

Higher education in Opolskie Voivodship in the 2022/2023 academic year

17 July 2023

↑ **1.7%**

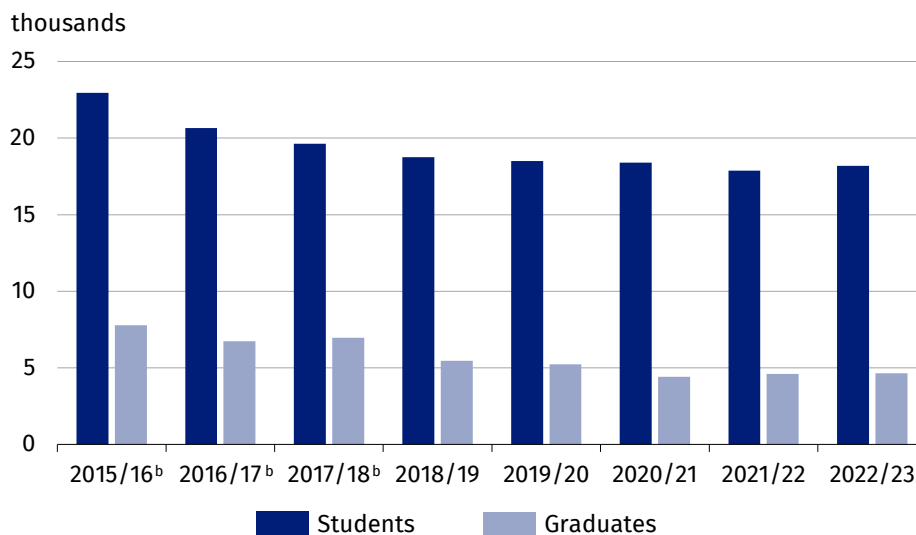
Increase in the number of students compared to the 2021/22 academic year

18.2 thousand students studied at Opolskie Voivodship education institutions in 2022/23 academic year, that is more by 0.3 thousand in relation to the previous year and fewer by 4.8 thousand compared to 2015/16 academic year. In 2021/22 academic year, 4.6 thousand graduates received diplomas, i.e. similarly as in the previous year and fewer by 3.1 thousand than in the 2014/15 academic year.

In the 2022/23 academic year, 18179 students (including students of off-campus branches) studied on five higher education institutions located in Opolskie Voivodship. In relation to the previous academic year, an increase in the number of students by 1.7% was recorded and compared to the 2015/16 academic year – a decrease of 20.8%.

In addition, there was one off-campus branch of the higher education institution with the seat of the parent unit outside of Opolskie Voivodship, where 3376 persons studied, i.e. more by 6.9% compared to the 2021/22 academic year.

Chart 1. Students and graduates^a
as of 31 December



a From the previous academic year. b As of 30 November.

Out of the total number of students on higher education institutions, 75.7% of them were enrolled in full-time programmes. Compared to the previous year their number increased by 2.9%. Percentage of women among all persons studying in 2022/23 academic year accounted for 53.7%. Among persons enrolled in full-time programmes there were 54.1% women, among part-time programmes – 52.3%.

According to the status at the beginning of 2022/23 academic year, a total of 2917 foreigners took up studies in higher education institutions of Opolskie Voivodship, versus 1780 in 2021/22 academic year and 189 in 2015/16. The most numerous group of foreigners studying in Opolskie Voivodship were students from Ukraine – 74.2%.

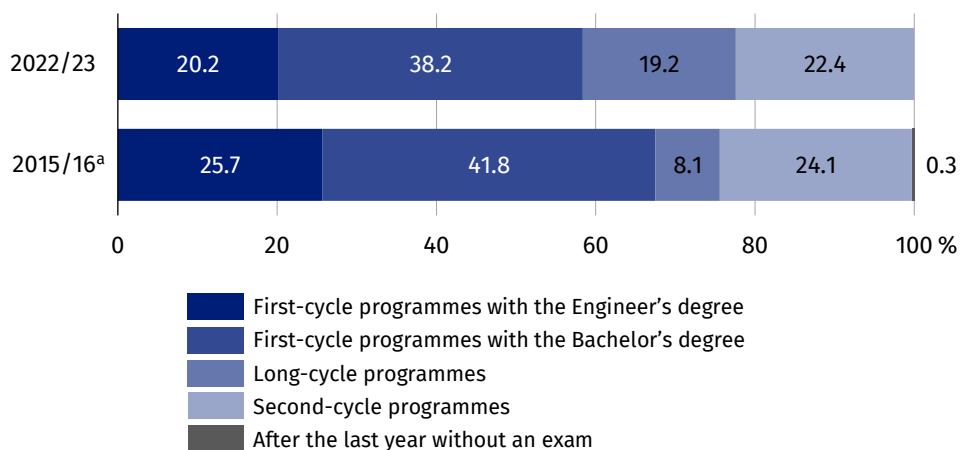
Over 75% persons were enrolled in full-time programmes

In 2022/23 academic year there were 320 disabled students and they accounted for 1.8% of the total number of students (in 2021/22 academic year – 1.9%).

Out of all higher education institutions located in the Opolskie Voivodship, three were public. Among all students, majority of them (84.2%) were public higher education institutions students (compared to the previous academic year a decrease of 5.2 percentage points). The dominant forms of studies in public higher education institutions were full-time programmes, which were studied by 78.8% students (in 2021/22 – 78.7%), similarly as in non-public higher education institutions – 59.1% (in 2021/22 – 42.5%).

The majority of students (58.4%) took up first-cycle Studies (Engineer’s and Bachelor’s). 22.4% persons studied on second-cycle programmes and 19.2% on long cycle programmes. Compared to the 2021/22 academic year, in the total number of students there was an increase in the percentage of persons on long cycle programmes of 1.3 percentage point and second-cycle programmes of 0.5 percentage point, while there was a decrease in first-cycle programmes of 1.7 percentage point. Among all students the most, 38.2%, studied first-cycle programmes on a Bachelor’s level (in 2021/22 academic year – 38.3%).

Chart 2. Structure of students by type of studies
as of 31 December



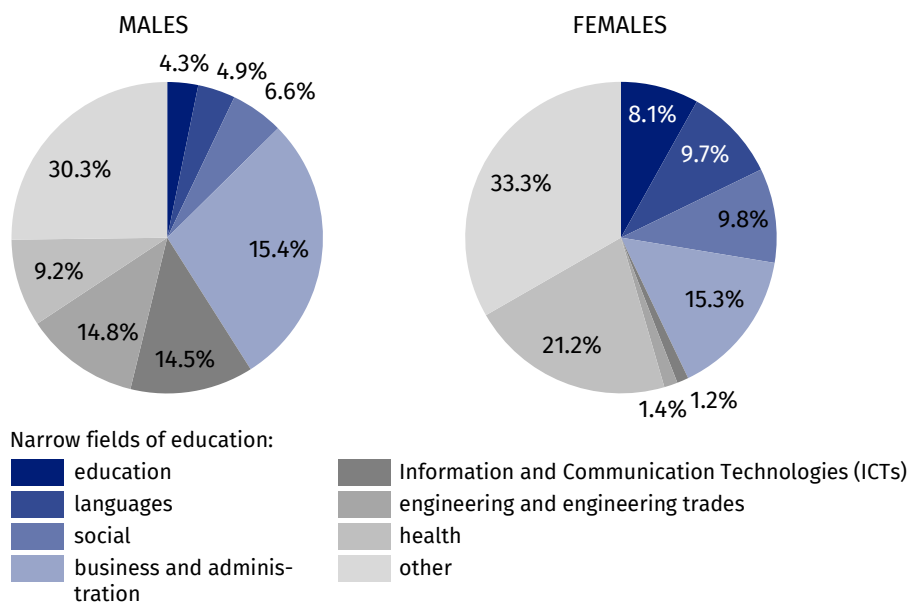
a As of 30 November.

The main academic centre in the voivodship was the city of Opole, with the largest higher education institution – the Opole University, educating 8885 students, as well as Opole University of Technology (4640 students). In the 2022/23 academic year in the city of Opole there were 16195 students, who constituted 89.1% of the total number of students in the voivodship.

In the 2022/23 academic year, the majority of persons studied in the fields of education from the groups: business, administration and law (17.3%) as well as engineering, manufacturing and construction (11.7%). Women, more often than men, studied in the fields of: health and welfare (23.6% of the total number of all female students chose this field of education, while among men 10.0% of students), as well as social sciences, journalism and information (10.5% and 6.0%, respectively). On the other hand, men most often chose fields of: business, administration and law (33.3% of the total number male students, while among women 20.6%), as well as Information and Communication Technologies (15.1% and 1.5%, respectively).

Students most often chose the following fields of education: business, administration and law, as well as health and welfare

Chart 2. Structure of students by sex and narrow fields of education^a in the 2022/23 academic year as of 31 December



^a According to the International Classification of Fields of Education and Training (ISCED-F 2013).

In the 2021/22 academic year, there were 4645 graduates, of whom 89.2% were persons obtaining diplomas from public higher education institutions. Compared to the previous academic year, the number of graduates increased by 0.8%, and in relation to 2014/15 academic year decreased by 40.3%. More than a half of all graduates (54.1% of the total number) completed first-cycle programmes, of whom 32.6% with an Engineer's degree and 67.4% with a Bachelor's degree. Out of all graduates, 8.1% completed long-cycle programmes, and 37.8% second-cycle programmes.

Most graduates obtained a diploma in the fields of education from groups: business, administration and law (20.1%), health and social welfare (16.7%) as well as engineering, manufacturing and construction (13.2%).

Non-degree postgraduate programmes and doctoral programmes (including foreigners)

The number of postgraduate students in the 2022/23 academic year decreased by 8.0% compared to the previous year and by 11.3% in relation to 2015/16 academic year and amounted to 2708 (of which 95 persons studied in public education institutions, and in non-public – 2613).

In relation to 2021/22 academic year, there was a decrease of 38.3% in the number of attendants in public schools, while in non-public ones by of 6.3%. Women studying in non-degree postgraduate programmes accounted for 89.1% of all students and their share increased by 1.2 percentage point compared to the previous academic year.

Among the postgraduate students the most popular were the following narrow fields of education: education – 2356 students, medical – 120 as well as business and administration – 97.

In the 2021/22 academic year, 2712 certificates of postgraduate qualifications were issued, including 2539 for women. This was fewer, respectively, by 20.7% and by 15.3% than in the year before and more than in the 2014/15 year: by 12.1% and by 22.5%, respectively.

In the 2022/23 academic year, 67 persons were enrolled in doctoral programmes conducted by higher education institutions, i.e. fewer by 57.9% compared to the previous year and by

In the 2022/23 academic year, the number of postgraduate students decreased both, compared to the previous year and in relation to 2015/16

90.2% in relation to 2015/16 year. On the other hand, 125 doctoral students studied in doctoral schools, i.e. more by 48.8% than in the previous academic year. Women accounted for 47.8% of the total number of doctoral programmes participants and in doctoral schools – 36.0%.

In doctoral programmes, the most frequently chosen fields of science were: humanities (35.8% of participants) and theology (25.4%), while the least – physical sciences (1.5%). In doctoral schools, however, the field of engineering and technology was the most popular (57.6% of participants), and the least – medical and health sciences (1.6%).

In 2022, 64 persons obtained a doctoral degree following doctoral programmes, i.e. more by 73.0% than the year earlier.

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In case of quoting Statistics Poland data, please provide information: “Source of data: Statistics Poland” and in case of publishing calculations made on data published by Statistics Poland, please include information: “Own study based of figures of Statistics Poland”.

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