



Factsheet – Statistical activities and published results

Survey on social and economic situation of higher education students (SSEE)

Description

The Survey on social and economic situation of higher education students (SSEE) is a survey of Bachelor's and Master's students at Swiss higher education institutions (universities, federal institutes of technology, universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education). Its main objective is to collect information on the study conditions as well as on the social and economic conditions of students in Switzerland. The participation in the international network EUROSTUDENT enables comparisons to be made across various European countries.

Published results:

Paid employment alongside studies, employment rate, type of paid employment, number of hours devoted to studies per week, level and structure of income, student grants and loans, level and structure of expenditure, financial difficulties, accommodation, health, national and international mobility, difficulties in studies, etc.

Break variables: type of higher education institutions, higher education institution, study programme, field of study, gender, and age group.

Methodology

Sample survey stratified by higher education institution and field of study based on the Swiss Higher Education Information System's student and graduate database (SHIS).
Online survey. Participation is voluntary.

Completed interviews:

- 2005: approx. 12 000
- 2009: approx. 15 000
- 2013: approx. 18 000
- 2016: approx. 17 000
- 2020: approx. 27 000

Variables used:

- Social background and demographics
- Paid employment and internships
- Time budget
- Financial situation (income and expenditure)
- Grants and loans
- Accommodation
- Health
- Reconciliation of family and studies
- Study conditions and experiences
- Choice of field of study
- National and international mobility

Survey date:

2005, 2009, 2013, 2016. Since 2016, every four years; second quarter

	Periodicity of publication: Every four years Degree of regionalization: Switzerland and major regions Data matching: Swiss Higher Education Information System's student and graduate database (SHIS) Statistical quality of data: The confidence interval provides information on the quality of the estimated relative frequencies (%). For instance, the 95% confidence interval is $\pm 0.68\%$ for the estimation of the proportion of students with paid employment (SSEE 2020 results).
Policy on revisions	Methodological revisions : Methodological revisions carried out as required (e.g. revision of the sources).
Legal bases	Ordinance of 30 April 2025 on Federal Statistics (SR 431.011)
Organization	Federal Statistical Office (FSO) in collaboration with market and social research institutes Information: Survey on social and economic situation of higher education students (SSEE) +41 58 463 69 59 soziale.lage@bfs.admin.ch