

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

University Statistics

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Executive Summary

The University Statistics provides data about the number of students, graduations and teaching staff in Austrian academic institutions based on the Bildungsdokumentationsgesetz. These institutions comprise public and private universities, theological schools, universities of applied sciences and university colleges of teacher education. The most important role have the public universities with nearly 300.000 students, followed by universities of applied sciences which provide around 60.000 students in Austria.

The results of the University Statistics represent the base for discussions in the education policy and therefore for its strategy. Furthermore the results are used for the compilation of indicators measuring education and for data reports to UNESCO, OECD and Eurostat.

While public universities, universities of applied sciences and university colleges of teacher education collect the data of their students each semester, private universities and theological schools do this once per year. The collection of data of graduates and teaching staff also takes place once per year.

At all universities, first-year-students are asked about their country of birth and their parents' country of birth and highest level of education (UHStat1 survey).

When graduating studies, students are queried about their study-related stays abroad (UHStat2 survey). This survey is performed permanently. Its results are merged with the yearly data of graduates.

The most important source of data for the University Statistics are the registers of the universities. However, only private universities report the data directly via their registers to Statistics Austria.

In the by far largest and oldest sector, the public universities, another proceeding became best practice. All public universities are combined in a joint data network from which data is continuously reported to the overall student record of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. From the overall student record data is sent to Statistics Austria once per semester. There has been close cooperation between the university statistics department of the Ministry of Science and Statistics Austria for decades. In this constellation the Ministry of Science was responsible for checking data in the field of public universities and Statistics Austria received the final data.

In the meantime, the data network of the public universities has been expanded into a data network in which - to varying degrees - all university sectors participate.

The university colleges of teacher education have been fully integrated into the data network of the universities since 2016/17. Since then, also in the sector for teacher education Statistics Austria receives data from the Ministry of Science every semester.

Also, in the sector of the universities of applied sciences, data is not reported directly to Statistics Austria by the universities of applied sciences but via a third institution. In fact, the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria has the responsibility for the collected data of the universities of applied sciences and forwards the checked and final data each semester to Statistics Austria.

In addition to the abundance of data from the records of the universities, Statistics Austria has primary statistical data from the surveys at the beginning of studies (UHStat1) and at the end of studies about their study-related stays abroad (UHStat2). All data from the evidences and the primary statistical data contain a consistent student key. In accordance with the education documentation act (Bildungsdokumentationsgesetz) this student key is the national insurance number. In this act it is also regulated, that students who do not (yet) have such a number, have to refer to their academic institution which has to apply for a substitute code called "Ersatzkennzeichen".

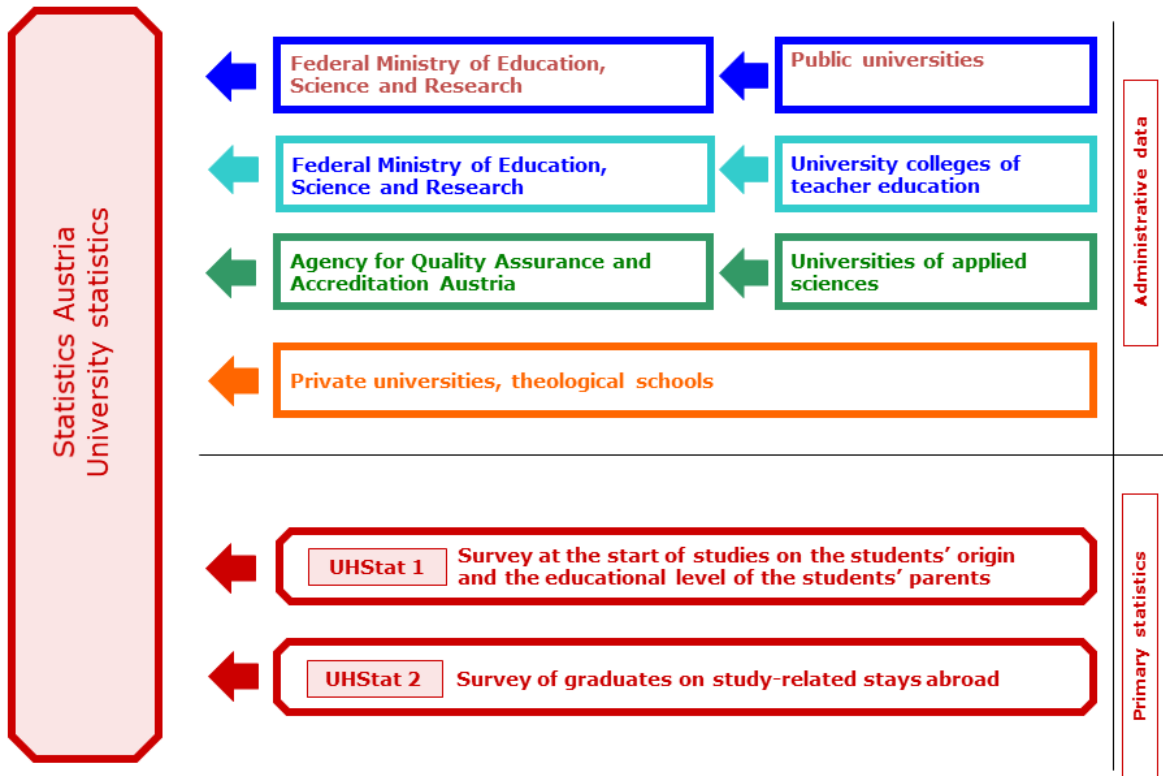
All final data is accumulated and stored in the database called "Bildungsverlaufsstatistik", where the national insurance number respectively the "Ersatzkennzeichen" is replaced by a technical student key. This database is the source of all statistical evaluations.

By means of this technical student key in this database Statistics Austria is able to match the results of the surveys UHStat1 to a student and the ones from UHStat2 to a graduation. Statistics Austria also calculates one adjusted number of students in Austria, which excludes multiple enrolments at several academic institutions.

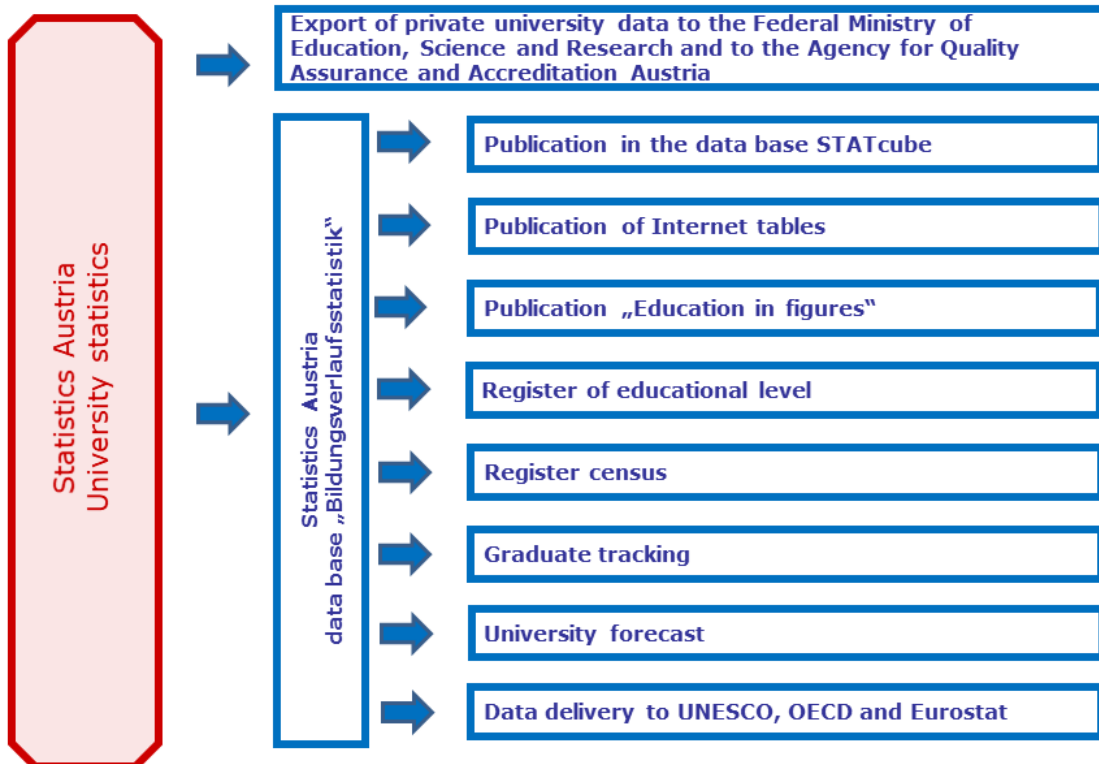
By means of this technical student key it is possible to merge school data and data from the academic sector. This is the source for the register of educational level and the register census. This data base is the basis for tables which are delivered to UNESCO, OECD and Eurostat and also for complex forecast models like the "Hochschulprognose", which is realised every third year.

As soon as new data for each academic sector is available, new data is stored in the "Bildungsverlaufsstatistik" and subsequently the data base STATcube is updated on that basis. The main results are published promptly as tables in the Internet. Once per year early in September, the adjusted number of students in Austria for the precedent year is depleted by the multiple enrolments and is published as press release, in STATcube and in the Internet. Finally the publication "Bildung in Zahlen" is released once per year, usually in April, which is an elaborated compilation of statistical results of academic institutions.

University statistics – Input



University statistics – Output



University Statistics – Main Features	
Topic of statistics	Students, enrolled studies, graduates and teaching staff at public universities, private universities und theological schools, universities of applied sciences and colleges of teacher education. Expenditure of education is excluded.
Basic population	22 Public universities, 16 private universities, 2 theological schools, 21 universities of applied sciences and 14 colleges of teacher education; approximately 380.000 students at Austrian higher education institutions, approximately 430.000 enrolled studies, approximately 70.000 graduations per academic year, approximately 73.000 teaching staff at Austrian higher education institutions
Type of statistics	Administrative data, complemented by primary statistical surveys at the beginning and at the end of studies.
Data source/Type of data collection	Administrative data: Evidences of the higher education institutions; Statistics of university staff by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research; Total evidence of the students by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research respectively the syndicated data network of the universities; Evidence of the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria Primary statistics: Survey of first-year students at the start of their studies about their origin and their parents' educational attainment (UHStat1) and at the end of their studies about their study-related stays abroad (UHStat2)
Reference Period respectively Reporting Date	Reference period is the academic year. Its beginning is October and its end September of the following year. The year is broken down into winter and summer semester. Students at public universities, universities of applied sciences, university, colleges of teacher education per winter semester (4th Quarter) and summer semester (2nd Quarter). Students at private universities and theological schools once per year by reporting date 15th of November Graduates and teaching staff once per academic year
Periodicity	Annual
Survey Participation (Primary statistics)	Compulsory survey
Main legislative acts	Bundesgesetz über die Dokumentation im Bildungswesen (Bildungsdokumentationsgesetz) , Universitäts- und Hochschulstatistik- und Bildungsdokumentationsverordnung – UHSBV
Most detailed regional breakdown	Municipality
Availability of results	Final data: Public universities and university colleges of teacher education: t+8m Universities of applied sciences, private universities and theological schools: t+4m
Other	Release as publication "Bildung in Zahlen" (Education in figures)