

# Ghana



## REGION: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

**Also included in this region:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte-d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania

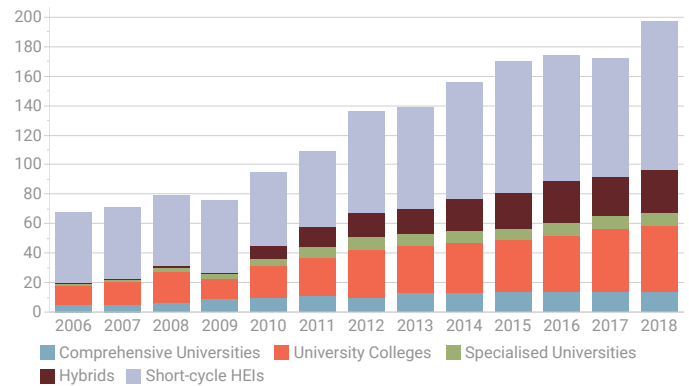
## PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Ghanaian HE system combines features of the North American and South Asian models. Roughly 58% of all students attended comprehensive universities in 2018, with most of the rest in short-cycle HEIs. Enrolments increased by about 160% between 2006 and 2018, a rate somewhat faster than across the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and much faster than across the rest of the Global South. The number HEIs more than tripled over the same period, meaning that the average Ghanaian HEI became somewhat smaller over time. Just under 85% of students attended public providers in 2018, which was slightly below the average in the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa.

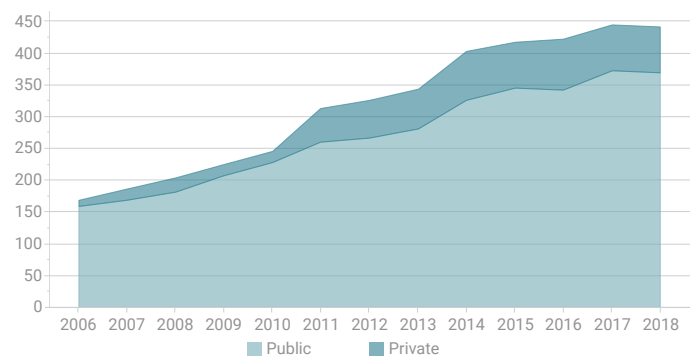
**TABLE 1** – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
<b>Comprehensive universities</b>	Public universities; Private full-status universities	9	5	14
<b>Specialised Universities</b>	Specialised/professional teaching institutions	8	0	8
<b>University Colleges</b>	Private university colleges	0	45	45
<b>Hybrids</b>	Other private tertiary education institutions	0	29	29
<b>Short-cycle HEIs</b>	Polytechnics; Colleges of agriculture (from 2013 on); Teacher Training Colleges; Colleges of education; Nursing and midwifery training colleges (from 2012 on)	91	10	101

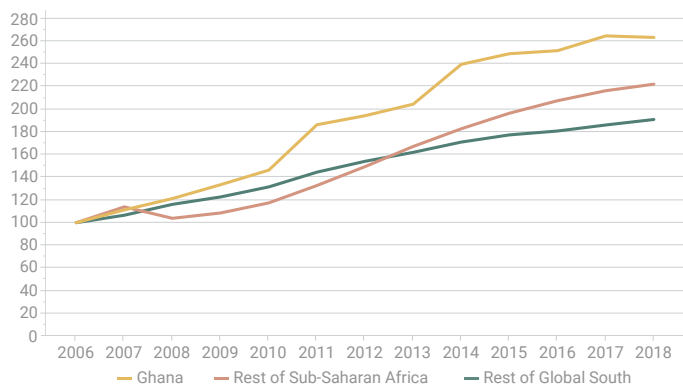
**FIGURE 1** – Numbers of institutions by type, 2006-2018



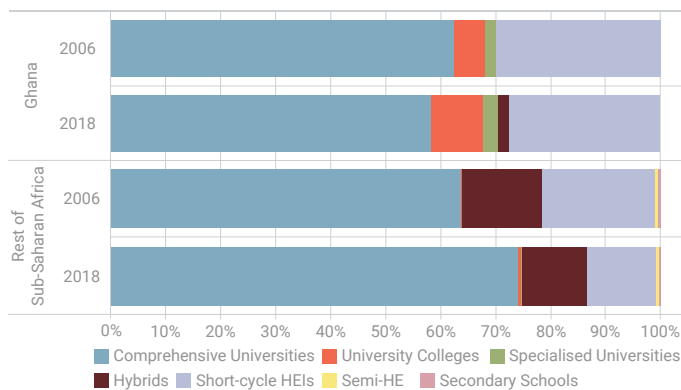
**FIGURE 2** – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)



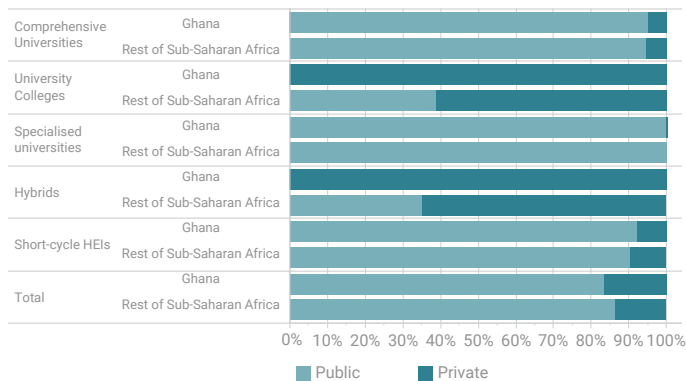
**FIGURE 3** – Changes in enrolment, in Ghana, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



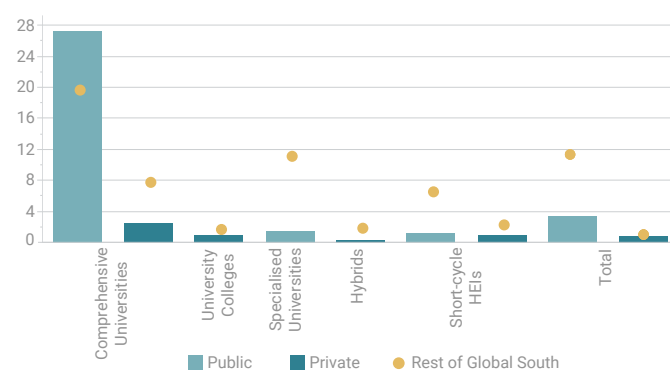
**FIGURE 4** – Share of enrolments by institution type in Ghana and the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 5** – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type in Ghana and the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa, 2018



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



**University of Ghana, Balme Library, Ghana**

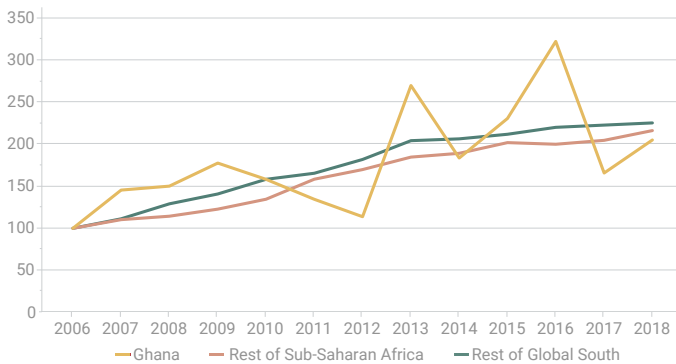


**PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING**

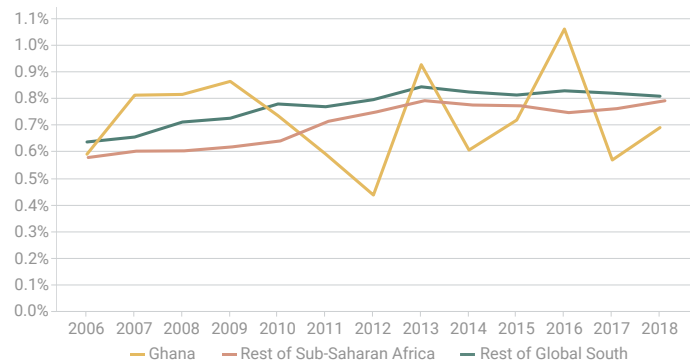
Public HE spending in Ghana increased erratically between 2006 and 2018, ending up twice as high at the end as at the start. Transfers to public universities rose slightly more quickly, but changed little in per-student terms as enrolments rose at much the same pace, whereas funding for short-cycle HEIs increased more slowly and ultimately declined on a per-student basis. Ghanaian public universities received comparatively less funding per student than their peers across the rest of the Global South, while public short-cycle HEIs in Ghana received close to the same funding per student as their Global South peers. Public universities in Ghana depended more on student fee revenues and slightly less on government funds in 2018 than their peers across the rest of the Global South.

Total Ghanaian public HE spending was equal to 0.6% of GDP in 2006, but then reached as high as 1.05% of GDP in 2016 before falling back to 0.7% of GDP in 2018. This last level was below the averages for both the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Global South.

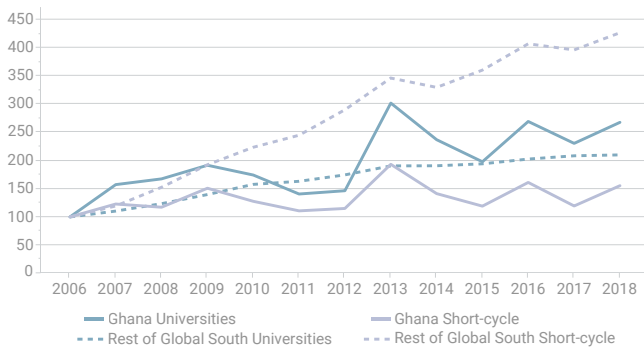
**FIGURE 7** – Change in real total public spending on higher education in Ghana, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



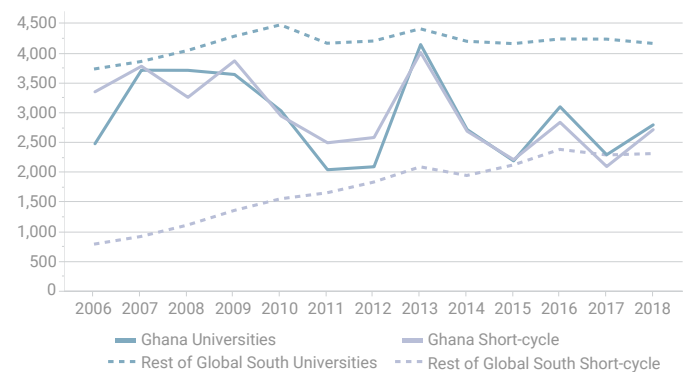
**FIGURE 8** – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Ghana, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



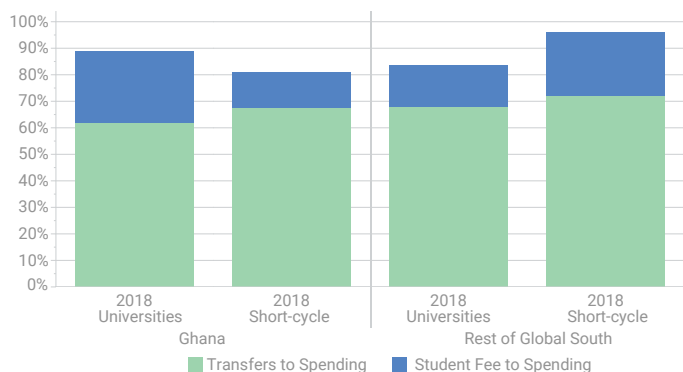
**FIGURE 9** – Change in real government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in Ghana and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



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



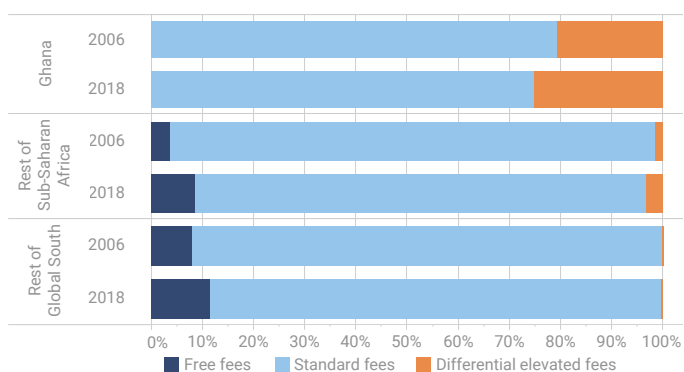
**FIGURE 11** – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Ghana and the rest of the Global South, 2006 and 2018



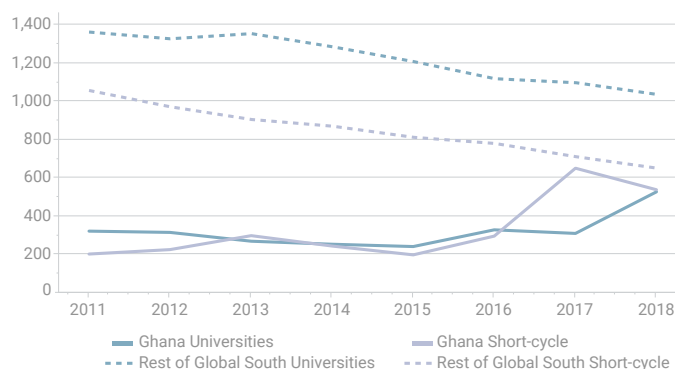
### PART III: STUDENT FEES

All students pay some form of compulsory fee in Ghana even though tuition fees are in theory forbidden. Most pay regular fees, but some – including a substantial number of international students – pay an elevated differential fee. Regular fees at public universities were equal to approximately \$550 per student in 2018 whereas elevated fees were about five times this amount. Regular fee revenue per student increased substantially after 2015 at both public universities and short-cycle HEIs, but remained below comparator averages across the rest of the Global South.

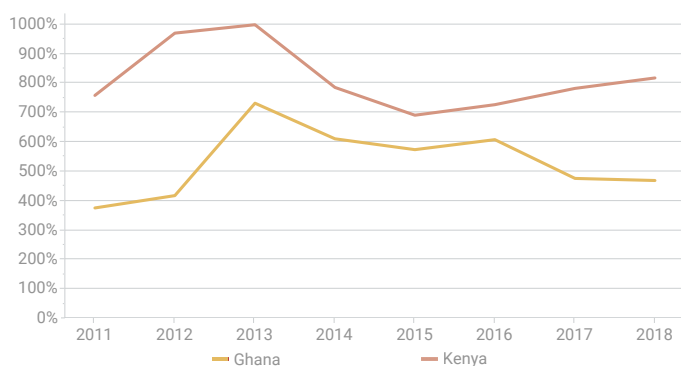
**FIGURE 12** – Share of students at public institutions under each type of tuition regime in Ghana, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006 and 2018



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



**FIGURE 14** – Fee revenues per student paying elevated different fees at public universities, as percentage of full fee-paying costs, 2006-2018



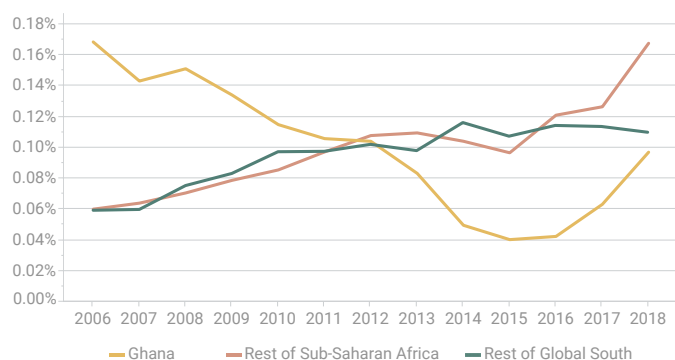
### PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Government student financial aid in Ghana is comprised of a mix of loans and grants. Grants outstripped loan disbursements by a 3:1 ratio in 2018. From 2006 to 2018, the proportion of students receiving loans fell but average loan value remained constant. Meanwhile, the proportion of students receiving grants remained relatively constant but inflation seriously eroded average value. Total student aid disbursements fell from equalling 0.17% of GDP in 2006 to 0.04% in 2015 before recovering to 0.1% in 2018. These figures were well below the averages across the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Global South.

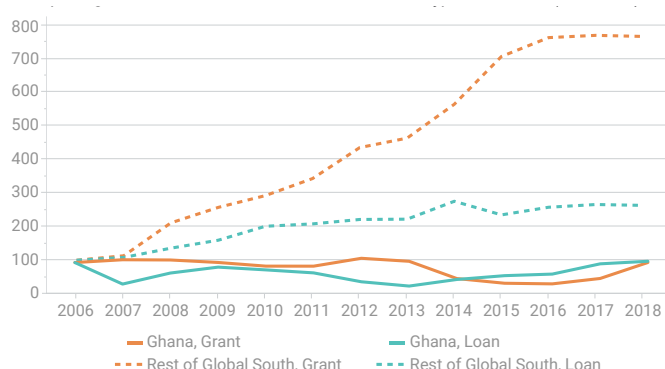
**TABLE 2 – Student financial aid regime, including recipients and amounts disbursed in 2018**

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Grants	Allowances at public teacher colleges, college of education and nursing midwifery colleges.	All students at eligible institutions	62,956	104,479,763
Loans	National student loan agency	Open enrolment	27,998	37,346,522
Other	Meal support for students at teaching and nursing colleges included within the allowances	ND	ND	ND

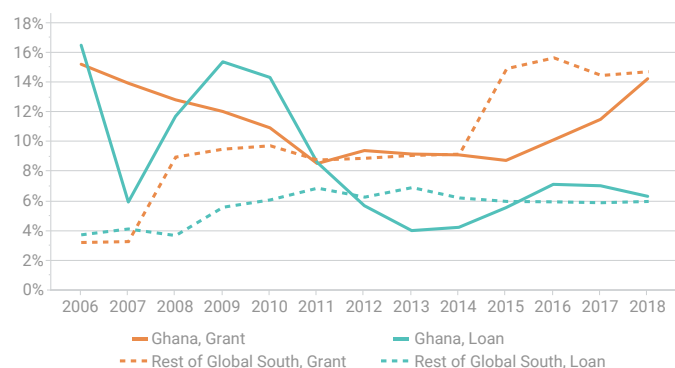
**FIGURE 15 – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to gross domestic product, in Ghana, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018**



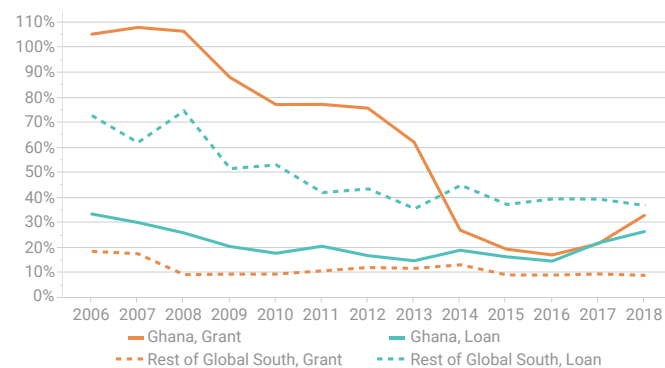
**FIGURE 16 – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in Ghana and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)**



**FIGURE 17 – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in Ghana and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018**



**FIGURE 18 – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in Ghana 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.**