

France



REGION: WESTERN EUROPE

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

PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

France's HE system corresponds strictly to what we identify as the French Model. About 60% of France's HE students enrolled in comprehensive universities in 2018, with the rest enrolled either in specialised universities or in preparatory courses at Lycées (secondary schools). Total enrolment in French HE rose by nearly 20% between 2006 and 2018, slightly above the trend across the rest of Western Europe. The number of institutions providing HE instruction rose even as the number of comprehensive universities declined, in part through mergers. Though comprehensive universities are entirely public, specialised universities by and large are not. As a result, just 82% of French students studied in public institutions in 2018, which was below 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	68	0	68
Specialised Universities	Écoles de: ingénieurs; commerce gestion et vente; juridiques et administratives; journalisme et littéraires; paramédicales hors université; préparant aux fonctions sociales; artistiques et culturelles; d'architecture; vétérinaires; autres de spécialités diverses; écoles normales supérieures; autres institutions universitaires	644	1130	1774
Secondary Schools	Lycées (cours préparatoires)	NA	NA	NA

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

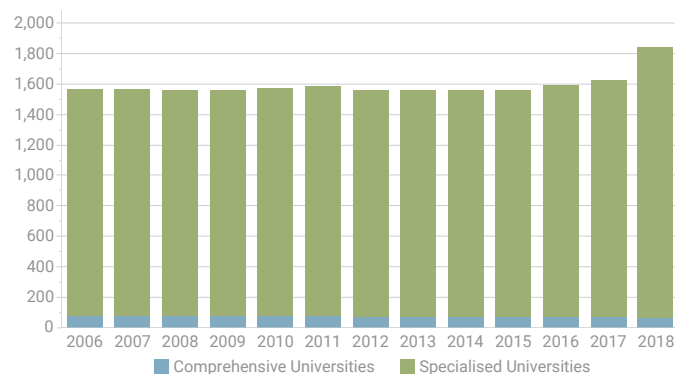


FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)

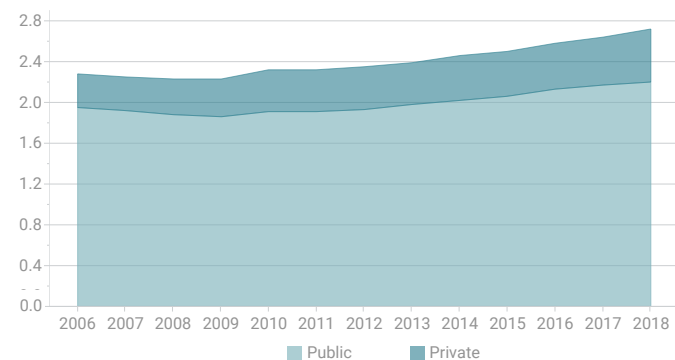


FIGURE 3 – Changes in enrolment in France, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

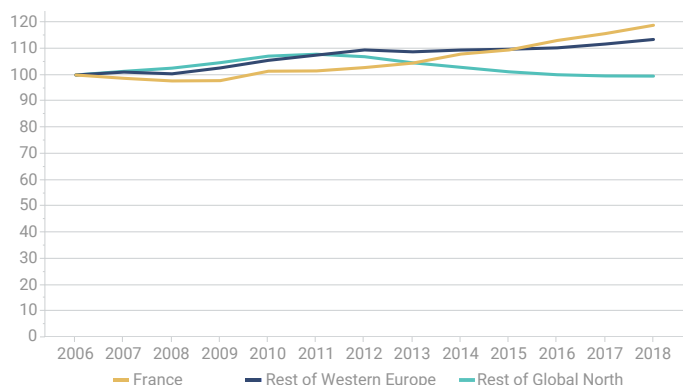


FIGURE 4 – Share of enrolments by institution type in France and the rest of Western Europe, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)

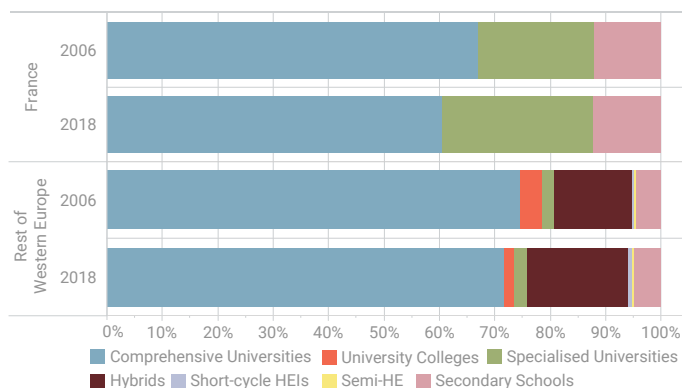


FIGURE 5 – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type in France and the rest of Western Europe, 2018

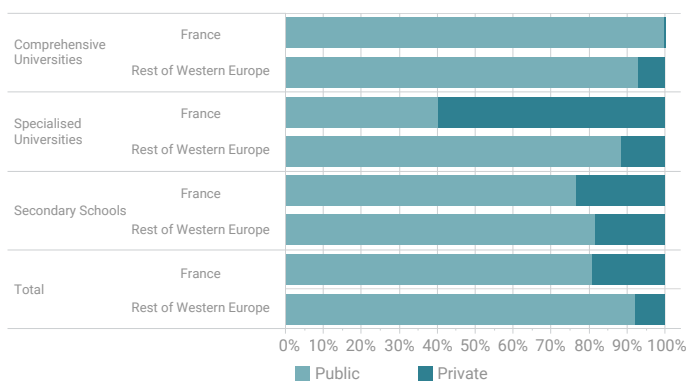
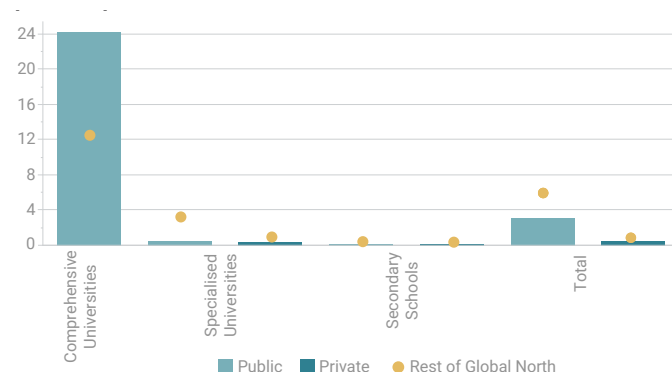


FIGURE 6 – Average institution-size by institution type in France and the rest of the Global North, 2018 (Thousands)



PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in France rose by over 35% in constant dollars from 2006 to 2018, which was faster than across the rest of Western Europe and the Global North. Relative to GDP, spending also increased and became nearly identical to the rest of Western Europe. Total expenditures rose at public HEIs at roughly the same rate as government spending. They rose faster at private institutions due to higher fee income. Per-student expenditures at public institutions were roughly 20% higher than at private ones in 2018.

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

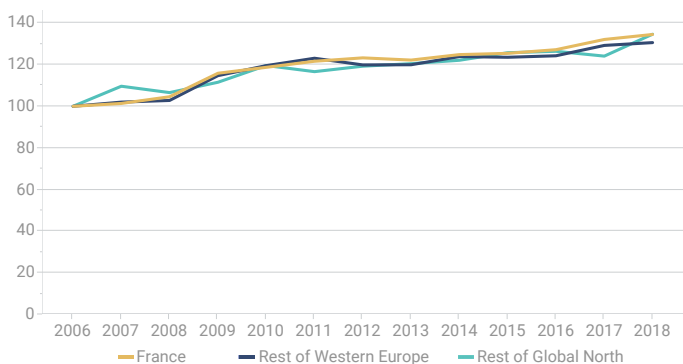


FIGURE 8 – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in France, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

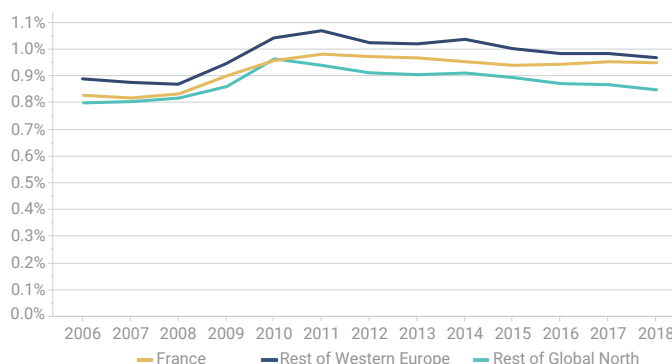


FIGURE 9 – Change in real total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in France and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

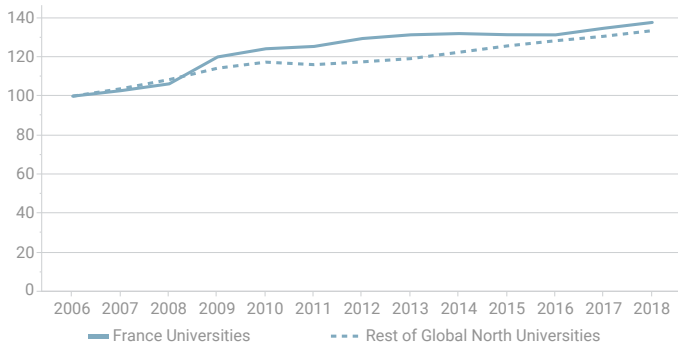


FIGURE 10 – Per-student total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in France and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

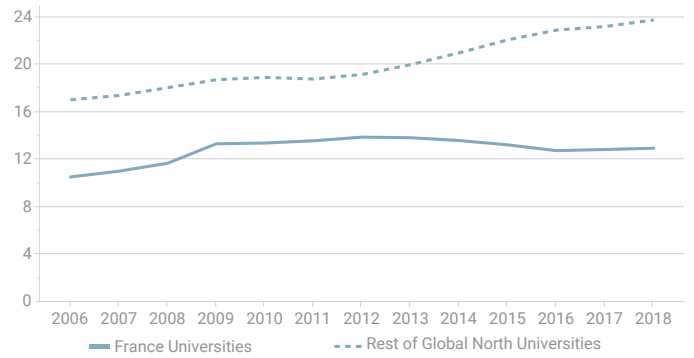


FIGURE 11 – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in France and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018

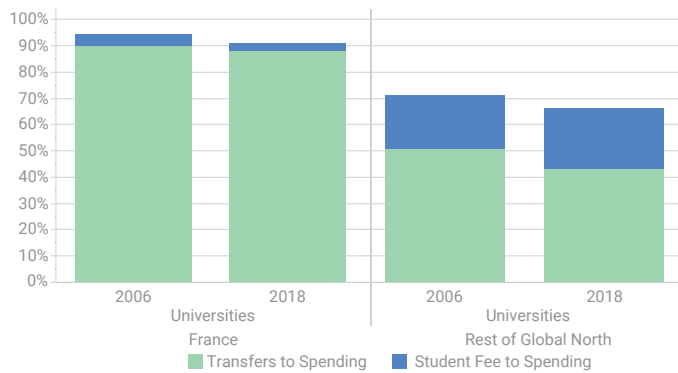


FIGURE 12 – Change in real total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in France and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

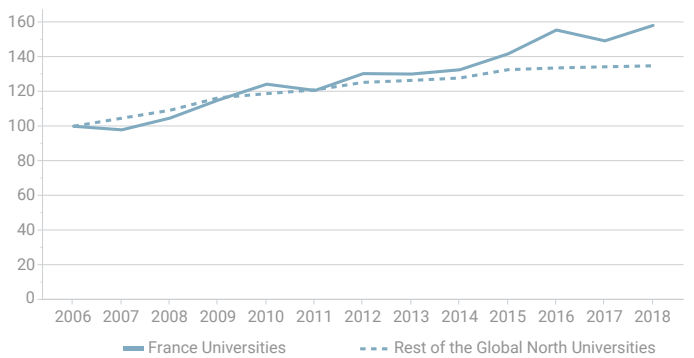


FIGURE 13 – Per-student total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in France and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

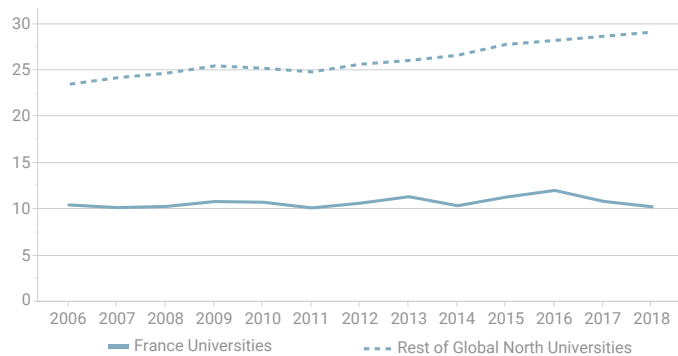
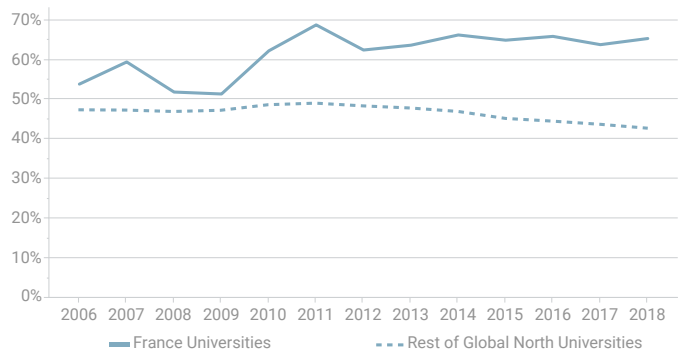


FIGURE 14 – Student fee revenues relative to total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in France and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



PART III: STUDENT FEES

Forty percent of students in France paid no fees at all in 2018, a figure well above the regional average, and due to exemptions for students receiving need-based grants. Among those who paid fees, institutional fee income per student ranged from USD 500 at public universities to nearly USD 8,000 at private universities. We classify France’s student fee model as a mix of token fee-charging and need-based tuition exempting.

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

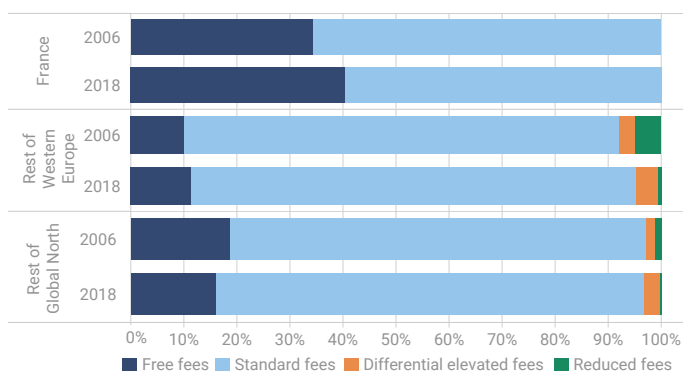


FIGURE 16 – Fee revenues per student paying “regular” rates at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018

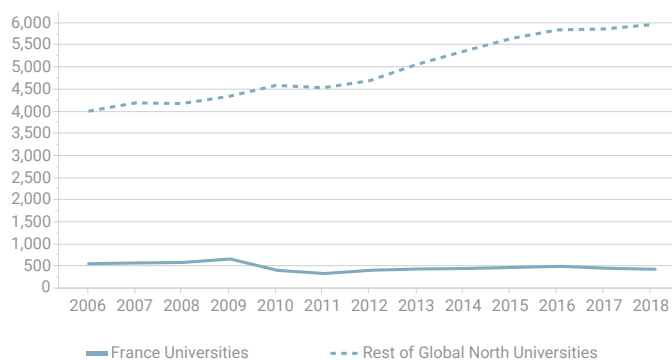
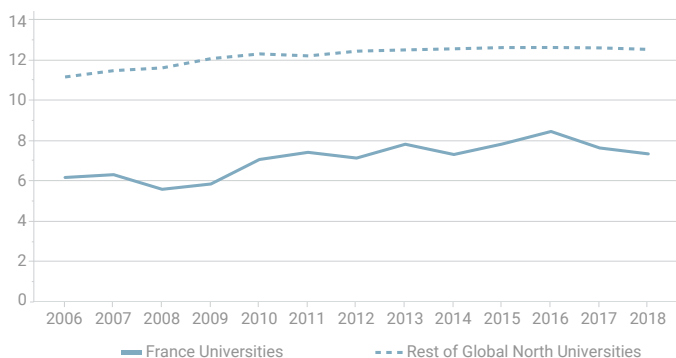


FIGURE 17 – Fee revenues per student at private institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



Sorbonne Université, France



PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Government student financial aid in France is based on a mix of direct financial compensation and housing subsidies (a tiny loan program did exist a decade ago but was phased out), which we refer to as an Œuvres Universitaires Model. The housing subsidy component was relatively small in 2018, comprising less than 10% of total costs. As a percentage of GDP, student financial aid disbursements rose very slightly over our period of interest, mainly due to an increase in the percentage of students receiving aid. Still, France’s total student aid disbursements were low when compared with 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)
Grants	National grant; National merit-based scholarships for undergrad and short-cycle; other programs	Combination of merit and need	15.9 million	11 billion
Loans	National student loans	Need	4.1 million	6.8 billion
Other (meals, transport)	Food subsidy	Need	5.9 million	N/A

FIGURE 18 – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to Gross Domestic Product, in France, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

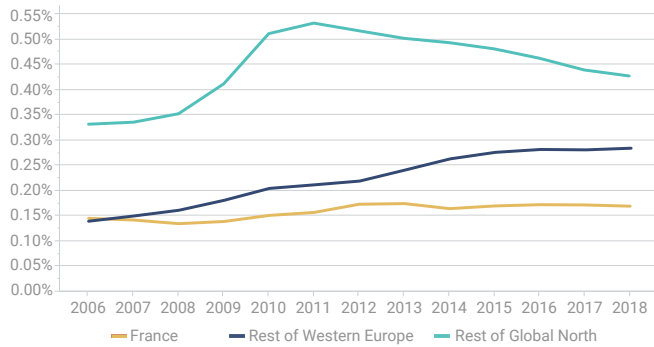


FIGURE 19 – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in France and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

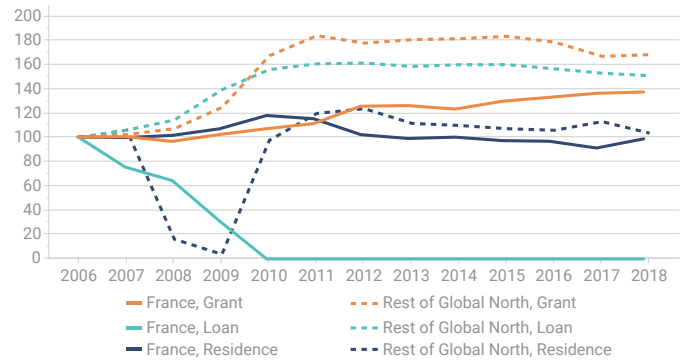


FIGURE 20 – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in France and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018

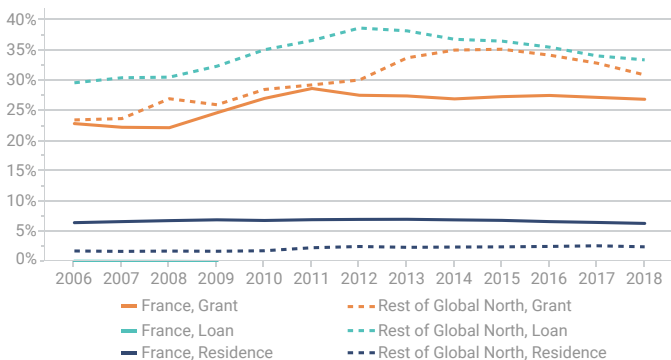
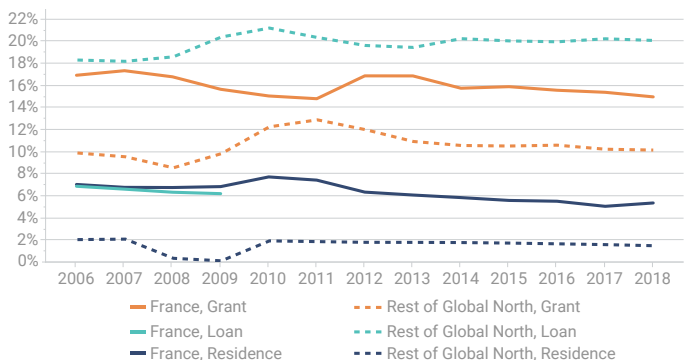


FIGURE 21 – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in France and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



***Note: For more on methodology and data quality please see Appendices A and B.**