

## TUITION FEES IN EUROPE 2010/2011

This topic was discussed in the CESifo DICE Report before (2005/3, 55–57, 2007/4, 56–58). But the tuition fee regulations in Europe have changed again significantly. As of 2010/2011, 14 countries of 29 (present EU countries plus Norway and Switzerland) are charging tuition fees in public universities whereas in 2007/08, 18 of the selected 29 countries had tuition fees (2005: 15 out of 27). In the meantime, Austria has eliminated tuition fees for students who finish their studies within the designated study time; Hungary abolished all fees by referendum in 2008; Greece eliminated tuition fees for Greeks and EU citizens; and Slovenia also eliminated tuition fees for graduate studies (undergraduate studies were already tuition free). In addition, the number of German Länder that charge tuition fees fell in comparison to 2007/08. As in the past there are no fees for national and EU/EEA-citizens in the Scandinavian countries and for state universities in the Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Malta, Poland and Slovakia. Cyprus, Denmark, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland and Malta charge tuition fees only for foreign students. The Swedish government passed a law to enable a general tuition fee of EUR 97 per semester for foreign students (non-EU/EEA or Switzerland citizens) from autumn 2011 on. A special system has been introduced in Lithuania: the new law on higher education of 2009 introduced the “student’s basket”. This is a higher-education-voucher provided by the government. Students can use this voucher to pay for public or private schooling. In private education institutions the student has to pay extra fees if the tuition set by the private institution is higher than the one set by the state, which is fixed to the tuition amount that is covered by the voucher. The students who do not get “student baskets” can get support with the help of state-guaranteed loans. The students’ right to receive a “basket” is based on their school results (matura examination and study results), additional points that candidates are given, candidates’ choice priorities, other candidates’ choices, and additional tests organised by higher schools.

Also – as was indicated in previous editions of this journal – in 2010/2011 the regulations for tuition fees in Europe vary considerably. In Luxembourg students pay the same countrywide fee. But in the Netherlands (for foreigners), Portugal, Belgium, Switzerland, and in Italy, the universities determine the fees.

In Spain the fees are regional and in some cases staggered according to subject. In the United Kingdom students in England, Northern Ireland and Wales are required to pay GBP 3,290 p.a. in tuition fees; Scottish students on the other hand can study free of charge – only if they study in Scotland, however.

As observed in recent years the tuition fees in most of Europe are considerably lower than in the US. In the Netherlands, for example, fees amount to EUR 1,672 (2007/08: EUR 1,538; 2005: EUR 1,476) and in Luxembourg the fee is EUR 100 per semester. The tuition fees in the US average between USD 12,000 and 16,000 p.a. In Harvard graduate studies cost up to USD 53,000 p.a. However, the range of fees at public universities for national and EU citizens in Europe is large and ranges from just EUR 200 per study year in Luxembourg to more than GBP 25,500 (EUR 29,000) for graduate programmes at the UK’s top universities, Oxford and Cambridge. Tuition fees in Europe for foreigners or in private universities are considerably higher and in some cases close to the fees in the US. In Grand Écoles or private universities in France the tuition fees can amount for this group to as much as EUR 34,000 per year. In Ireland – where the universities are free for nationals and EU citizens – foreigners from non-EU countries face fees up to EUR 36,000 p.a., the highest fees in Europe. Furthermore some countries charge different fees for programmes not held in their national language. A course held in, i.e., English or German in Hungary or in English in the Czech Republic, Poland or Slovakia, can amount up to USD 10,000 p.a., even if there are no tuition fees otherwise.

In the countries where tuition fees are charged, the governments offer loans or grants to help students finance them (see the Table). For instance in the United Kingdom, the fees are paid by a government agency during the course of study and the graduate has to pay it back after starting work and earning a certain amount of money.

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Table

## Tuition fees in Europe 2010/11

	Tuition fees	Remarks/exemptions
Austria	None. Tuition fees of EUR 363.36 per semester only for students who exceed the designated duration of study courses by more than two semesters. Fees for some private universities.	General tuitions fees abolished 2009.
Belgium	Approx. EUR 600 p.a. (dependent on university and course of studies)	Flanders: scholarships offered by government, scholarships and loans offered by universities. Walloon: scholarships and low-interest loans are offered by the government.
Bulgaria <sup>a)</sup>	Public universities: every year the government sets a maximum number of student places. A portion of them are allocated to the students who do not pay fees ("state quota"). For the remaining places tuition fees range between BGL 100 and 400 (EUR 50–200) p.a. Foreigners: EUR 2,200–5,500 p.a. (depending on university and course of studies). Private universities set their own fees.	The government determines who and how many students will receive scholarships or student loans for public universities. The government does not offer student loans for private universities.
Cyprus	None (non-EU foreigners max. EUR 6,830)	
Czech Republic	None (for courses in English USD 3,000–10,000 p.a.)	
Denmark	None (non-EU foreigners: EUR 6,000–16,000 p.a.)	
Estonia	EUR 1,023–6,730 p.a. (higher fees for some programmes). For exchange students: none.	The government offers a number of scholarships.
Finland	None	
France	Universities: none. Grand Écoles and private universities: up to EUR 34,000 p.a. (for non-EU foreigners)	Enrolment fees between EUR 160 and EUR 512 p.a.
Germany	None in some Länder, in others between EUR 100 and 500 per semester	In Länder with tuition fees a low-interest loan offered that is paid back after completion of the course of studies. Tuition fees have no effect on Bafög (federally funded scholarship).
Greece	None for Greek and for foreigners from countries in which Greek students do not have to pay fees. For other foreigners: fees set by universities	Grants offered.
Hungary	None for Hungarian students. (for foreigners: fees set by universities).	Abolished by referendum in 2008.
Ireland	None (non-EU foreigners: up to EUR 36,000 p.a.)	
Italy	Mind. EUR 750 p.a., universities set the fees.	Students who receive a public loan based on need or a performance-related scholarship are exempt from the fees.
Latvia	EUR 1,400–8,900 p.a. (non-EU foreigners pay EUR 2,800–8,900 p.a.)	Loans and scholarships are available.
Lithuania	EUR 434–6,950 p.a. (set by universities). Non EU-foreigners: EUR 1,000–5,000 p.a.	New system introduced 2009: student basket. The students who received the best marks in their tertiary education graduation examinations study free of charge at a higher education establishment of their choice; others are granted access to studies upon creation of an efficient system of state-funded loans. No fees for students receiving an ERASMUS scholarship granted by the EU.
Luxembourg	EUR 100 per semester	
Malta	None (foreigners: EUR 1,250–1,500 per semester)	
Netherlands	EUR 1,672 p.a.	Considerably higher fees – determined by the university – for students from non-EU countries and those who do not have their main residence in the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg or some German Länder.
Norway	None	

(Table continued)

	Tuition fees	Remarks/exemptions
Poland	Public universities: none (except for courses held in foreign languages). Private universities: EUR 4,000–14,500 p.a.	
Portugal	EUR 500 p.a. (private universities: EUR 150 per month)	
Romania	EUR 375–2,000 p.a. for public and private universities. Foreigners: Depending on course of studies between USD 3,200 and 7,600 p.a.	Government scholarships for students with good academic performance and in cases of need.
Slovak Republic	None (for courses in English or other foreign languages USD 5,000–8,000 p.a.).	
Slovenia	Public universities: none. Private universities EUR 2,000 to more than EUR 10,000 p.a.	Scholarships and grants available.
Spain	Public universities: dependent on region and course of studies between EUR 550 and EUR 900 p.a. Private universities: up to EUR 6,000 p.a.	Fees are reduced for students from large families.
Sweden	None (from autumn 2011 general fees of EUR 97 per semester for non-EU/EEA foreigners)	
Switzerland	EUR 750–3,001 p.a. (for foreigners up to EUR 6,002 p.a.)	The universities set the fees. The cantons set the requirements for grants.
United Kingdom	Public universities in England/Wales/ Northern Ireland (NI): up to GBP 3,290 p.a. Private universities and graduate programmes: up to GBP 25,500 p.a. Scotland: none.	England/Wales/NI: universities set fees. There is a Student Loan for Fees to cover these costs. After completing the course of studies and taking up work the graduate repays these loans. This is done only after earning an income of GBP 15,000 p.a. The amount paid monthly depends on the income of the graduate. A massive increase in the fee is set for the year 2011/2012. Scotland: tuition fees are paid by the Student Awards Agency.
Russia <sup>a)</sup>	15% of students at public universities pay fees (those who are working towards a second degree or did not quite fulfil the entry requirements). The amount is geared to the market value of a program and the prestige of the institution rather than to the actual costs. Fees vary depending on university and course of studies between USD 2,500 and 8,000 p.a.	Government scholarships and student loans are available.
United States	Universities and colleges set the fees. These vary from USD 2,000 p.a. (community colleges) to over USD 53,000 p.a. (graduate programmes in Harvard). The average amount is between USD 12,000 and 16,000 p.a.	A broad range of loans and scholarships are available.

<sup>a)</sup> 2007/2008.

Sources: <http://www.studieren-in-holland.de/index.php?idcat=25&idlang=1>, accessed 13 Oct. 2010; Deutscher akademischer Austauschdienst ([www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)), accessed 13 Oct. 2010; Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft und Forschung ([www.bmwf.gv.at/](http://www.bmwf.gv.at/)), accessed 13 Oct. 2010; [www.directgov.uk](http://www.directgov.uk), accessed 13 Oct. 2010; Student Awards Agency of Scotland (<http://www.student-support-saas.gov.uk/>), accessed 13 Oct. 2010; University of Oxford (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/feesandfunding/fees/information/universityrates/201011graduateprogrammes/>), accessed 13 Oct. 2010; <http://www.smartestonia.ee/>, accessed 13 Oct. 2010; Schweizerische Rektorenkonferenz (CRUS) (<http://www.crus.ch/information-programme/studieren-in-der-schweiz.html>), accessed 13 Oct. 2010; Eurydice ([www.eurydice.org](http://www.eurydice.org)), accessed 13./14. Oct. 2010; Education Ireland (<http://www.educationireland.ie/study-advice/tuition-fees.html>), accessed 13. Oct. 2010; Harvard University (<http://www.harvard.edu/>), accessed 13 Oct. 2010; [www.studyindenmark.dk](http://www.studyindenmark.dk), accessed 13 Oct. 2010; EuroEducation.net, Study in Europe (<http://www.euroeducation.net/>), accessed 13 Oct. 2010; [www.college-contact.com/wissen/studienfuehrer/bulgarien.htm](http://www.college-contact.com/wissen/studienfuehrer/bulgarien.htm), accessed 13 Oct. 2010; Education in Russia (<http://www.russia.org.my/education/>), accessed Oct. 2007; Latvijas Universitate (<http://www.lu.lv/eng/istudents/degree/fees/full-time-degree-studies/>), accessed 13 Oct. 2010; <http://www.kooperation-international.de>, accessed 14 Oct. 2010; CMEPIUS (<http://www.cmepius.si/en/about-slovenia/study-in-slovenia/how-much-will-my-tuition-fee-be.aspx>), accessed 14 Oct. 2010; <http://www.studyinsweden.se/Home/News-archive/2010/Tuition-fees-from-2011/>, accessed 14 Oct. 2010.