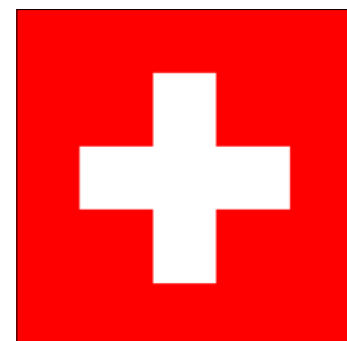


Switzerland



REGION: WESTERN EUROPE

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

PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Swiss HE system is loosely based on the Northern European model. The system is one of the world's most diverse in terms of HEI-types: just under half of all students were enrolled in comprehensive universities in 2018, but large numbers of students also studied in specialised universities, hybrids, short-cycle HEIs and semi-HEIs. Enrolments in Swiss HE rose by 50% from 2006 to 2018, which was more than double the rate across the rest of Western Europe. The short-cycle HEI sector grew the fastest, and this sector also concentrated the greatest increase in the number of institutions. Over 90% of Swiss students studied with public providers in 2018, which was slightly above the average for the rest of Western Europe.

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
Comprehensive Universities	Universities (hautes écoles universitaires)	14	0	14
Specialised Universities	Hautes écoles pédagogiques	21	0	21
Hybrids	Universities of applied sciences (hautes écoles spécialisées)	7	1	8
Short-cycle HEIs	Écoles supérieures	133	87	220
Semi-HE	Préparation aux examens professionnels; préparation aux examens supérieurs; and formation professionnelle supérieure not regulated by the Federal law on formation professionnelle	NA	NA	NA

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

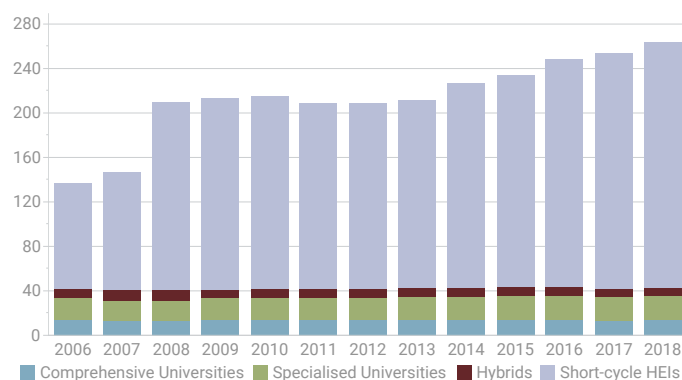


FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)

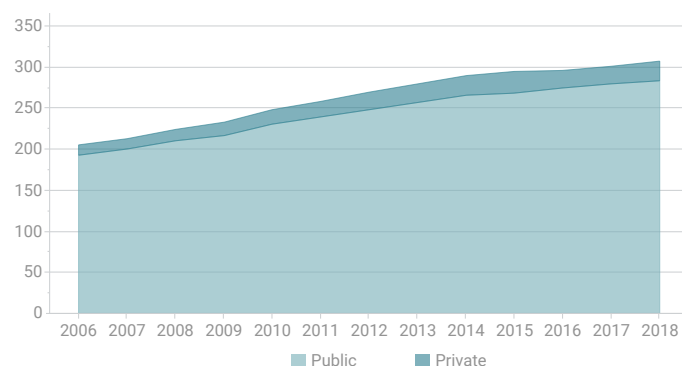


FIGURE 3 – Changes in enrolment, in Switzerland, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

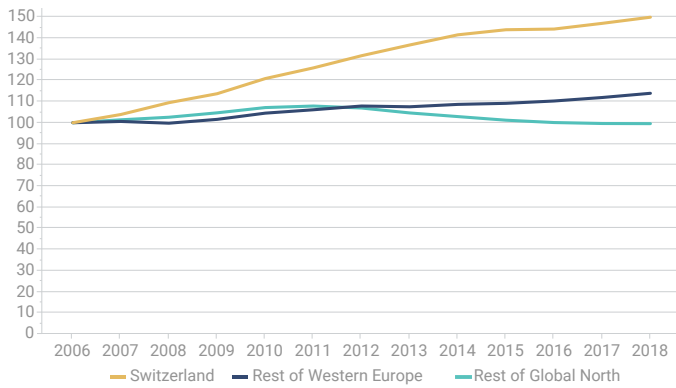


FIGURE 4 – Share of enrolments by institution type in Switzerland and the rest of Western Europe, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)

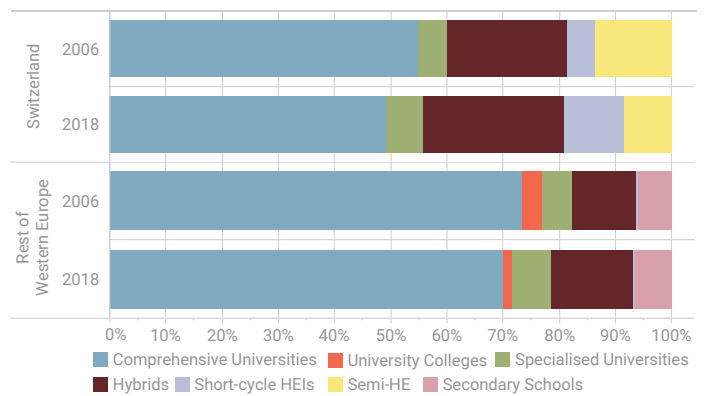


FIGURE 5 – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type in Switzerland and the rest of Western Europe, 2018

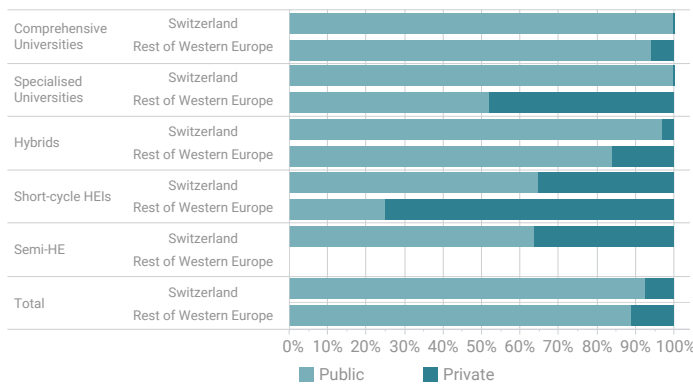
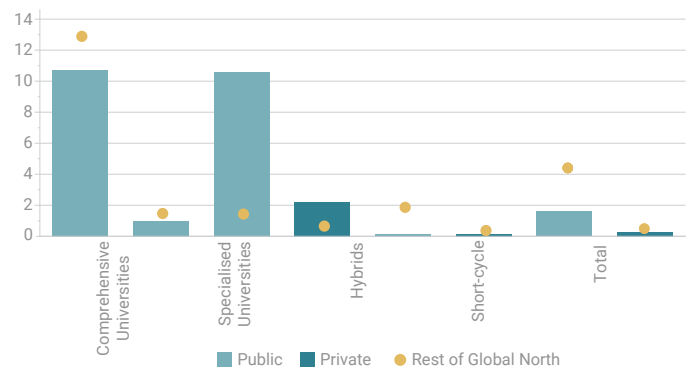


FIGURE 6 – Average institution-size by institution type in Switzerland and the rest of the Global North, 2018 (Thousands)



PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in Switzerland rose by over 60% between 2006 and 2018, which was over twice the average across the rest of Western Europe. This growth was also substantial relative to GDP, and, public spending in 2018 represented twice as high a share of GDP in Switzerland as in the rest of Western Europe. Expenditures at public HEIs rose more or less in line with public HE expenditures.

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

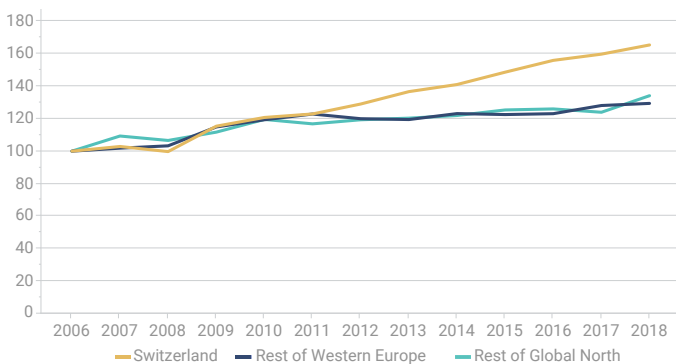


FIGURE 8 – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Switzerland, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

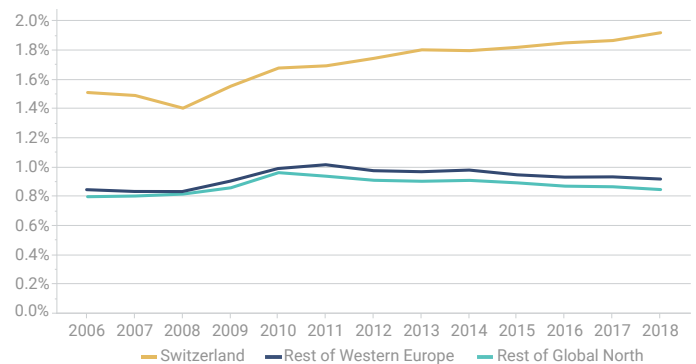


FIGURE 9 – Change in real total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Switzerland and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

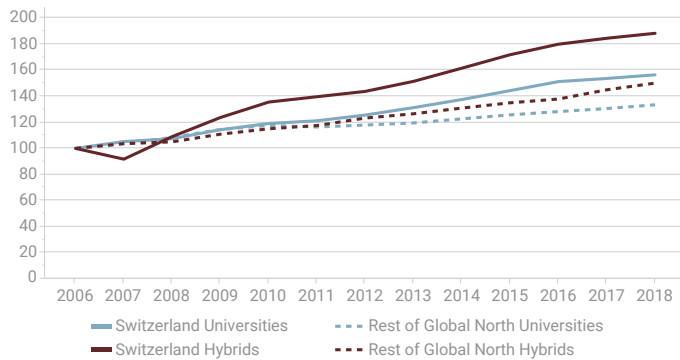


FIGURE 10 – Per-student total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in Switzerland and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

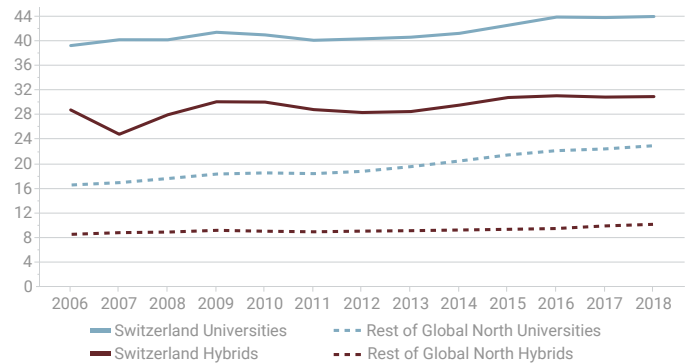
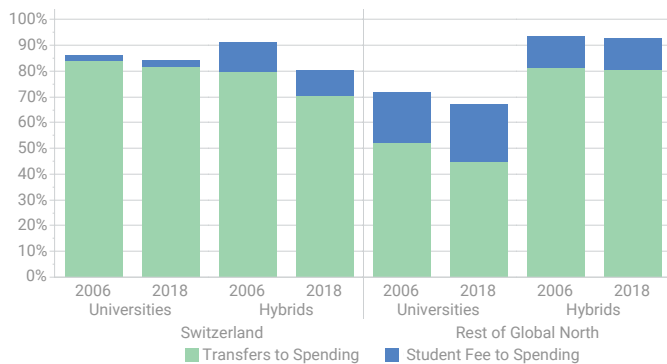


FIGURE 11 – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Switzerland and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018



Rolex Learning Center at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Switzerland

PART III: STUDENT FEES

All students pay tuition fees in Switzerland. Fee income per student at universities stayed relatively constant at around USD 1,000 per year from 2006 to 2018. Fee-income per student at public hybrids was roughly three times as high.

FIGURE 13 – Share of students at public institutions under each type of tuition regime in Switzerland, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018

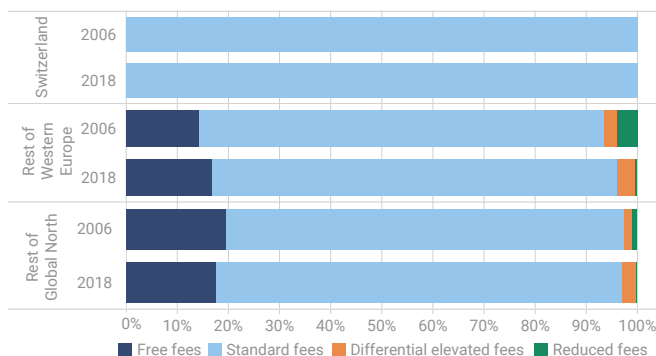
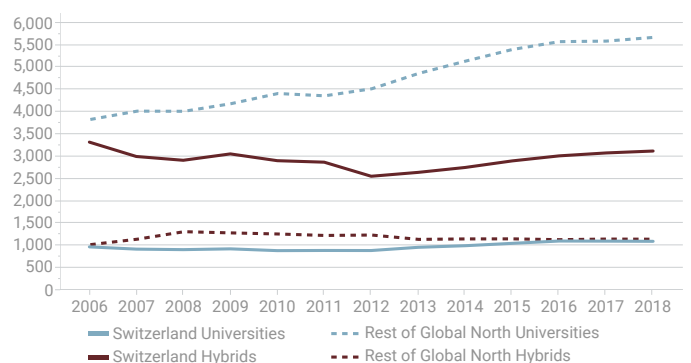


FIGURE 14 – Fee revenues per student paying “regular” rates at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

We classify Switzerland as having a token government student financial aid model due to its limited coverage. What assistance exists is through a mix of loans and grants. In 2018, grants were more common than loans basically by 10:1. Loan amounts and loan uptake both declined from 2006 to 2018. Grant amounts also declined, but the number of recipients did not. In GDP terms, disbursements fell slightly, causing the country to fall further behind the average for the rest of 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	Grants from the services cantonaux des bourses d'études	Need-based	17,954	134,398,669
Loans	Loans from the services cantonaux des bourses d'études	Need-based	1,938	12,293,497

FIGURE 15 – Student financial aid spending or total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to Gross Domestic Product, in Switzerland, the rest of Western Europe and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

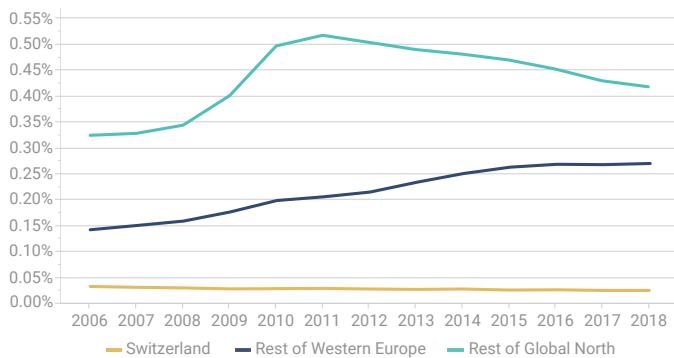


FIGURE 16 – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in Switzerland and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

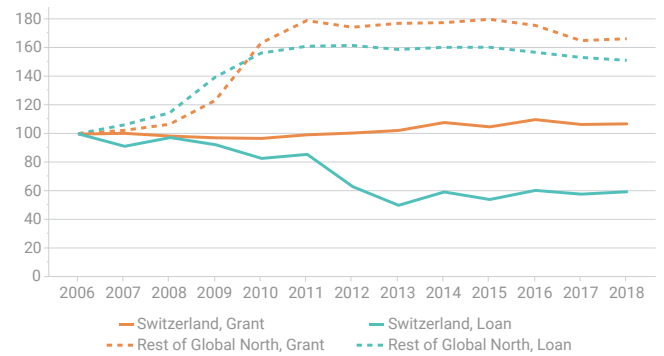


FIGURE 17 – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in Switzerland and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018

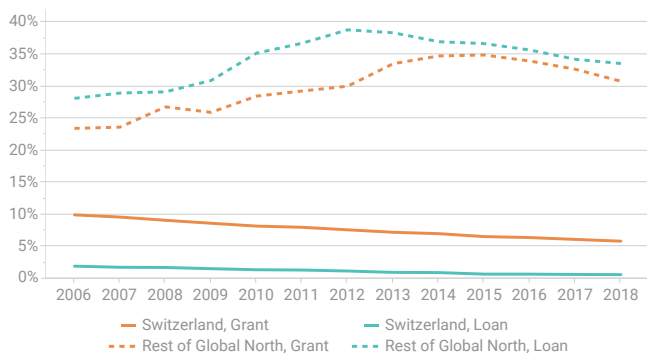
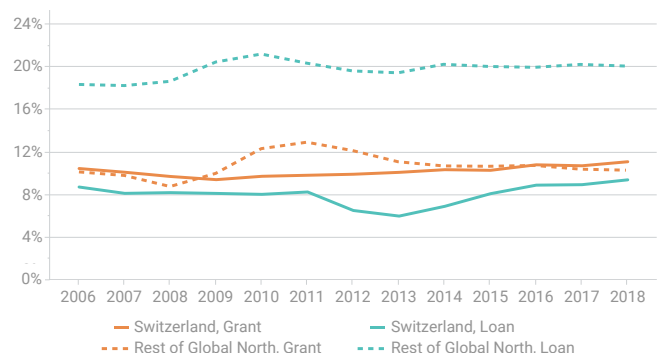


FIGURE 18 – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in Switzerland and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



*Note: For more on methodology and data quality please see [Appendices A and B](#).