

Higher education in Opolskie Voivodship in the 2023/2024 academic year

15 July 2024

↓ 4.3%

Decrease in the number of students compared to the 2022/23 academic year

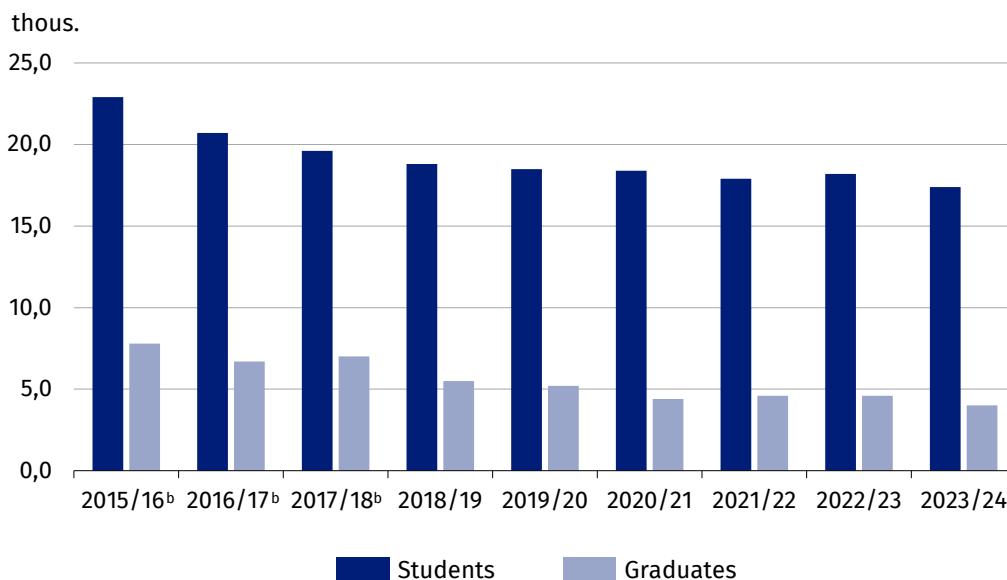
17.4 thousand students studied at Opolskie Voivodship education institutions in 2023/24 academic year, that is fewer by 0.8 thousand in relation to the previous academic year and by 5.6 thousand compared to the year 2015/16. In 2022/23 academic year, 4.0 thousand graduates received diplomas, i.e. fewer by 13.0% compared to the previous academic year and by 40.0% compared to the 2015/16 academic year.

In the 2023/24 academic year, 17389 students (including students of off-campus branches) studied on five higher education institutions located in Opolskie Voivodship. In relation to both previous academic year, as well as compared to the 2015/16 academic year, a decrease in the number of students was recorded: of 4.3% and of 24.2%, respectively.

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 3552 persons studied, i.e. more by 5.2% compared to the academic year 2022/23.

In the 2023/24 academic year, there was a decrease in the number of students compared to the previous academic year, as well as in relation to 2015/16 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, 75.6% of them were enrolled in full-time programmes. Compared to the previous year their number decreased by 4.6%. Percentage of women among all persons studying in 2023/24 academic year amounted to 55.6%. Among persons enrolled in full-time programmes, there were 56.8% women, while on part-time programmes – 51.9%.

In the academic year 2023/24, in higher education institutions of Opolskie Voivodship, a total of 2344 foreigners took up studies, versus 2917 in the 2022/23 academic year and 1089 in

75.6% students were enrolled in full-time programmes

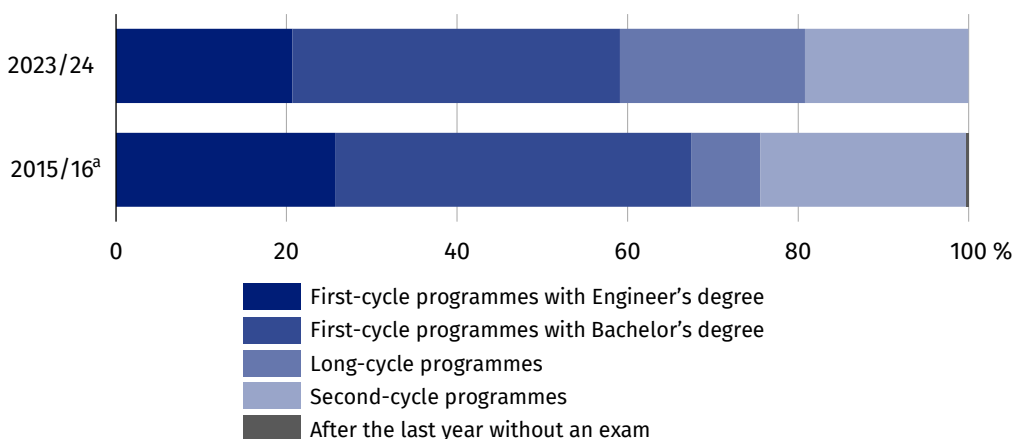
2015/16. The most numerous group of foreigners studying in Opolskie Voivodship were students from Ukraine – 56.9%.

In 2023/24 academic year, there were 314 students with disabilities and they accounted for 1.8% of all students (similarly to the 2022/23 academic year).

Out of all higher education institutions located in Opolskie Voivodship, three were public. Among all students, majority (87.0%) were public higher institutions students (compared to the previous academic year an increase of 2.8 percentage points). The dominant form of studies in public higher education institutions were full-time programmes, on which 79.8% students studied (in 2022/23 – 78.8%), while in non-public institutions – part-time programmes – 52.9% (in 2022/23 – 40.9%).

The largest number of students (59.1%) took up first-cycle studies (Engineer’s and Bachelor’s). Second-cycle studies were attended by 19.2% persons while long cycle programmes – 21.7%. Compared to the 2022/23 academic year in the total number of students, there was a decrease in the share of persons on second-cycle studies of 3.2 percentage points while an increase on long cycle programmes of 2.5 percentage points and on first-cycle of 0.7 percentage point. Among all students the most – 38.4% studied on the first-cycle on Bachelor’s level (in the 2022/23 academic year – 38.2%).

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



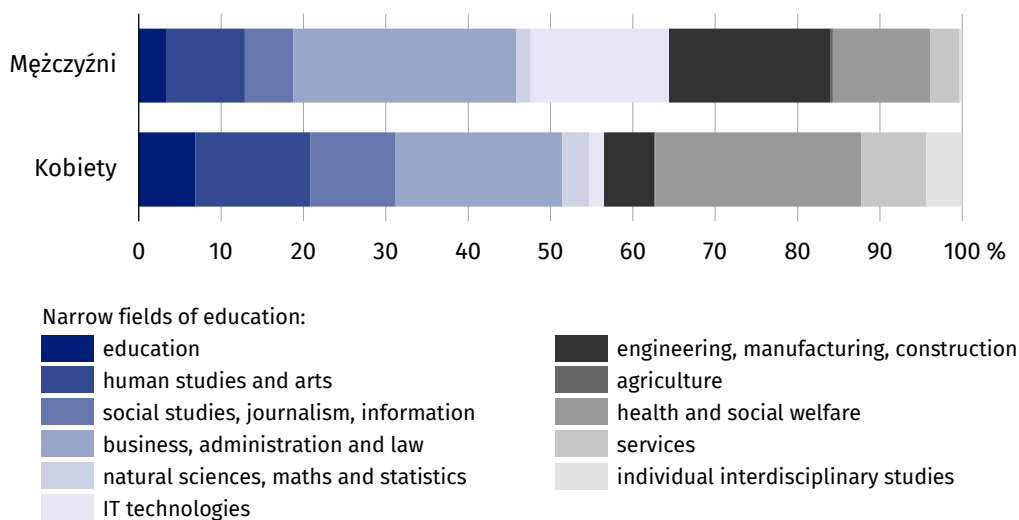
a As of 30 November.

The main academic centre in the voivodship was the city of Opole, with the largest higher education institution – the Opole University, educating 8734 students as well as Opole University of Technology (4626 students). In the 2023/24 academic year in the city of Opole, there were 15382 students, who accounted for 88.5% of the total number of students in the voivodship.

In the 2023/24 academic year, the majority of persons studied in the fields of education from the group: business, administration and law (23.2%), health and welfare (19.2%) as well as engineering, manufacturing, construction (12.1%). Women more often than men studied in the fields: health and welfare (25.0% of the total number of female students chose this field, while among men it was 11.8%) as well as social sciences, journalism and information (10.4% and 5.9%, respectively). On the other hand, men considerably more often chose fields of: Information and Communication technologies (respectively, 16.8% of the total number of studying men, while among women it was 1.8%) as well as engineering, manufacturing, construction (19.6% and 6.1%, respectively).

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

Chart 3. Structure of students by sex and fields of education^a in the 2023/24 academic year as of 31 December



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

In the 2022/23 academic year, there were 4043 graduates, of which 89.9% were persons obtaining diplomas from public higher education institutions. Compared to the previous academic year as well as in relation to 2015/16 academic year, the number of graduates decreased: by 13.0% and by 40.0%, respectively. Over a half of all graduates (53.9% of the total number) completed first-cycle programmes, of whom 31.6% with an Engineer's title, while 68.4% with a Bachelor's title. Long-cycle programmes were completed by 9.6% of all graduates, while second-cycle programmes were completed by 36.5%.

The most graduates obtained a diploma in the fields of education from groups: business, administration and law (22.1%), health and social welfare (17.4%) as well as engineering, manufacturing and construction (12.0%).

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

The number of postgraduate students in the 2023/24 academic year increased by 40.8% compared to the previous year and by 24.9% in relation to 2015/16 year and amounted to 3812 (of which 140 persons studied in public education institutions, and in non-public – 3672). Compared to the 2022/23 academic year, in public schools an increase in the number of participants of 47.4% was recorded, while in non-public of 40.5%. Women further educating themselves in non-degree postgraduate studies constituted 87.6% of all participants and their share dropped by 1.5 percentage point compared to the previous academic year.

Among attendants of non-degree postgraduate studies, the most popular were from the narrow fields of education: education – 3409 students, medical – 169 as well as business and administration – 113.

In the 2022/23 academic year, 2575 certificates of postgraduate qualifications were issued, of which 2082 for women. This was both lower than in the previous year (of 5.1% and of 18.0%, respectively), as well as in comparison with 2015/16 academic year (similarly: of 2.8% and of 11.6%).

Doctoral students studied at doctoral programmes and in doctoral schools. In the 2023/24 academic year, there were 18 persons enrolled on doctoral programmes conducted by higher education institutions, i.e. fewer by 73.1% compared to the previous year and by 97.4% in relation to 2015/16 year. On the other hand, there were 169 doctoral students in doctoral

In the 2023/24 academic year, the number of postgraduate students decreased both, compared to the previous year and in relation to 2015/16

schools, i.e. more by 35.2% than in the previous academic year. Women accounted for 50.0% of the total number of doctoral programmes attendants, while in doctoral schools – 39.6%.

In doctoral programmes, the most frequently chosen fields of science were: human studies (38.9% participants) and theology (33.3%), while the least – social (5.6%). In doctoral schools however the one met with most interest was a field of engineering and technology (52.1% participants) and the least of theological sciences (3.6%).

In 2023, 35 persons obtained a doctoral degree following doctoral programmes, i.e. fewer by 45.3% than in the previous year.

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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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[Education level](#)