

# Mexico



## REGION: LATIN AMERICA

Also included in this region: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru

## PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Mexican HE system loosely follows the Latin American model. Roughly 55% of all HE students were enrolled in comprehensive universities in 2018, but substantial numbers of students also attended specialised universities, short-cycle HEIs and hybrids. Total enrolments increased by just over 80% between 2006 and 2018. The number of HEIs also increased during this same period, but at a slower rate, meaning that the average Mexican HEI grew larger. Just under 65% of HE enrolments in Mexico were with public providers in 2018, which was well above the average in the rest of Latin America.

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
Comprehensive universities	Universities, autonomous universities	62	235	297
University Colleges	Transnational institutions	0	1	1
Specialised Universities	Specialised schools (e.g. pedagogical schools, academies, many institutos, graduate schools); Centros universitarios; Centros de estudios superiores	464	1376	1840
Hybrids	Universidades Politécnicas; Institutos tecnológicos; institutos politécnicos	311	401	712
Short-cycle HEIs	Universidades Tecnológicas	117	12	129
Semi-HE	Diverse escuelas, hospitals and other organisations delivering modest higher education programming	NA	NA	NA

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

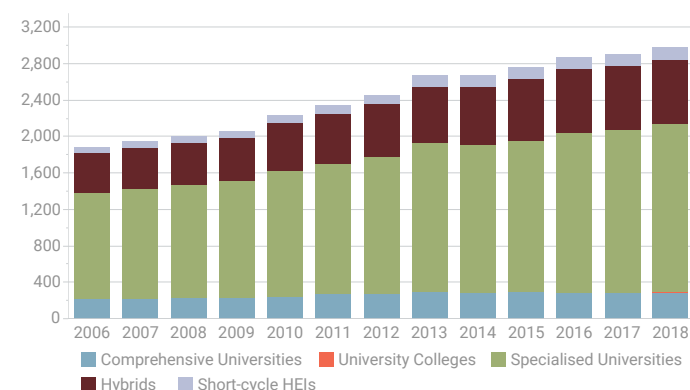
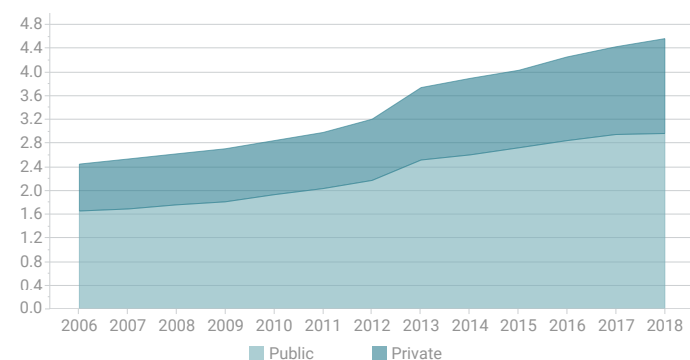
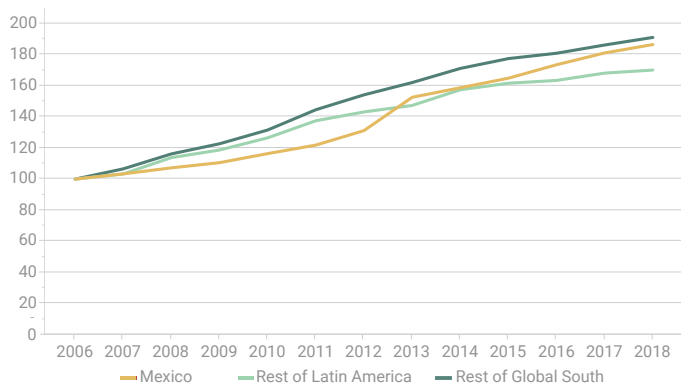


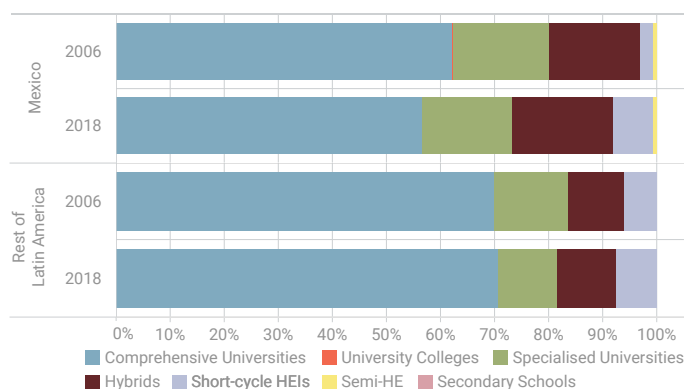
FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)



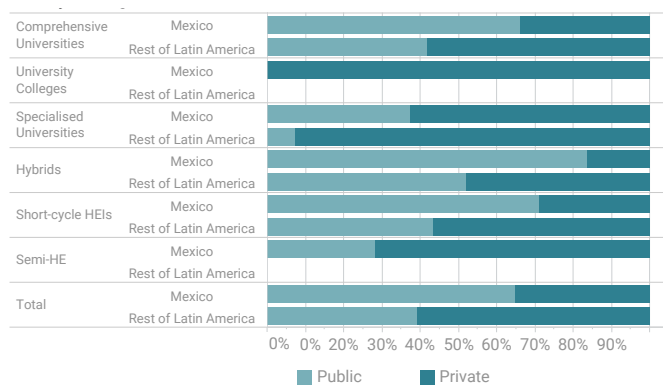
**FIGURE 3** – Changes in enrolment, in Mexico, the rest of Latin America and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



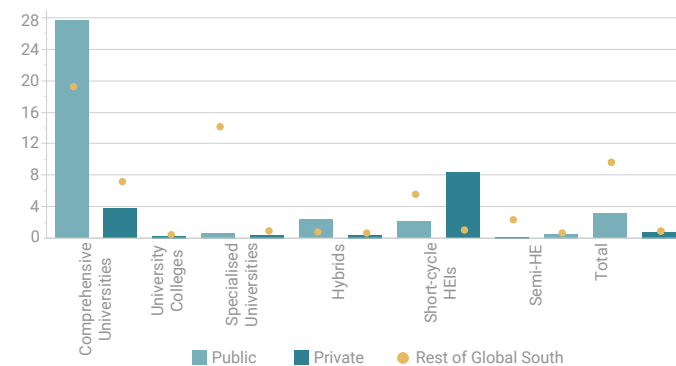
**FIGURE 4** – Share of enrolments by institution type in Mexico and the rest of Latin America, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 5** – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type in Mexico and the rest of Latin America, 2018



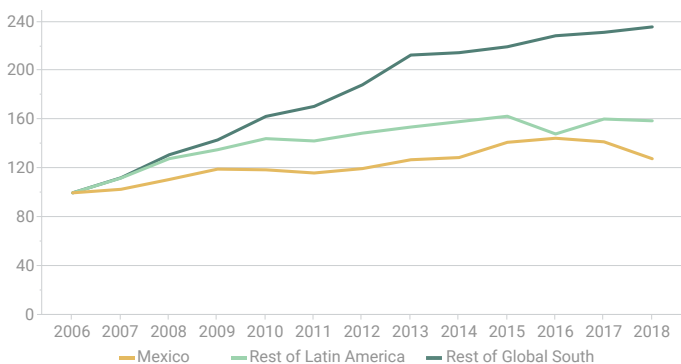
**FIGURE 6** – Average institution-size by institution type in Mexico and the rest of the Global South, 2018 (Thousands)



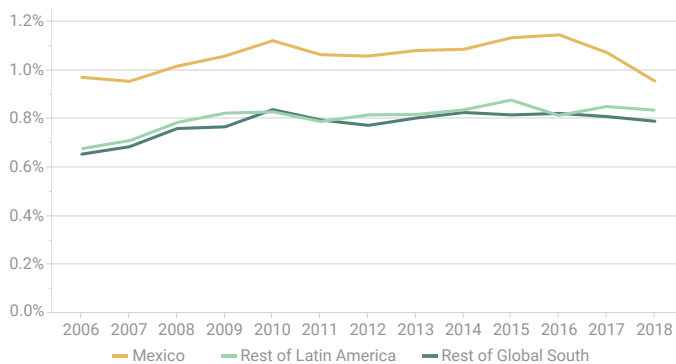
## PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in Mexico rose by just under 25% from 2006 to 2018. This expenditure growth was slower than across the rest of Latin American and especially the Global South. Transfers to institutions increased at more or less the same pace as total public HE spending, although not as fast as enrolments. Public HE expenditures were equal to roughly 1% of GDP in 2018, more or less the same level as in 2006, and slightly above the averages for the rest of Latin America and the Global South.

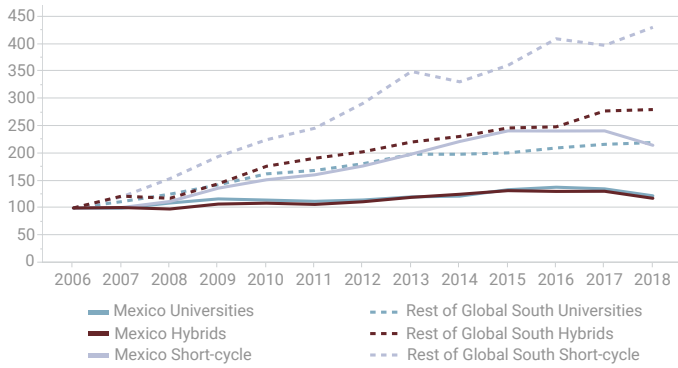
**FIGURE 7** – Change in real total public spending on higher education in Mexico, the rest of Latin America and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



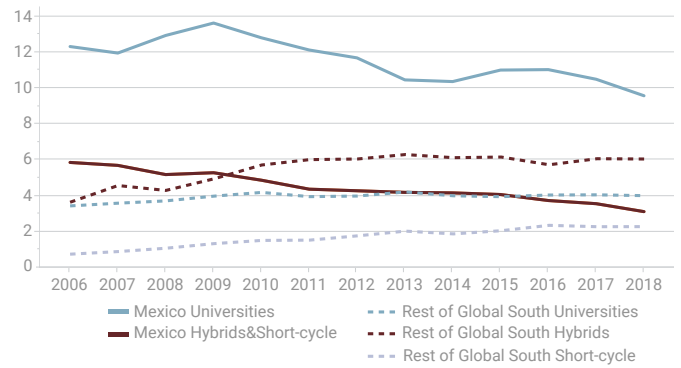
**FIGURE 8** – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Mexico, the rest of Latin America and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



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



**PART III: STUDENT FEES**

All students in Mexico pay at least some level of tuition fees, though at public HEIs this fee may be quite nominal. We classify the fee regime as a mix of token fee-charging and privileged-public. There is insufficient data to analyze student fees in any more detail.

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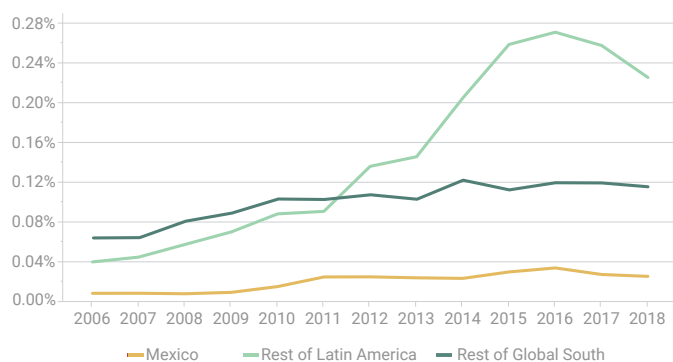
## PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Government student financial aid in Mexico is grant-only. About 13% of the student body received a grant in 2018, up from 6% in 2006 despite significant total enrolment increases. Student financial aid disbursements in Mexico were equal to around 0.03% of GDP in 2018, which was well below the averages across the rest of Latin America and the Global South.

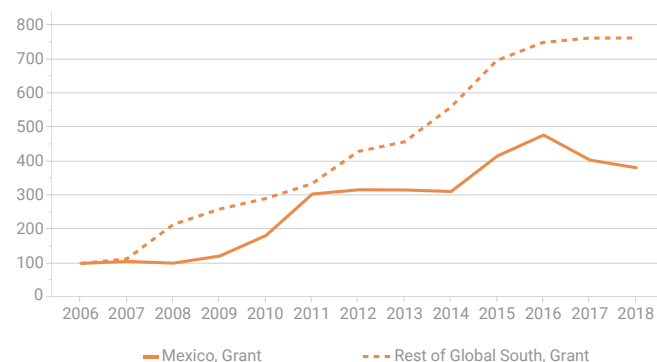
**TABLE 2** – Student financial aid regime, including recipients and amounts disbursed in 2018

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Grants	U018 (2009 to 2014); Pronabes S028 (2002 to 2014); PROBAPISS (2006 to 2012); S243 (2014 onwards)	Need-based	580,721	644,105,882
Loans	Some indication of very modest state-level programs	ND	ND	ND

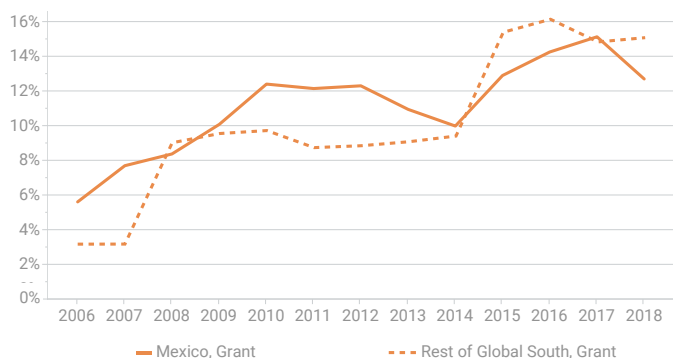
**FIGURE 11** – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to gross domestic product, Mexico, the rest of Latin America and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



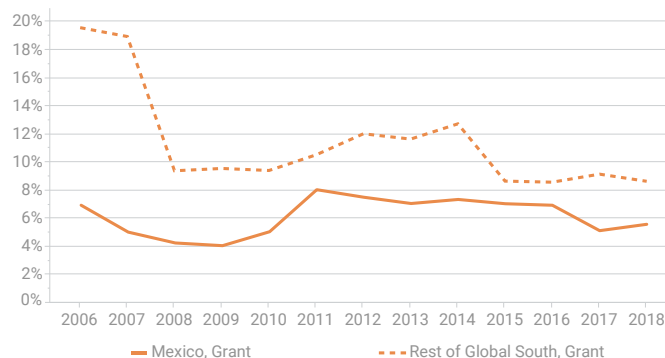
**FIGURE 12** – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid, in Mexico and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 13** – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type, in Mexico and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



**FIGURE 14** – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid, in Mexico 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](#).