

Canada



REGION: CANZAUS

Also included in this region: Australia, New Zealand, United States

PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

Canada’s HE system loosely fits the North American model. Most students attended comprehensive universities in 2018, while most of the rest attended community colleges which we classify variously as hybrids, short-cycle HEIs and semi-HEIs depending on the levels of their programs. Total enrolments grew by almost 40% in our period of interest, boosted by the arrival of hundreds of thousands of international students. This was faster than the averages across the rest of CANZAUS and the Global North. There was little change in the number of HEIs over our period of interest, and what change did occur was due to the reclassification of semi-HEIs as short-cycle HEIs. As a result, enrolment led to significant increases in average institution-size. The vast majority of students attended public providers in 2018, well above the average across the rest of CANZAUS.

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
Comprehensive universities	Universities	66	7	73
Specialised Universities	Selection of universities	9	9	18
Hybrids	Colleges with more ISCED 6 enrolments than ISCED 4 and 5	6	0	6
Short-cycle HEIs	Colleges with 60% or more enrolments at ISCED 5	37	10	47
Semi-HE	Colleges with over 40% of enrolments in ISCED 3 or 4	NA	NA	NA

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

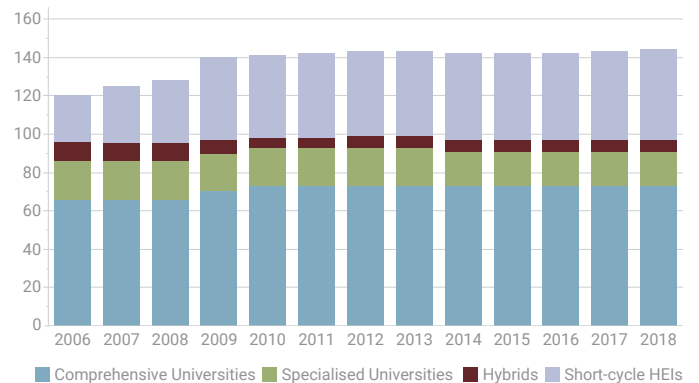


FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)

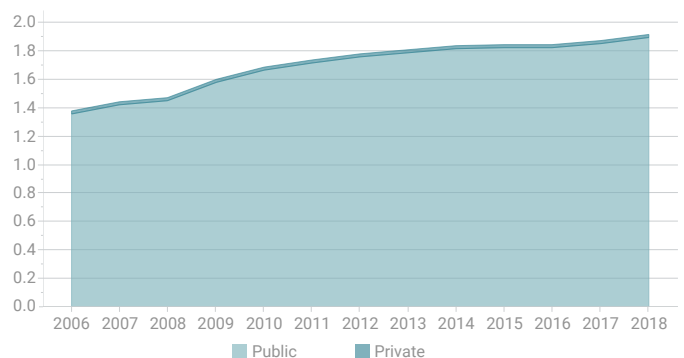


FIGURE 3 – Changes in enrolment, in Canada, the rest of CANZAUS and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

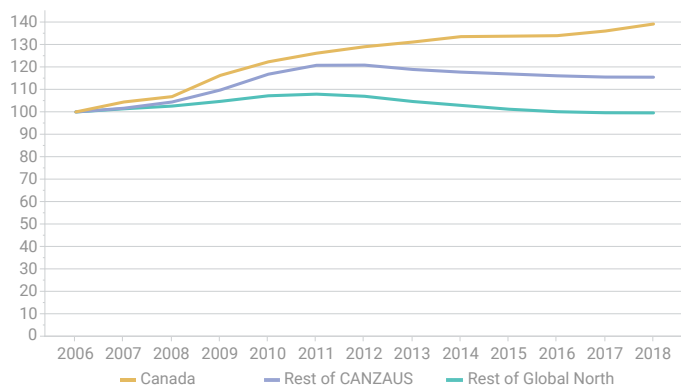


FIGURE 4 – Share of enrolments by institution type in Canada and the rest of CANZAUS, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)

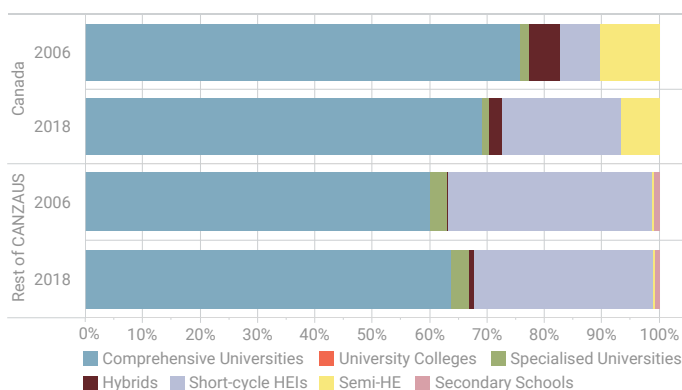


FIGURE 5 – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type, in Canada and the rest of CANZAUS, 2018

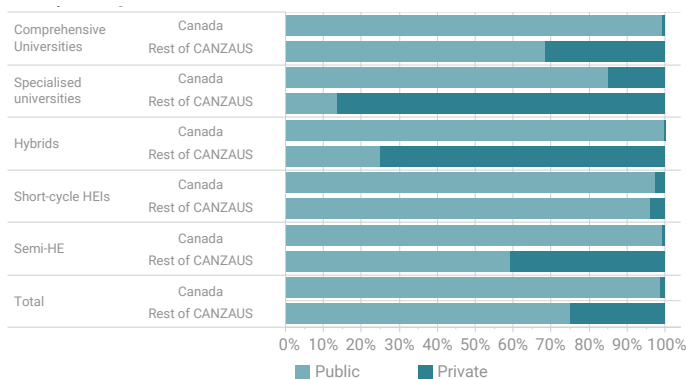
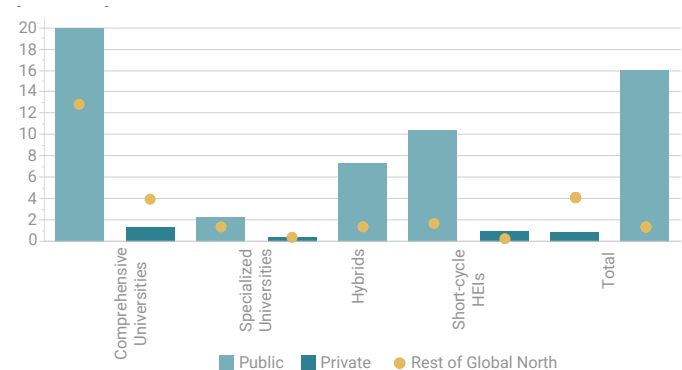


FIGURE 6 – Average institution-size by institution type in Canada and the rest of the Global North, 2018 (Thousands)



PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending rose by a little over 25% from 2006 to 2018, which was roughly in line with trends across the rest of CANZAUS and the Global North. Spending stayed constant relative to GDP, however, more or less in line with the comparator averages. Total expenditures of public HEIs grew more quickly, thanks largely to income from international student fees (total short-cycle HEIs' expenditures rose sharply mainly because many community colleges shifted from being classified as semi-HEIs to being short-cycle HEIs). The very small group of private HEIs reporting data received about half their funding from tuition fees over the period of interest.

FIGURE 7 – Change in real total public spending on higher education in Canada, the rest of CANZAUS and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

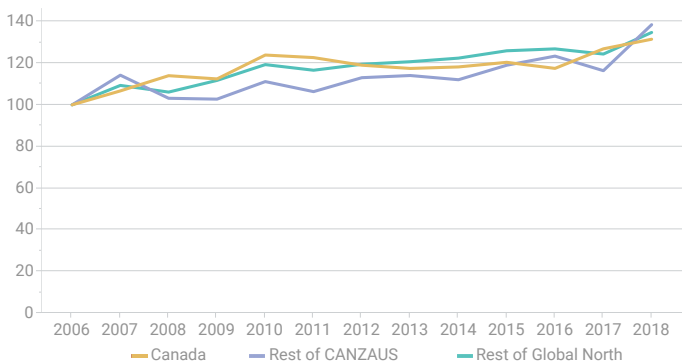


FIGURE 8 – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Canada, the rest of CANZAUS and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

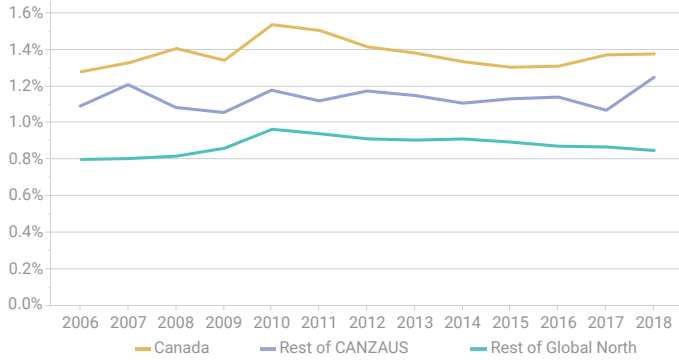


FIGURE 9 – Change in real total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Canada and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

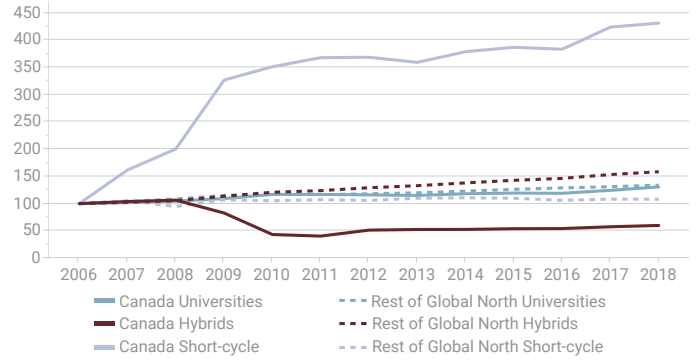


FIGURE 10 – Per-student total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in Canada and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

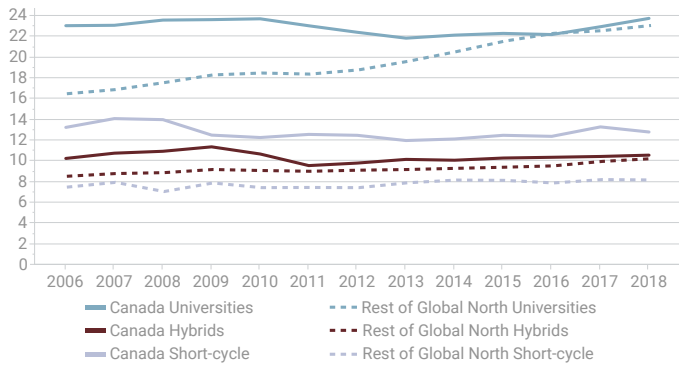


FIGURE 11 – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Canada and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018

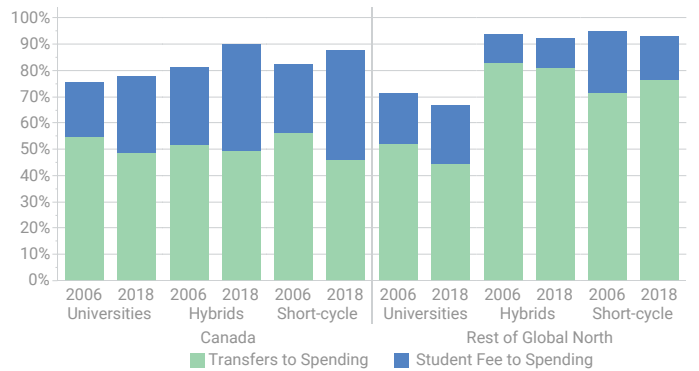
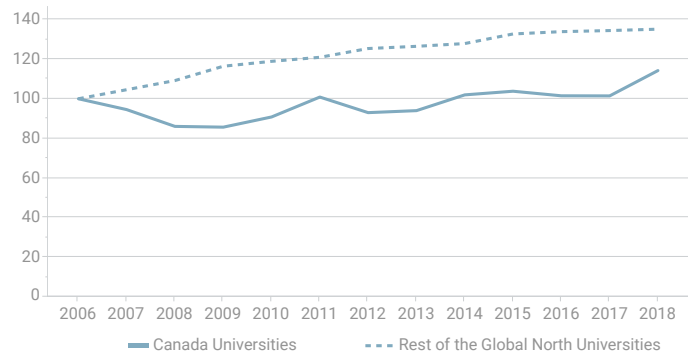


FIGURE 12 – Change in real total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Canada and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia

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

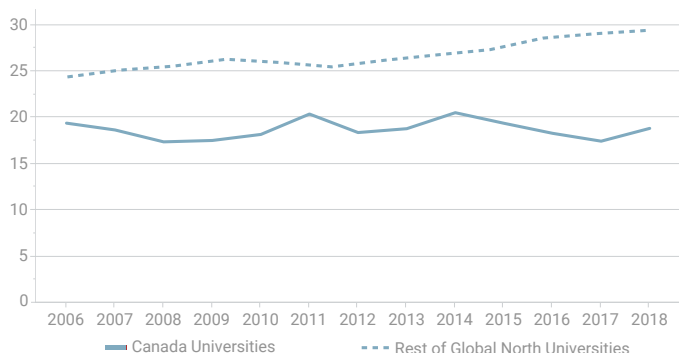
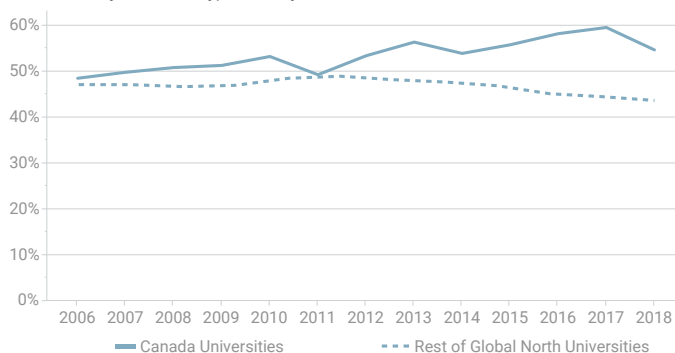


FIGURE 14 – Student fee revenues relative to total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Canada and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



PART III: STUDENT FEES

All students pay fees in Canada under a differentiated model. Domestic students pay significantly less than international students at public HEIs. Fee revenue per domestic student at public HEIs was about half of that for students at private HEIs in 2018. Fee revenues per domestic student rose modestly at public universities and short-cycle HEIs over the period of interest, while they fell slightly at hybrids. Average fees for international students rose dramatically at all types of public HEIs over the period of interest.

FIGURE 15 – Share of students at public institutions under each type of tuition regime in Canada, the rest of CANZAUS and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018

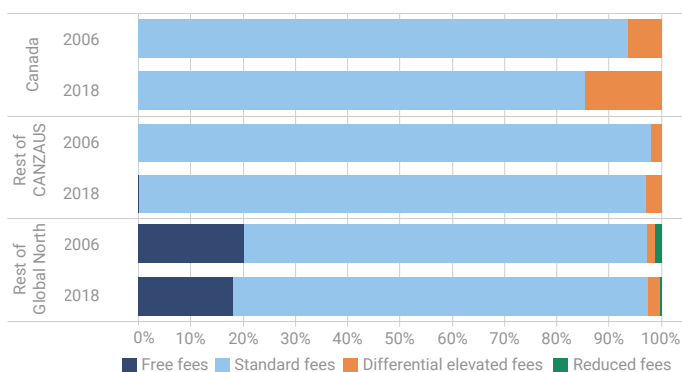


FIGURE 16 – Fee revenues per student paying “regular” rates at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018

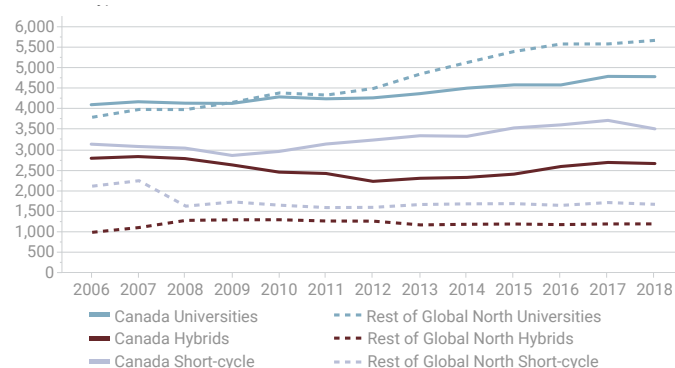


FIGURE 17 – Fee revenues per student paying elevated differential fees at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018

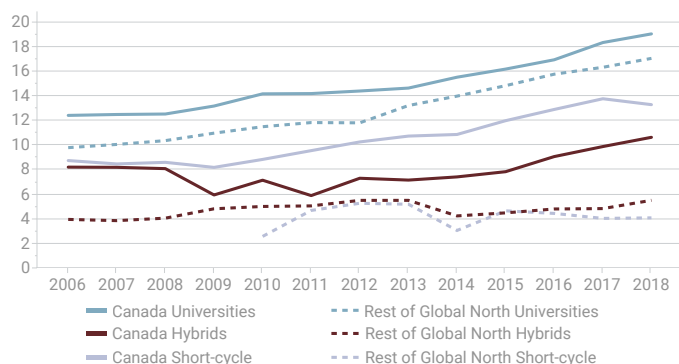
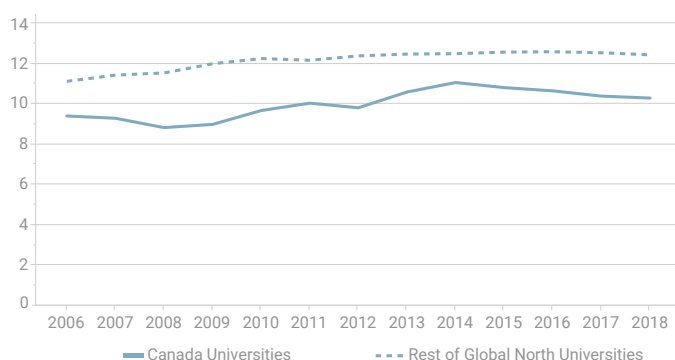


FIGURE 18 – Fee revenues per student at private institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Government student financial aid in Canada is comprised of a mix of grants and loans. Loans slightly predominated in 2018, but their importance relative to grants fell significantly over the period of interest as grant disbursements almost tripled, with the greatest growth occurring between 2016 and 2018. The share of students receiving grants also increased markedly, albeit with some considerable year-over-year volatility, rising from 20% in 2006 to 53% in 2018, whereas the share of students receiving loans increased only by 5%. The growth in student financial aid brought total disbursements to the same level relative to GDP as across the rest of the Global North in 2018, but still well below the level across the rest of the CANZAUS region.

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

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Grants	Federal government grants; Provincial government grants	Need-based	1,013,099	3,409,132,243
Loans	Federal government loans; Provincial government Loans	Need-based	780,514	4,054,523,317

FIGURE 19 – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to Gross Domestic Product, in Canada, the rest of CANZAUS and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

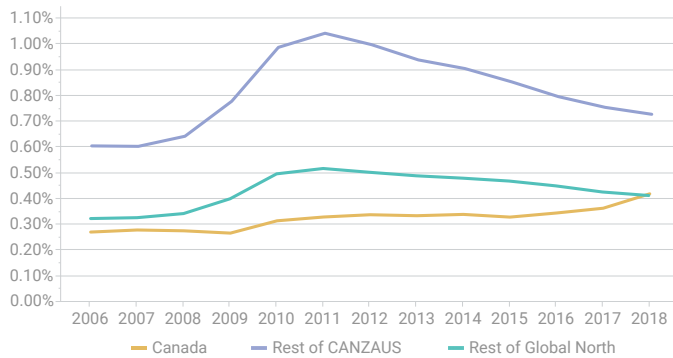


FIGURE 20 – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in Canada and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

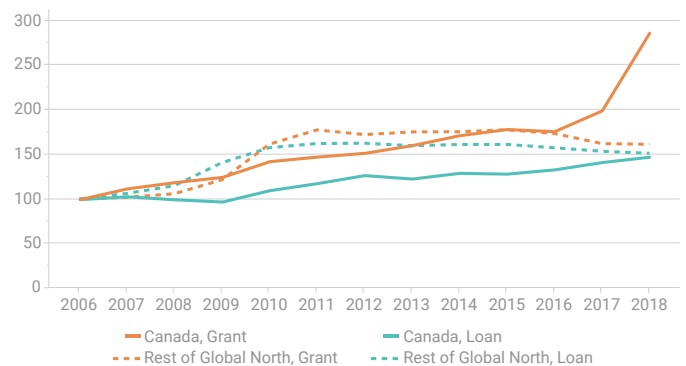


FIGURE 21 – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in Canada and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018

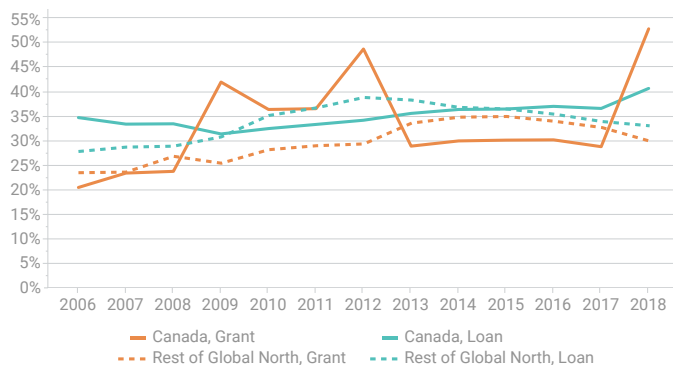
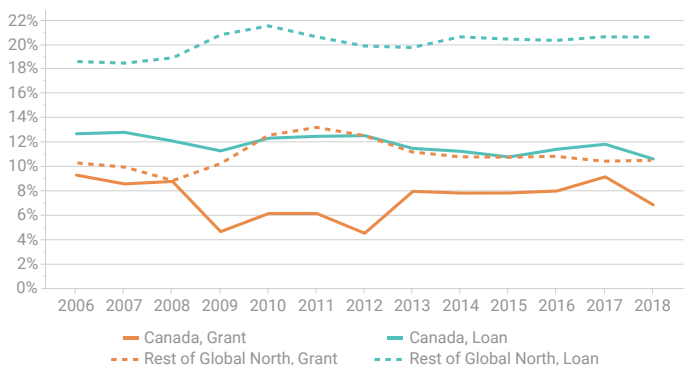


FIGURE 22 – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in Canada and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



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