

# Germany



## REGION: WESTERN EUROPE

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

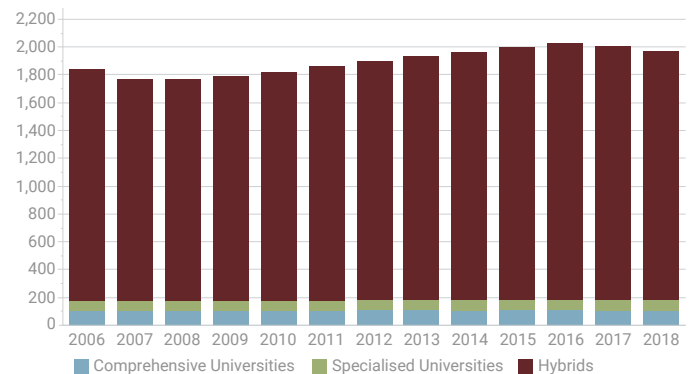
## PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The German HE system fits the North European Model. Just over 60% of the country's HE students enrolled in comprehensive universities in 2018, with almost all the rest in hybrid institutions. Total enrolments in German HE rose by just over 40% between 2006 and 2018, which was much faster than across the rest of Western Europe. While the number of hybrid institutions rose somewhat, the number of universities stayed relatively constant, causing average institutional size to grow substantially. Just under 90% of German students studied in public institutions in 2018, which was almost exactly the average across the rest of Western Europe.

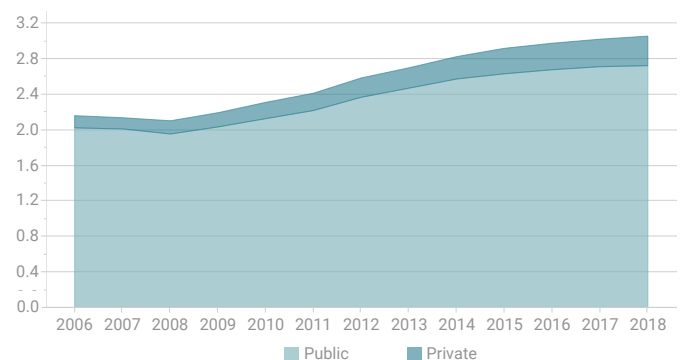
**TABLE 1** – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
<b>Comprehensive Universities</b>	Universities	85	21	106
<b>Specialised Universities</b>	Colleges of art and music; pedagogical colleges; colleges of theology	51	24	75
<b>Hybrids</b>	Fachhochschule; civil service college; Fachschulen; Fachakademien/ Berufsakademien	1090	702	1792
<b>Secondary Schools</b>	Berufsfachschulen and Fachgymnasien (Erzieherausbildung), Schulen des Gesundheitswesens in Thüringen	NA	NA	NA

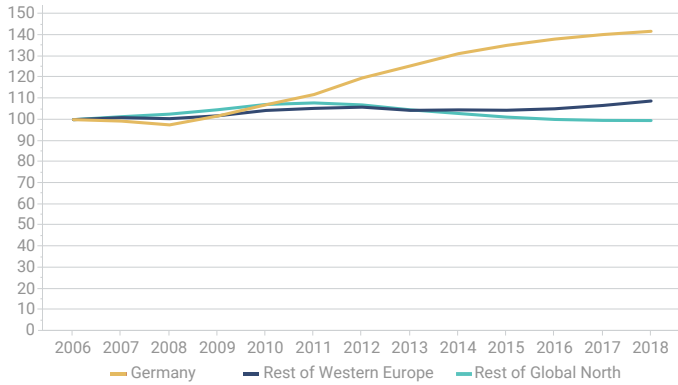
**FIGURE 1** – Numbers of institutions by type, 2006-2018



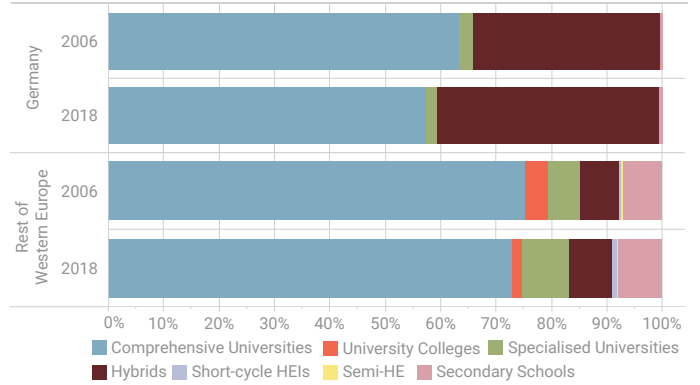
**FIGURE 2** – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)



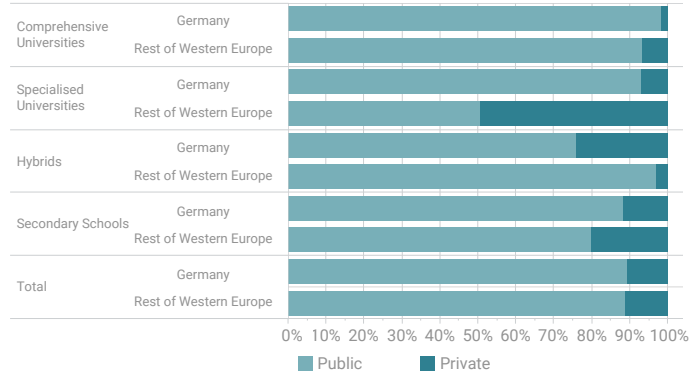
**FIGURE 3** – Changes in enrolment, in Germany, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



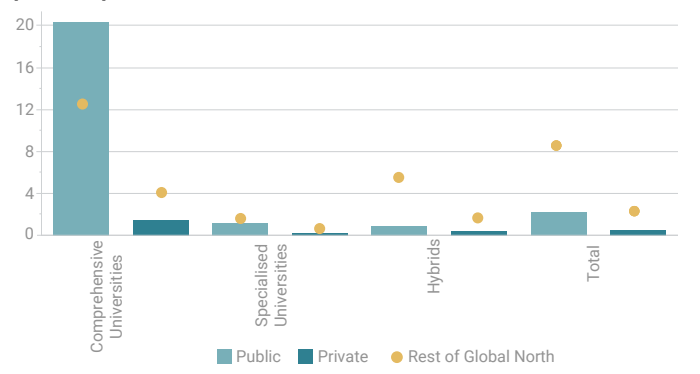
**FIGURE 4** – Share of enrolments by institution type in Germany and the rest of Western Europe, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)



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



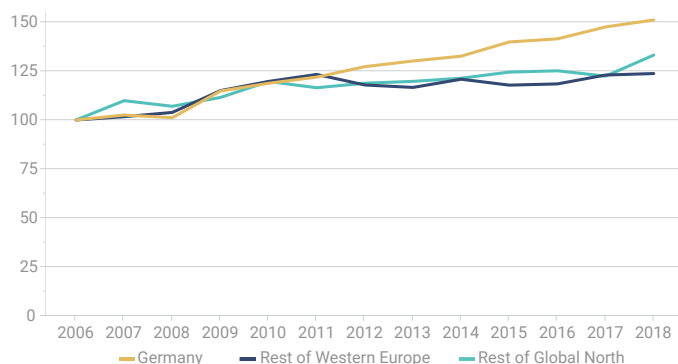
**FIGURE 6** – Average institution-size by institution type in Germany and the rest of the Global North, 2018 (Thousands)



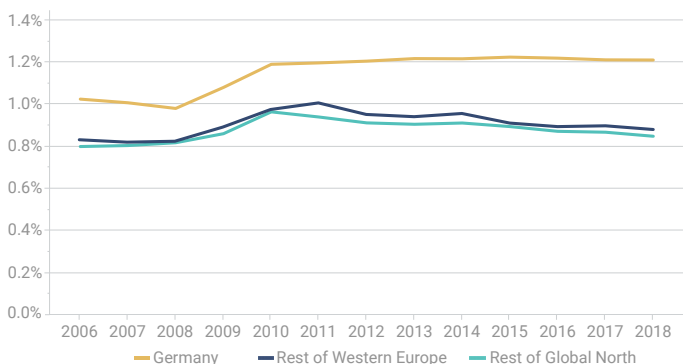
**PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING**

Public HE spending in Germany rose by about 50% in constant dollars from 2006 to 2018, which was much faster than across the rest of Western Europe and the Global North. Relative to GDP, spending also increased and was higher than across the rest of Western Europe and the Global North. Total spending of HEIs, which was almost entirely provided for through public funds (albeit, often indirectly through research foundations and hospitals), rose in lockstep with public HE spending. Per-student transfers to German public universities were well above average when compared to the rest of Western Europe and the Global North. Per-student institutional expenditures rose even faster at private institutions than at public ones from 2006 to 2018.

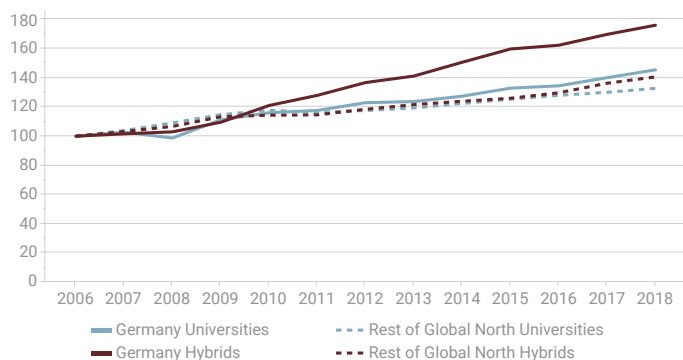
**FIGURE 7** – Change in real total public spending on higher education in Germany, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



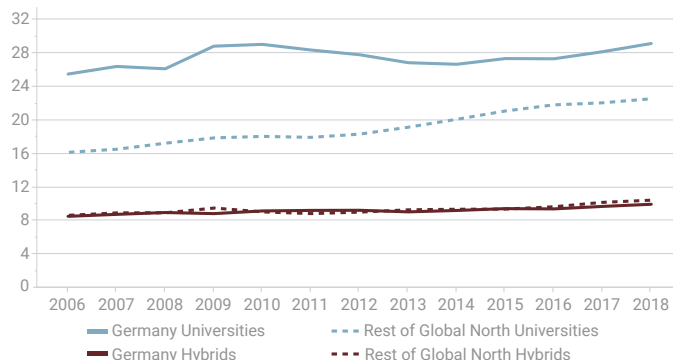
**FIGURE 8** – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Germany, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



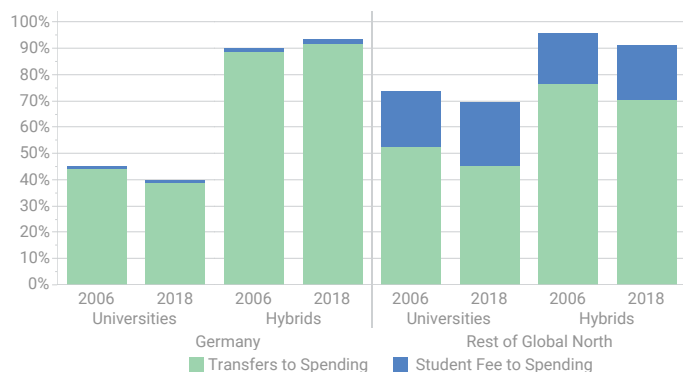
**FIGURE 9** – Change in real total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Germany and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



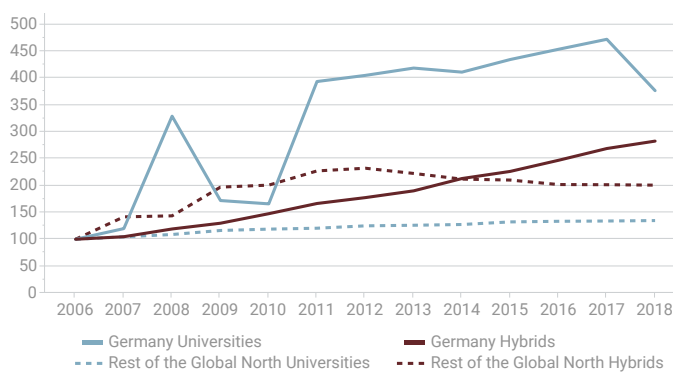
**FIGURE 10** – Per-student total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in Germany and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



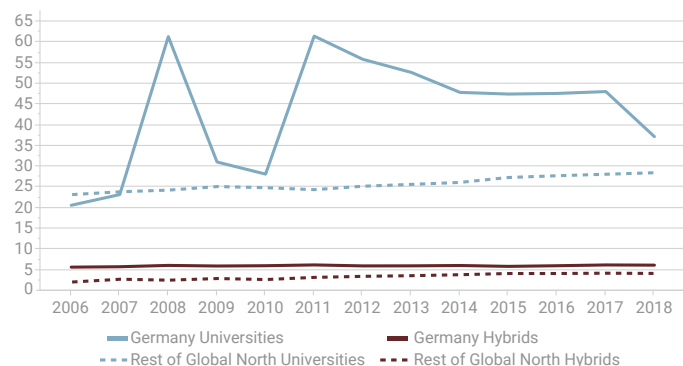
**FIGURE 11** – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Germany and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018



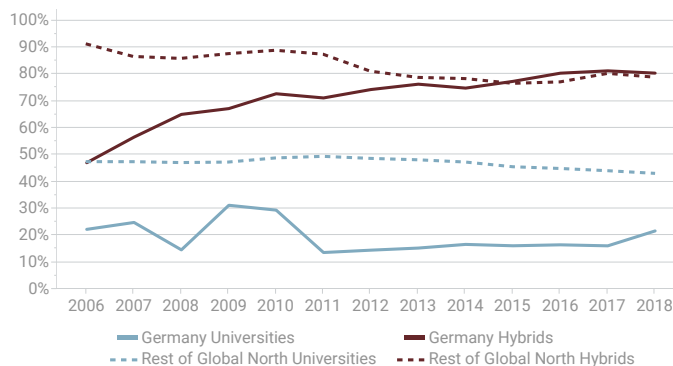
**FIGURE 12** – Change in real total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Germany and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



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



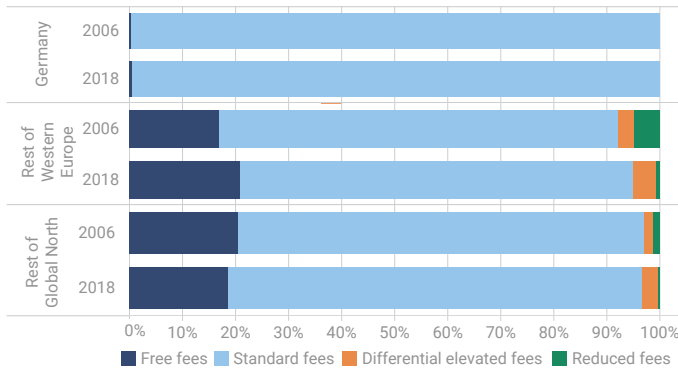
**FIGURE 14** – Student fee revenues relative to total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Germany and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



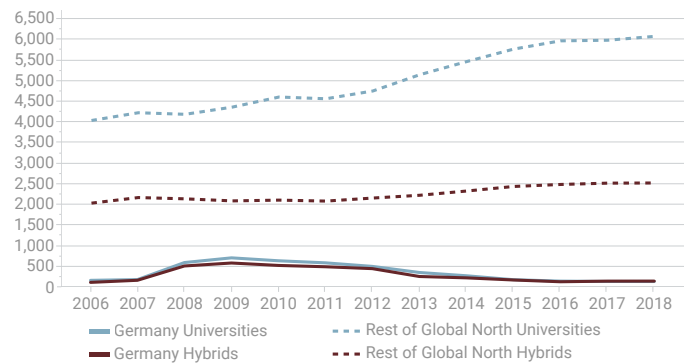
### PART III: STUDENT FEES

With few exceptions, students in Germany paid some kind of compulsory fee in 2018. Yet, we classify this overall as a token fee-charging system. At public institutions, these fees were only about USD 100 per year in 2018, down from around USD 750 year previously. At private institutions, fee revenues per student were approximately USD 8,000 per year in 2018, and stable for nearly a decade.

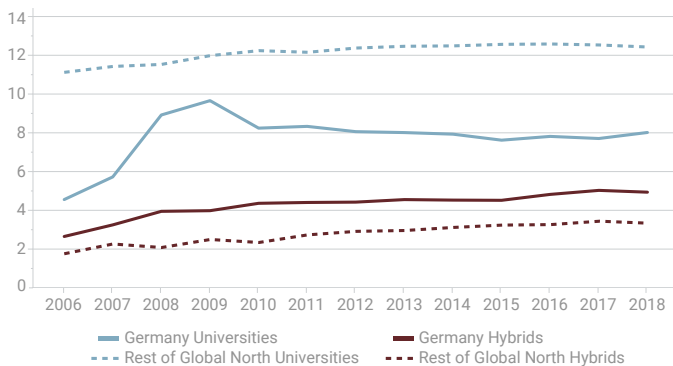
**FIGURE 15** – Share of students at public institutions under each type of tuition regime in Germany, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018



**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



University Library of Humboldt, Germany



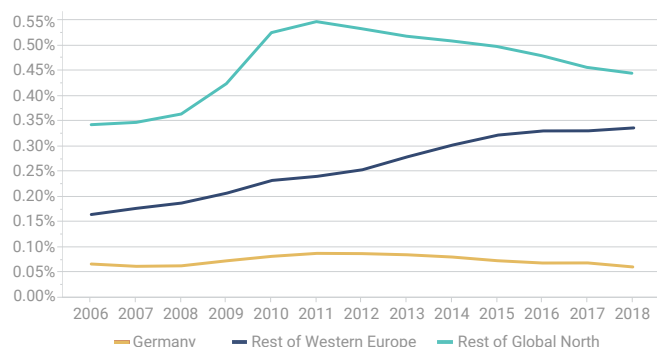
## PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Government student financial aid in Germany was comprised of an even proportion of loans and grants in 2018, though we classify this as an *Œuvres Universitaires* model due to substantial subsidies for student housing (for which we have not yet gathered data). From 2006 to 2018, amounts of direct student financial aid disbursed annually increased somewhat, but the proportion of students receiving support fell sharply. As a percentage of GDP, student financial aid disbursements rose slightly between 2006 and 2010 and then declined back towards their initial level. Overall, Germany's student financial aid disbursements were very small in 2018, well below levels across the rest of Western Europe and the Global North.

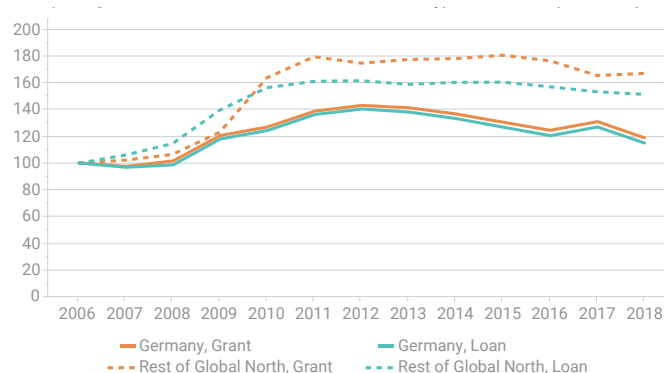
**TABLE 2** — Student financial aid regime, including recipients and amounts disbursed in 2018

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Grants	Funding under the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG); Stipendiaten	Need and merit-based	517,675	1,397,402,159
Loans	Funding under the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG)	Need-based	527,407	1,303,990,553
Housing	Studentenwerk offers some student housing and receives modest government subsidies	ND	ND	ND

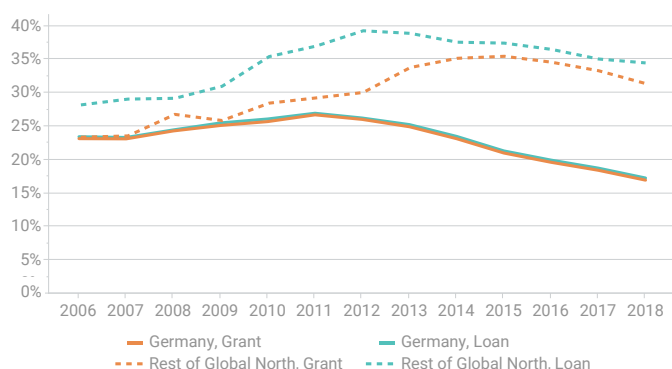
**FIGURE 18** — Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to Gross Domestic Product, in Germany, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



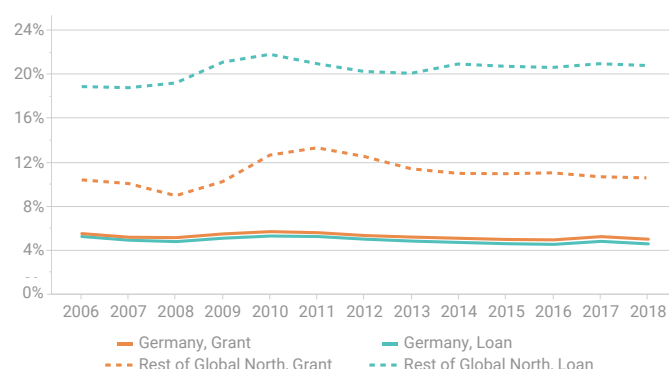
**FIGURE 19** — Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in Germany and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 20** — Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in Germany 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 Germany 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](#).