

Pakistan



REGION: SOUTH ASIA

Also included in this region: Bangladesh, India

PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Pakistani HE system follows the South Asian model. Over 70% of students were enrolled in comprehensive universities in 2018, with the balance in university colleges. Enrolments nearly tripled between 2006 and 2018, from just under 800,000 to nearly 2.2 million. HEI numbers increased as well, by just over 50% in both the comprehensive and university-college sectors. As enrolments grew so much faster, however, average HEI-size increased significantly. Over 80% of students attended public providers in 2018, which was well above the average for the rest of South Asia.

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
Comprehensive Universities	Universities and degree-awarding institutions	111	75	186
University Colleges	Degree colleges	1472	185	1657

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

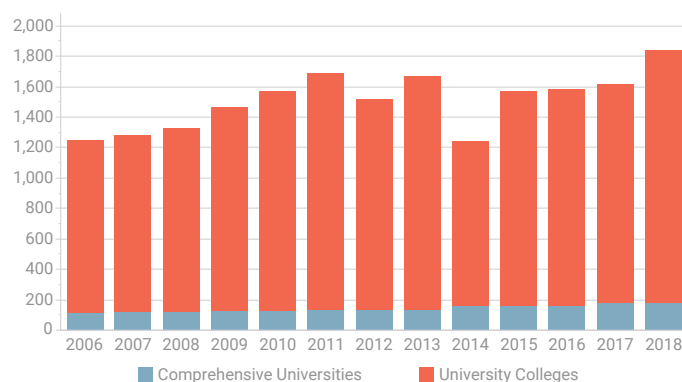


FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)

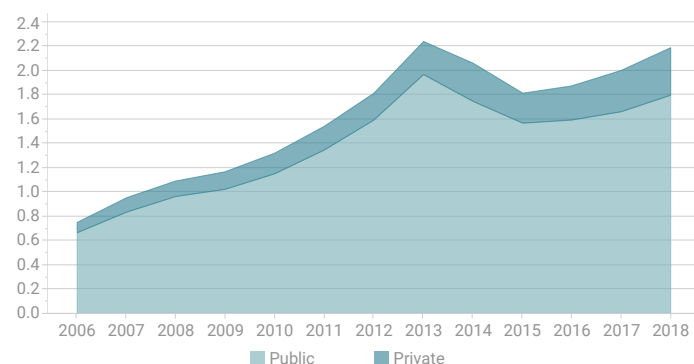


FIGURE 3 – Changes in enrolment, in Pakistan, the rest of South Asia and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

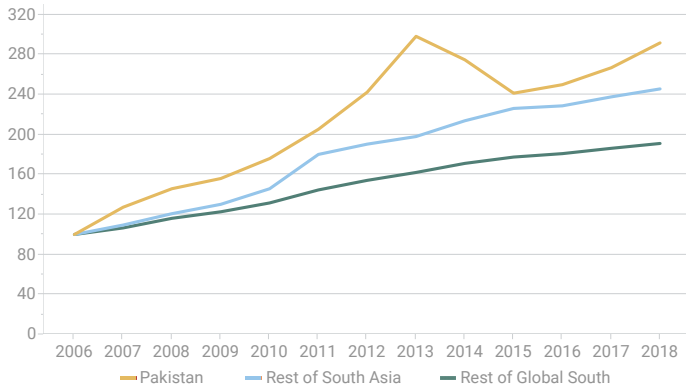


FIGURE 4 – Share of enrolments by institution type in Pakistan and the rest of South Asia, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)

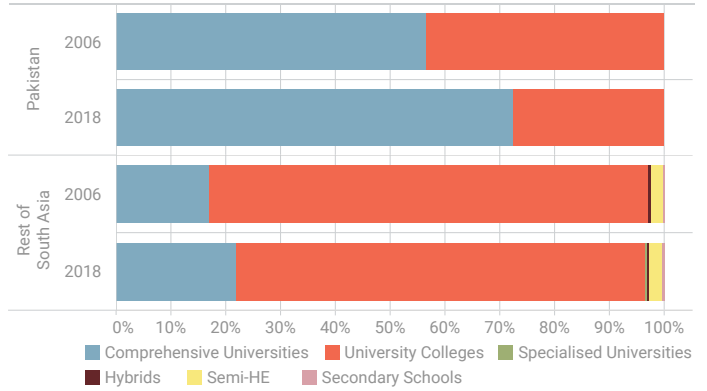


FIGURE 5 – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type in Pakistan and the rest of South Asia, 2018

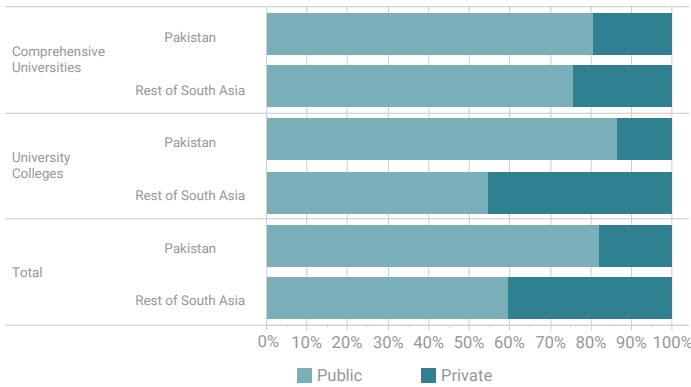
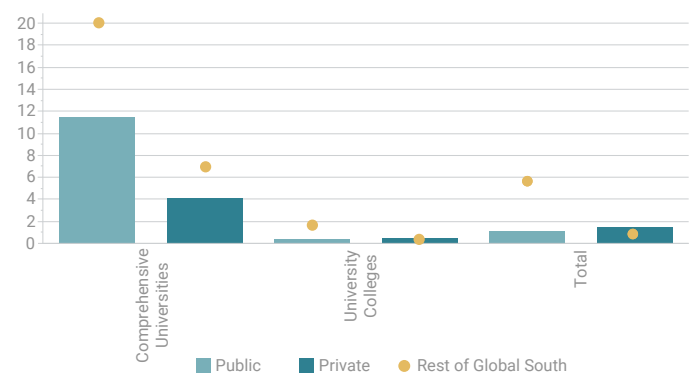


FIGURE 6 – Average institution-size by institution type in Pakistan and the rest of the Global South, 2018 (Thousands)



Punjab University, Pakistan



PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in Pakistan increased by just under 50% from 2006 to 2018, with most growth occurring after 2012. Growth significantly lagged enrolments, such that per-student government transfers to HEIs fell by almost 50%. Pakistan's public HE spending stayed relatively constant between 2006 and 2018 relative to GDP. The 2018 level of 0.5% was slightly below the average across the rest of South Asia, and even further below the rest of the Global South.

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

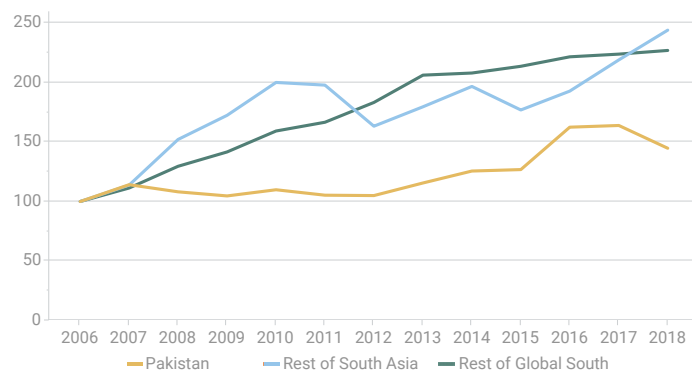


FIGURE 8 – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Pakistan, the rest of South Asia and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018

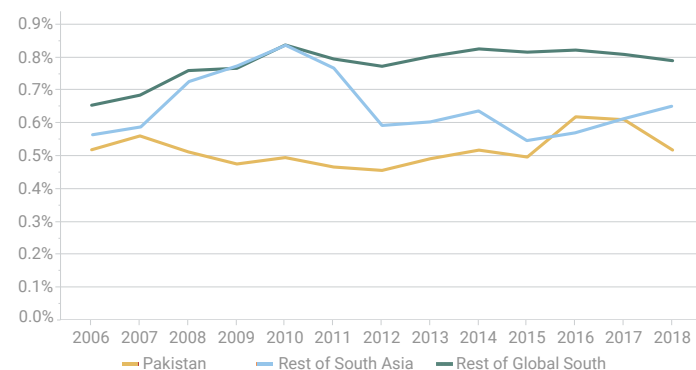


FIGURE 9 – Change in real government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in Pakistan and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

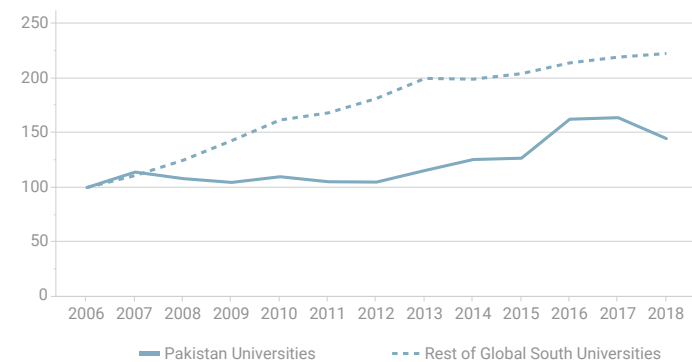
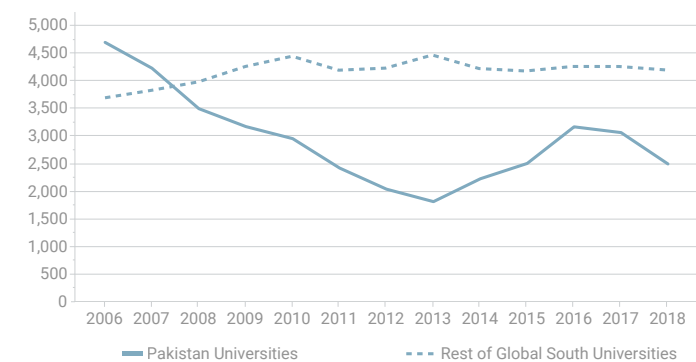


FIGURE 10 – Per-student government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in Pakistan and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



PART III: STUDENT FEES

Pakistani HEIs charge compulsory fees to all students. There is insufficient data to further analyze student fees.

PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

We classify Pakistan as having a token government student financial aid model due to its low coverage. A loan program does exist, but over our period of interest it typically served fewer than one in every two-thousand students. Less than 1% of students received grants in 2018. The numbers of grants awarded increased considerably from 2006 to 2018, but the absolute value of the grants fell greatly due to inflation. Total disbursements were worth less than 0.01% of GDP in 2018.

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

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Grants	Various scholarships (Administered by the Higher Education Commission)	Need-based	10,812	41,255,204
Loans	Loans offered by the State Bank of Pakistan	Combination of merit, need and discipline	966	1,545,094

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

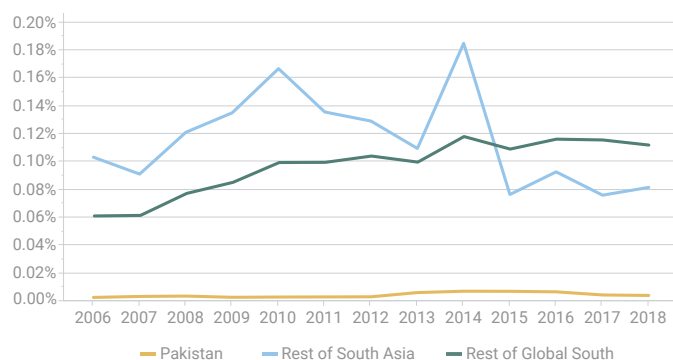


FIGURE 12 – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in Pakistan and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

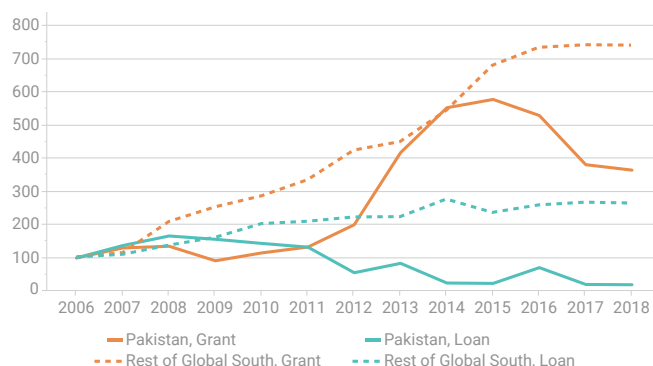


FIGURE 13 – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in Pakistan and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018

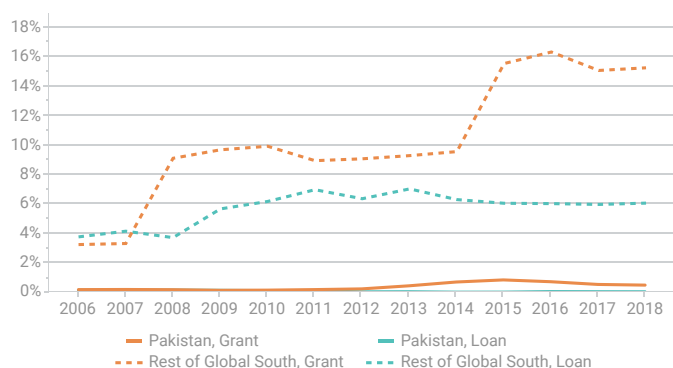
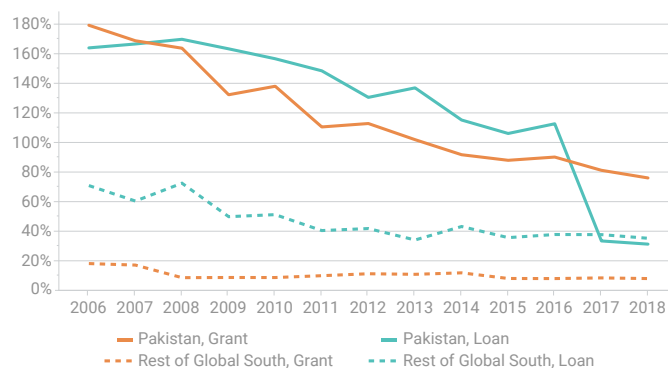


FIGURE 14 – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in Pakistan and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



*Note: For more on methodology and data quality please see **Appendices A and B**.