



# South Africa Data profile 2012

South Africa has a well-developed Higher Education Information Management System (HEMIS). As such, student and staff data was available for all 23 universities in South Africa. The 23 universities were also sent a revised version of the SARUA profiling study questionnaire (with the questions for which HEMIS data was available removed). A total of 12 of the 23 universities submitted questionnaires.

## Higher education landscape

**Table 1:** Number and type of higher education institutions

Type of higher education institution	Number of institutions	Estimated percentage of students enrolled
Publicly-funded universities	17	75 (includes all universities)
Publicly-funded technical universities	6	
Privately-funded, accredited universities or colleges	89	14
Other, partially accredited private colleges/universities	29	7
Public FET colleges	50	3.5

**Table 2:** Private higher education institutions

No data.

**Table 3:** Summary of higher education policy documents

For a summary of policy documents, and the actual documents, please see [www.dhet.gov.za](http://www.dhet.gov.za)

## Enrolment patterns

**Table 4:** Student enrolment by mode of study and nationality

Student category	Number of students
Contact students (FTE)	518 797 382
Distance students (FTE)	126 211 965
Full-time students	No data
Part-time students	No data
National citizens	826 817
SADC country citizens	46 204
Other international students (excluding SADC countries)	19 915

Source: HEMIS data, 2010

**Table 5: Student enrolment by gender and major field of study**

Major field of study	Total number of students	Number of female students	Number of male students
Agriculture	14 514	6 765	7 749
Business, Management and Law	325 923	181 363	144 560
Education	145 411	107 319	38 092
Health Sciences	50 614	35 138	15 476
Humanities and Social Sciences	170 247	111 142	59 105
Science, Engineering and Technology	186 203	70 839	115 364

Source: HEMIS data, 2010

**Table 6: Student enrolment by major field of study and level of study**

Major field of study	Number of students enrolled per level of study					
	Undergraduate	Postgraduate < Masters	Masters	Doctoral	Post- doctoral	Other (e.g. short courses)
Agriculture	8 983	3 270	1 794	467	No data	No data
Business, Management and Law	237 929	58 010	28 449	1 540	No data	No data
Education	64 156	51 770	28 292	1 194	No data	No data
Health Sciences	13 187	27 441	8 923	1 064	No data	No data
Humanities and Social Sciences	114 543	33 674	18 830	3 204	No data	No data
Science, Engineering and Technology	125 852	38 347	17 888	4 118	No data	No data

Source: HEMIS data, 2010

**Table 7: Demand for higher education**

	Number of students*
Number of applications received for undergraduate study	31 253
Number of applicants who met admissions criteria but could not be accepted	4 973
Number of new first-year undergraduate students	6 463
Number of applications for postgraduate study	3 380
Number of new postgraduate students admitted	2 280

\*Because all the institutions did not respond to the SARUA questionnaires, the average of the 12 universities who responded has been used. These averages include UNISA with an application pool of 131983 students and with 47208 new first-year undergraduates.

## Qualifications/Graduation data

**Table 8: Number of qualifications awarded per field of study and level of study**

Major field of study	Number of qualifications awarded per level of study			
	Undergraduate	Postgraduate < Masters	Masters	Doctoral
Agriculture	1 999	273	245	64
Business, Management and Law	36 106	8 076	2 621	145
Education	27 390	9 922	444	137
Health Sciences	7 198	2 710	1 084	111
Humanities and Social Sciences	18 429	4 863	2 025	409
Science, Engineering and Technology	21 962	4 245	2 215	555

Source: HEMIS data, 2010

**Table 9: Number of qualifications per qualification level, gender and field of study**

Field of study	Gender of student	Number of qualifications awarded per qualification level				
		Undergraduate	Postgraduate < Masters	Masters	Doctoral	Other (e.g. short courses)
Agriculture	Female	957	129	108	22	0
	Male	1042	144	137	42	0
Business, Management and Law	Female	20 926	4 211	1 093	57	0
	Male	15 179	3 865	1 536	89	0
Education	Female	20 993	7 252	293	74	0
	Male	6 397	2 670	151	64	0
Health Sciences	Female	5 275	2 186	654	78	0
	Male	2 023	524	429	33	0
Humanities and Social Sciences	Female	12 436	3 379	1 183	174	0
	Male	5 993	1 484	842	236	0
Science, Engineering and Technology	Female	8 674	1 868	862	192	0
	Male	13 288	2 377	1 353	364	0

Source: HEMIS data, 2010

## Higher Education Funding

**Table 10a: Percentage of national budget allocated to education**

Year	Percentage of national budget allocated to education
2006	18.1
2007	18.1
2008	17.8
2009	17.9
2010	17.7

Source: DBE Macro Indicator Report (2011)

**Table 10b: Higher education funding (Rands Bn)**

Budget specification	1996	2000	2005	2008	2011
Total education	42.1	51.1	88.3	110	No data
Higher education omitting NSFAS	4.1	7.1	10.8	14.5	No data
NSFAS budget	0.30	0.44	0.86	1.18	No data
HE spending as percentage of national budget					
Total education	23.97	21.82	26.38	27.74	No data
Higher education	2.97	3.02	2.59	2.44	No data
Spending as percentage of GDP					
Total education	6.62	5.36	5.27	5.14	No data
Higher education	0.82	0.74	0.68	0.68	No data

Source: Adapted from Pillay, (2010)

**Table 11: Percentage of national education budget allocated to higher education**

Year	Higher education allocation as percentage of GDP	Higher education allocation as percentage of national budget
2006	0.64	2.50
2007	0.63	2.41
2008	0.65	2.38
2009	0.69	2.24
2010	0.72	2.36
2011	0.75	2.47

Source: DHET (2011)

**Table 12: HEI funding sources**

Sources of funding	Percentage of total funding/income
Student fees	31.79
Government subsidy/grants	43.41
Donations – private individuals/trusts	1.48
Donations – private sector/businesses/corporation	1.64
Donations – international funders/donors	0.57
Loans	2.41
Other (no specification provided)	8.16
Other (no specification provided)	7.46
Other (no specification provided)	4.62

Sources: SARUA university questionnaires 2011

**Table 13: Universities' spending patterns**

Spending areas	Percentage allocation of institutional budgets
Salaries (academic staff)	34.89
Salaries (support services)	23.61
Salaries (management)	0.70
Student financial support	5.00
Institutional operational costs	27.50
Research	6.00
Community service-related activities	0.35
Other (no specification provided)	4.74
Other (no specification provided)	3.60

Sources: SARUA university questionnaires 2011

**Table 14: Sources of research funding**

Sources of research funding	Percentage of total funding/income
Government subsidy/grants	45.52
Donations – private individuals/trusts	4.30
Donations – private sector/businesses/corporation	6.00
Donations – international funders/donors	3.11
Loans	0.43
Other (no specification provided)	25.16
Other (no specification provided)	13.49
Other (no specification provided)	3.96

Sources: SARUA university questionnaires 2011

**Table 15: Average tuition costs (US\$)**

No data.

**Table 16: Average amount of additional student payments (US\$)**

No data.

**Table 17: Student financial aid**

Percentage of students receiving financial aid	49
Percentage of students with student debt	11

Sources: SARUA university questionnaires 2011

## Staffing

**Table 18: Number of staff by nationality and type of post**

Staffing categories	Nationality	Number of staff
Academic and research staff	National citizens	41 410
	SADC citizens	1 391
	Other international	2 562
	No data	1 006
Management and administrative staff	National citizens	68 009
	SADC citizens	2 050
	Other international	4 377
	No data	1 385

Source: HEMIS data, 2010

**Table 19: Staff employment status and gender**

Staffing categories	Employment status	Number of female staff members	Number of male staff members
Academic and research staff	Permanent	7 307	9 291
	Contract/temporary	14 219	15 510
Management and administrative staff	Permanent	15 633	9 572
	Contract/temporary	26 793	22 267

Source: HEMIS data, 2010

**Table 20: Staff by employment status and gender**

No data.

**Table 21: Staff FTEs (not headcount) per major field of study**

Major field of study	Academic and research staff	Management and administrative staff
Agriculture	416.330	7.640
Business, Management and Law	3 529.220	21.426
Education	1 203.973	12.111
Health Sciences	1 972.958	71.649
Humanities and Social Sciences	3 215.677	26.202
Science, Engineering and Technology	5 181.821	33.827

Source: HEMIS data, 2010

**Table 22:** Staff by major field of study and gender

No data.

**Table 23:** Highest level of qualification for academic and research staff

No data.

## Research output

**Table 24:** Research output (accredited and audited research units)

Category of research output	2008	2009	2010
Peer-reviewed journal articles	7 638.17	8 256.61	No data
Peer-reviewed books and book chapters	266.43	376.71	No data
Patents	No data	No data	No data
Other: Proceedings	448.76	476.02	No data

Source: HEMIS, 2010