

Argentina



REGION: LATIN AMERICA

Also included in this region: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru

PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Argentinian higher education (HE) system fits the Latin American model. Comprehensive universities educated the largest section of the student body in 2018, followed by hybrids and short-cycle HEIs. Total enrolments rose steadily from 2007 to 2018, but more modestly than across the rest of Latin America and the Global South. Both the number of HEIs and average HEI-size increased roughly at the same pace in this period. Three-quarters of total enrolments were with public sector providers in 2018, which was very high compared to the rest of Latin America where enrolments were only 39% public.

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
Comprehensive universities	Universities (except for provincial universities)	58	51	109
Specialised Universities	Institutos universitarios	5	14	19
Hybrids	Non-university mixed institutions; Non-university pedagogical schools; Provincial universities and institutos universitarios	801	559	1,361
Short-cycle HEIs	Non-university technical institutions	293	631	923

Note: Figures may not add up precisely due to rounded estimation

FIGURE 1 – Numbers of institutions by type, 2006-2018

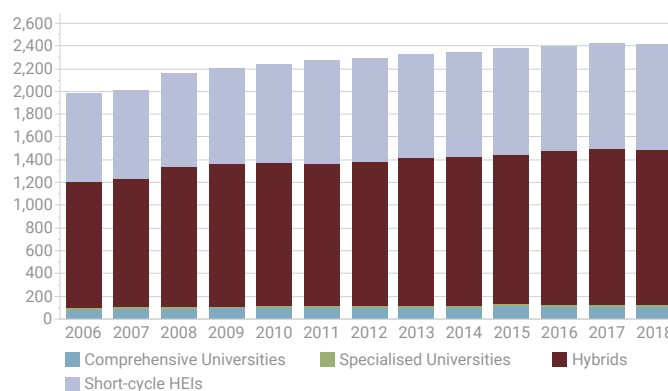


FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)

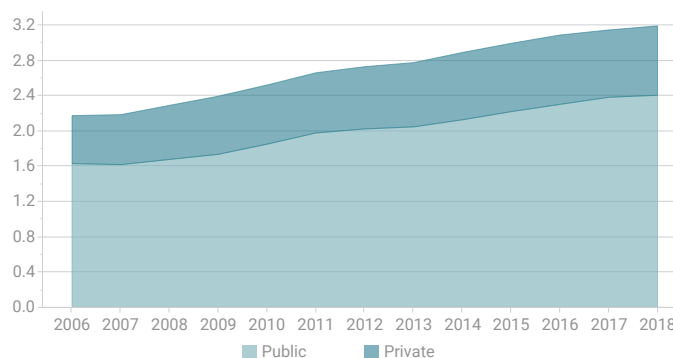


FIGURE 3 – Changes in enrolment, in Argentina, the rest of Latin America and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

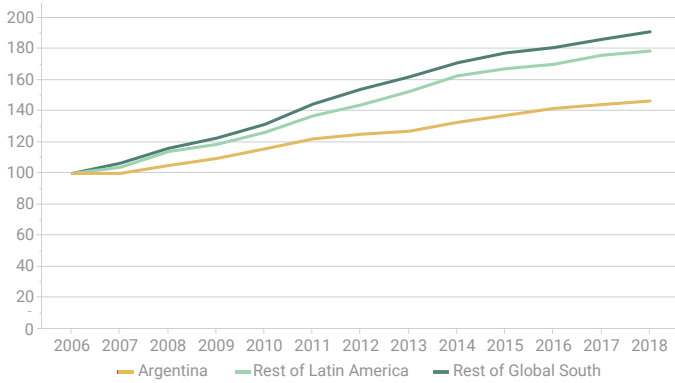


FIGURE 4 – Share of enrolments by institution type in Argentina and the rest of Latin America, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)

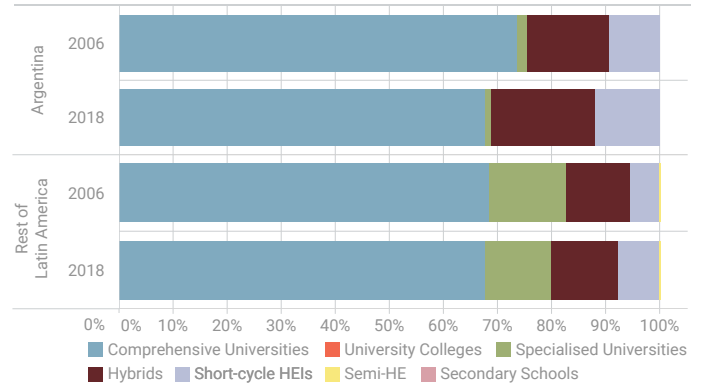


FIGURE 5 – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type, in Argentina and the rest of Latin America, 2018

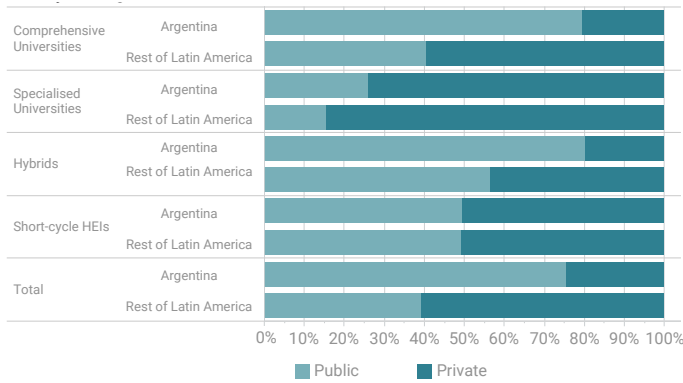
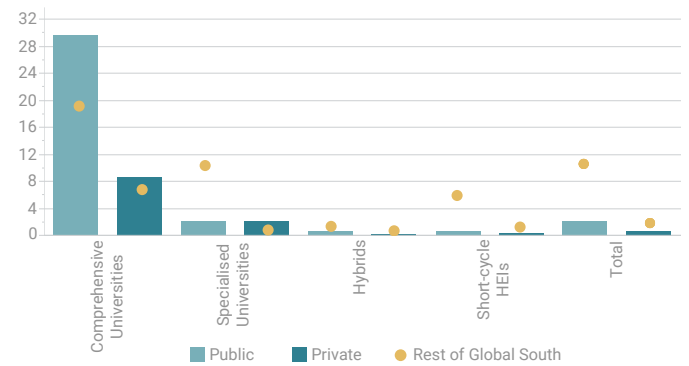


FIGURE 6 – Average institution-size by institution type in Argentina and the rest of the Global South, 2018 (Thousands)



PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending increased by 60% from 2006 to 2010, and then largely remained around this 2010-level until 2018. Public spending as a percentage of GDP is high compared to the rest of Latin America and the Global South, at a little over 1%. Public funding accounted for the great majority of institutional resources at public HEIs throughout the period of interest. Argentinian public universities receive more government funding per student than hybrids and short-cycle HEIs, and more than comparator institutions across the rest of the Global South. Funding to public universities increased on a per-student basis up to 2009 and then basically remained static, whereas funding at public hybrids and short-cycle HEIs declined from 2007 to 2016 and then recovered.

FIGURE 7 – Change in real total public spending on higher education in Argentina, the rest of Latin America and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

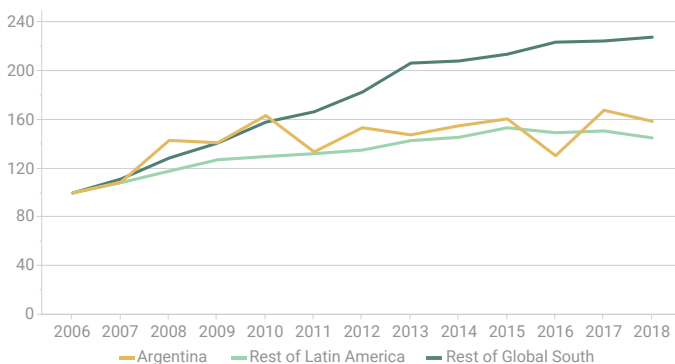


FIGURE 8 – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Argentina, the rest of Latin America and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

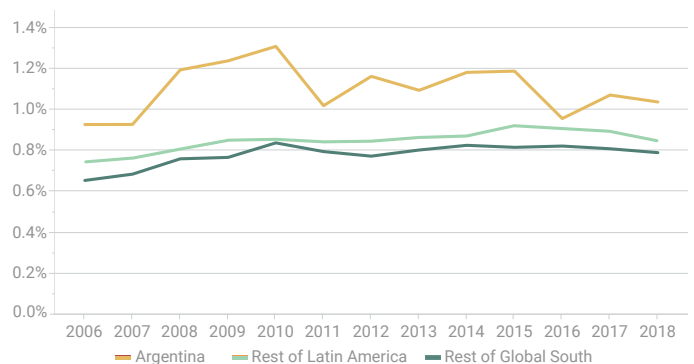


FIGURE 9 – Change in real government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in Argentina and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

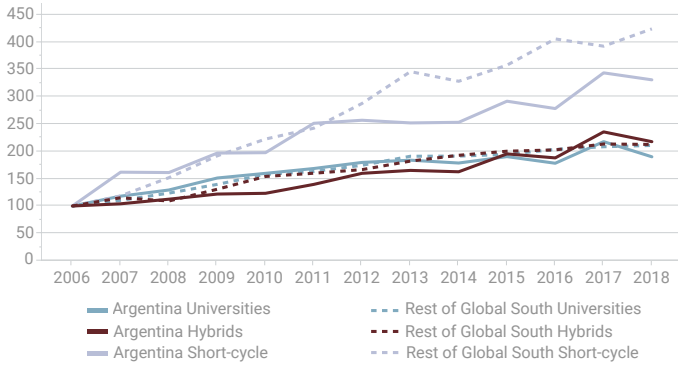


FIGURE 10 – Per-student government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in Argentina and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

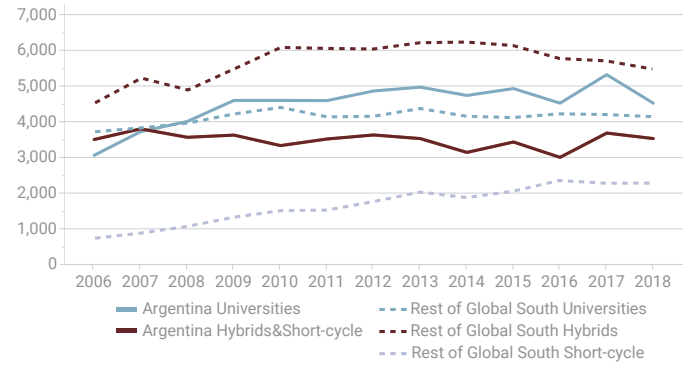
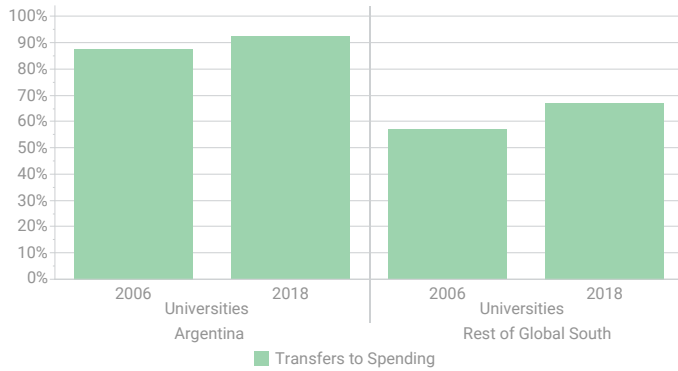
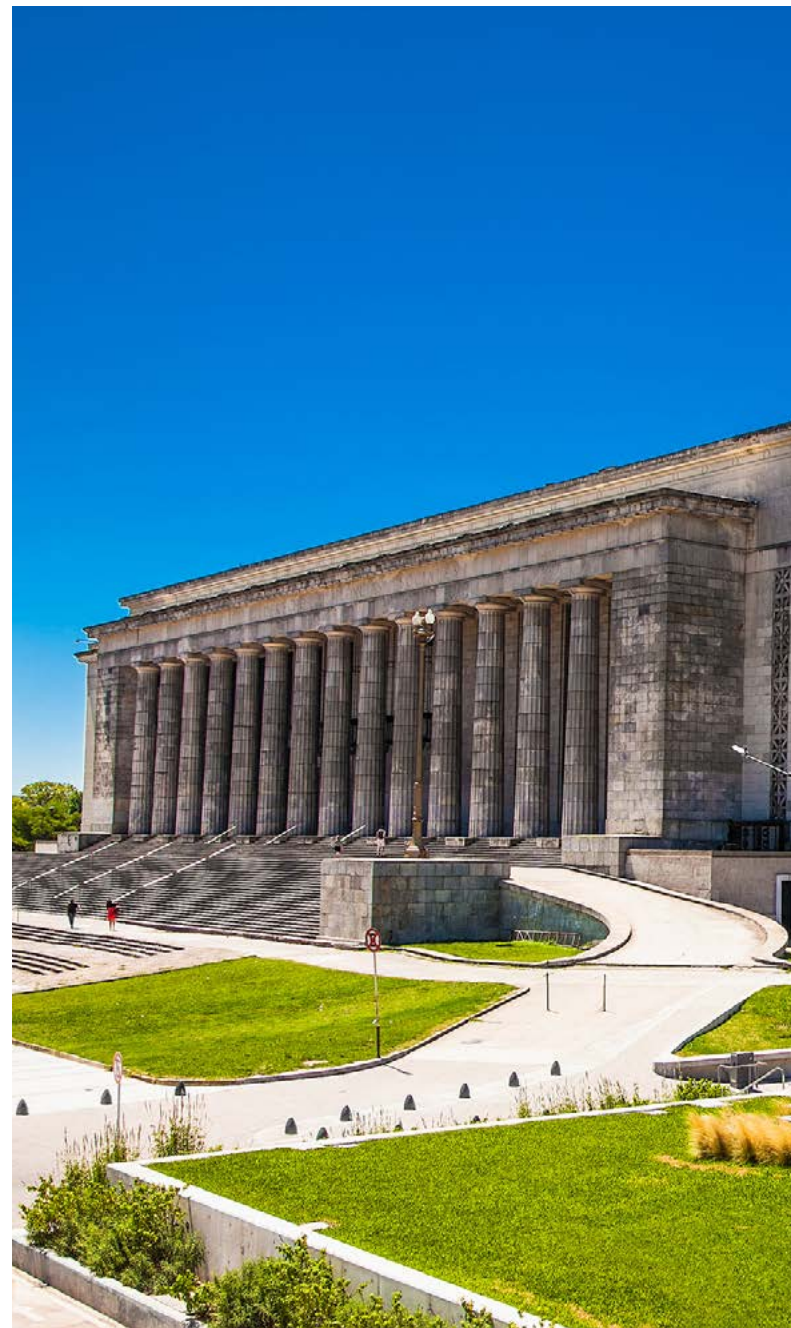


FIGURE 11 – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Argentina and the rest of the Global South, 2006 and 2018



PART III: STUDENT FEES

Argentinian public HEIs did not charge compulsory student fees during our period of interest. We were unable to obtain data on compulsory fees at private HEIs.



University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Government student financial aid in Argentina is comprised entirely of grants. Grant disbursements were very modest up to 2013. After 2013, disbursements increased markedly until 2017, fully forty-five-fold, and then fell back a bit. The trend in disbursements relative to GDP after 2013 matches what occurred across the rest of Latin America as well, but Argentinian disbursements were consistently much lower than for regional peers and to a lesser extent than across the rest of the Global South. Increased spending allowed for a considerable increase in the share of students receiving grants, which exceeded the trend across the rest of the Global South briefly from 2014 to 2017. Grant amounts per recipient were slightly below the average for the rest of the Global South throughout the period of interest and trended downward in particular from 2006 to 2012.

TABLE 2 – Student financial aid regime, including recipients and amounts disbursed in 2018

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Grants	Programa Nacional de becas universitarias (PNBU)	Merit based	391,111	608,789,887
	Becas bicentennarias (2008 onwards); Becas tics (2008 to 2013); Plan Progresar (2014 onwards)	Need based		

FIGURE 12 – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to gross domestic product, in Argentina, the rest of Latin America and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

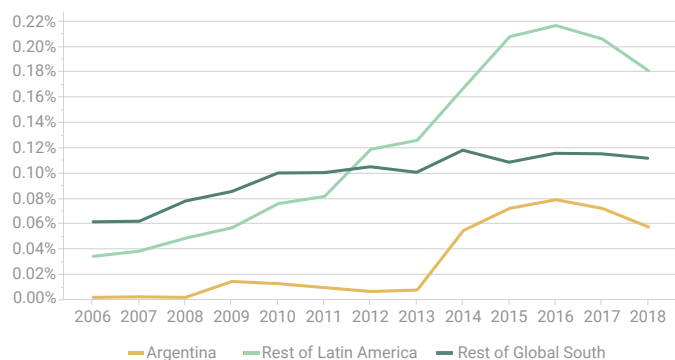


FIGURE 13 – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid, in Argentina and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

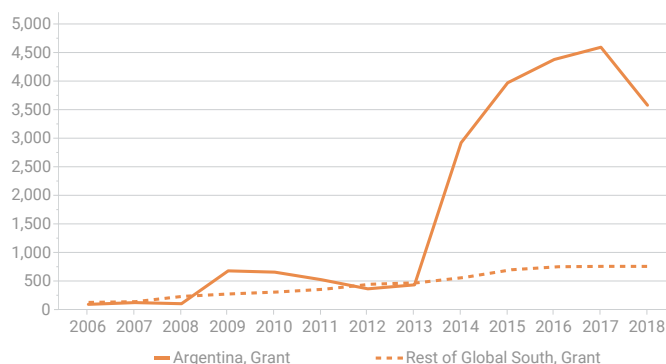


FIGURE 14 – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in Argentina and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018

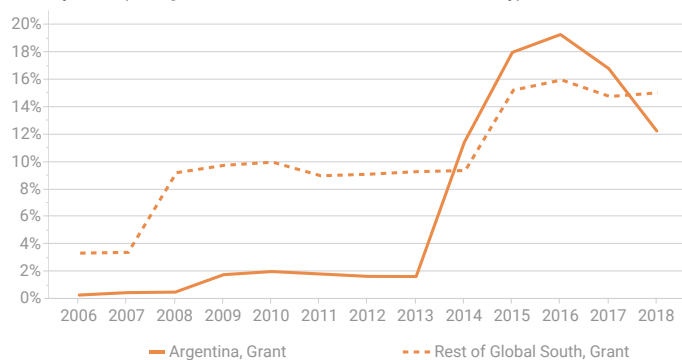
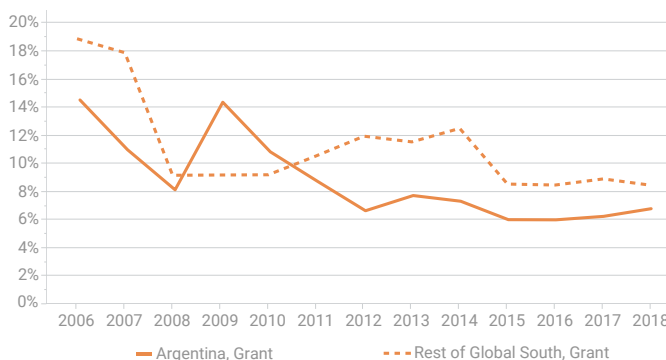


FIGURE 15 – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in Argentina and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



***Note:** For more on methodology and data quality please see [Appendices A and B](#).