

Italy



REGION: WESTERN EUROPE

Also included in this region: Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK

PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Italian HE system best fits the unitary model. Close to 90% of students were enrolled in comprehensive universities in 2018, with nearly all of the remainder in specialised universities. Enrolments rose and fell between 2006 and 2018, ending up almost exactly where they started. Italy thus lagged growth in the rest of Western Europe, where enrolments rose by an average of 18%. At the same time, the number of HEIs increased, mainly due to the introduction of many small private short-cycle HEIs. This caused a considerable reduction in average institution size. Roughly 87% of Italian students attended public providers in 2018, which was somewhat 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	58	30	88
Specialised Universities	AFAM Artistic institutions; Polytechnics	89	69	158
Short-cycle HEIs	Istituti tecnici superiori	0	93	93

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

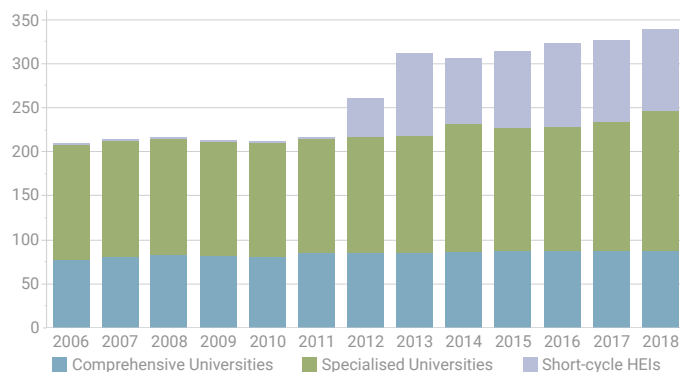


FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)

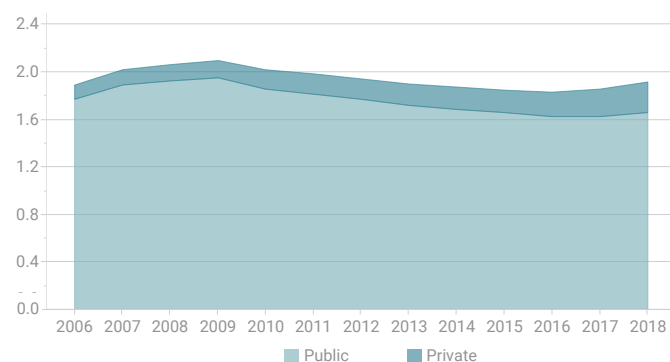


FIGURE 3 – Changes in enrolment, in Italy, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

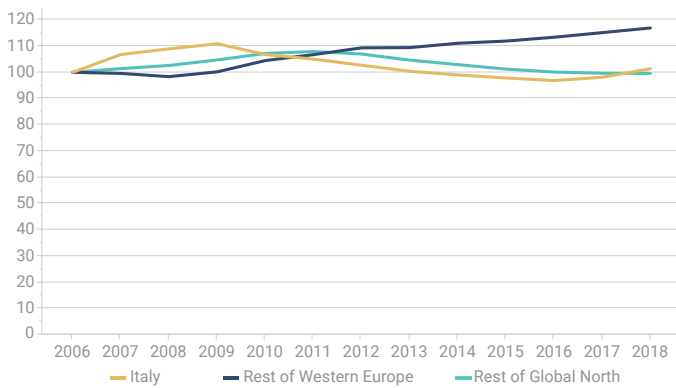


FIGURE 4 – Share of enrolments by institution type in Italy and the rest of Western Europe, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)

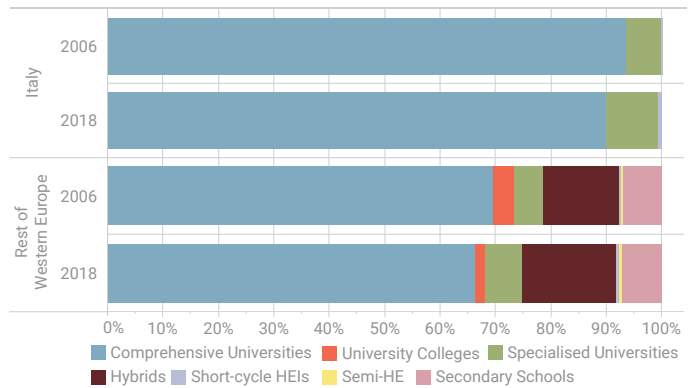


FIGURE 5 – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type, in Italy and the rest of Western Europe, 2018

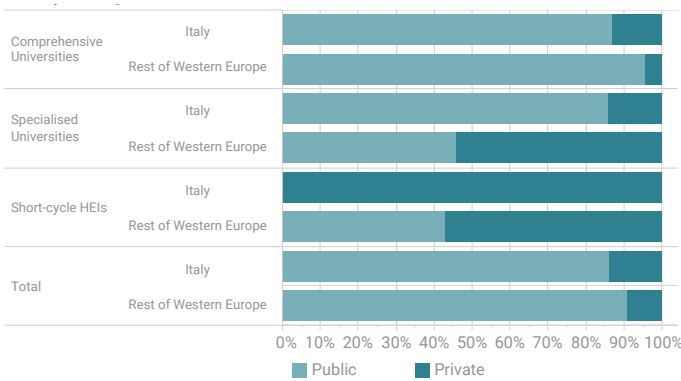
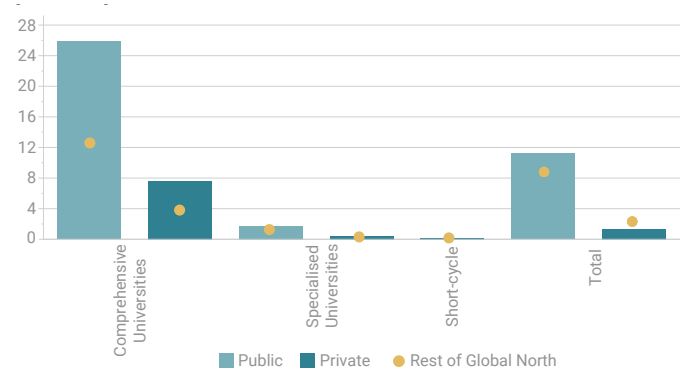


FIGURE 6 – Average institution-size by institution type in Italy and the rest of the Global North, 2018 (Thousands)



PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in Italy rose by roughly 10% between 2006 and 2018, having increased significantly from 2008 to 2010 and then decreased after the Great Financial Crisis to basically stabilise from 2012 on. Public HE spending followed a similar pattern relative to GDP, remaining consistently about 40% below rates across the rest of Western Europe, and also below rates across the rest of the Global North. Total expenditures of public universities fell after 2009 and never fully recovered to their 2006 levels. Their share of funding from student fees increased between 2006 and 2018, while the share from government fell. On the other hand, private universities in Italy greatly increased their total expenditures over the full period of interest, much more so than across the rest of the Global North.

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

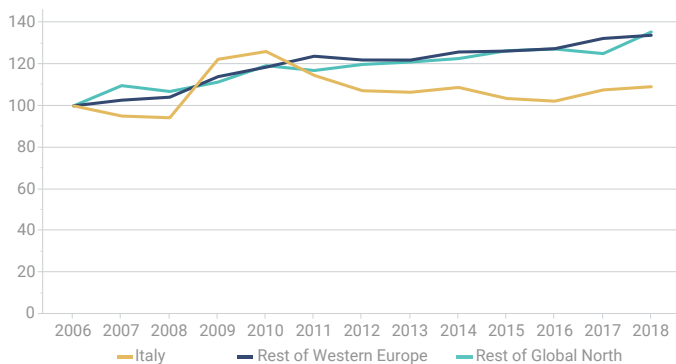


FIGURE 8 – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Italy, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

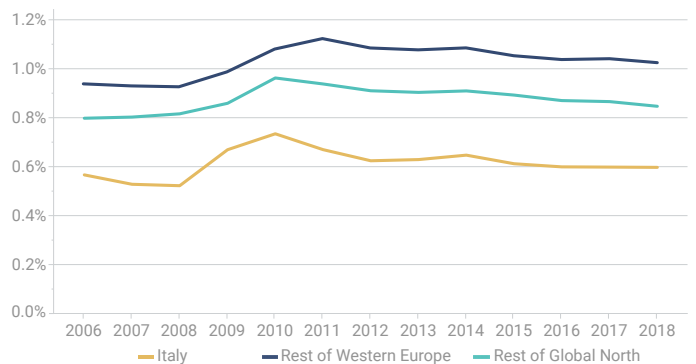


FIGURE 9 – Change in real total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Italy and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

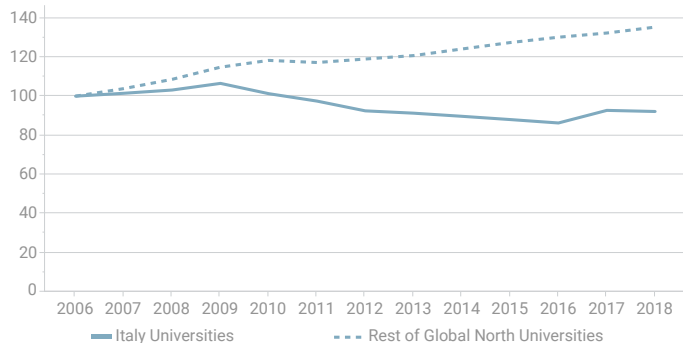


FIGURE 10 – Per-student total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in Italy and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

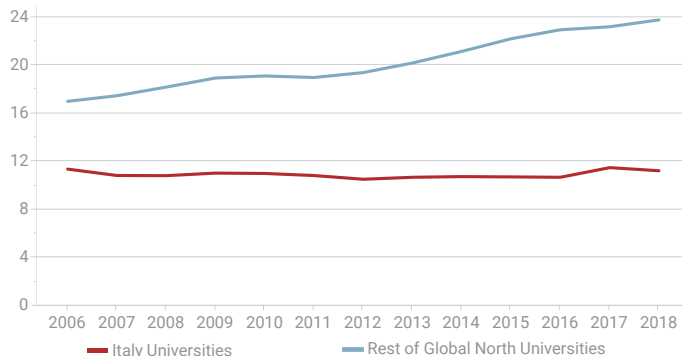


FIGURE 11 – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Italy and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018

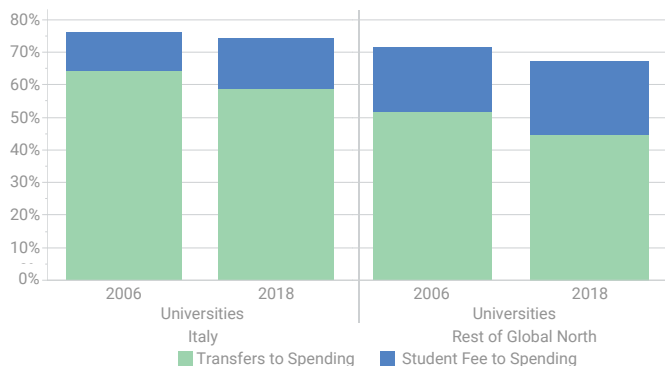


FIGURE 12 – Change in real total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Italy and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

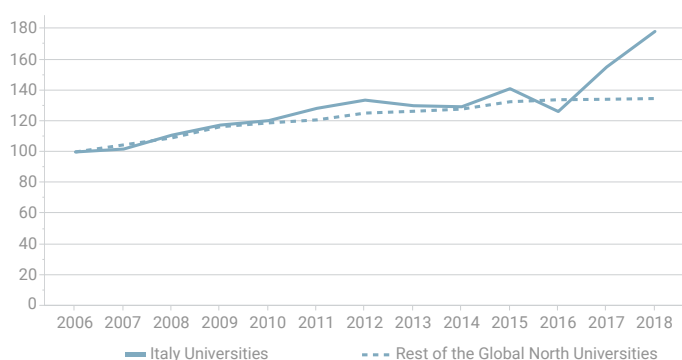


FIGURE 13 – Per-student total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Italy and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

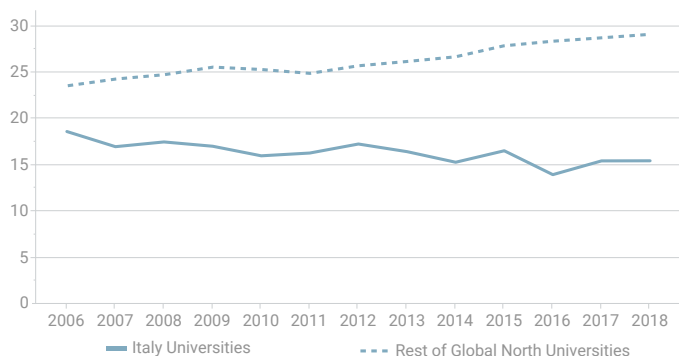
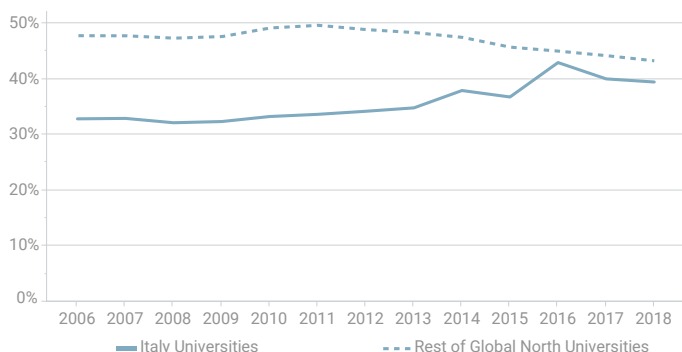


FIGURE 14 – Student fee revenues relative to total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Italy and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



PART III: STUDENT FEES

Over three-quarters of students in Italy paid fees in 2018, with the remainder accessing HE for free through a need-based tuition waiver system. Average institutional fee-income per fee-paying student was about USD 2,300 in 2018, up by about 50% from seven years earlier. At private HEIs, fee income was higher at about USD 6,000 per student, with this figure roughly stable over our period of interest.

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

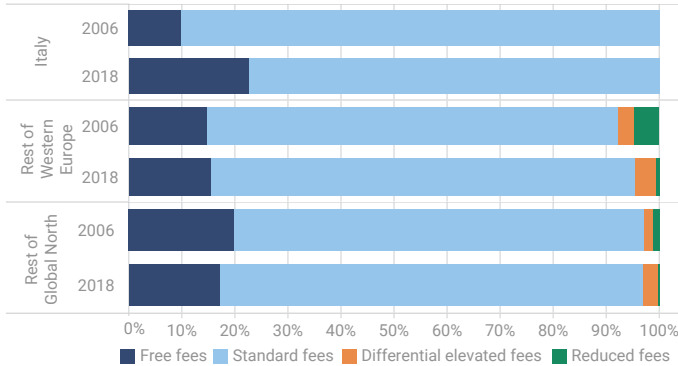


FIGURE 16 – Fee revenues per student paying “regular” rates at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018

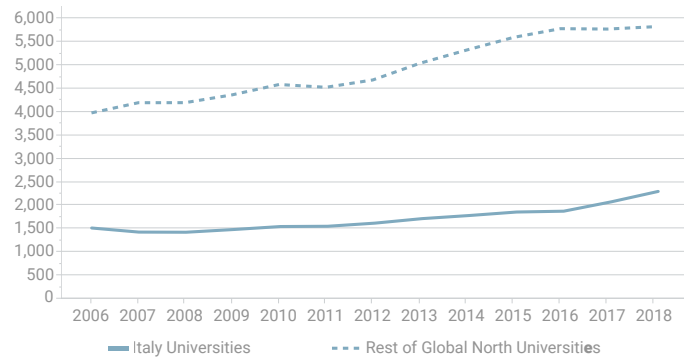
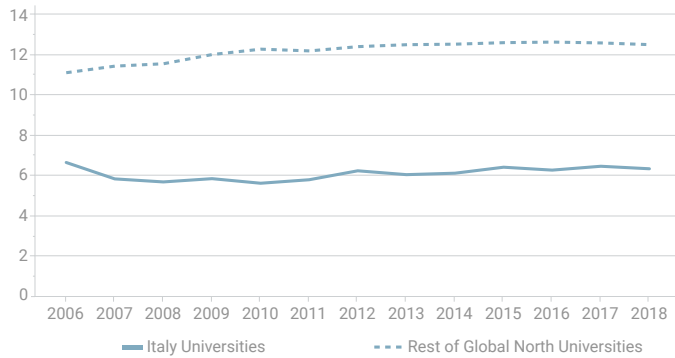


FIGURE 17 – Fee revenues per student at private institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



Bocconi University, Milan, Italy

PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Government student financial aid in Italy is comprised of cash grants and subsidized housing – a small student loan program served fewer than 100 students in 2018. The aggregate value of grants outweighed the value of housing subsidies in 2018 by something on the order of 35:1. From 2006 to 2018, both the average size of grants and the number of students receiving them increased slightly, but the percentage of students receiving any kind of aid remained low compared with the rest of the Global North. Disbursements in government student financial aid as a percentage of GDP also remained well below the average 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	Diritto allo Studio grant programs	Need-based	212,875	998,253,956
Loans	Diritto allo Studio loan assistance program	Need-based	115	768,228
Residence space	Yes - DSU subsidises spaces in residence	Need-based	44,067	26,193,595

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

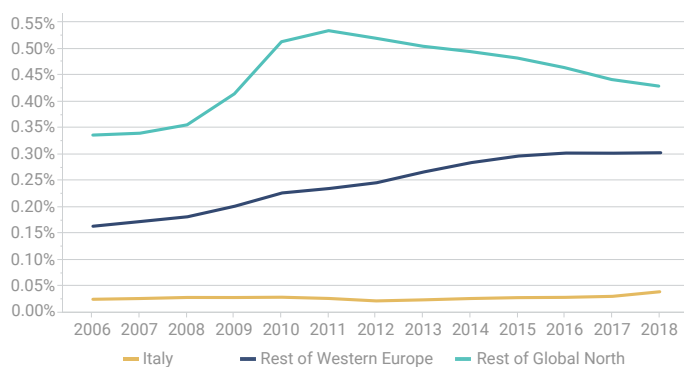


FIGURE 19 – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid, in Italy and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

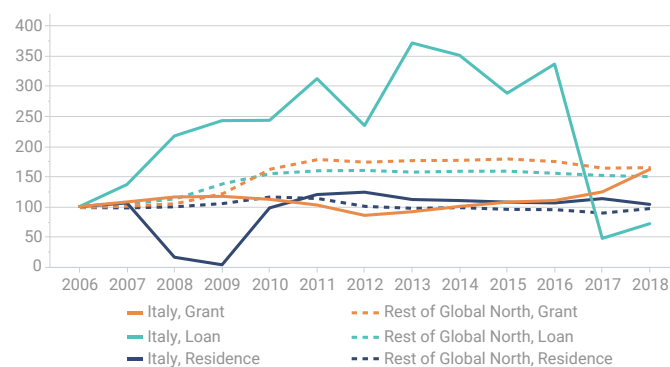


FIGURE 20 – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in Italy and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018

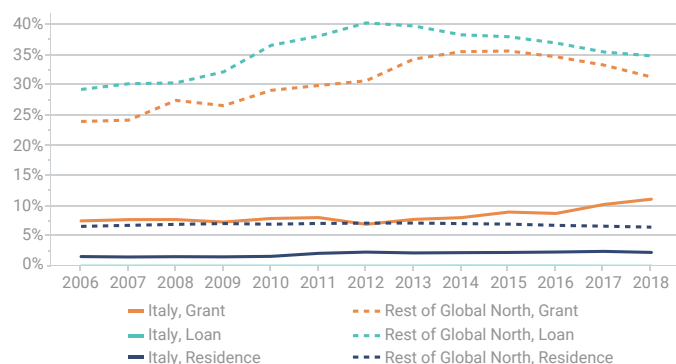
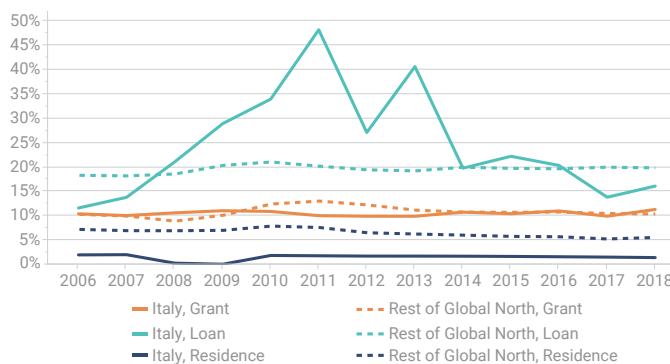


FIGURE 21 – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in Italy and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



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