

**Documentation of statistics for  
Foreign Students 2024**

## 1 Introduction

The purpose of this statistic is to give a description of Danish students' study visits abroad and foreign students' study visits in Denmark within the field of higher ordinary education.

## 2 Statistical presentation

The statistics related to exchange students give an annual counting of the number of student exchange programs at ISCED 2011-level 5-6 and 7 educational programs. The statistics is divided by the length of the exchange period, education, geographical area and the exchange students' gender.

### 2.1 Data description

The statistics about exchange students is an annual count of the number of student exchange programs frequenting ordinary further education.

Data are reported from the educational institutions for the period 1st of September to 31st of August the following year.

The institutions report exchange students following the international taximeter system or studies which gives a merit. It is important to note that PhD students are not included in this definition. Students from abroad coming to Denmark and Danish students who take a part and their education abroad are reported. Only stays which have finished in the specified period are included.

Both genuine exchange students as well as free movers are included.

So called International Students who take the whole education abroad are not included in this statistics.

For each educational establishment the following data are reported by student:

- Type (foreign student in Denmark or Danish student abroad)
- Educational establishment identification code
- Personal ID number of the student
- Education code
- Country coming from (foreign students)/country going to (Danish students)
- Begin of visit period
- End of visit period
- Type of agreement (Danish students only)
- Student's first name
- Students surname
- Type of stay (study/internship)

Information of exchange students are supplied from Statistics Denmark to The Ministry of Higher Education and Science.

Also the Statistical division of Universities Denmark publish figures of exchange students to/from the individual universities on their home-page [Universiteternes Statistiske Beredskab - Internationalisering](#).

## **2.2 Classification system**

The Educations are classified according to Denmark's Statistics classification Disced 2015. Further information can be found [here](#)

## **2.3 Sector coverage**

Education sector.

## **2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions**

Institution No.: Identification of the Educational institution by the identification No. in the Register of Institutions

Exchangestudents: A student who takes parts of his tertiary education as a stay in a foreign country. The stay can be short or long. Students who take their entire education in foreign country are not part of this group.

## **2.5 Statistical unit**

Number of student exchange programs.

## **2.6 Statistical population**

Students at tertiary isced level programs who have taken part in a recognized exchange stay (studies or placement/internship/traineeship) abroad finished in the time period specified as well as foreign tertiary isced level students coming to Danish education institutions to conduct a part of their studies in Denmark.

## **2.7 Reference area**

Denmark.

## **2.8 Time coverage**

The educational institutions report exchange stays ended in the period from 01.09 until 31.08 the following year. Data are available from 2009-2010.

## **2.9 Base period**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **2.10 Unit of measure**

Number of student exchange programs.

### **2.11 Reference period**

The data collected relate to exchange visits ended in the period from 1st of September to 31st of August the following year.

### **2.12 Frequency of dissemination**

Annual.

### **2.13 Legal acts and other agreements**

The Act on Statistics Denmark par. 8.

### **2.14 Cost and burden**

No calculation of the response burden takes place as the information is collected via local data registers which are part of the administration system operated by educational establishments.

### **2.15 Comment**

For more information please check the statistic's [subject page](#) or contact Statistics Denmark.

## **3 Statistical processing**

Data are sent in electronically format to Statistics Denmark. Various control procedures are applied to assure correctness in the data. If necessary the educational institutions are contacted to clarify. In all cases the data are total counts.

### **3.1 Source data**

Data related to exchange students (credit mobile students) are collected by Statistics Denmark in form of annual reports from the educational establishments offering higher ordinary educations. The data reports are to be dispatched to Statistics Denmark in an electronically format. The reporting methods vary, mainly by Excel-sheets or directly via system-to-system.

### **3.2 Frequency of data collection**

Annually.

### **3.3 Data collection**

System-to-system reporting and reporting on Excel-sheets via secure upload platform.

### **3.4 Data validation**

When reporting system-to-system some build-in check procedures for validation of data are to be imposed. When reporting via encrypted emails a validation is conducted by Statistics Denmark.

The following is validated at individual level:

- Identification ID of the educational institutions. Are the codes valid in relation to the Register of Educational Institutions?
- Code of education. Are the codes valid in relation to the Register of Educational Institutions?
- Date for begin and end of exchange stay. Is the logic between start- and end-dates correct? Is it the correct year?
- Personal ID-number. Incorrect cpr-numbers are checked against the cpr-register. If data of birth not reported the institution is contacted
- Age based on information in personal ID number. Is the age reasonably given the cpr-number reported?
- ISO country codes. Are the reported ISO codes valid?

Also consistency between the variables in individual records are checked e.g. the age of the student at the time of the beginning of the visit against the educational level. Finally variation in the total number of exchange students for the individual establishments are examined by comparison with corresponding figures from previous years.

In case of discrepancies between the enrolled education registered in Statistics Denmark's student registre and the education informed in connection to the exchange period for outgoing exchange students, these errors are corrected, so the education codes for outgoing students are in accordance with Statistics Denmark's student registre.

### **3.5 Data compilation**

Various data control procedures are applied to assure correctness of the reported data. In case data seems wrong or large deviations compared the the data reported the year before are found the educational establishment is contacted for clarification.

Beginning from 2017 the statistics covers the number of student exchange programs and not the number of exchange students. In cases where the same student has had multiple exchange programs, the student is represented multiple times. The changes have been implemented back in time, so the statistics can be compared over time.

### **3.6 Adjustment**

No further data corrections are applied than the description in data validation.

## **4 Relevance**

The statistics of exchange students is used e.g. by ministries, researchers, politicians, educational institutions, offices of the educational institutions and other interested parties. The purposes are related to planning (public and private) research, education, measuring of internationalization and debate.

#### **4.1 User Needs**

The statistic is used by a number of users, among others by ministries, researchers, politicians, educational establishments, international offices and others with interest within the area of education.

#### **4.2 User Satisfaction**

Even though the definitions of exchange students vary between Statistics Denmark and the Universities, the users expect a very high degree of similarity between the results of the two sets of data. In addition we host annual meetings with the main users of education statistics.

#### **4.3 Data completeness rate**

Not relevant for these statistics.

### **5 Accuracy and reliability**

The Statistic is, in general, very precise. There are a limited number of uncertainties but their influence on the final result is minimal. The statistic is published with all known information available and no revisions are usually needed.

#### **5.1 Overall accuracy**

The uncertainty is in general low, because the statistic covers all tertiary education-institutions in Denmark. However there will be exchange students in Denmark who are not covered by the statistic because they have not yet completed their stay.

#### **5.2 Sampling error**

Not relevant as the survey is a total count.

#### **5.3 Non-sampling error**

These statistics is fully covered without any data repeats, especially because these have been removed. The statistic has been evaluated and any found errors have been corrected. There is some uncertainty surrounding the universities report of foreign students.

#### **5.4 Quality management**

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and the implementation guidelines given in the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF). A Working Group on Quality and a central quality assurance function have been established to continuously carry through control of products and processes.

## **5.5 Quality assurance**

Statistics Denmark follows the principles in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. This involves continuous decentralized and central control of products and processes based on documentation following international standards. The central quality assurance function reports to the Working Group on Quality. Reports include suggestions for improvement that are assessed, decided and subsequently implemented.

## **5.6 Quality assessment**

The uncertainty must in general be looked upon as very low, as data are controlled both at record level, between variables and for consistency as well as development over time.

## **5.7 Data revision - policy**

Statistics Denmark revises published figures in accordance with the [Revision Policy for Statistics Denmark](#). The common procedures and principles of the Revision Policy are for some statistics supplemented by a specific revision practice.

## **5.8 Data revision practice**

Only final figures are published.

## **6 Timeliness and punctuality**

Data for the statistic about exchange students are reported from the educational establishments during January and February. The results are published during spring that year. In general the statistic is published according to the announced time.

### **6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results**

Data for the statistic about exchange students are reported from the educational establishments during January and February. The results are published during spring that year.

Only final results are published.

### **6.2 Punctuality**

In general the statistic is published according to the announced time.

## 7 Comparability

The Statistical unit of the Universities also publish statistics on exchange students. This statistics counts students being registered at the institutions and not finished stays as Statistics Denmark. Danish students will, in general, have the same registered education in Denmark and on their exchange trip. However there can be differences which is usually because of one of two cases: 2. Some students are on exchange on a bachelor or masters education, while registered on a PH.D. in Denmark, this is possible because some students begin a PH.D. before ending their bachelor/masters degree.

### 7.1 Comparability - geographical

The data collection follows [the EU manual: Methodological manual on learning mobility in tertiary education](#), i.e. comparisons across countries are possible. However, other countries may have slightly other definitions of exchange students.

### 7.2 Comparability over time

The statistic has figures from 2009-2010 onwards. Data is comparable over the years. For reasons of quality of the data only data from the educational year 2009-2010 onwards are available in the Statbank.

### 7.3 Coherence - cross domain

The Danish universities report data on exchange students to the Statistical Office of Danish Universities, who publishes similar data for the individual universities. However, the definition of an exchange students differs from the definition used by Statistics Denmark. E.g. exchange students entrants are reported and not finished visits which is the basis for the data in Statistics Denmark. For further details see [The Statistical Services of the Universities - Internalization](#).

### 7.4 Coherence - internal

No comments.

## 8 Accessibility and clarity

In the StatBank Denmark the statistics is published under the subject [Exchange students](#). For more information please check the statistic's [subject page](#).

### 8.1 Release calendar

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

### 8.3 User access

Statistics are always published at 8:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published.

## **8.2 Release calendar access**

The Release Calendar can be accessed on our English website: [Release Calendar](#).

## **8.4 News release**

There is no separate press release for this statistic.

## **8.5 Publications**

There is no separate publication for this statistic.

## **8.6 On-line database**

These statistics are published in the StatBank under the subject [Exchange students](#) in the following table:

- [UDVSTDo2](#): Student exchange program by sex, exchange, length of residence, education, area and time

## **8.7 Micro-data access**

Researchers and other analysts from authorized research institutions can get access to micro-data in accordance with the general conditions for [researchers](#).

## **8.8 Other**

The statistics' data is made anonymous and can be available for service assignments for a fee. Read more about [customized solutions](#) or contact DST Consulting.

## **8.9 Confidentiality - policy**

[Data Confidentiality Policy](#) at Statistics Denmark is applied.

## **8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment**

Not relevant for these statistics.

## **8.11 Documentation on methodology**

No further methodological reports are available.

## **8.12 Quality documentation**

Results from the quality evaluation of products and selected processes are available in detail for each statistics and in summary reports for the Working Group on Quality.

## **9 Contact**

The administrative placement of these statistics is in the division of Population and Education, Social Statistics. The contact person is Mikkel Jonasson Pedersen, tel.: + 45 2360 4207, and e-mail: [MPS@dst.dk](mailto:MPS@dst.dk).