



Tuition fees for international students

This snapshot outlines how tuition fees for international students compare between OECD countries using the latest available OECD data. In 2017, there were 5.3 million students who travelled overseas to study a tertiary qualification.¹ The largest costs faced by these students are living expenses and tuition fees.

Across the OECD countries with data on tuition fees for international students, the average annual tuition fees for full-time bachelor's degree students were \$6,650 (USD PPP) in 2017.² However, tuition fees for international students varied greatly among OECD countries, as illustrated in Figure 1.³ Some key countries, such as the UK, did not report international student fees data to the OECD.

Countries with no fees

In 2017, there were seven countries that did not charge tuition fees for domestic students studying bachelor's degrees. Three of these countries also did not charge tuition fees for international students studying bachelor's degrees: Greece, Norway and Slovakia.

Countries with high tuition fees

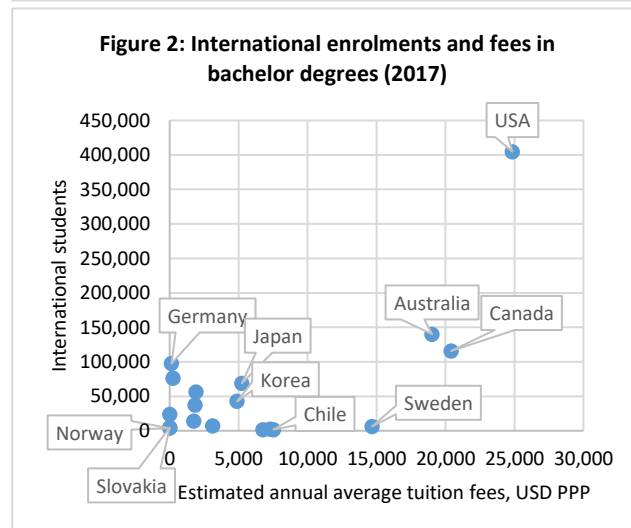
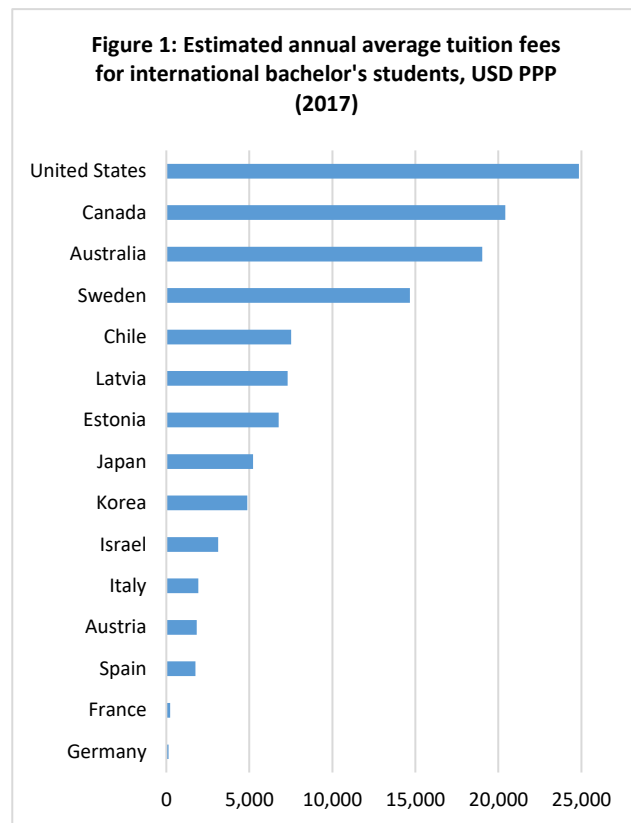
The countries with the highest tuition fees for international students in 2017 were English speaking countries and Sweden. All of these countries had annual average tuition fees above \$10,000 (USD PPP) for bachelor's and master's degrees.

Tuition fees by level of education

In most OECD countries, annual tuition fees for international students were similar for bachelor's and master's degrees. However, in Chile and Greece, master's fees exceeded \$2,000 (USD PPP) and were higher than bachelor's fees (noting Greece charged no bachelor's fees). In Canada, bachelor's degree fees were substantially higher than master's degrees. Fees for doctorates were very different to bachelor's degrees for some countries. Korea and Latvia had significantly higher fees for doctorates, but Estonia and Sweden had no fees for doctorates.

Enrolments and tuition fees

Enrolments of international students varied between OECD countries, from the US with over 400,000 international bachelor's degree students to Iceland and Luxembourg with less than 1,000.⁴ As Figure 2 shows, countries with high fees often had high enrolments of international students. However, some exceptions, such as Sweden and Chile, had high fees and low enrolments of international students. These results suggest that tuition fees are generally not the primary factor influencing international students' choice of study destination.



¹ Education at a Glance 2019: OECD Indicators, pp 230-231.

² Estimated annual average tuition fees for full-time international students. Fees are in equivalent US Dollars converted using purchasing power parities (PPP).

³ Education at a Glance 2019: OECD Indicators, Table C5.1. See the source table for more details of differences in data reporting between countries.

⁴ Internal calculations using data from OECD.stat.

NB: Not all OECD countries reported tuition fees for international students and some only reported it for certain levels. Data referenced for Estonia, Israel and Latvia are for government dependent private institutions, all other data referenced in this snapshot are for public institutions.

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