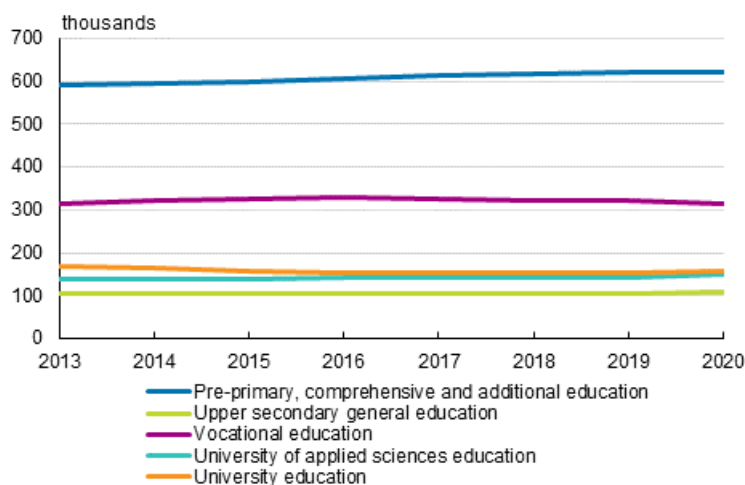


Students and qualifications 2020

Students in education leading to a qualification or degree number 1.3 million

The total number of students in education leading to a qualification or degree was 1.35 million in 2020. The number of students grew in upper secondary general education, university of applied sciences education and university education and decreased in comprehensive school education and vocational education. These data derive from education statistics compiled by Statistics Finland.

Students in education leading to a qualification or degree 2013–2020 1)



1) The data describe the situation on 20 September, except for data on vocational education, which are from the calendar year. Data on pre-primary education relate to all years of pre-primary education organised in connection with both early childhood education and school. Data on adults' comprehensive and additional education are included in the figures for 2020 for all categories of educational institutions, previously only for educational institution categories 11, 12 and 19.

In 2020, the number of new students totalled 301,100, which is 3.7 per cent higher than in the previous year. The number of new students declined by one per cent in comprehensive school education, in the other sectors of education the number grew: in upper secondary general education by 0.1 per cent, in vocational education by one per cent, in universities of applied sciences education by 16 per cent and in university education by 13 per cent.

In 2020, the number of attainers of qualifications or degrees was 219,800, which is 0.4 per cent lower than in the previous year. In comprehensive school education, upper secondary general education, university of applied sciences education and university education more qualifications or degrees were completed than in the year before, in vocational education fewer than in the year before.

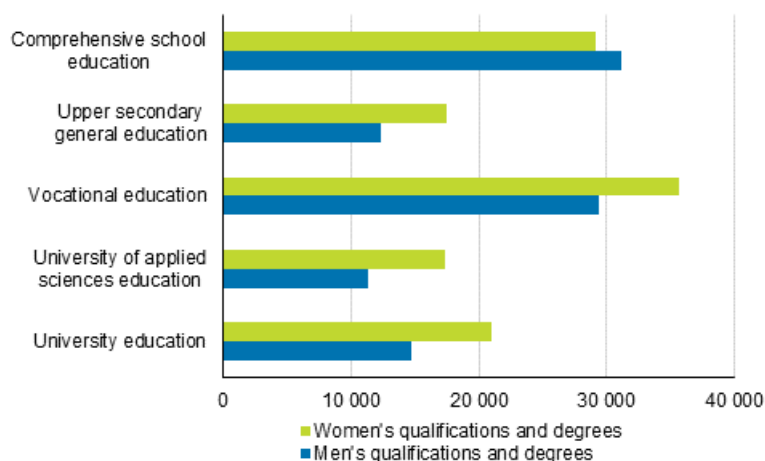
Women the majority in post-comprehensive school education

A total of 54 per cent of new students and 55 per cent of attainers of qualifications or degrees were women. Fifty-one per cent of all students were women. Women were the majority in new students, students and attainers of qualifications or degrees in all post-comprehensive level educational sectors.

Women made up 59 per cent of completers of the matriculation examination and 55 per cent of those having completed a vocational qualification. Altogether 52 per cent of attainers of initial vocational qualifications, 61 per cent of attainers of further vocational qualifications and 59 per cent of attainers of specialist vocational qualifications were women.

Fifty-nine per cent of those having completed a university of applied sciences degree and 70 per cent of those having completed a higher university of applied sciences degree were women. Women accounted for 59 per cent of those having completed basic university education and 53 per cent of those having completed postgraduate university education.

Qualifications and degrees completed by women and men in 2020



Every tenth student is a foreign-language speaker

In 2020, altogether 10 per cent of the students were foreign-language speakers. Foreign-language speaking pupils and students in comprehensive school education numbered 55,700 and in post-comprehensive education leading to a qualification or degree 82,200. Foreign-language speaking student refers to a person whose mother tongue is not Finnish, Swedish or Sami. In comprehensive school education the share of foreign-language speaking students was five per cent, in upper secondary general education seven per cent, in vocational education 14 per cent and in university of applied sciences and university education 10 per cent in both.

In 2020, there were 30,500 foreign students in comprehensive school education and 52,600 in post-comprehensive education leading to a qualification or degree. Foreign students refer to persons whose nationality is other than Finnish. In comprehensive school education, five per cent were foreign students, in upper secondary general education two per cent, in vocational education nine per cent, in university of applied sciences education six per cent and in university education seven per cent.

The **statistics on students and qualifications** apply harmonised concepts and classifications to draw an overall picture of education leading to a qualification or degree. The statistics contain data on all sectors of education.

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Appendix table 1. Students and completed qualifications and degrees in education leading to a qualification or degree in 20205

Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Students and completed qualifications and degrees in education leading to a qualification or degree in 2020

Sector of education	New students	New students, women	Students	Students, women	Completed qualifications and degrees	Completed qualifications and degrees, women
		%		%		%
Total	301 116	54	1 345 791	51	219 840	55
Pre-primary education in connection with early childhood education	.	.	47 499	49	.	.
Pre-primary education in connection with comprehensive school	.	.	10 793	49	.	.
Comprehensive school	60 297	48	555 283	49	59 006	48
Additional education in comprehensive education	.	.	1 007	45	.	.
Comprehensive and additional education for adults	.	.	5 377	49	1 303	43
Upper secondary general education	37 564	59	106 759	58	29 905	59
Vocational education	126 314	54	313 701	51	65 073	55
University of applied sciences education	46 461	56	148 795	54	28 735	60
University education	30 480	57	156 577	55	35 818	59

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Source: Education, Statistics Finland