

Colombia



REGION: LATIN AMERICA

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

PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Colombian HE system fits the Latin American model. Roughly 55% of all students were enrolled in comprehensive universities in 2018, with another 25% in hybrid institutions and the remainder in short-cycle HEIs. Total enrolments increased by roughly 80% between 2006 and 2018, rising from just under 1.3 million to just under 2.4 million. The number of HEIs stayed relatively constant during this same period, meaning that Colombia HEIs were growing larger. Just under 50% of HE students in Colombia attended public providers in 2018, which was similar to the average across the rest of Latin America.

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
Comprehensive universities	Universities	32	54	86
Hybrids	Institución universitaria/ Escuela Tecnológica	28	95	123
Short-cycle HEIs	Institución técnica profesional; Institución tecnológica	19	44	63

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

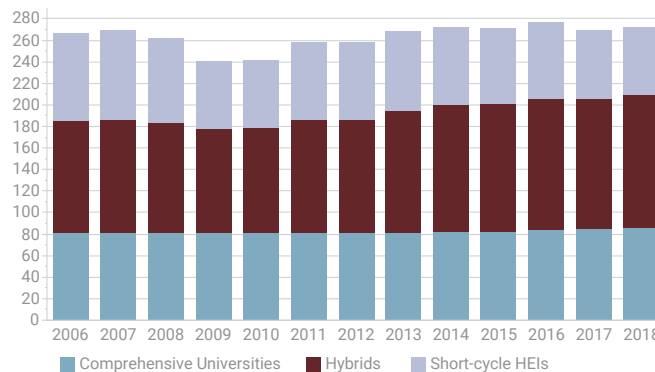


FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)

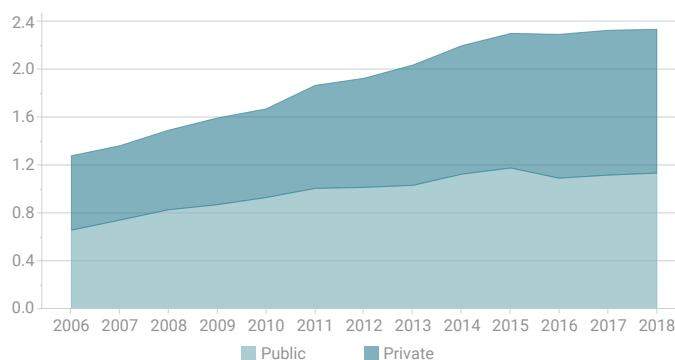


FIGURE 3 – Changes in enrolment, in Colombia, the rest of Latin America and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

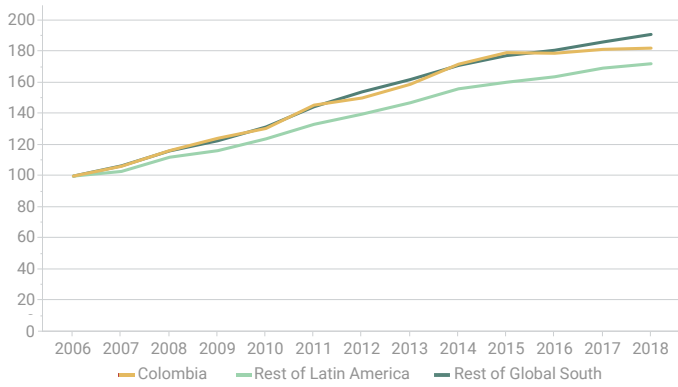


FIGURE 4 – Share of enrolments by institution type in Colombia and the rest of Latin America, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)

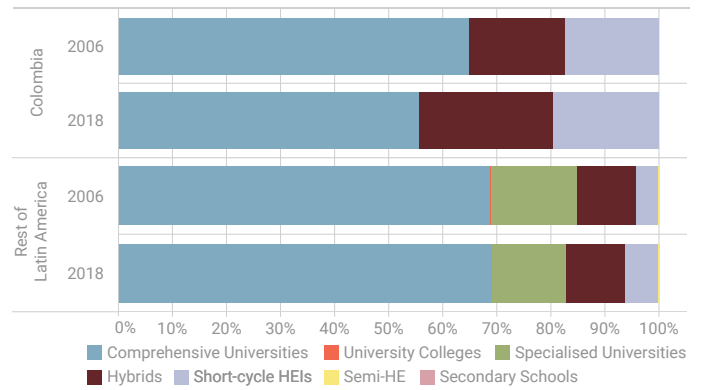


FIGURE 5 – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type, in Colombia and the rest of Latin America, 2018

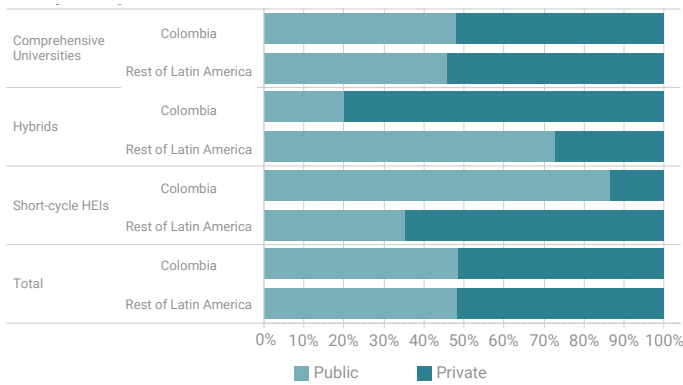
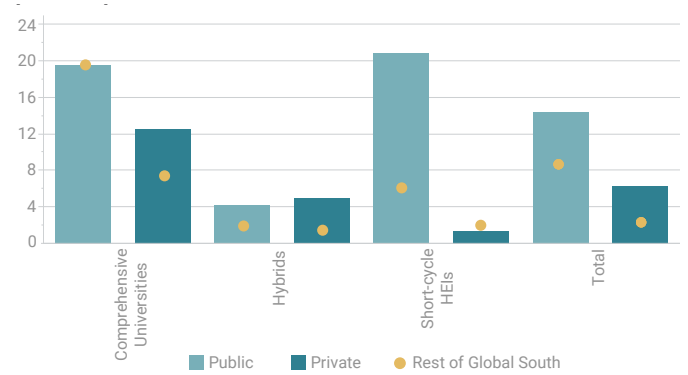


FIGURE 6 – Average institution-size by institution type in Colombia and the rest of the Global South, 2018 (Thousands)



Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia



PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in Colombia rose by 70% from 2006 to 2018, however most of this growth occurred before 2013. This pace of expenditure increase was similar to that across the rest of Latin America, but lagged growth in the rest of the Global South by some distance. Transfers to public HEIs increased at more or less the same pace, although in keeping with enrolment trends, this happened faster for hybrids and short-cycle HEIs than for universities. HEIs' total expenditures per student fell gently in both the public and private HE sectors between 2006 and 2018. Relative to GDP, public expenditures on HE increased moderately after 2012, but culminated at a lower level than across the rest of Latin America and the Global South.

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

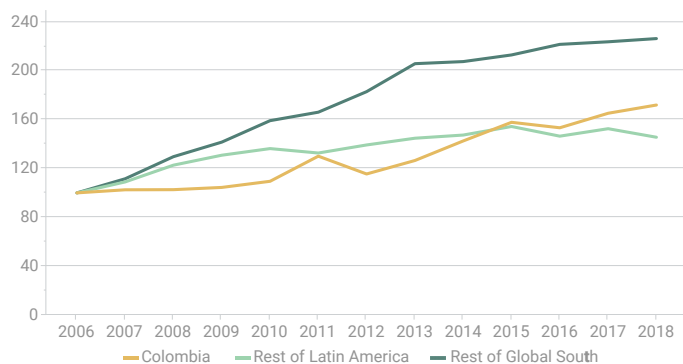


FIGURE 8 – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Colombia, the rest of Latin America and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

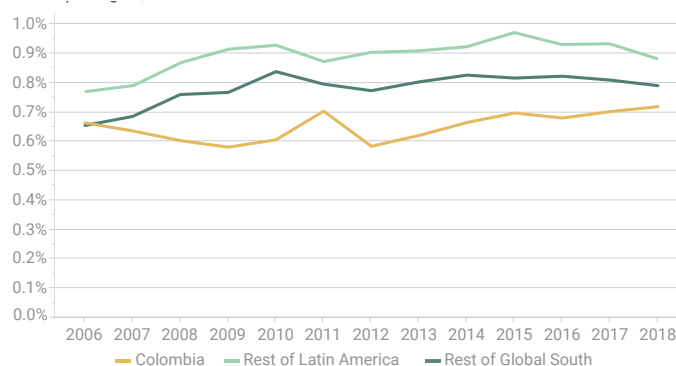


FIGURE 9 – Change in real government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in Colombia and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

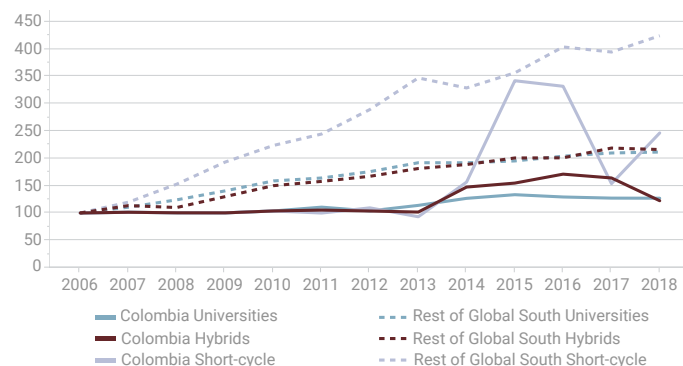


FIGURE 10 – Per-student government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in real PPP in Colombia and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

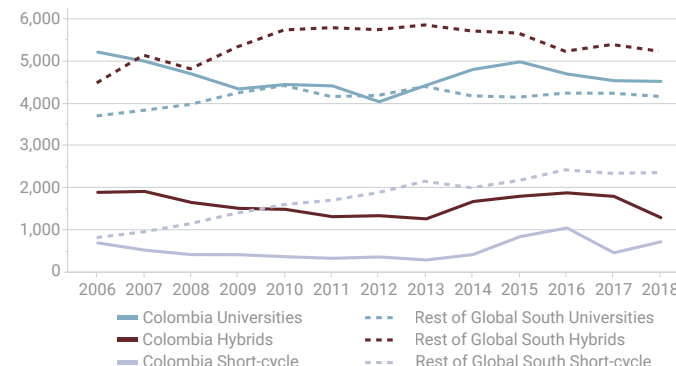


FIGURE 11 – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Colombia and the rest of the Global South, 2006 and 2018

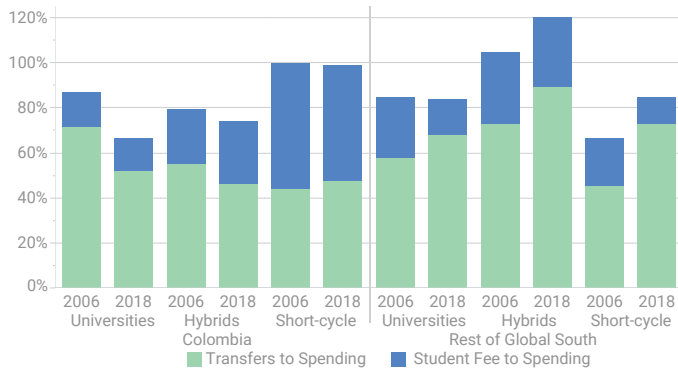


FIGURE 12 – Change in real total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Colombia and the rest of the world, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

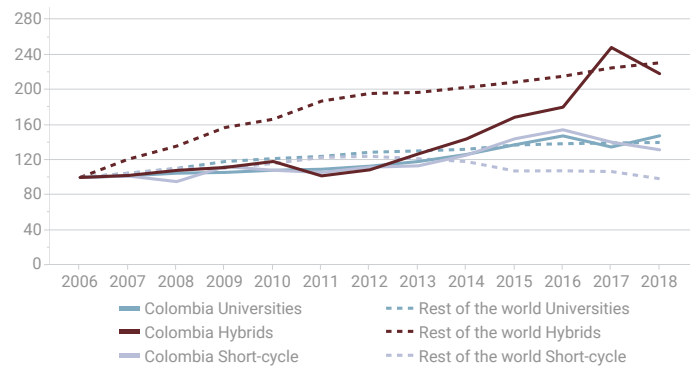


FIGURE 13 – Per-student total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Colombia and the rest of the world, 2006-2018

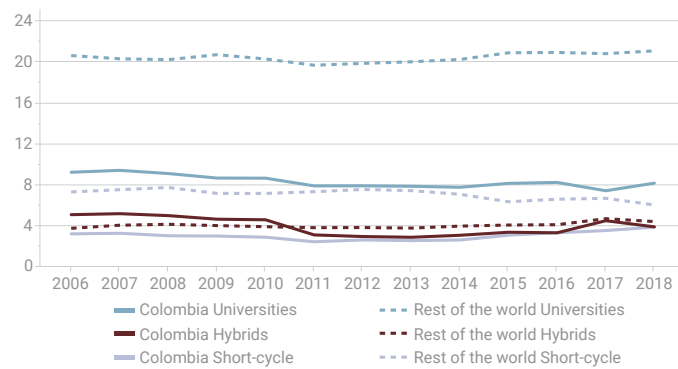
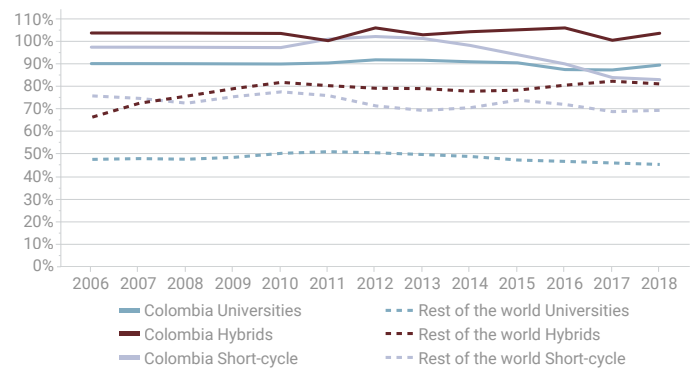


FIGURE 14 – Student fee revenues relative to total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Colombia and the rest of the world, 2006-2018



PART III: STUDENT FEES

All students in Colombia pay at least some level of tuition fees. While per-student fee revenues rose at all types of public HEIs between 2006 and 2010, they subsequently trended downwards by anywhere from 20% to 30%. Fee revenues per student also decreased in the private sector, though not by as much. Fee income per student at private HEIs was anywhere from three-to-seven-times higher than at public institutions.

FIGURE 15 – Fee revenues per student paying typical rates at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018

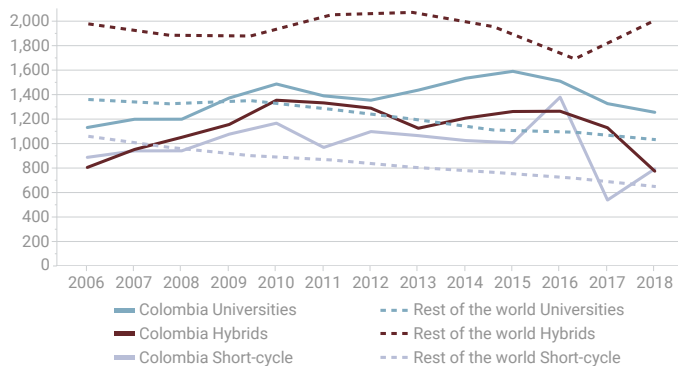
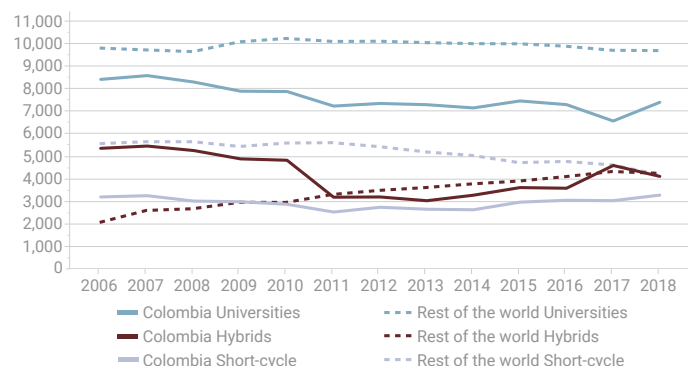


FIGURE 16 – Fee revenues per student at private institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Government student financial aid in Colombia is loan-only. About 14% of students received a loan in 2018, up from 9% in 2006 despite significant growth in total enrolments. Total loan disbursements rose more than fourfold between 2006 and 2018. Disbursements were equivalent to just under 0.16% of GDP in 2018, roughly equal to the average across the rest of Latin America but well above the average for the rest of the Global South.

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

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Loans	ICETEX loan program	Open enrolment	330,123	1,122,605,411

FIGURE 17 – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to gross domestic product, in Colombia, the rest of Latin America and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

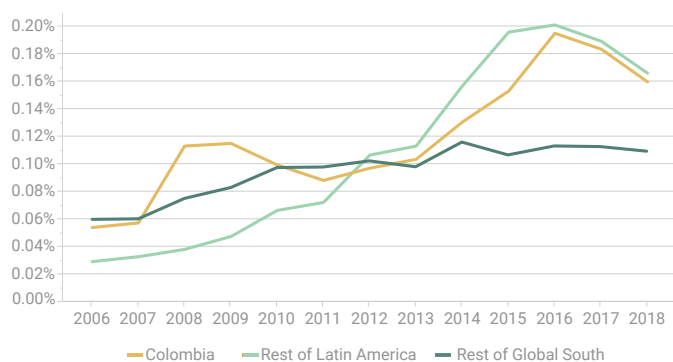


FIGURE 18 – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in Colombia and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

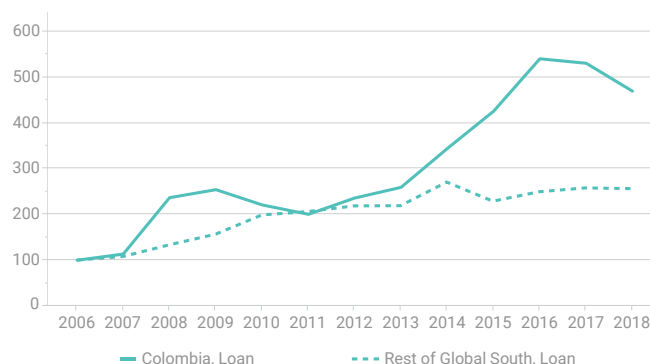


FIGURE 19 – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in Colombia and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018

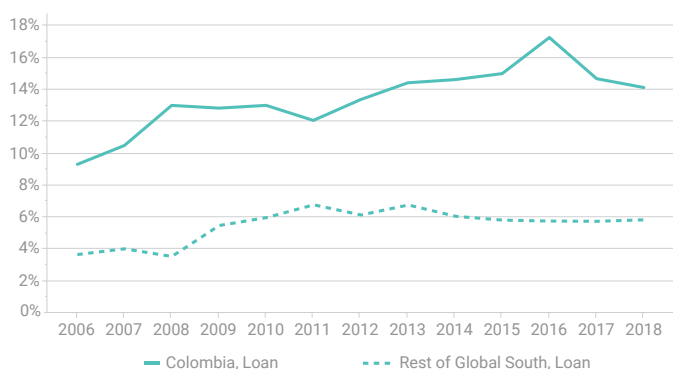
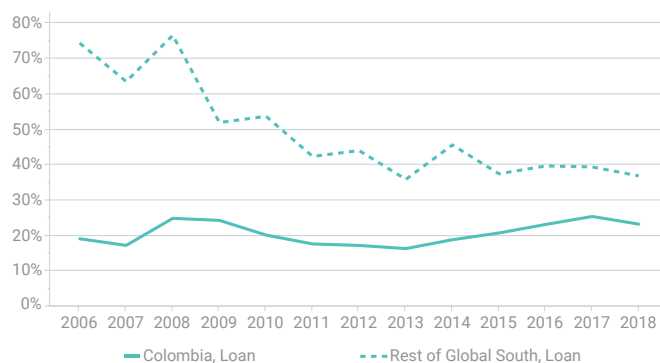


FIGURE 20 – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in Colombia and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



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