher education, at +4.6%. The number of regular students at public universities also rose significantly (+2.1%). The increase in regular student numbers at private universities and schools of theology was 1.3%.

When broken down by type of programme, master programmes at university colleges of teacher education saw particularly strong growth at +14.6% (see table 2). Bachelor programmes at universities of applied sciences (+7.3%), master programmes at universities of applied sciences (+5.2%) and master programmes at public universities (+4.1%) also recorded significant increases.

3.9% more graduations than in the previous year

A total of 62 850 regular degree programmes were successfully completed at universities and university colleges in Austria in the 2024/25 academic year (see table 3). This is 3.9% more than in 2023/24. 57% of the regular graduations were awarded to women. Of the 34 411 bachelor's degrees, 53% were awarded by public universities, 33% by universities of applied sciences, 8% by university colleges of teacher education and 5% by private universities and schools of theology. Of the 21 989 master's degrees, 60% were awarded by public universities, 27% by universities of applied sciences, 6% by university colleges of teacher education and 7% by private universities and schools of theology. Of the 3 883 diploma degrees (including medicine),

93% were awarded by public universities and 7% by private universities and schools of theology. Of the 2 567 doctoral degrees, 94% were awarded by public universities and 6% by private universities.

Table 1: Students in Austria by higher education sector and gender in the winter semester 2025/26

Higher education sector	Type of students	Total number of students	Male students	Female students	Percentage change in total student numbers for the 2024/25 winter semester
Total	**Total**	**407 485**	**178 501**	**228 984**	**1.9**
Public universities	regular students	270 587	124 572	146 015	2.1
Public universities	students of courses of study (Lehrgang)	15 384	6 935	8 449	−6.5
Universities of applied sciences	Regular students[1, 2]	64 939	29 790	35 149	6.5
Universities of applied sciences	students of courses of study (Lehrgang)	12 550	6 018	6 532	−13.0
University colleges of teacher education	regular students[2]	23 207	5 217	17 990	4.6
University colleges of teacher education	students of courses of study (Lehrgang)[2, 3]	17 014	4 026	12 988	1.7
Private universities and schools of theology	regular students	15 449	6 358	9 091	1.3
Private universities and schools of theology	students of courses of study (Lehrgang)	3 880	1 271	2 609	−17.0

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, University Statistics. – Excluding students at foreign locations of Austrian higher education institutions.
For details on how the year-on-year change in the total number of students is calculated, see the information on methodology.
1) Excluding incoming students. Incoming students are those who undertake a stay at an Austrian higher education institution as part of a funded mobility program. – 2) Number of enrolments. – 3) Excluding courses of study for training.

Table 2: Regular degree programmes enrolled in by higher education sector and kind of study in the winter semester 2025/26

Higher education sector	Kind of study	Total number of enrolments	Excluding enrolments of incoming students[1]	Enrolments of incoming students[1]	Percentage change in total number of enrolments for the 2024/25 winter semester
Total	**Total**	**404 544**	**395 711**	**8 834**	**2.5**
Public universities	bachelor studies	156 037	153 364	2 674	0.4
Public universities	diploma studies	37 375	36 503	872	0.8
Public universities	master studies	83 048	81 288	1 760	4.1
Public universities	doctoral studies	20 827	20 578	249	0.7
Universities of applied sciences	bachelor studies	49 477	46 930	2 547	7.3
Universities of applied sciences	master studies	18 429	18 009	420	5.2
University colleges of teacher education	bachelor studies	15 634	15 439	195	0.4
University colleges of teacher education	master studies	7 573	7 564	10	14.6
Private universities and schools of theology	bachelor studies	8 825	8 728	97	3.4
Private universities and schools of theology	diploma studies	1 071	1 071	0	−12.8
Private universities and schools of theology	master studies	5 057	5 047	10	0.8
Private universities and schools of theology	doctoral studies	1 191	1 190	1	−9.4

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, University Statistics. – Excluding studies at foreign locations of Austrian higher education institutions. From the winter semester 2016/17 onwards, the statistical classification of studies at public universities and university colleges of teacher education is based on the distribution method defined in §§ 22 and 24 of the UHSBV. Consequently, rounding differences may arise.

1) Incoming students are those who undertake a stay at an Austrian higher education institution as part of a funded mobility program.

Table 3: Regular graduations by higher education sector, kind of study and gender in the academic year 2024/25

Higher education sector	Kind of study	Total number of graduations	Graduations of male students	Graduations of female students	Percentage change in total number of graduations by the 2023/24 academic year
Total	**Total**	**62 850**	**27 028**	**35 822**	**3.9**
Public universities	bachelor studies	18 361	8 121	10 240	4.4
Public universities	diploma studies	3 621	1 405	2 216	5.2
Public universities	master studies	13 272	6 054	7 218	5.5
Public universities	doctoral studies	2 411	1 341	1 070	2.5
Universities of applied sciences	bachelor studies	11 466	4 811	6 655	2.3
Universities of applied sciences	master studies	5 970	3 038	2 932	3.7
University colleges of teacher education	bachelor studies	2 753	643	2 110	−6.2
University colleges of teacher education	master studies	1 311	189	1 122	28.9
Private universities and schools of theology	bachelor studies	1 831	700	1 131	−1.1
Private universities and schools of theology	diploma studies	262	121	141	27.2
Private universities and schools of theology	master studies	1 436	529	907	1.8
Private universities and schools of theology	doctoral studies	156	76	80	11.4

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, University Statistics. – Excluding graduations at foreign locations of Austrian higher education institutions. From the winter semester 2016/17 onwards, the statistical classification of studies at public universities and university colleges of teacher education is based on the distribution method defined in §§ 22 and 24 of the UHSBV. Consequently, rounding differences may arise.

Detailed results and further information on students and degrees can be found on our website.

Information on methodology:

How has the method of counting students changed?

The number of students in the 2025/26 winter semester is 407 485. For the preceding winter semester, the figure is reported as 401 934. In contrast to the calculation of student numbers for the 2025/26 winter semester, the total figure for 2024/25 still included students at foreign locations of Austrian private universities who were enrolled on degree programmes accredited there under Austrian law, as well as students at private universities and university colleges who, although still enrolled in the winter semester, had already completed their studies before the cut-off date of 15 November. Together, these changes to the counting method account for half a percentage point, meaning that the change from 2024/25 to 2025/26 is not +1.4% but +1.9%.

How are students with different gender categories represented?

Of the 407 485 students in the 2025/26 winter semester, 159 identified as “diverse”, 16 as “open”, 2 as “inter” and 53 as “no gender specified”. Due to the small number of cases, these gender categories are assigned to the binary categories “male” or “female” in the results tables by means of imputation, for data protection reasons.

What is the difference between a regular degree programme and a course of study?

In addition to regular degree programmes (bachelor, diploma, master, PhD), universities also offer courses of study. These courses are non-regular programmes which universities offer primarily for the purposes of continuing education and professional development. Their duration varies from a few days to several years. In the case of more extensive university courses, master's degrees may also be awarded; for programmes with a duration of at least 60 ECTS credits, designations beginning with "Akademische/Akademischer …" are provided for. With the continuing education amendment, published on 9 September 2021 in the Federal Law Gazette I No. 177/2021, continuing education programmes in Austria were reorganised and the framework conditions for continuing education programmes in Austria were standardised. Furthermore, non-regular bachelor and master programmes have been introduced, which entitle students to admission to a regular master's degree programme (following completion of the non-regular bachelor programme) or a regular doctoral programme (following completion of a non-regular master programme).

Who is Statistics Austria?

Statistics Austria is the central organisation for official data and statistics on society, the economy, the state and the environment in Austria. As a national statistical institute, it is committed to the statutory principles of independence, impartiality and objectivity. Statistics Austria is headed by Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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