

# Finland



**REGION: WESTERN EUROPE**

Also included in this region: France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom

**PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

The Finnish HE system fits squarely within the Northern European Model. Students enrolled in roughly equal measures in comprehensive universities and hybrid institutions in 2018. Enrolments fell by 4% between 2006 and 2018, in contrast to a gain of about 15% in the rest of Western Europe. The number of universities increased and the number of hybrid institutions decreased over the same period, without much relationship with overall enrolment numbers. As there is no private HE sector in Finland, 100% of students enrolled in public-sector institutions in 2018, which was above the average across the rest of Western Europe.

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
Comprehensive Universities	Universities	25	0	25
Hybrids	UAS	15	0	15

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

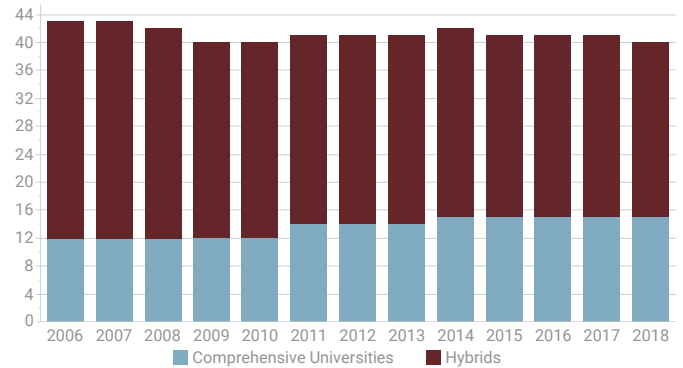


FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)

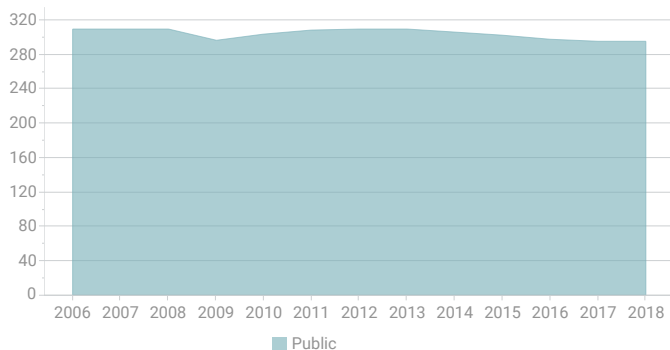
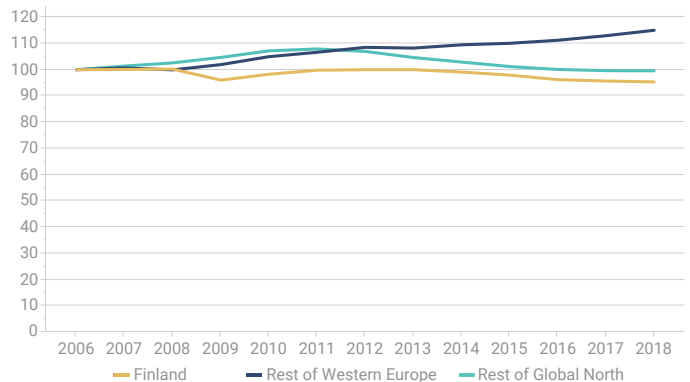
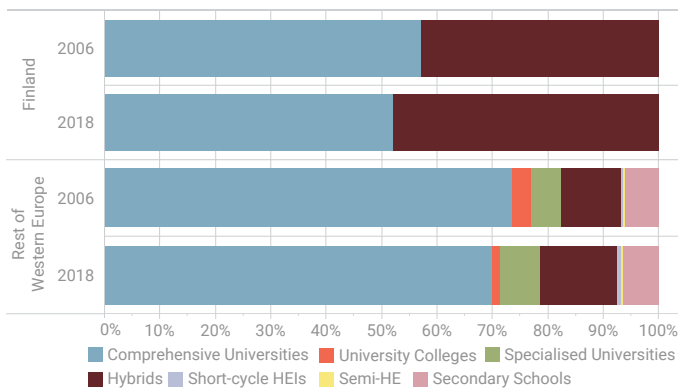


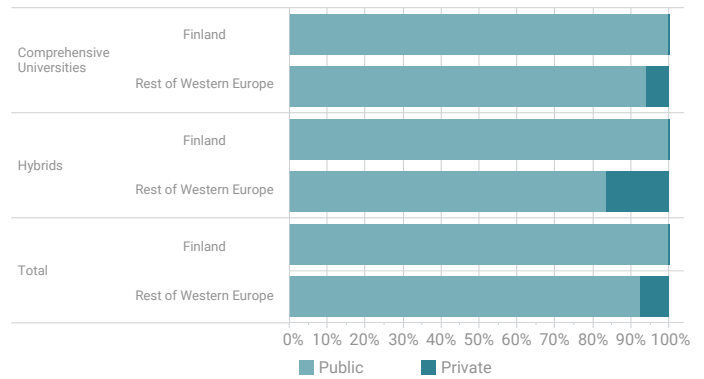
FIGURE 3 – Changes in enrolment, in Finland, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



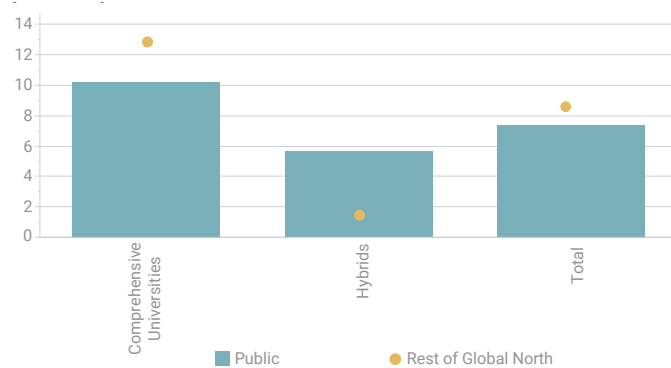
**FIGURE 4** – Share of enrolments by institution type in Finland and the rest of Western Europe, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 5** – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type, in Finland and the rest of Western Europe, 2018



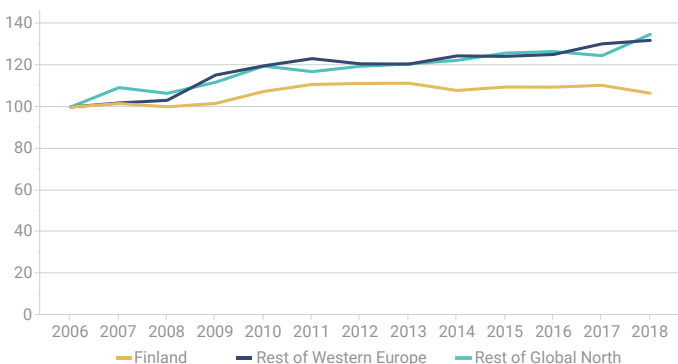
**FIGURE 6** – Average institution-size by institution type in Finland and the rest of the Global North, 2018 (Thousands)



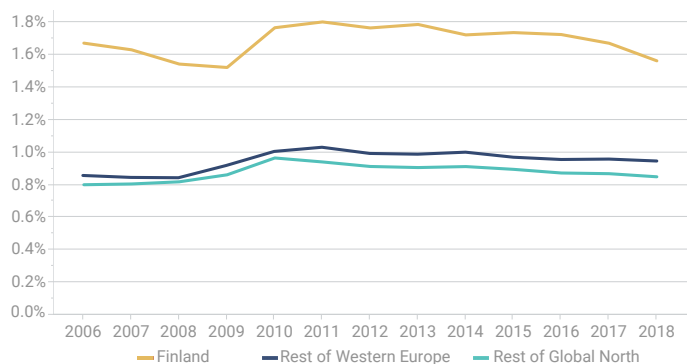
**PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING**

Public HE spending in Finland rose by 7% in constant dollars during the 2006-2018 period, which lagged both the rest of Western Europe and Global North. Relative to GDP, spending fell slightly, although it remained well above the figures for the rest of Western Europe and the Global North. Institutional expenditures at all types of institutions grew slightly faster – by 11% in total.

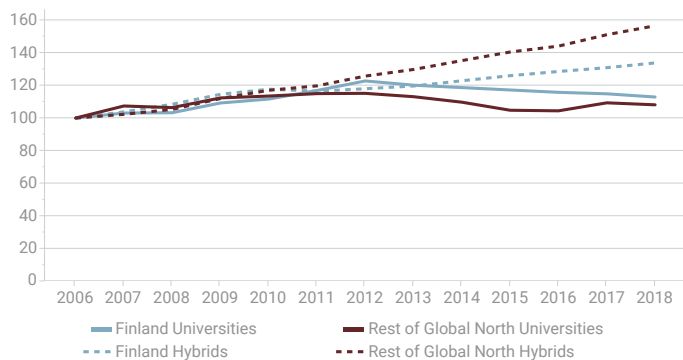
**FIGURE 7** – Change in real total public spending on higher education in Finland, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



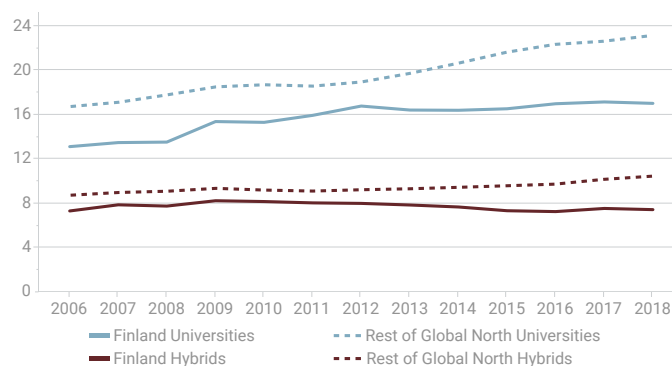
**FIGURE 8** – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Finland, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



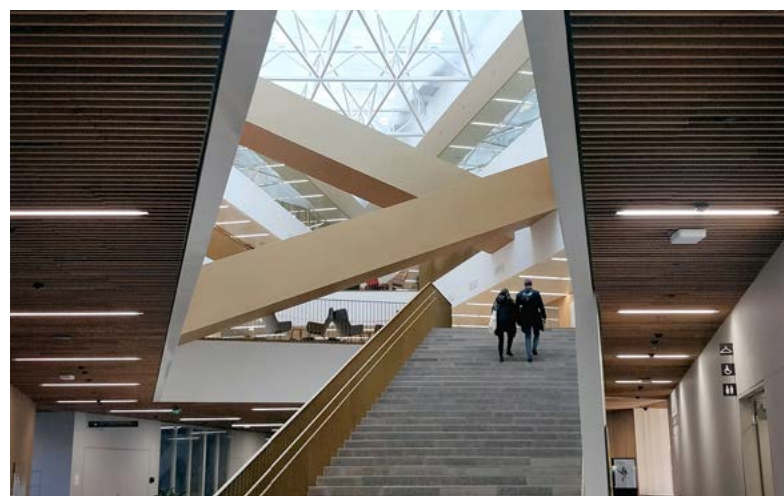
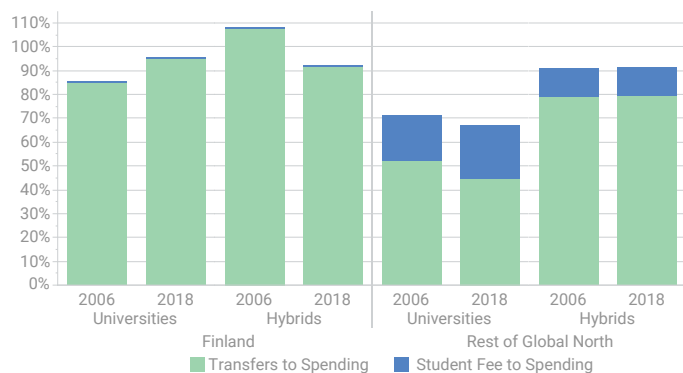
**FIGURE 9** – Change in real total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Finland and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



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

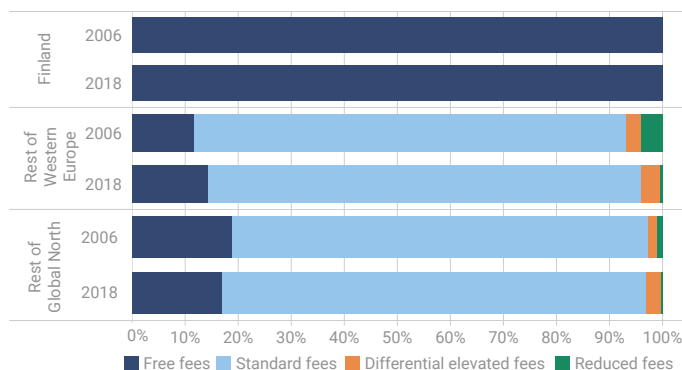


Aalto University School of Business, Finland

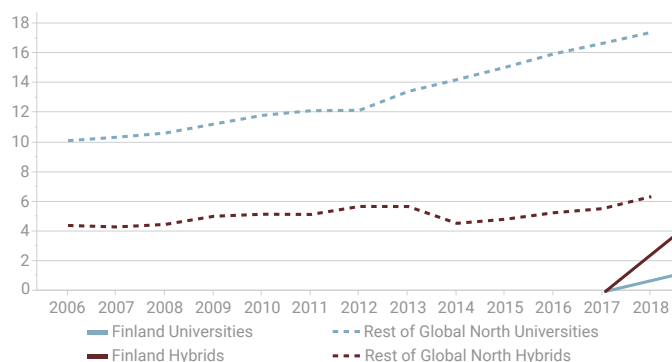
### PART III: STUDENT FEES

Finland does not charge student fees, except to a very small number of international students from outside the European Union, who represented less than 1% of total enrolments in 2018. These fees were only introduced in 2018. This means that Finland’s student fee model is a mix of inclusive free publics and differentiated fee-charging.

**FIGURE 12** – Share of students at public institutions under each type of tuition regime in Finland, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018



**FIGURE 13** – Fee revenues per student paying elevated differential fees at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



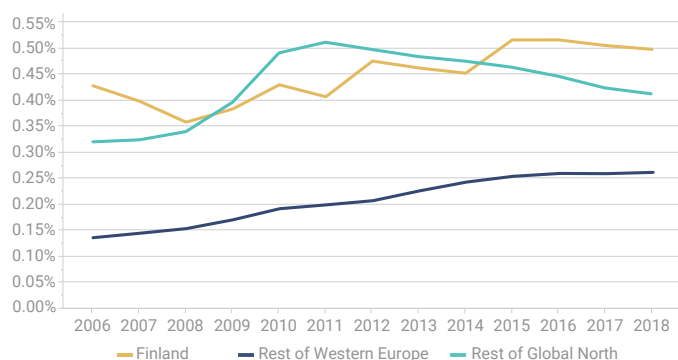
### PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Government student financial aid in Finland is based on a mix of grants and loans. For most of the period under consideration, grants were a larger source of aid to students than loans. However, this changed substantially in later years, and in 2018 loans predominated by a ratio of close to 3:1. This change was due both to increases in total loan disbursements and reductions in grant disbursements. As a percentage of GDP, student financial aid disbursements rose over our period of interest, and in 2018 were above the average of the Global North, and roughly twice the average across the rest of Western Europe.

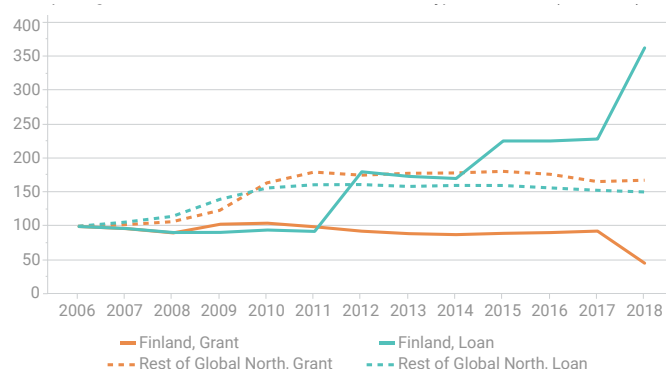
**TABLE 2** – Student financial aid regime, including recipients and amounts disbursed in 2018

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
<b>Grants</b>	Study grant and housing supplement administered by Kela	Need-based	161,780	324,665,832
<b>Loans</b>	Kela-administered student loans	Partly open enrolment, partly need-based	161,215	968,096,661
<b>Housing</b>	Substantial subsidies for student housing development	ND	ND	ND

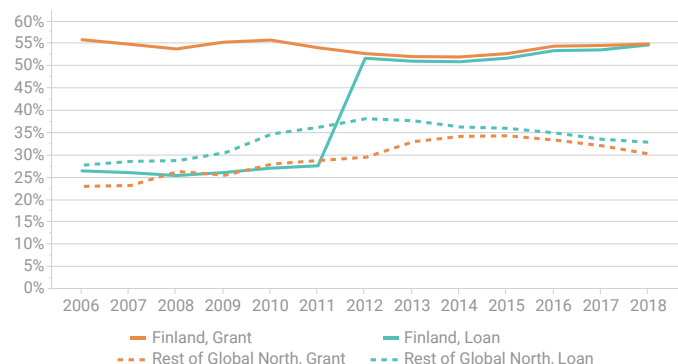
**FIGURE 14** – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to Gross Domestic Product, in Finland and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



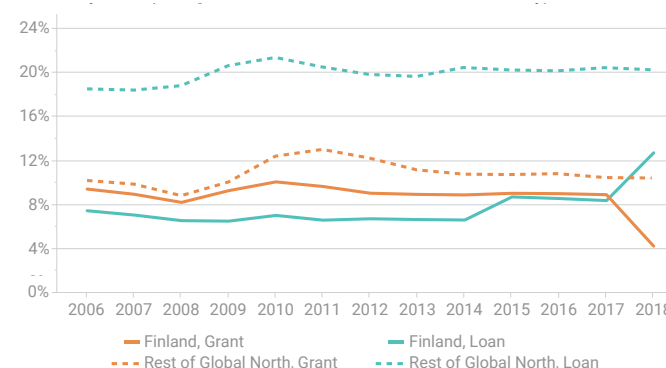
**FIGURE 15** – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in Finland and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 16** – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in Finland and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



**FIGURE 17** – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in Finland 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](#).