

# Philippines



## REGION: EAST ASIA

Also included in this region: China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam

## PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Philippine HE system loosely follows the unitary model. About 55% of all students attended comprehensive universities in 2018, with the remainder enrolled at specialised universities. Total enrolments increased by about two-thirds between 2006 and 2016. Enrolments fell in 2017 and 2018 after the government replaced its K-10 system with a K-12 system, thereby greatly reducing the size of two entry cohorts. The number of HEIs also increased from 2006 to 2018, but much more slowly than enrolments such that the average HEI grew larger. Roughly 45% of students attended public providers in 2018, which was below the average across the rest of East Asia.

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
<b>Comprehensive universities</b>	Institutions with the word "university" in their title	113	148	261
<b>Specialised Universities</b>	Institutions not labelled as universities - mostly "colleges"	120	1,525	1,645

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

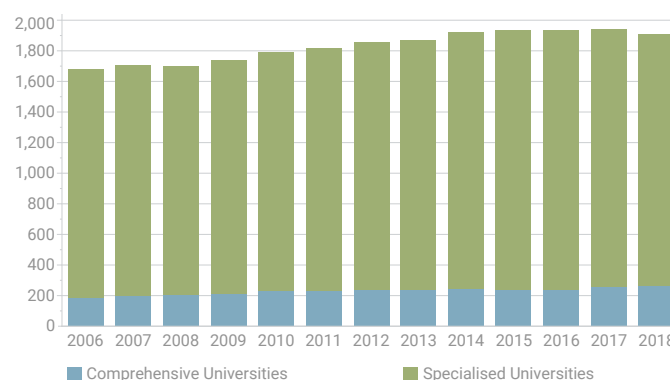
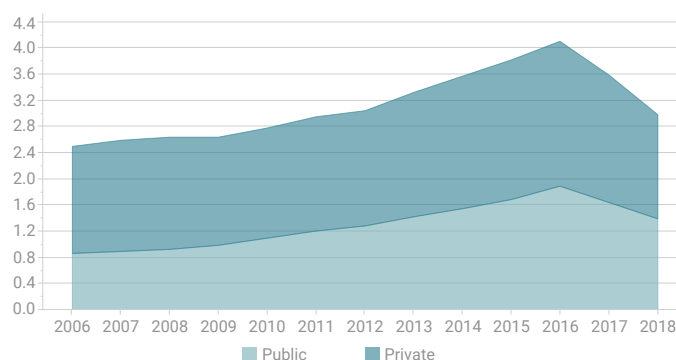
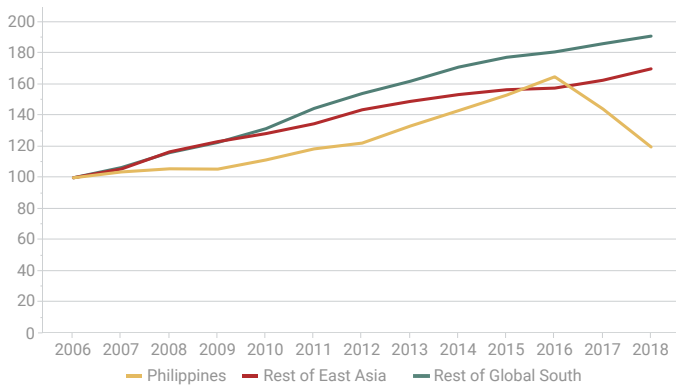


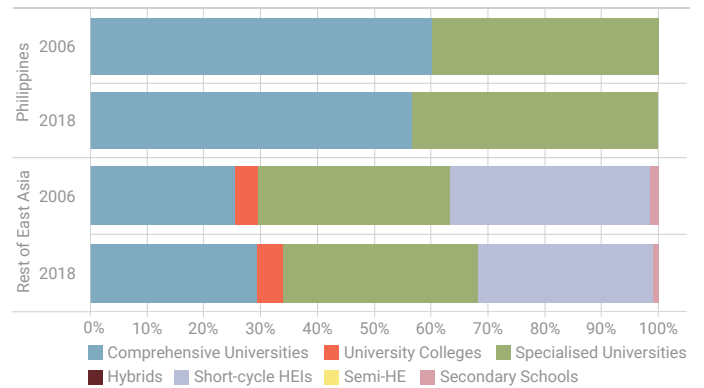
FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)



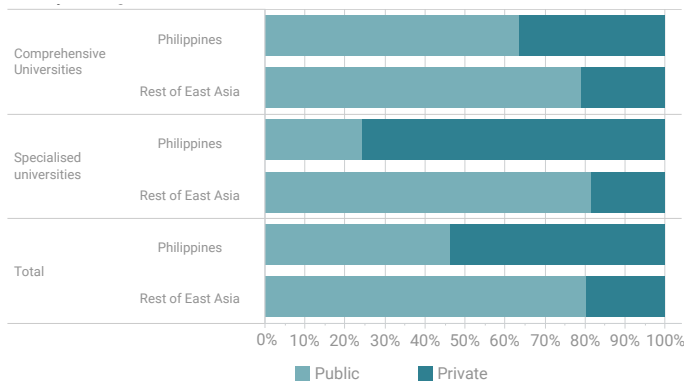
**FIGURE 3** – Changes in enrolment, in the Philippines, the rest of East Asia and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



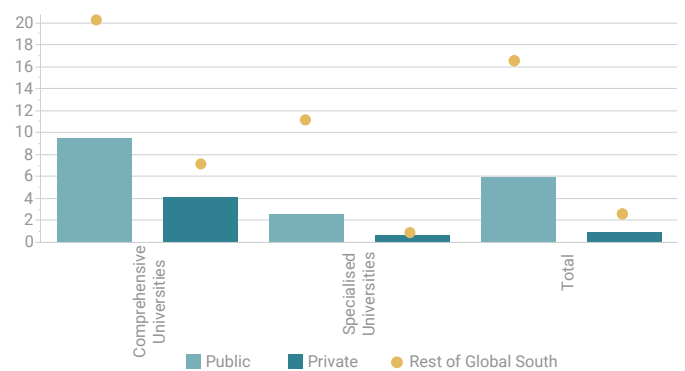
**FIGURE 4** – Share of enrolments by institution type in the Philippines and the rest of East Asia, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)



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



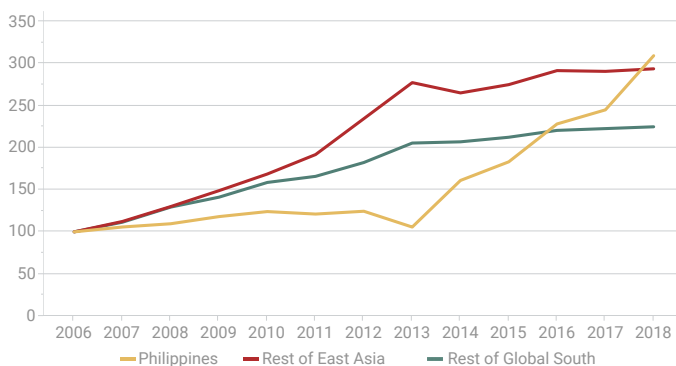
**FIGURE 6** – Average institution-size by institution type in the Philippines and the rest of the Global South, 2018 (Thousands)



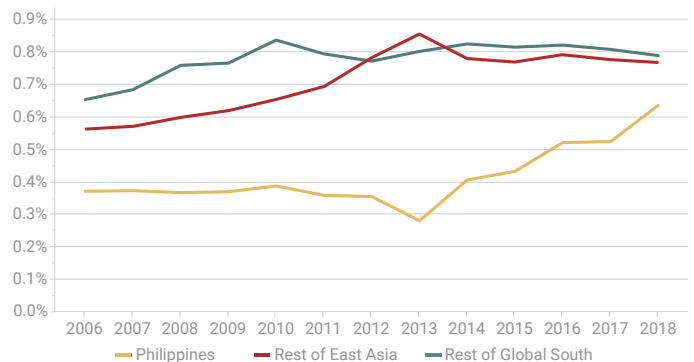
**PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING**

Public HE spending in the Philippines stayed roughly constant from 2006 to 2013, and then grew to triple its 2013 level in 2018. Spending rose to over 0.6% of GDP in 2018, more than 50% higher than in 2006 but still below the averages across the rest of East Asia and the Global South. The per-student value of public spending also rose substantially as spending growth exceeded enrolment growth – thanks entirely to the enrolment declines of 2017 and 2018. Public HEIs in the Philippines are more reliant on government funding than their peers across the rest of the Global South.

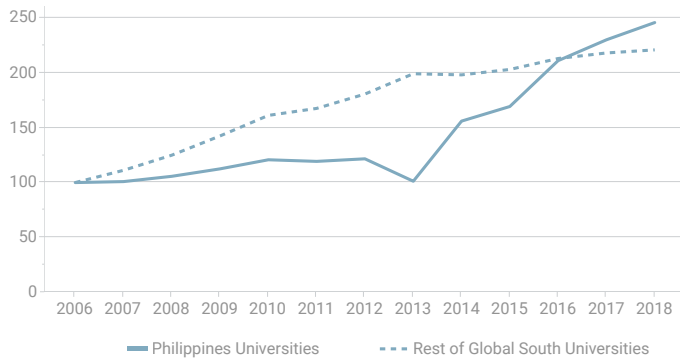
**FIGURE 7** – Change in real total public spending on higher education in the Philippines, the rest of East Asia and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



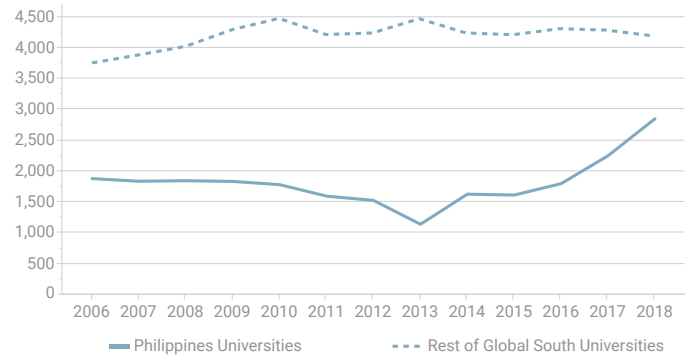
**FIGURE 8** – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in the Philippines, the rest of East Asia and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



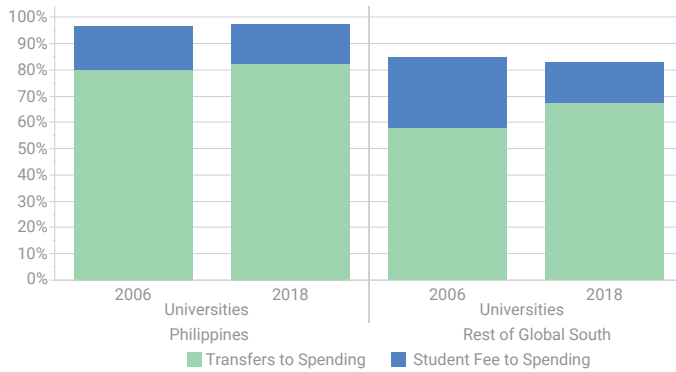
**FIGURE 9** – Change in real government transfers to public institutions by institution-type, in the Philippines and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 10** – Per-student government transfers in real PPP, in the Philippines and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



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



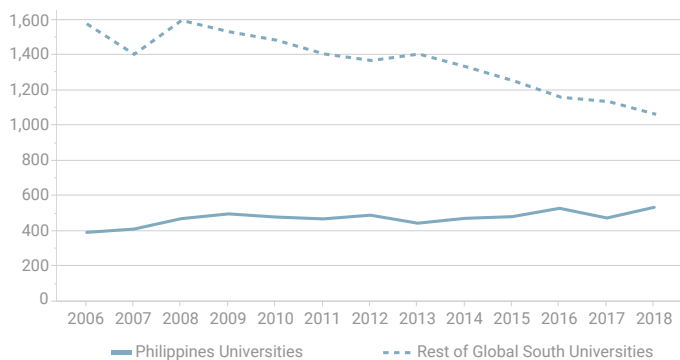
University of Santo Tomas, Philippines



**PART III: STUDENT FEES**

Public HE providers in the Philippines charge fees to all students. However, these are low enough that we classify the system as a mix of privileged-public (recognising the sizable role of private provision) and token-fee charging. Fee revenue per student at public HEIs rose by about one-quarter over the period of interest.

**FIGURE 12** – Fee revenues per student paying typical rates at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



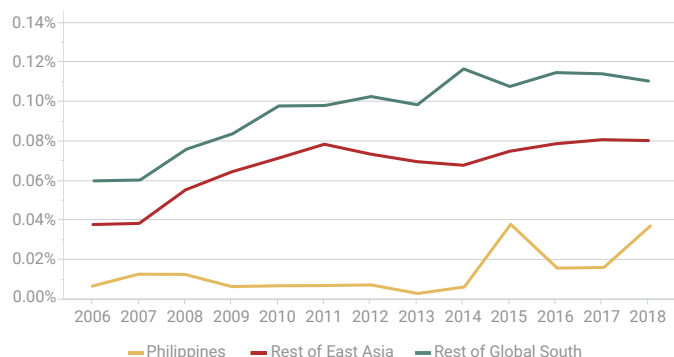
### PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Government student financial aid in the Philippines is essentially grant-only, as the existent loan program was only vestigial during our period of interest. Over 15% of students received a grant in 2018, which was up almost eight-fold since 2006 despite growth in total overall enrolments. The increase in coverage came partially through an increase in funding, and partially through a decrease in the value of grants per student. Total disbursements rose fourfold relative to GDP during our period of interest, but still remained below the averages for the rest of East Asia and the Global South in 2018.

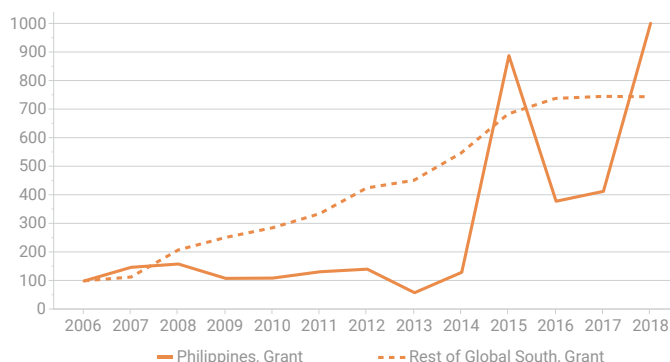
**TABLE 2** – Student financial aid regime, including recipients and amounts disbursed in 2018

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
<b>Grants</b>	Student financial assistance program (STUFAP) scholarships and grants in aid	Combination of merit, need-based and automatic enrolment	459,377	304,589,631
<b>Loans</b>	Loans administered by the Unified Student Financial Assistance System (USFAS)	Semi-merit based	3,491	2,782,357

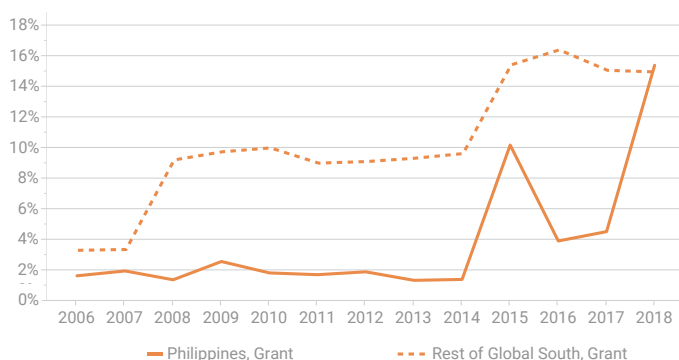
**FIGURE 13** – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to gross domestic product, in the Philippines, the rest of East Asia and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



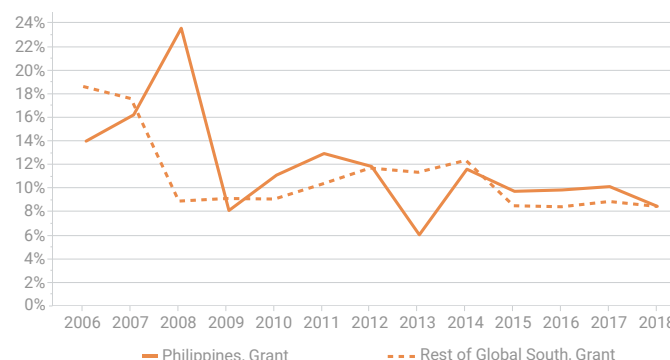
**FIGURE 14** – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in the Philippines and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 15** – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in the Philippines and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



**FIGURE 16** – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in the Philippines 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](#).