

## TUITION FEES IN EUROPE

Now that the Federal Constitutional Court has paved the way for tuition fees in Germany, the discussion at universities and in politics is focusing on the question of how high the fees should be and when and how they should be introduced. Many European countries already have tuition fees. The models are extremely varied not only with respect to the amount paid but also the payment modus and financing.

As a result of the decision made by the Federal Constitutional Court on 26 January 2005, the introduction of tuition fees in Germany is now on the political agenda. With their introduction Germany will be following the lead of most European countries. Of 27 countries (EU countries plus Norway and Switzerland) 15 have tuition fees. There are no tuition fees in the Scandinavian countries, France, Ireland, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Luxembourg, Malta and until now Germany. In Malta, Sweden and Slovakia, however, foreign students are required to pay tuition fees, and France charges tuition for the *Grandes Ecoles*. In the Czech Republic participants in courses of studies held in English also have to pay tuition.

The regulations for tuition fees in Europe vary considerably. While all students pay the same fees in The Netherlands, Austria and Portugal, the universities in Switzerland, Greece and Italy set the fees themselves. In Belgium it depends on the region how much the students have to pay. In Spain the fees are also regional and in some cases staggered according to subject. In Great Britain, as of 2006, students in England and Wales are required to pay between GBP 1,000 to GBP 3,000 p.a. in tuition fees. Scottish students on the other hand can study free of charge – only if they study in Scotland, however. In Hungary the government proscribes for each academic year how many students may study a certain subject at a specific university without tuition fees. All other students who want to study that subject must pay tuition fees. The universities determine how high these fees should be. In the Baltic countries tuition fees are customary. How high they are depends in Latvia on the demand for a specific subject and future career prospects. Thus a course of study in protestant theology only costs EUR 1,900 p.a., whereas the fees for business administration or law are considerably more expensive – over EUR 6,000 p.a.

Tuition fees in Europe are considerably lower than in the US. While, for example, in The Netherlands EUR 1,476 p.a. and at the *Grandes Ecoles* in France around EUR 5,500 per year are charged, the tuition fees in the US are on average between USD 12,000 and 16,000 p.a. In Harvard and Yale graduate studies cost USD 33,000 p.a. The range in Europe is very large, however, from EUR 363 per year of study in Austria up to GBP 16,000 (EUR 23,000) for a graduate programme at Britain's top universities, Oxford and Cambridge. A course of studies in the new EU member nations is not inevitably more reasonable than in the old. In Hungary, for example, tuition is EUR 2,400 p.a. In Estonia tuition is at least EUR 420 p.a. and in Lithuania up to EUR 3,350 p.a. In some cases the fees for non-EU students are considerably higher than those for nationals and EU citizens. Thus in Poland, which otherwise does not have tuition fees, foreigners at the state university in Warsaw must pay between EUR 2,000 and EUR 5,000 p.a. In Austria twice the normal fee (EUR 363 p.a.) must be paid (EUR 726 p.a.) by foreigners. Ireland, which as of 1996 no longer charges tuition fees, requires foreigners to pay up to EUR 34,250 p.a., the highest fees in Europe.

Tuition fees are collected in a variety of ways depending on the country. Either they are paid directly by the student or initially covered by the state. Not all students have to pay tuition fees. In Austria, for example, recipients of student aid (state scholarships) are entitled to a subsidy that covers tuition fees completely. The student aid paid in Portugal (scholarships) is set in such a way that it covers tuition fees. In some countries, for example Italy, students who receive scholarships based on performance and those who are socially disadvantaged do not have to pay tuition. In Spain the tuition fees are lower for students from families with several children. In UK tuition fees are paid by government for those whose incomes (the students and their immediate relatives) do not exceed GBP 22,010 p.a. In The Netherlands the government reimburses tuition fees to needy Dutch students.

N. H.

## Student tuition fees, 2005

	Tuition fees	Remarks/exemptions
Austria <sup>a)</sup>	€ 363 per semester for home students and citizens of the EU, Norway, Iceland and Switzerland. (For foreigners: € 726 per semester)	A grant is offered. Dependent on social factors. Students who receive a public scholarship (Studienbeihilfe) receive the grant automatically. Other students have to file an application.
Belgium <sup>a)</sup>	€ 726 p.a.	Flanders: Scholarships offered by government, scholarships and loans offered by universities Walloon: Scholarships and low-interest loans are offered by government
Czech Republic <sup>a)</sup>	No. (For foreigners in courses in English USD 3,000 – 6,000)	
Cyprus <sup>c)</sup>	Min. € 3,430 (Foreigners max. € 6,860)	
Denmark <sup>a)</sup>	No.	MBA courses at universities cost a fee of € 21,000 (for the duration of the course, 4–5 years).
Estonia <sup>a)</sup>	€ 420 – 1,200 per semester (Non-EU foreigners : € 960 – 1,500 per semester)	A student loan of € 1,120 guaranteed by government is offered.
Finland <sup>a)</sup>	No.	
France <sup>a)</sup>	Universities: No. Grandes Ecoles: € 5,500 p.a.	Enrolment fees between € 150 p.a. and € 290 p.a. (for doctorate).
Germany <sup>a)</sup>	No.	Prohibited by law until the Constitutional Court revoked it in January 2005. For the second course of studies or for students who need more time than usual to finish their studies, the Länder can charge tuition fees. Many Länder do so.
Greece <sup>a)</sup>	Universities define the amount of the fee.	Grants offered.
Hungary <sup>a)</sup>	€ 0 – 2,400 p.a. (Foreigners pay USD 2,000 – 4,500 p.a.) <sup>a)</sup>	80% of student gain scholarships from there university. The amount is between € 130 and € 650 p.a. Additionally student loans are available: for ten months per year every student is offered € 90 per month.
Ireland <sup>c)</sup>	None for home students and EU citizens, for non-EU students up to € 34,250.	
Italy <sup>a)</sup>	Min. € 750 p.a., the universities set the amount of the fee every year	Students who receive a public loan or a performance-related scholarship are exempt from the fees.
Latvia <sup>a)</sup>	€ 1,870 – 6,174 p.a. (foreigners pay € 2,162 – 2,822 p.a.)	A system of study loans exists.
Lithuania <sup>c)</sup>	€ 0 – 3,350 p.a. (Foreigners USD 1,300 – 6,000 p.a.) <sup>c)</sup>	Governmental programmes for study.
Luxembourg <sup>a)</sup>	No.	
Malta <sup>c)</sup>	No. (Foreigners € 1,250 – 1,500 per semester) <sup>c)</sup>	
Netherlands <sup>a)</sup>	€ 1476 p.a. (less for part-time students)	The payment of the fee is either at start of the academic year or in 5 instalments during the year. A partial payback of the fee is possible under special social conditions. All students are eligible for a compulsory scholarship of € 259 per month, which they must pay back. Furthermore, the government offers grants and low-interest loans. Government plans to enable the universities to differentiate the fees by fields of studies.
Poland <sup>a)</sup>	Public universities: No Private universities: € 110 – € 1,100 p.a. (Foreigners at the University of Warsaw € 2,000 – 5,000 p.a.)	
Portugal <sup>a)</sup>	€ 357 p.a.	Government pays a scholarship to the needy which includes the fee.

(Table continued)

	Tuition fees	Remarks/Exemptions
Slovenia <sup>b)</sup>	No fees for undergraduate programmes. Up to € 1,550 for graduate programmes.	Scholarships, grants and fellowships are offered.
Slovakia <sup>a)</sup>	No (for home students). Foreigners without a scholarship of the Slovak government pay USD 2,000 – 8,000 p.a.	
Spain <sup>a)</sup>	Public universities: € 420 – 720 p.a. (dependent on region and field of study) Private universities: up to € 6,000 p.a.	Reductions for students with many siblings. Scholarship holders can be exempt from the fee.
Sweden <sup>a)</sup>	No. (Foreigners have to pay at many universities.)	
United Kingdom <sup>a)</sup>	England/Wales: Public univ./schools: GBP 1,175 p.a. Private universities/Graduate programmes: up to GBP 16,000. Scotland: No	England/Wales: For students (and their families) with an income up to GBP 22,010 the government pays the fee. In all other cases the amount depends on the income. The House of Commons passed the law to increase the fee to an amount between GBP 1,000 and 3,000 by 2006 (Wales 2007/08). Government pays the fee. This loan is for the student payable after the study after starting to work. The amount of the claim depends on the salary. After 25 years after completion of studies, the loan for the fee will be waived. Scotland: The Student Awards Agency for Scotland pays the fee for all Scottish students (in Scotland 100%, in the other parts of the UK the amount depends on income).
Norway <sup>a)</sup>	No.	
Switzerland <sup>a)</sup>	€ 386 – 1,303 p.a.	Universities set the amount of the fee. For foreigners it is more expensive.
United States <sup>a)</sup>	The universities and colleges set the amount of the fee. The fees vary from USD 2,000 p.a. (community college) to more than USD 33,000 p.a. (graduate study/university; Harvard, Yale). The average amount is between USD 12,000 and 16,000.	A broad system of loans and scholarships exists.

<sup>a)</sup> 2.2.2005. – <sup>b)</sup> Academic year 2002/03. – <sup>c)</sup> Academic year 2001/02.

Sources: AFP, 27.1.2005; British Council; Eurydice ([www.eurydice.org](http://www.eurydice.org)); Latvijas Universitate (<http://ww1.lu.lv/gribustudet/budzeta-vietas-pam-2004.html>); Hochschulfinanzierung in Spanien ([http://evanet.his.de/infoboerse/pdf/20050107151354MV\\_SpanienHIS2004.pdf](http://evanet.his.de/infoboerse/pdf/20050107151354MV_SpanienHIS2004.pdf)); Hochschulfinanzierung in Ungarn ([http://evanet.his.de/infoboerse/pdf/20050107151511MV\\_UngarnHIS2004.pdf](http://evanet.his.de/infoboerse/pdf/20050107151511MV_UngarnHIS2004.pdf)); Hochschulfinanzierung in der Tschechischen Republik ([http://evanet.his.de/infoboerse/pdf/20050107151436MV\\_Tschechischen%20RepublikHIS2004.pdf](http://evanet.his.de/infoboerse/pdf/20050107151436MV_Tschechischen%20RepublikHIS2004.pdf)); Hochschulfinanzierung in den Niederlanden ([http://evanet.his.de/infoboerse/pdf/20050107151226MV\\_NiederlandeHIS2004.pdf](http://evanet.his.de/infoboerse/pdf/20050107151226MV_NiederlandeHIS2004.pdf)); Hochschulfinanzierung in Irland ([http://evanet.his.de/infoboerse/pdf/20050107151106MV\\_IrlandHIS2004.pdf](http://evanet.his.de/infoboerse/pdf/20050107151106MV_IrlandHIS2004.pdf)); Hochschulfinanzierung in Belgien ([http://evanet.his.de/infoboerse/pdf/20050107145632MV\\_BelgienHIS2004.pdf](http://evanet.his.de/infoboerse/pdf/20050107145632MV_BelgienHIS2004.pdf)); <http://www.euroeducation.net/>; <http://www.e-fellows.net/de/public/show/detail.php/1111>; [http://www.educationireland.ie/htm/why\\_ireland/main.htm](http://www.educationireland.ie/htm/why_ireland/main.htm); <http://www.univie.ac.at/>; [www.bmbwk.gv.at/](http://www.bmbwk.gv.at/); Socrates (<http://www.socrates.ee/et/enicnaric/korgharidus/foreign/tuition.html>); Student Awards Agency of Scotland; Department for Education and Skills; [tagesschau.de](http://tagesschau.de), 27.1.2005; [www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de); [www.eures.euregio.nl](http://www.eures.euregio.nl).