

Brazil



REGION: LATIN AMERICA

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

PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Brazilian HE system loosely follows the unitary model. Roughly 75% of students were enrolled in comprehensive universities in 2018, but substantial numbers also attended specialised universities. Total enrolments increased by just over 70% between 2006 and 2018, rising from just over 5 million to just under 9 million. This growth rate closely paralleled the rest of Latin America, but was lower than across the rest of the Global South. The number of HEIs stayed relatively steady during this same period, which meant that the average Brazilian HEI was significantly larger in 2018 than in 2006. Roughly 25% students attended public providers in 2018, which was well below the average in the rest of Latin America.

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
Comprehensive universities	Universities; Centros universitários	120	309	388
Specialised Universities	Faculdades; Federal Research Institutes	205	1980	2137
Hybrids	Centros federais de educação tecnológica (CEFETs); Institutos Federais (IFs)	40	0	40

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

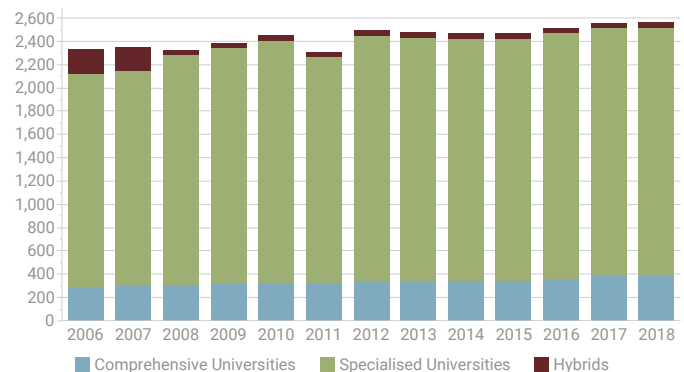


FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)

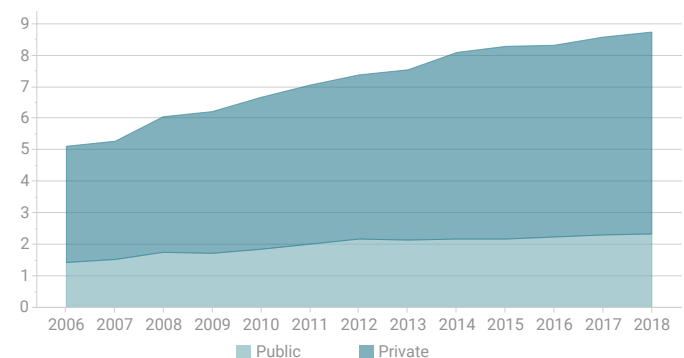


FIGURE 3 – Changes in enrolment, in Brazil, the rest of Latin America and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

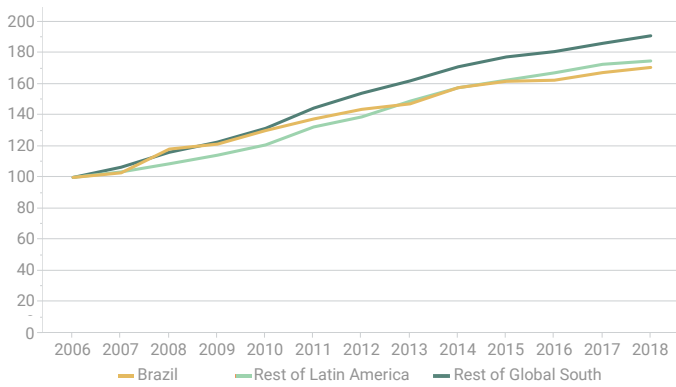


FIGURE 4 – Share of enrolments by institution type in Brazil and the rest of Latin America, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)

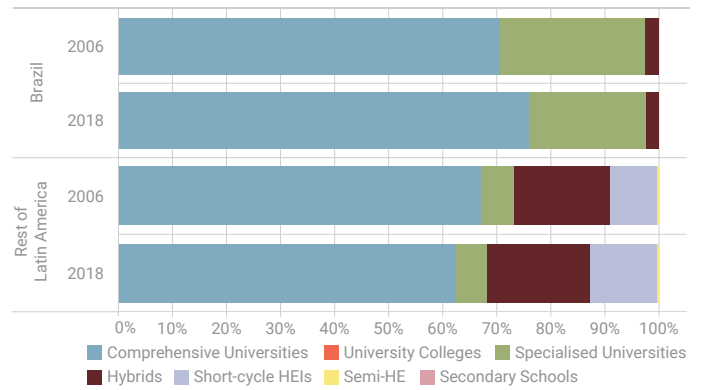


FIGURE 5 – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type, in Brazil and the rest of Latin America, 2018

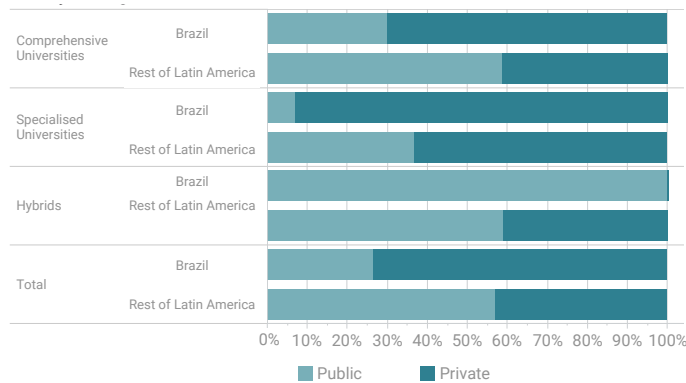
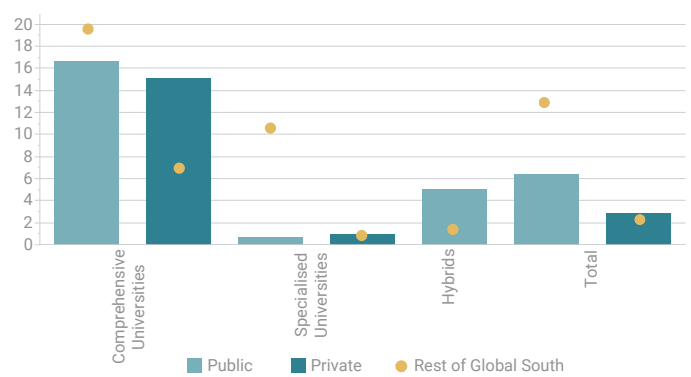


FIGURE 6 – Average institution-size by institution type in Brazil and the rest of the Global South, 2018 (Thousands)



PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in Brazil rose by roughly 40% from 2006 to 2018. This pace of expenditure growth roughly matched the rest of Latin American, but fell well short of the rest of the Global South. Public transfers to public universities increased at more or less the same pace and kept pace with enrolments, such that real per-student institutional expenditures remained relatively steady within the USD 12,000 to USD 14,000 range. Total institutional expenditures in the vast private sector appeared to stay relatively stable despite growing enrolments, which meant that spending per student declined by almost a third between 2006 and 2018. Public expenditures on HE rose relative to GDP from about 0.65% in 2006 to 0.8% in 2018. This last figure was exactly in line with the average across the rest of the Global South but slightly below the average across the rest of Latin America.

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

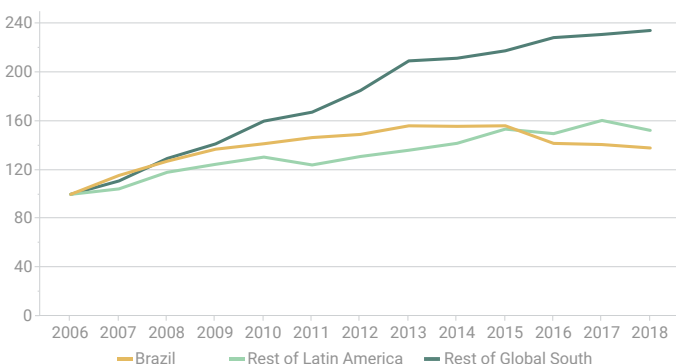


FIGURE 8 – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Brazil, the rest of Latin America and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

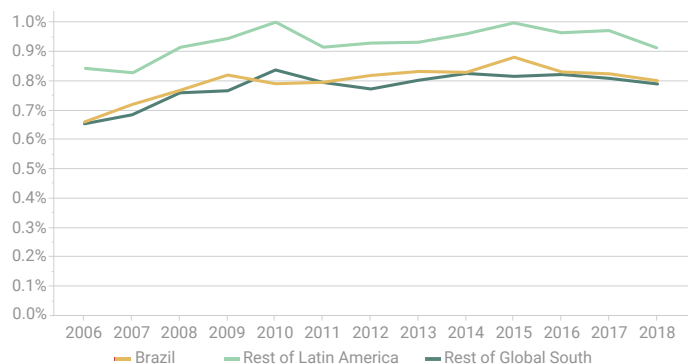


FIGURE 9 – Change in real government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in Brazil and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

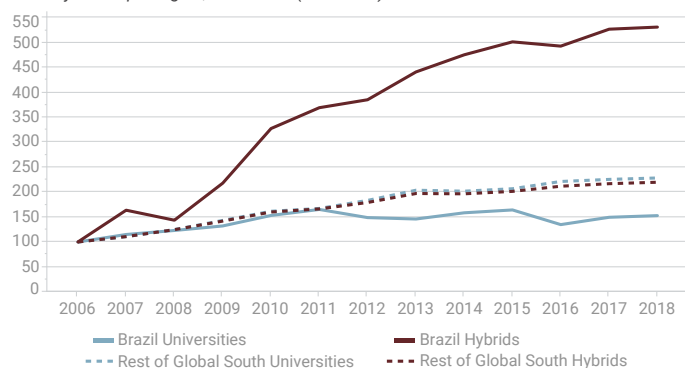


FIGURE 10 – Per-student government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in Brazil and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

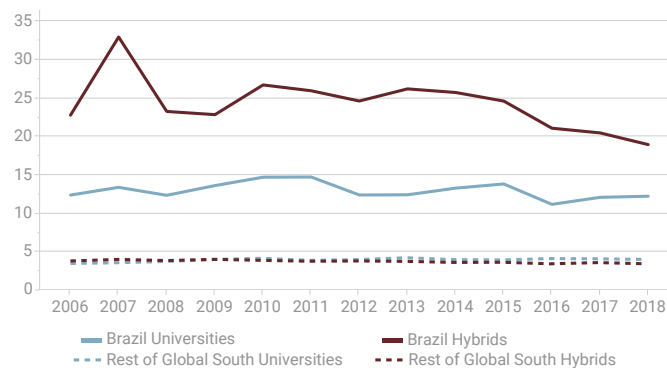


FIGURE 11 – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Brazil and the rest of the Global South, 2006 and 2018

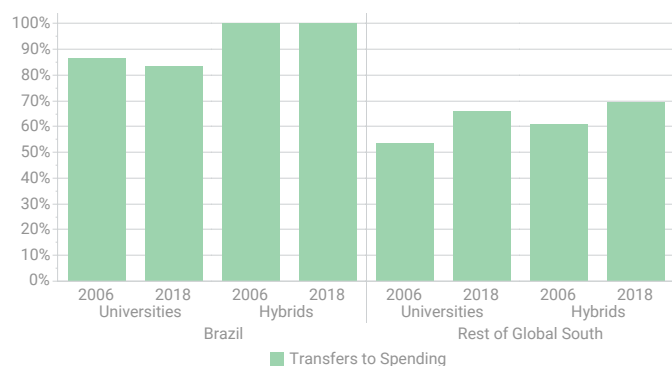


FIGURE 12 – Change in real total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Brazil and the rest of the world, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

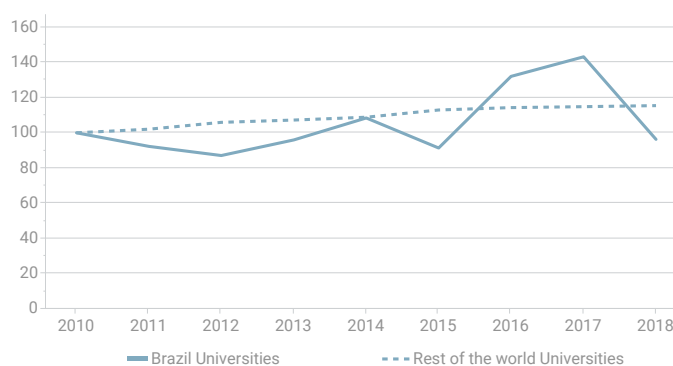
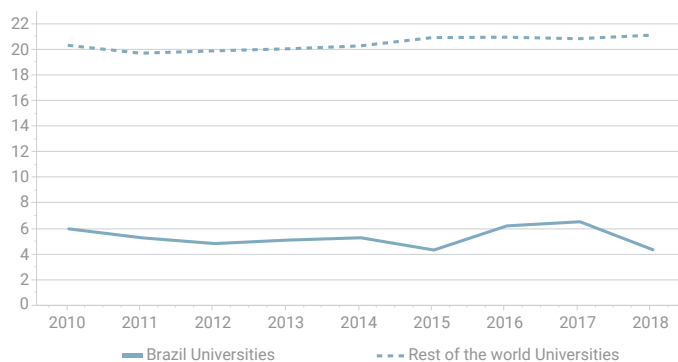


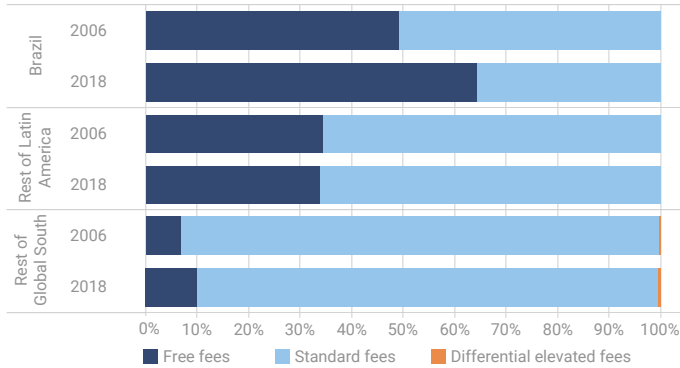
FIGURE 13 – Per-student total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Brazil and the rest of the world, 2006-2018



PART III: STUDENT FEES

Brazil has a privileged public student fee regime, whereby the small share of students who attend public providers pay no fees or very low fees, whereas those who attend private providers may have to pay very elevated fees. We estimate that all students at federal HEIs were tuition-free in 2018, while fees were modest at state HEIs, though we have little data to expand on this assessment. In the private sector, the decline in total expenditures per student suggest that average fee amounts fell during the period of interest. Unfortunately, there are little data available to expand upon these observations.

FIGURE 14 – Share of students at public institutions under each type of tuition regime in Brazil, the rest of Latin America and the rest of the Global South, 2006 and 2018



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PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Government student financial aid in Brazil is a mix of loans and grants. Loans predominated in roughly a 7:1 ratio in 2018. The number of students receiving both loans and grants not only kept pace with enrollment growth over the period of interest, but actually grew faster, causing the share of students receiving aid to rise. The average value of grants remained relatively constant, but the value of loans increased substantially. Total student financial aid disbursements were equal to 0.3% of GDP in 2018, which was roughly triple the average across the rest of Latin America and the Global South. This was entirely due to dramatic growth in disbursements between 2011 and 2015.

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

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Grants	Programa Universidade para Todos (Prouni); State Grants; Municipal grants	Mix of need and merit-based	652,188	1,088,120,455
Loans	Fundo de financiamento estantil (FIES); State loans; Municipal loans	Optional enrolment	934,106	8,129,218,636

FIGURE 15 – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to gross domestic product, in Brazil, the rest of Latin America and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

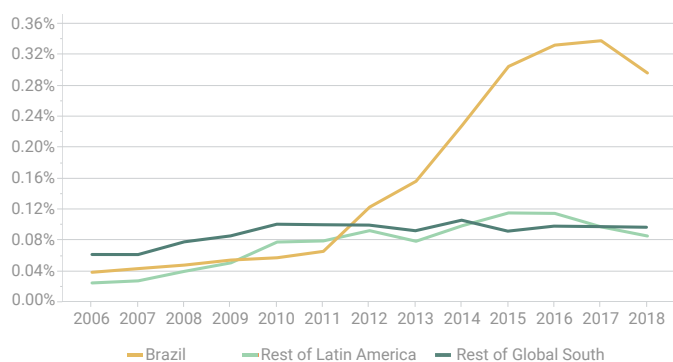


FIGURE 16 – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in Brazil and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

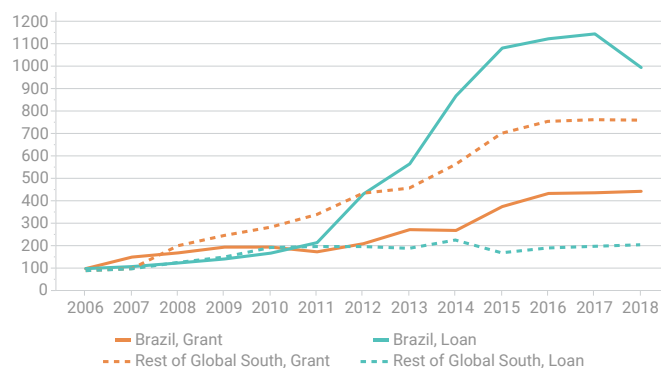


FIGURE 17 – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in Brazil and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018

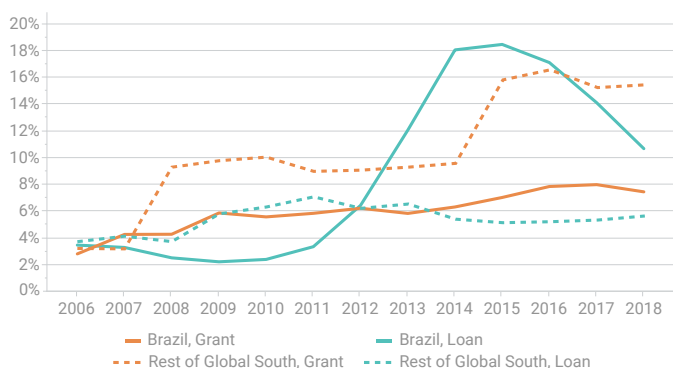
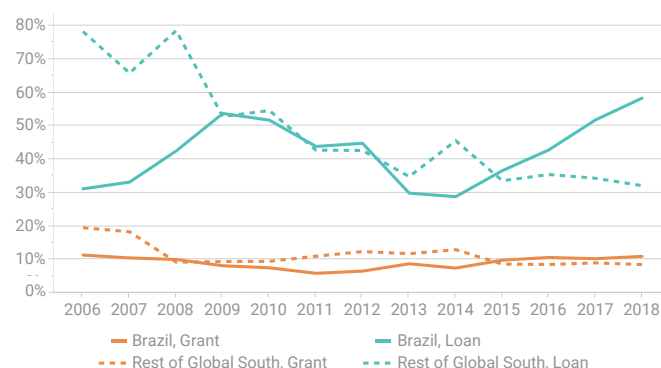


FIGURE 18 – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in Brazil and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



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