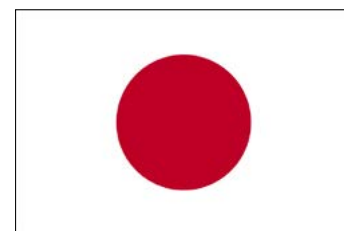


# Japan



## REGION: ADVANCED ASIA

Also included in this region: Hong Kong, Israel, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan

## PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

Japan's HE system most closely matches the North American model. Over three-quarters of students attended comprehensive universities in 2018, and nearly all the rest attended short-cycle HEIs. Total enrolments were remarkably stable on a year-to-year basis from 2006 to 2018, but fell by about 3% in total over the full period - roughly in line with the average across the rest of Advanced Asia and the Global North. Institutional numbers also fell slightly, with the fall concentrated exclusively in short-cycle HEIs. Fewer than one in four HE students in Japan attended public institutions in 2018, which was below the average across the rest of Advanced Asia.

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
Comprehensive Universities	Universities	179	603	782
Short-cycle HEIs	Junior colleges; specialized colleges	212	2924	3136
Semi-HE	Colleges of technology	54	3	57
Secondary Schools	Miscellaneous Schools	NA	NA	NA

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

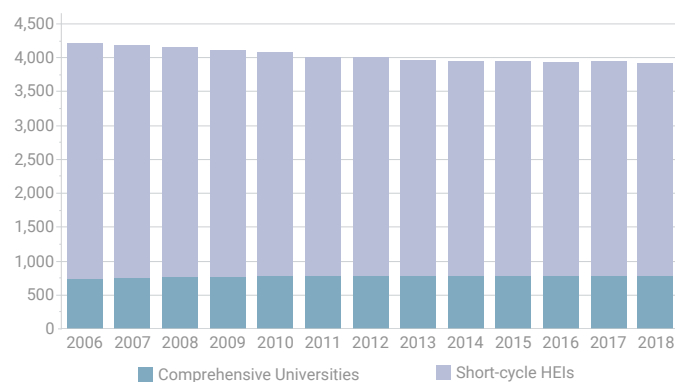
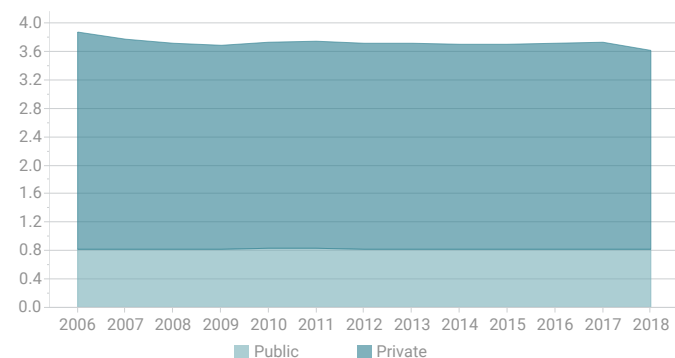
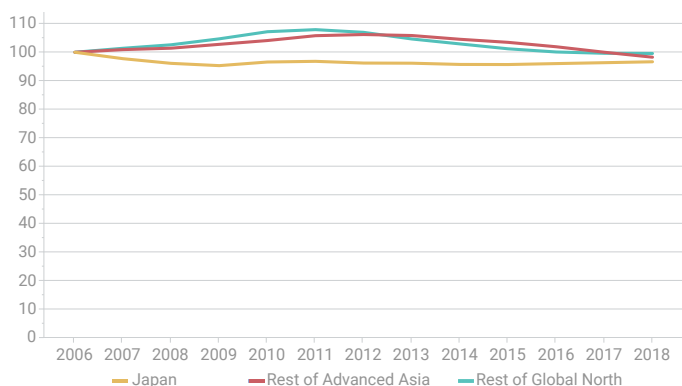


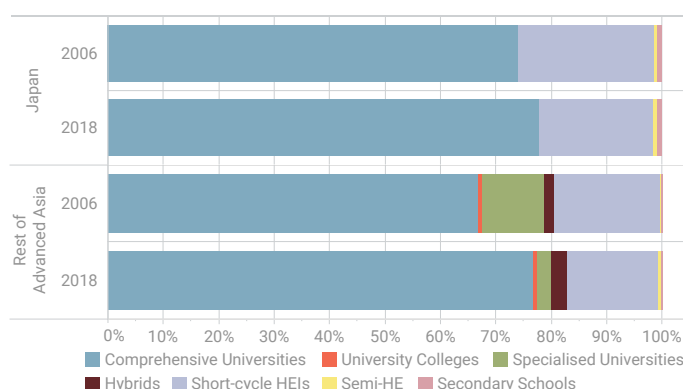
FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)



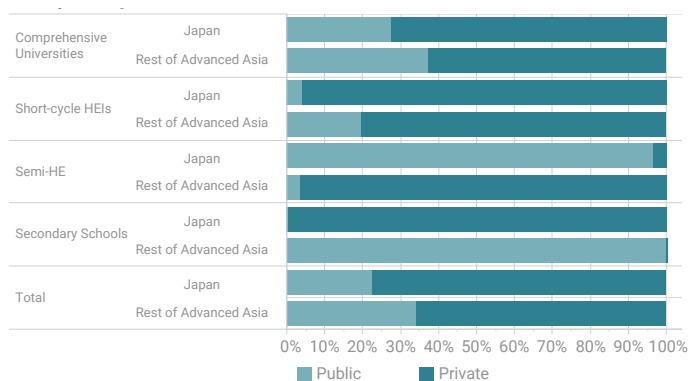
**FIGURE 3** – Changes in enrolment, in Japan, the rest of Advanced Asia and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



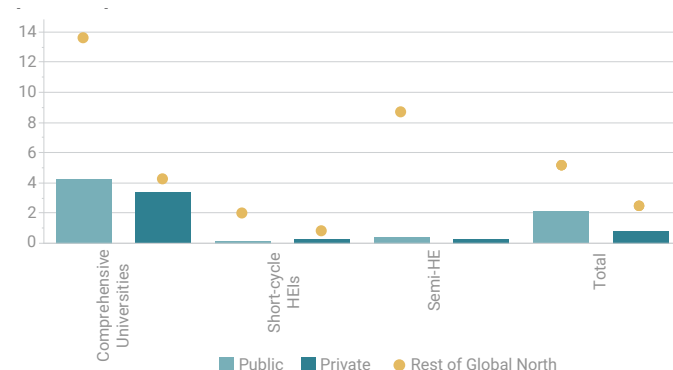
**FIGURE 4** – Share of enrolments by institution type in Japan and the rest of Advanced Asia, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 5** – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type, in Japan and the rest of Advanced Asia, 2018



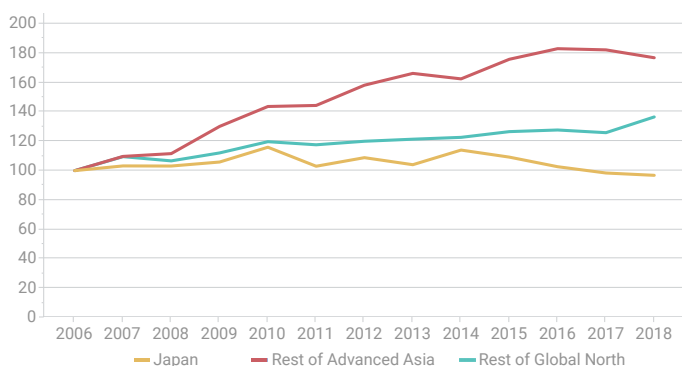
**FIGURE 6** – Average institution-size by institution type, in Japan and the rest of the Global North, 2018 (Thousands)



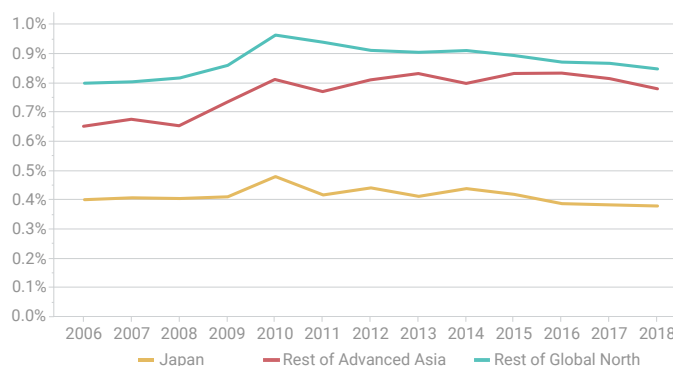
## PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in Japan fell by about 1% in real terms from 2006 to 2018, lagging well behind the average across the rest of Advanced Asia and the Global North. Spending as a percentage of GDP stayed relatively constant, causing Japan to fall further behind the rest of Advanced Asia. Institutional expenditures grew more quickly, thanks to income from international students. Total institutional spending rose at universities (mainly through private non-fee income, such as from university hospitals) but declined at short-cycle HEIs. The very large group of private institutions, which are mainly dependent on fee income to survive, tended to have lower expenditures than public ones, with the gap more pronounced for universities than short-cycle HEIs.

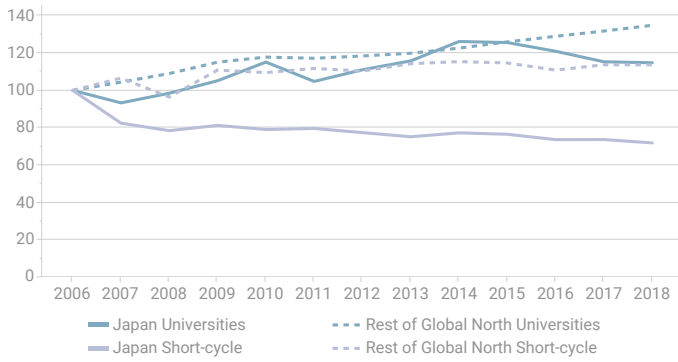
**FIGURE 7** – Change in real total public spending on higher education in Japan, the rest of Advanced Asia and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



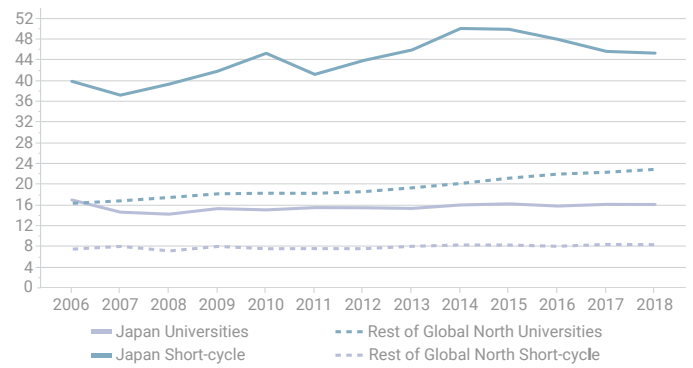
**FIGURE 8** – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Japan, the rest of Advanced Asia and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



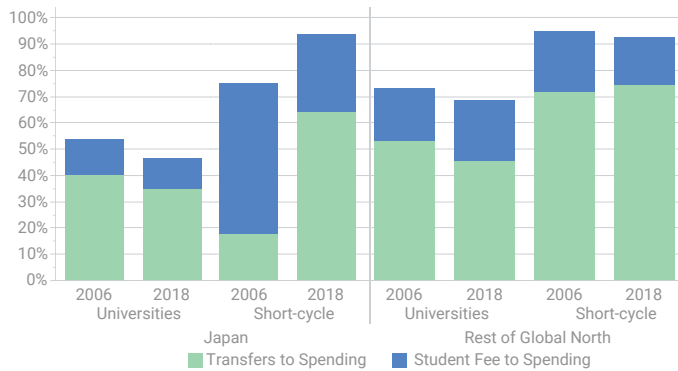
**FIGURE 9** – Change in real total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Japan and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



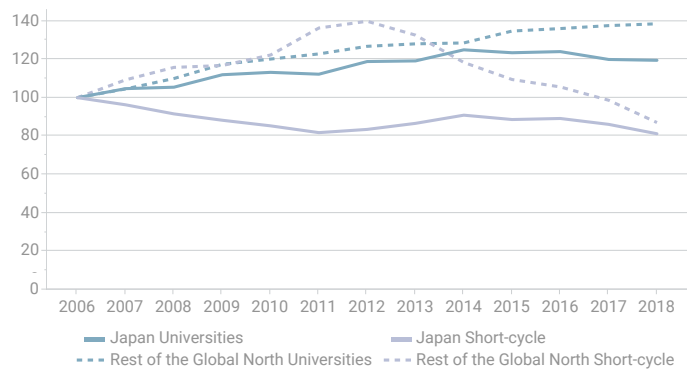
**FIGURE 10** – Per-student total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in Japan and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



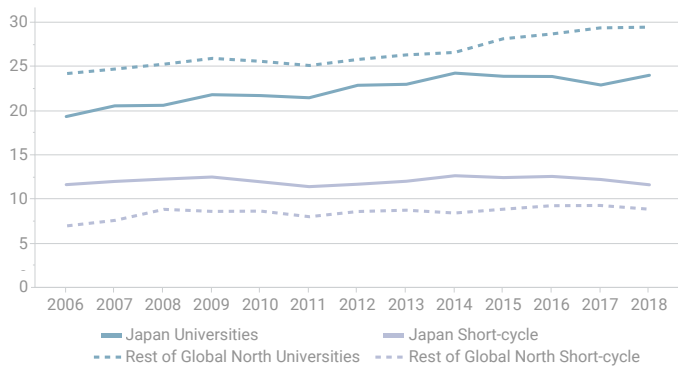
**FIGURE 11** – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type, in Japan and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018



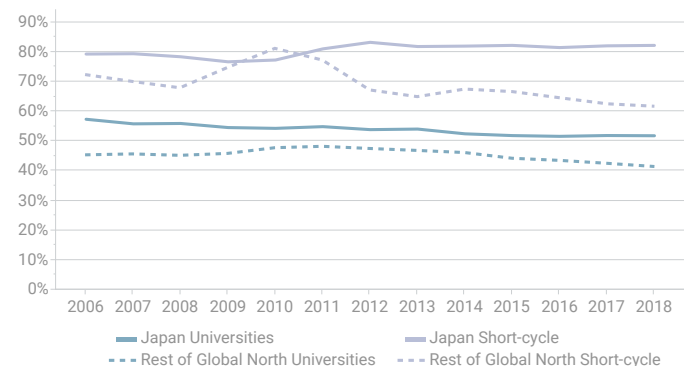
**FIGURE 12** – Change in real total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Japan and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



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



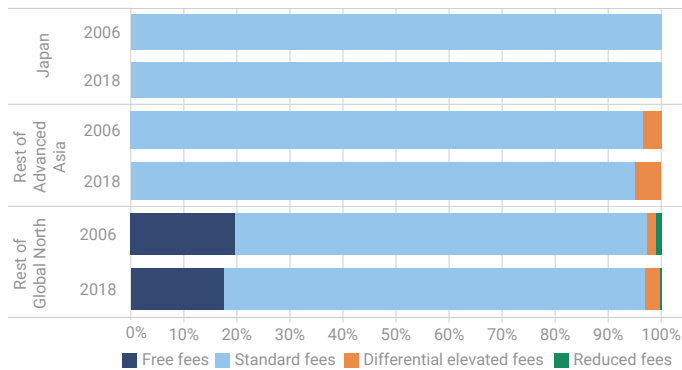
**FIGURE 14** – Student fee revenues relative to total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Japan and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



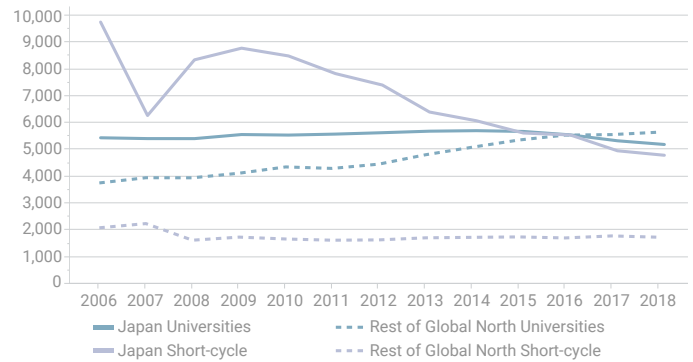
### PART III: STUDENT FEES

All students pay fees in Japan under an undifferentiated model. Fee revenue per domestic student at public institutions was about half of that at private institutions in 2018. Fee revenues per domestic student (in inflation-adjusted USD, PPP) fell from 2006 to 2018; modestly in the university sector, but more dramatically among students at public short-cycle HEIs.

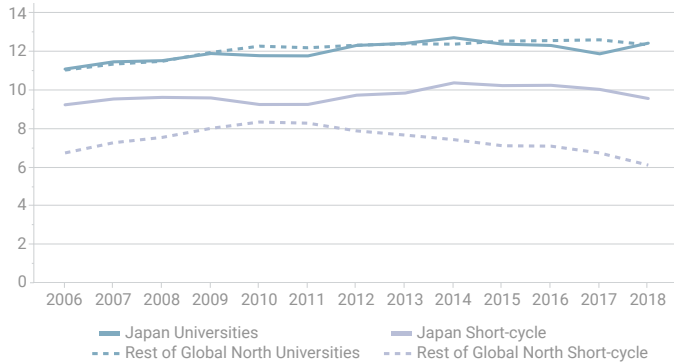
**FIGURE 15** – Share of students at public institutions under each type of tuition regime in Japan, the rest of Advanced Asia and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018



**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



Mode Gakuen Cocoon Tower, Japan



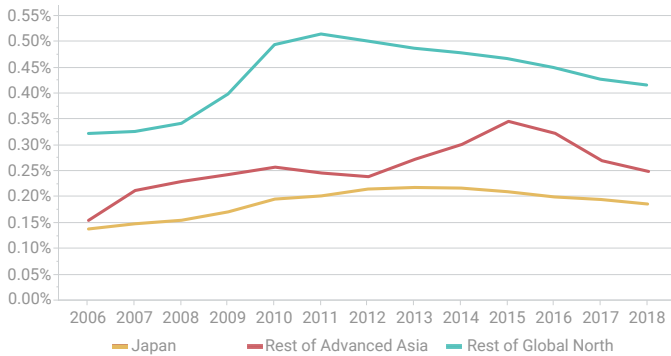
**PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID**

Government student financial aid in Japan is almost entirely loan-based. During our period of interest, loan disbursements increased significantly, mainly because the number of recipients increased by 30%. In terms of student assistance as a percentage of GDP, Japan lags well behind the averages across the rest of Advanced Asia and the Global North.

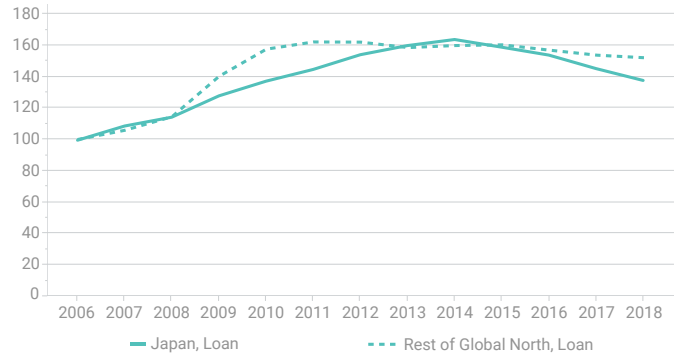
**TABLE 2** – Student financial aid regime, including recipients and amounts disbursed in 2018

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Grants	Japan Student Services Organisation (JASSO) grants	Need and merit based	2,492	11,950,673
Loans	Scholarship loans by JASSO	Need and merit-based	1,292,297	9,637,446,389

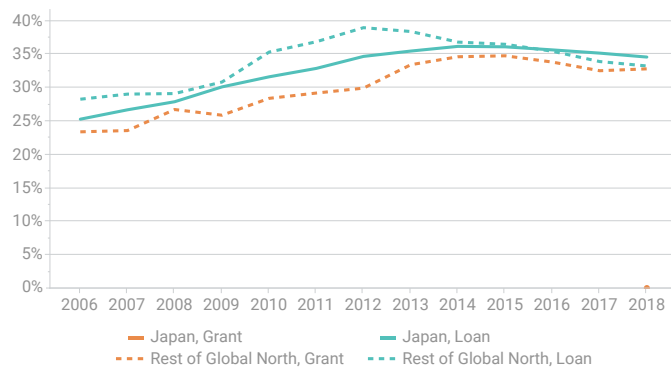
**FIGURE 18** – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to Gross Domestic Product, in Japan, the rest of Advanced Asia and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



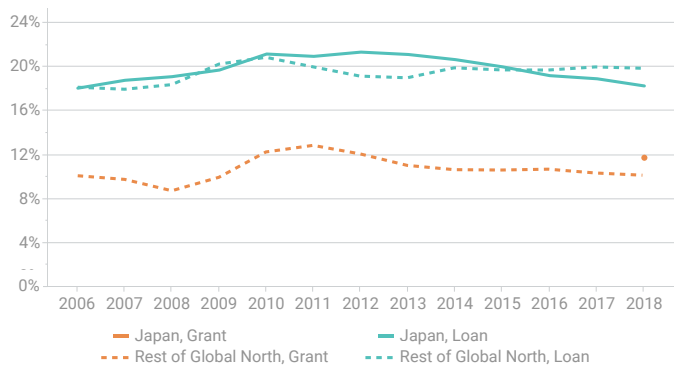
**FIGURE 19** – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in Japan and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



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