

# Netherlands



**REGION: WESTERN EUROPE**

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

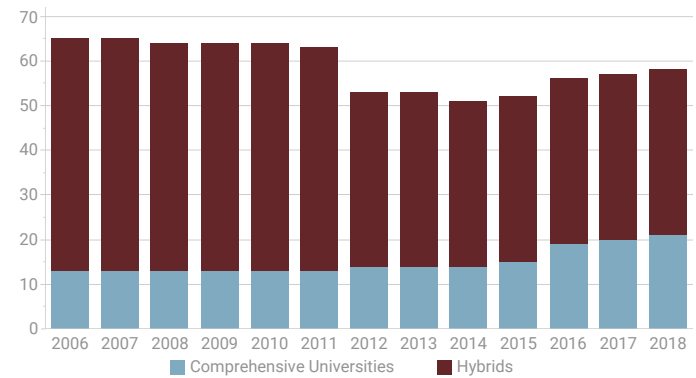
**PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

The Dutch HE system closely fits the Northern European model. Over 60% of the country’s HE students enrolled in hybrid institutions in 2018, while the remainder attended comprehensive universities. Enrolments in Dutch HE rose by 30% between 2006 and 2018, much faster than across the rest of Western Europe. At the same time, the number of HE institutions fell, causing average institution size to increase significantly. There is no private sector in Dutch HE; 100% of HE students enrolled in public institutions in 2018.

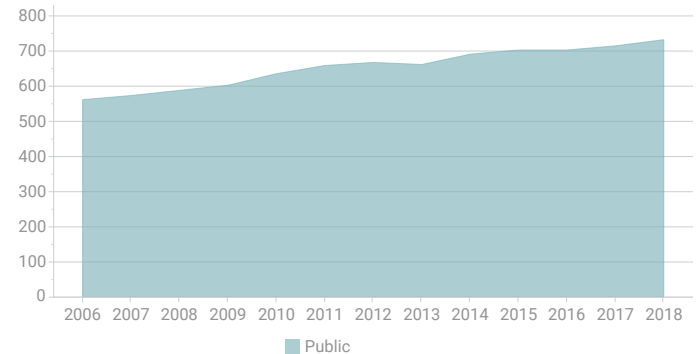
**TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers**

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
Comprehensive universities	Universities	37	0	37
Hybrids	Universities of applied sciences (hogescholen)	21	0	21

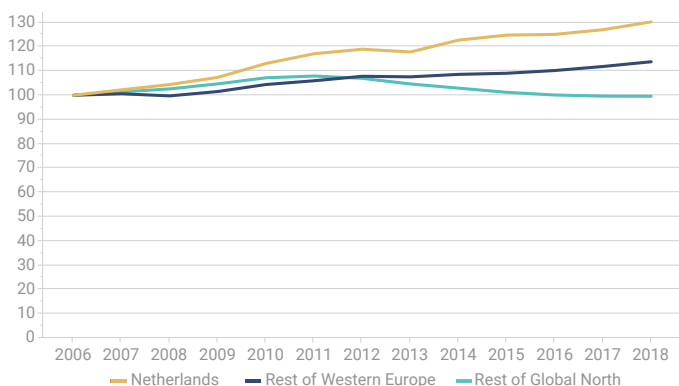
**FIGURE 1 – Numbers of institutions by type, 2006-2018**



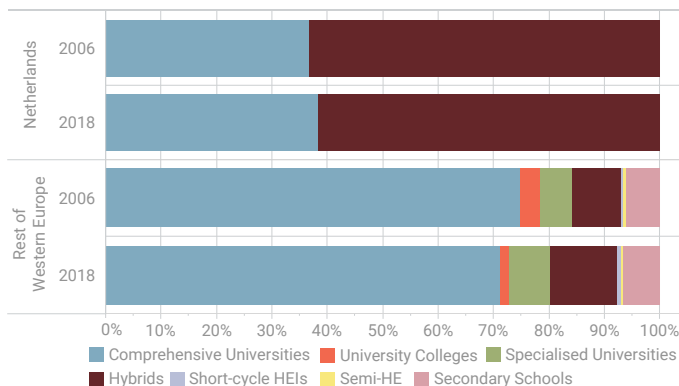
**FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)**



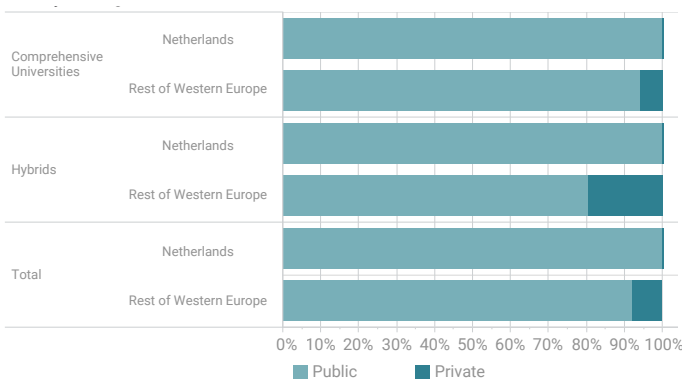
**FIGURE 3** – Changes in enrolment in the Netherlands, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



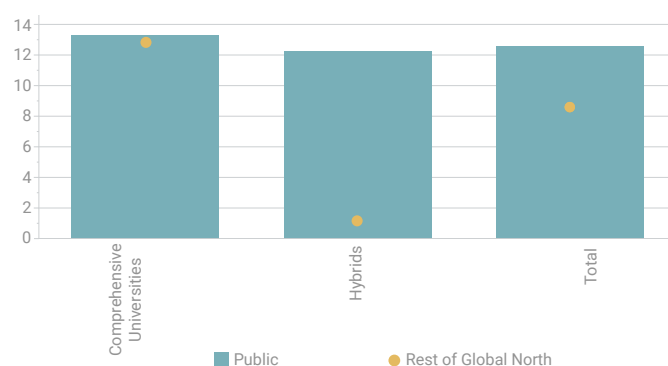
**FIGURE 4** – Share of enrolments by institution type the Netherlands and the rest of Western Europe, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)



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



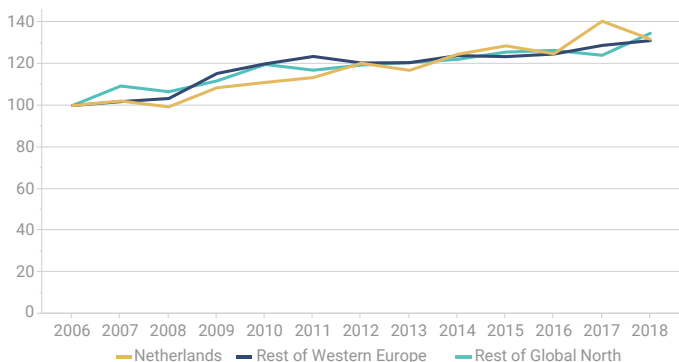
**FIGURE 6** – Average institution-size by institution type in the Netherlands and the rest of the Global North, 2018 (Thousands)



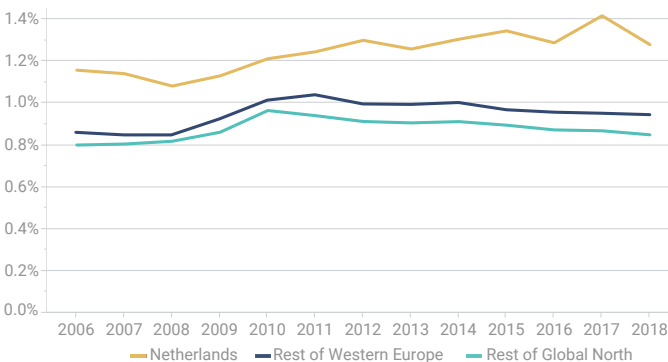
## PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in the Netherlands increased by nearly 25% between 2006 and 2018, a figure almost precisely in line with the average across the rest of Western Europe. Relative to GDP, spending increased modestly and was significantly above the level of the rest of Western Europe.

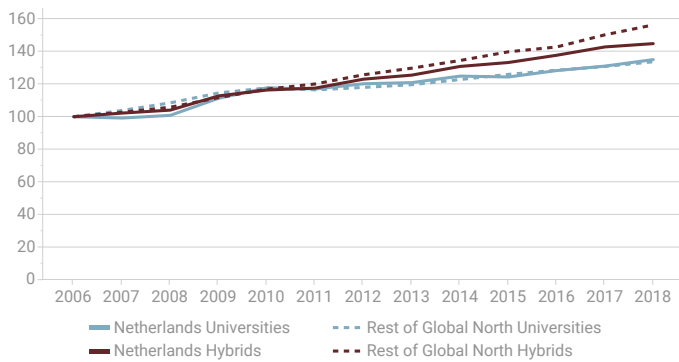
**FIGURE 7** – Change in real total public spending on higher education in the Netherlands, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



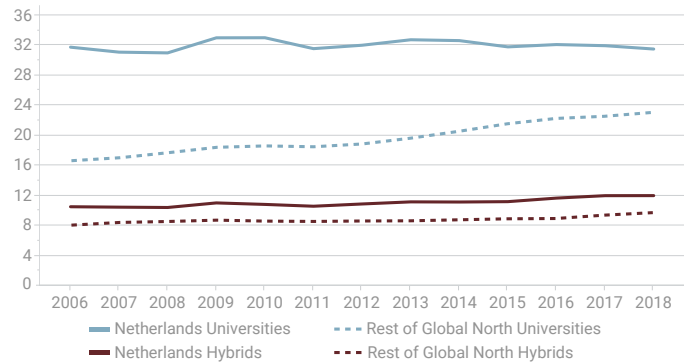
**FIGURE 8** – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in the Netherlands, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



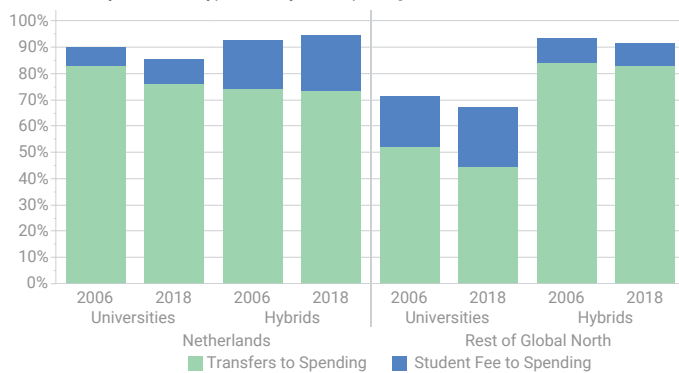
**FIGURE 9** – Change in real total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in the Netherlands and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



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



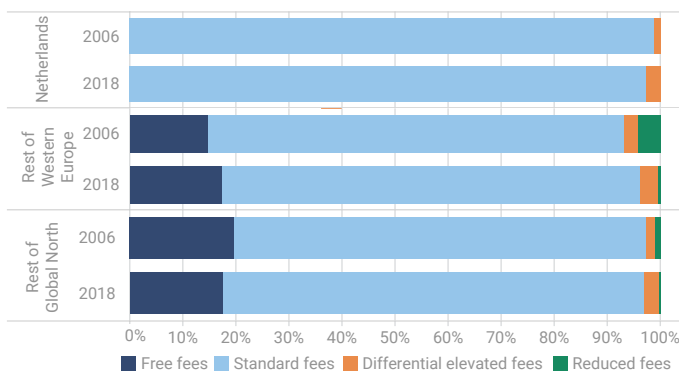
**FIGURE 11** – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in the Netherlands and the rest of Western Europe, 2006 and 2018



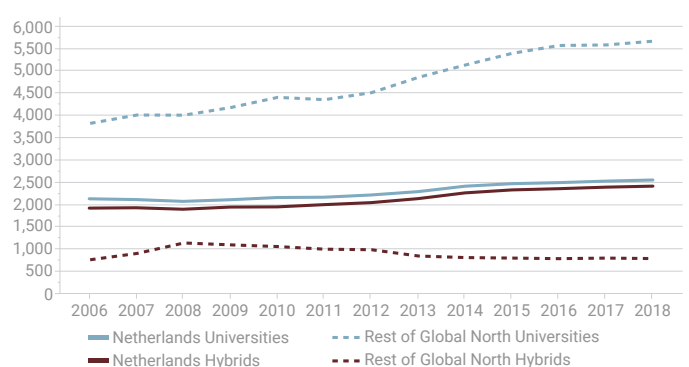
### PART III: STUDENT FEES

All students in the Netherlands paid fees in 2018, with a small percentage of students (mainly international students from outside the EU) paying differential elevated fees. Fee revenues per student paying standard fees rose modestly from 2006 to 2018, from about USD 2,000 per year to USD 2,500. Fee income per student for those paying elevated differential fees was more volatile, but in 2018 stood about three times the standard rate at hybrids, and four times the standard rate at universities.

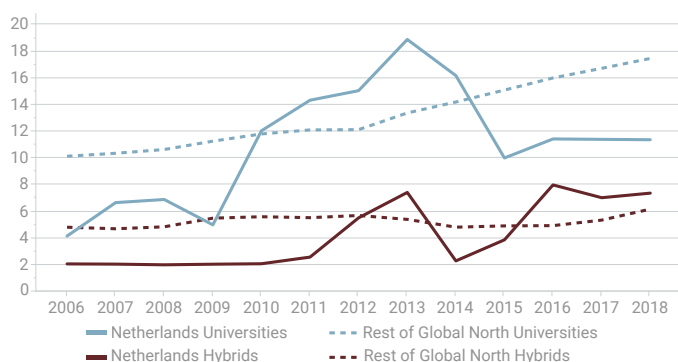
**FIGURE 12** – Share of students at public institutions under each type of tuition regime in the Netherlands, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018



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



**FIGURE 14** – Fee revenues per student paying elevated differential fees at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



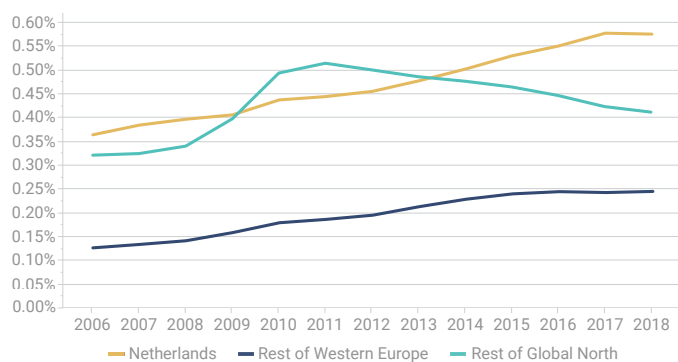
## PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Government student financial aid in the Netherlands is a mix of loans and grants. Until 2016, grants predominated over loans, both in terms of the number of recipients and in total value disbursed, though individual loans on average were substantially larger. Subsequently, policy changes turned the system into one where loans outstripped grants both in terms of recipients and disbursements by 2018. In GDP terms, total disbursements increased significantly to reach double the average across rest of Western Europe in 2018.

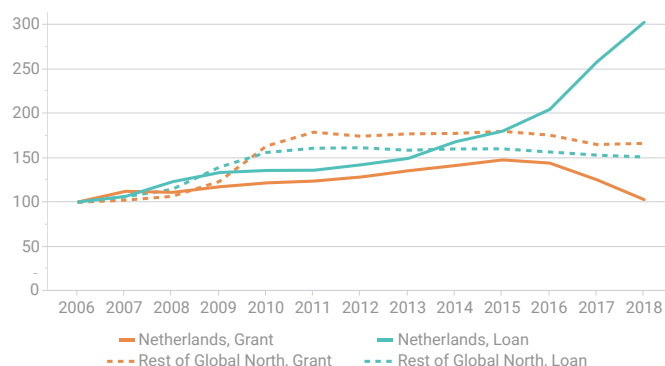
**TABLE 2** – Student financial aid regime, including recipients and amounts disbursed in 2018

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
<b>Grants</b>	Basisbeurs (basic bursary); supplementary bursaries; transportation grants	Need-based	236,153	1,690,488,432
<b>Loans</b>	Rentedragende lening (interest-bearing loan) and Collegegeldkrediet (tuition credit)	Need-based	384,664	3,771,629,820
<b>Housing</b>	There is only very modest national investment in the provision of student housing, though substantial regulation, but local government are heavily involved	ND	ND	ND

**FIGURE 15** – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to Gross Domestic Product, in the Netherlands, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

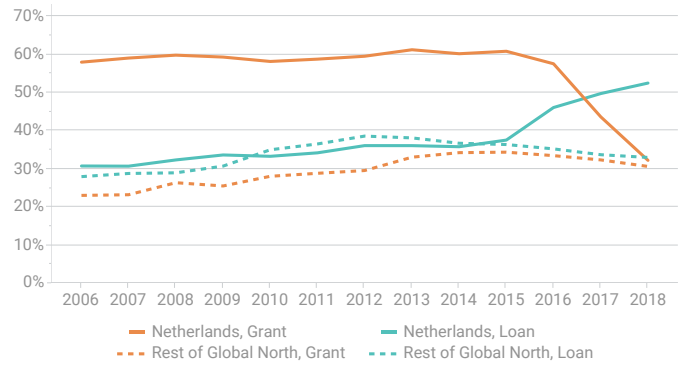


**FIGURE 16** – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in the Netherlands and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

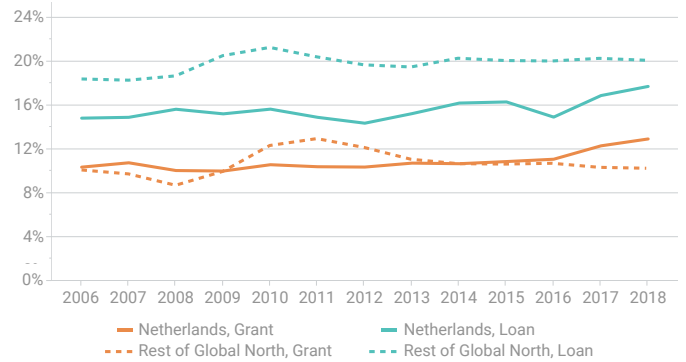




**FIGURE 17** – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in the Netherlands and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



**FIGURE 18** – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in the Netherlands 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](#).**