



Students and degrees of higher education institutions (SHIS-studex)

Description

The Swiss Higher Education Information System's student and graduate database (SHIS) was created in the early 1970s to meet a growing need for coordination and planning by the Confederation and the cantons in the university sector. It provides information on the situation with regard to study courses, how they are run and on various socio-demographic factors concerning students.

All persons enrolled have an individual identification number. This makes it possible to process the personal data collected anonymously and to conduct longitudinal analyses (e.g. changing from one university to another, changing a branch of study, pass rate, length of studies). The database is used for scientific analyses on student behaviour in Swiss universities, in particular for the university indicators and the forecasts of student numbers established by the FSO. Since the academic year 2012/13, the OASI number has been collected in addition for each person enabling longitudinal analyses to be made for all levels of education and training.

Available since:

UIT: students since the winter semester 1975/76, diplomas since 1978

UAS: students since the winter semester 1997/98, diplomas since 2000

UTE: students since the winter semester 2001/02, diplomas since 2003

FTE of students: since 2013/14

Methodology

Type of survey

Exhaustive survey based on the following data:

Students: enrolment data from Swiss higher education institutions

Diplomas: communications from Swiss higher education institutions, from the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) and from other non-university examination authorities

Variables

Data are gathered at the level of higher education institutions:

Universities and institutes of technology (UIT): cantonal universities, federal institutes of technology (EPF/ETH) and other university institutes (UI)

Universities of applied sciences (UAS)

Universities of teacher education (UTE)

Individual identification number:

- Matriculation number

- OASI registration number (from 2012/13)

Situation with regard to study courses:

- Branch of study (main branch)

- University

- Level of study

Diplomas

Full-time equivalence (FTE) of students

Previous education and training:

- Place of completion of certificate granting access to studies

- Year of completion of certificate granting access to studies

- Type of certificate granting access to studies

Socio-demographic characteristics:

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- Year of birth
 - Sex
 - Nationality
 - Place of residence before the start of studies at the time of obtaining certificate granting access to studies

Reference period

Students: autumn semester

Diplomas: civil year

FTE of students: academic year

Data collection period

Students: from November to March (autumn semester: UIT, UAS, UTE) and from May to July (spring semester: UIT)

Diplomas: from February to July

FTE of students: from November to July

Periodicity of publication:

Annual (students: end of march, diplomas: end of June, FTE of students: end of October)

Degree of regionalization

Universities (Switzerland)

Quality of statistical data:

The quality of the data is high overall. The Individual identification number makes it possible to carry out detailed longitudinal analyses on the course of studies.

Policy on revisions

Periodic revisions

As our data are constantly updated, figures that have already been published may be altered at a later date (ongoing corrections). We always take the latest information into account.

Methodological revisions:

Methodological revisions are undertaken as required (e.g. revision of nomenclatures).

Legal bases

Ordinance of 30 April 2025 on Federal Statistics (SR 431.011)

Organization

Federal Statistical Office (FSO) in cooperation with Swiss higher education institutions

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