

The Russian Federation



REGION: EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA (EECA)

Also included in this region: Kazakhstan, Poland, Romania, Ukraine

PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The HE system of the Russian Federation is based loosely on the Former Eastern Bloc model. Just over 60% of students were enrolled in comprehensive institutions in 2018, with the remainder attending the country’s over 3000 short-cycle HEIs. The country used to have a large number of specialised universities, typically called academies and institutes, but this category no longer exists as a result of a mix of institutional consolidation and reclassification. Total enrolments fell by over 30% between 2010 and 2018, much the same as across the rest of Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA), mainly due to demographic factors. The number of universities fell in tandem, but the number of short-cycle HEIs did not. Ninety-one percent of HE enrolments in the Russian Federation were in public institutions in 2018, which was above the average for the rest of EECA.

TABLE 1 – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
Comprehensive Universities	Universities	496	245	741
Specialised Universities	Academies and institutes (until 2012)	0	0	0
Short-cycle HEIs	Colleges (vocational higher education)	2999	317	3316

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

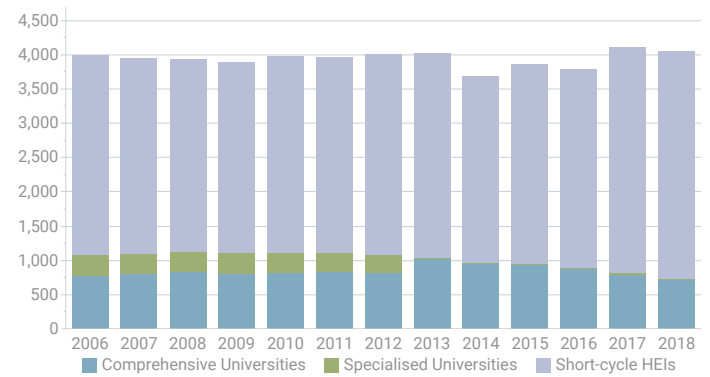


FIGURE 2 – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)

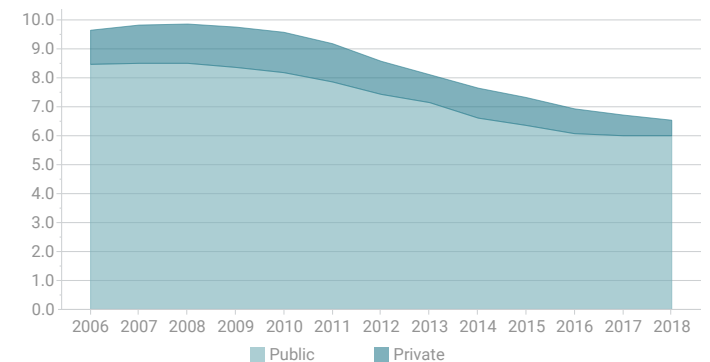


FIGURE 3 – Changes in enrolment, in Russia, the rest of EECA and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

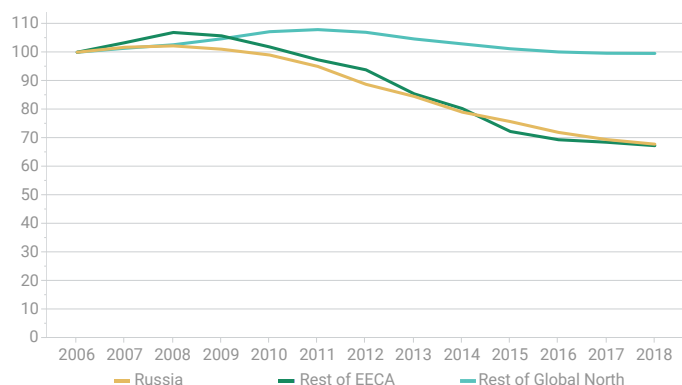


FIGURE 4 – Share of enrolments by institution type in Russia and the rest of EECA, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)

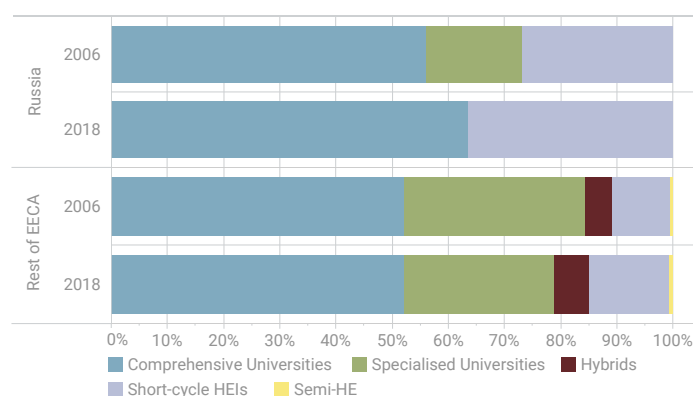


FIGURE 5 – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type in Russia and the rest of EECA, 2018

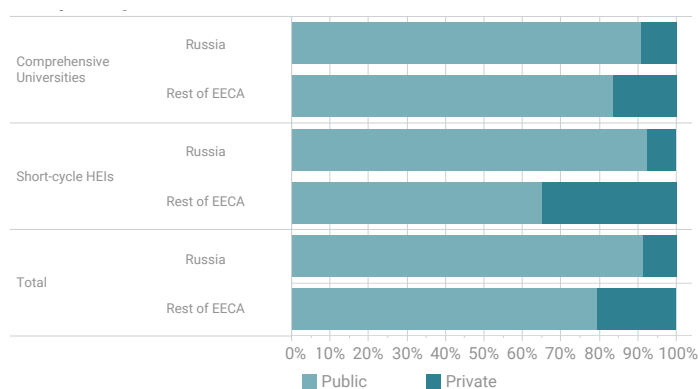
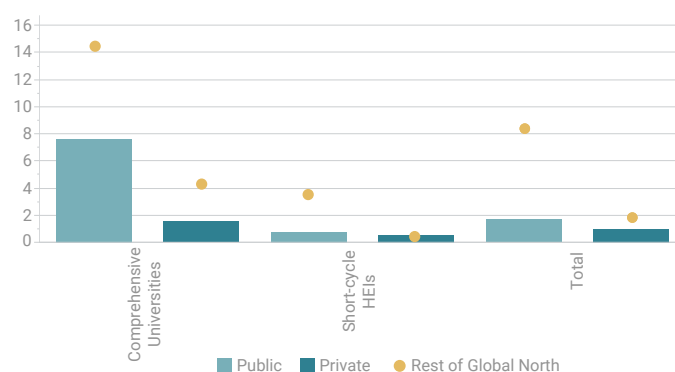


FIGURE 6 – Average institution-size by institution type in Russia and the rest of the Global North, 2018 (Thousands)



PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Public HE spending in the Russian Federation rose by a little over 60% in constant dollars from 2006 to 2010 before plateauing and declining somewhat after 2015. This spending increase was above the average for the rest of the EECA. As a percentage of GDP, Russian spending ended the period roughly where it began, more or less in line with wider comparator averages, but significantly lower than at the peak year of 2010. Per-student government funding for public universities roughly doubled, aided in no small part by the crash in student numbers, while per-student transfers to short-cycle HEIs fell. The country's private sector is almost entirely funded by tuition fees and total institutional spending fell in line with enrolments.

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

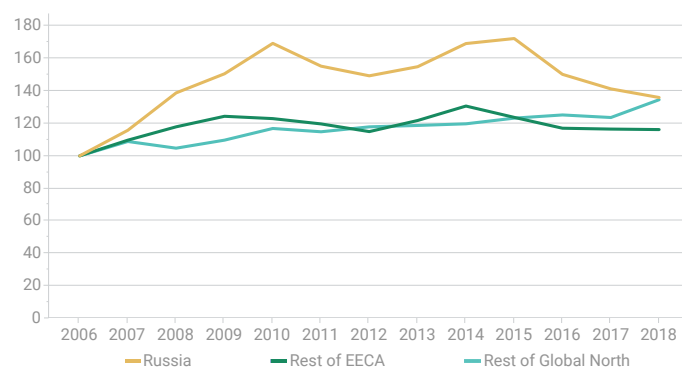


FIGURE 8 – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Russia, the rest of EECA and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

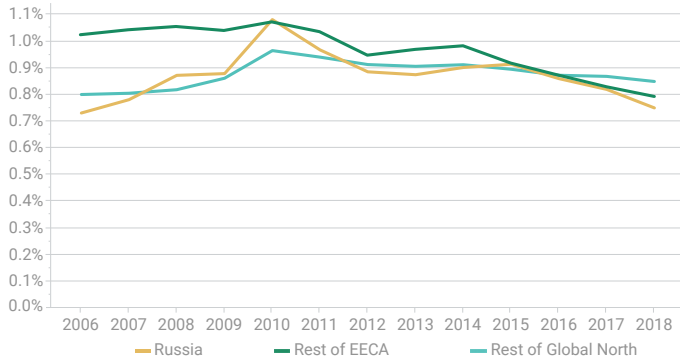


FIGURE 9 – Change in real total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Russia and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

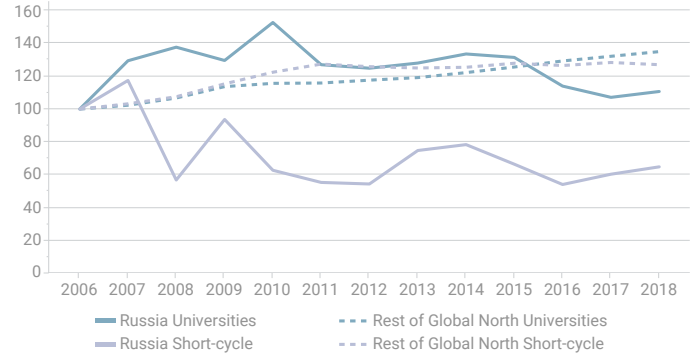


FIGURE 10 – Per-student total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in Russia and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

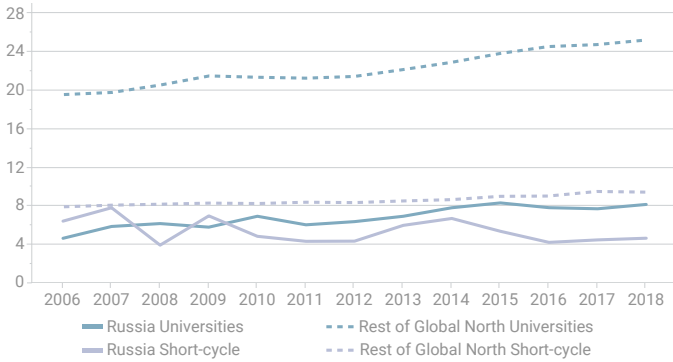


FIGURE 11 – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Russia and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018

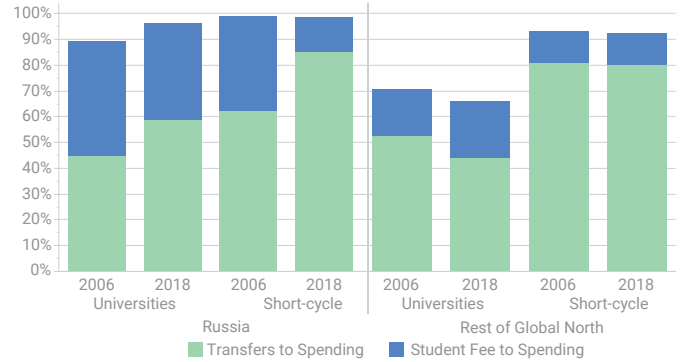


FIGURE 12 – Change in real total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Russia and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

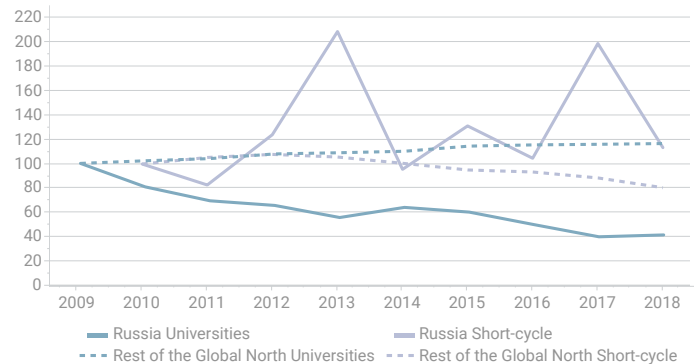


FIGURE 13 – Per-student total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Russia and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

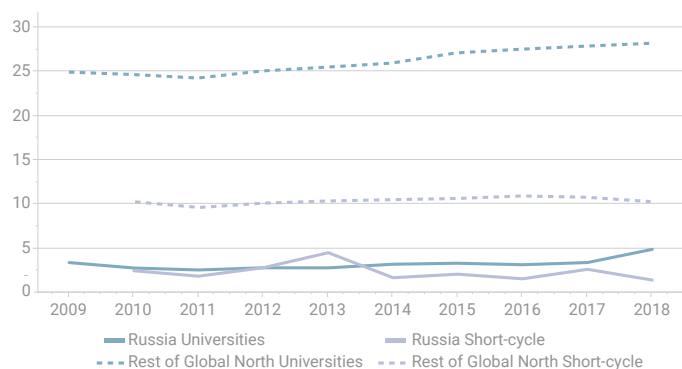
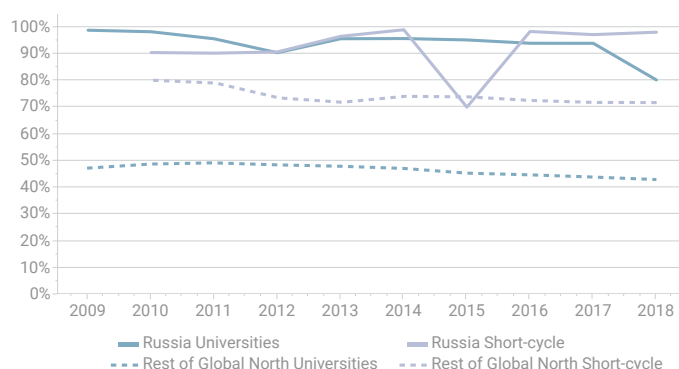


FIGURE 14 – Student fee revenues relative to total institutional spending of private institutions by institution-type in Russia and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018



PART III: STUDENT FEES

A slight majority of students in Russia paid no fees to attend HE in 2018, representing a slight increase from 2006. Fee revenue at public HEIs per fee-paying student was substantially higher than at private institutions. Real fee revenues per student rose steadily at public universities from 2006 to 2018, but fell at short-cycle HEIs.

FIGURE 15 – Share of students at public institutions under each type of tuition regime in Russia, the rest of EECA and the rest of the Global North, 2006 and 2018

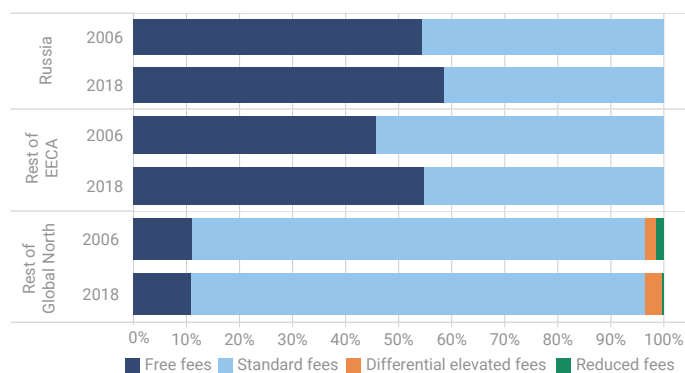


FIGURE 16 – Fee revenues per student paying “regular” rates at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018

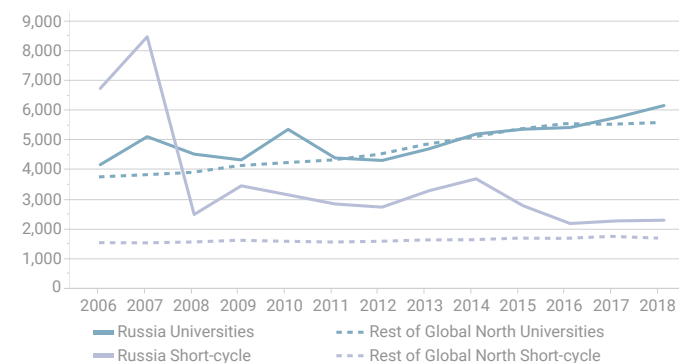
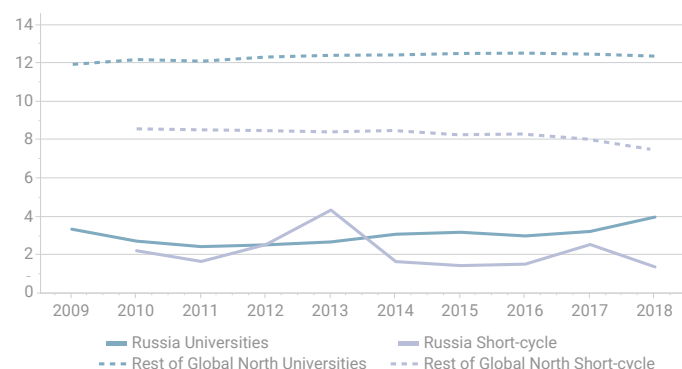


FIGURE 17 – Fee revenues per student at private institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Russia does not have a student loan system. Government student financial aid is grant-only. Roughly 30% of all Russian students received grants in 2018, a substantial increase relative to 2006. Our figures represent only minimum grant amounts, which were relatively modest in 2018 (actual amounts disbursed may have been significantly higher). Relative to GDP per capita, student financial aid disbursements were well below the averages for the rest of the EECA and the Global North in 2006, and declined further over our period of interest (again recognising that our figures represent minimum estimates).

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

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Grants	State academic grants, state social grants, presidential scholarships, and other modest grant programs	Mostly merit-based with need-based social supplements	1,922,841	1,205,779,119

FIGURE 18 – Student financial aid spending or total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to Gross Domestic Product, in Russia, the rest of EECA and the rest of the Global North, 2006-2018

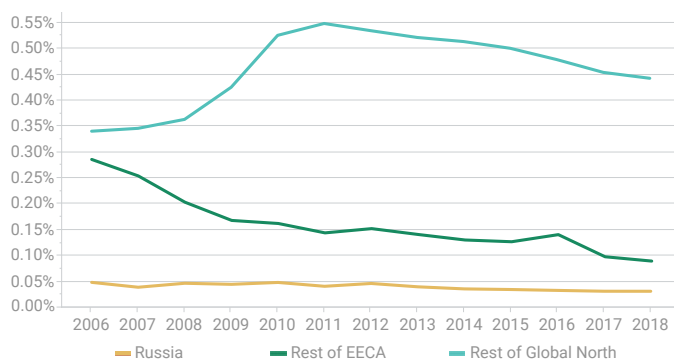


FIGURE 19 – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid, in Russia and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

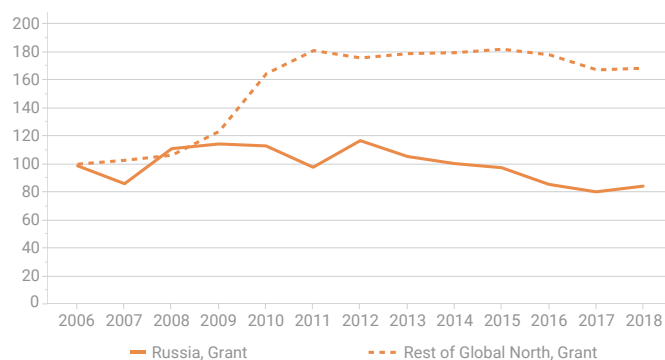


FIGURE 20 – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type, in Russia and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018

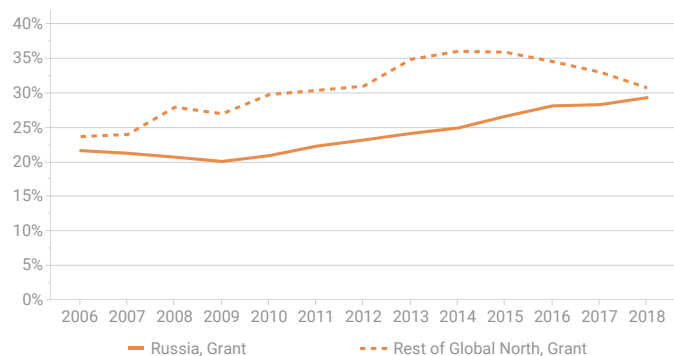
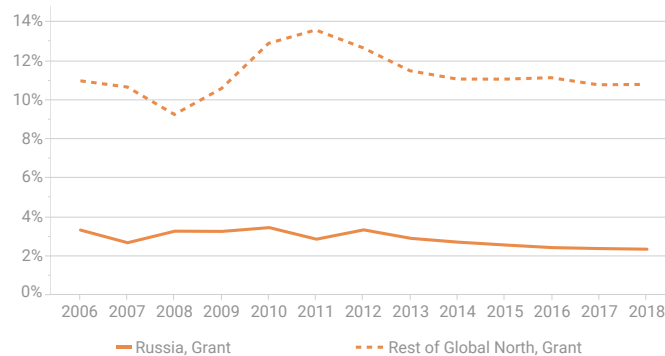


FIGURE 21 – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid, in Russia and other Global North countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018



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