



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR
STUDENTS IN THE COUNTRIES
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

RAABE

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OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Cover

Poster design

"Europe's stars are so close.
Get in touch."

by **Nicola Prause**, University of Wuppertal.

1st Prize in the 1990 Poster Competition on "Mobility in
Europe".

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**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR
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Hella Blum, Monika Held and Ute Schriefers-Jung (DSW staff) participated in the execution of this survey.

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Preface

In the coming years far-reaching changes in relations between the countries of the European Community (EC) are to be expected. These will be caused by the process of European Union. Further efforts will be required in the education sector as well so that more and more people from the countries of Europe will be able to use all Europe naturally and with ever greater ease as a learning, working and living environment. These efforts must not remain restricted to the already well-advanced work undertaken on the mutual recognition of national educational and academic certificates and degrees. Rather, they must aim to bring about transparency and greater compatibility of the education systems without sacrificing the variety of historically developed structures. The European Council bore this in mind in its Maastricht resolutions; for the first time now, the Treaty on European Union contains a chapter on general, vocational and professional training and education.

In late 1991, the Commission of the European Communities submitted a memorandum on higher education within the European Community to the Council of Ministers. The importance which the institutions of higher education will gain in the course of European integration was emphasised. Cooperation between the institutions of higher education and student mobility are two important topics contained within the memorandum. These also form the background to this report.

As a result of programmes initiated by the Commission of the European Communities, such as ERASMUS, COMETT and LINGUA, there has been an increasing interest and willingness by students to spend time abroad during their studies. To further increase mobility among students, the installation of a social in-

frastructure at the institutions of higher education in the various countries of the European Community is required. This applies particularly to the provision of accommodation for students and to the secure availability of an adequate income for students.

For many years now the existence of different organisational forms within the European Community for students' social affairs and economic support has been well documented. To date, no systematic surveys of the area of economic, social, cultural and health support for students has been available. Nor is this topic as a whole currently the subject of political and administrative consideration at European level.

In the past year, the Deutsches Studentenwerk (DSW) (German National Association for Student Affairs) received funding from the Commission of the European Communities within the context of the ERASMUS Programme aimed at taking preliminary stock of the forms of support available to students. Experts from the various countries of the European Community who work in the social affairs sector at institutions of higher education or in the general educational field have advised the DSW during the compilation of this study and have also researched numerous items of information, placing these at the DSW's disposal. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all who have contributed and all who took part at the Editor's Conference last November in Bonn.

The paper at hand now presents the results of this EC-wide survey on support for students. It is unable to claim to cover all aspects and is intended to serve as a working paper and discussion basis for a European conference on the whole subject matter. This conference is expected to provide extensive or final

answers to a whole range of questions which have so far only been subjected to provisional inspection.

The focus of this survey was placed on the institutionalised areas of support for students in order to provide an EC-wide comparison of the most important conditions affecting student mobility within the Community. The report also points to the broad spectrum of informal initiatives, for example, from the field of student self-administration, which are also a strong feature at most institutions of higher education. However, they could not be treated comprehensively within the scope of this study, not least because of their great variety.

On the basis of this stock-taking of individual areas such as student funding, student accommodation and support for disabled students, it is now necessary to discuss these at European Community level, to identify the characteristic features of each model and to develop new prospects so that the desired mobility within Europe will finally be improved.

Bonn, June 1992

Dieter Schäferbarthold
Vice-Secretary General
of the Deutsches Studentenwerk

Section I

Belgium

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- 2. Organisation of the social infrastructure**
- 3. Student funding**
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1. General information

State power was divided between central government, the cultural communities and the regions after the last constitutional reform in Belgium in 1988.

Education now falls under the competence of the cultural communities. Central government, however, continues to bear responsibility for the length of compulsory schooling and for the minimum achievement requirements for diplomas.

Two different forms of higher education institution have evolved in Belgium. On the one hand, there are the official institutions founded by the public authorities and, on the other, there are the private establishments of a mainly denominational character. The latter are, however, financed by the state in the same way as the public institutions. Their degrees are also state-recognised. It is possible to transfer between public and private institutions.

After completion of secondary schooling, studies can commence at one of the 6 universities or at one of the other 11 institutions with university status (Enseignement supérieur universitaire) or at a non-university status institution (Enseignement supérieur non-universitaire hoger onderwijs buiten de universiteit hobo). The non-university sector includes the technical colleges, the colleges of economics, the colleges for professions in the social services sector, and teacher training colleges. The non-university institutions offer short degree courses (3 years) with more vocationally-orientated training and long degree courses (4 to 5 years) which are largely equivalent to those offered in the university sector.

Training at the universities is characterised by a rigid organisation of studies. Each study section and each study stage is concluded with a degree which itself is required for admission to the next study stage. In most university degree courses students gain the degree of *Candidat/Kandidaat* after two and sometimes three years' study. This completes the basic study stage required for further studies. The second degree is the *Licencié/Licentiaat*, which is gained after a further two or three years' study. This requires special training and submission of a thesis and generally entitles the holder to practice in the relevant profession. The third degree, that of *Docteur/Doctor*, can be gained at earliest one or two years after the *Licencié/Licentiaat*. This *Docteur/Doctor* is generally only required as preparation for a scientific, academic or research career.

The admissions requirements for higher education are a secondary school-leaving certificate and, in many cases, an additional certificate of aptitude issued by a examination committee for the relevant subject. There are no state-imposed admissions restrictions. Applications are made directly to the relevant university or college.

About 105,000 students are currently studying at Belgian universities. The proportion of women is approx. 50%. 14,000 students come from abroad, of which some 6,000 come from EC countries. More than 150,000 students are studying in the non-university sector, of which more than 10,000 are foreigners.

Study fees are charged at the universities and at the non-university institutions (cf. Chapter 2).

2. Organisation of the social infrastructure

Responsibility for the organisation and management of all social services in higher education in Belgium has been transferred by the state to the individual universities. The social services are financed from their own income and from funds provided by the universities. For example, state subsidies to the University of Louvain amount to BFR 200 Million, of which 100 Million are allotted to the refectories.

On average, the annual state subsidy per student amounts to BFR 7,500. However, the state does not pay the subsidy for each registered student because special conditions apply. On the whole, it can be assumed that 80 to 85% of the registered students at each university are taken into account in the assessment of subsidies. The amount of state subsidies has fallen considerably since 1986.

In order to compensate for the reduced funding by the state for the social sector, the individual universities have generally increased their study fees since 1986. In the Flemish cultural community, the registration fees differ from university to university, averaging at around BFR 16,000. In the French cultural community, study fees rose from an average BFR 8,000 to BFR 23,000 per year. These fees apply to those Belgian students who do not receive any state grant. Students who receive a grant only pay a reduced fee of BFR 2,800. If a student is in the same financial situation as a student receiving state support, although no grant is received, then the annual fee is BFR 8,500. This generally applies to those students who would receive state financial support in principle, but whose support has been temporarily suspended because the intermediate examination has not been passed. In Liège, the proportion of stu-

dents who paid the full amount was 60%; 15% paid the reduced fee of BFR 8,500 and 25% paid the lowest fee of BFR 2,800.

Students from EC countries generally pay BFR 23,000 per annum in fees. In some cases, they may only pay the reduced fee of BFR 8,500. An entitlement to pay the lowest fee of BFR 2,800 will only be awarded to those students from EC countries receiving a grant from the Belgian state. Students from non-EC countries have to pay much higher study fees. They have to cover 50% of the full costs of their study place. This group is therefore still subject to a rule which still applied to all Belgian students in the 1970s. The level of fees depends on the subject studied. For the basic study stage in Medicine, for example, the fees amount to approx. BFR 170,000 per annum. Some of these students are, however, granted a reduction on these fees, generally by the university. The state contributes by partially paying the costs for only 2% of this group.

Most non-university institutions have only very limited financial resources for the social sector, since they do not receive any state subsidies for these services. However, on account of their legal mandate, they may use a considerable proportion of the higher registration fees for their social services. The Flemish cultural community is currently considering whether to replace the current practice with regional structures for social support and care.

The services for students at the universities basically aim to improve the living and working conditions of students at the respective institution.

The social services at the Belgian universities in general encompass the following areas:

- Student meals
- Student accommodation (student hostels, finding private rooms)
- General and advisory services (social security assistance, help for foreign students, legal advice, job placement)
- Health care (medical centre for students, psycho-therapeutic advice for students)
- Student activities (culture, sport).

3. Student funding

Responsibility for the grants system has been removed from the national authorities for some 10 years now. Responsibility now lies with the respective cultural community. The basic idea of the grants system, namely to award students and their families financial support, has been maintained. However, the way in which this idea is achieved is different in each community. The precise legal guidelines for awarding a grant and the amounts awarded differ. The two major criteria for allocation have, however, been maintained in both communities; these are successful academic achievement and financial need. This means that the student must complete his or her respective academic year successfully and that income must not exceed certain defined ceilings. In the Flemish community, ownership of property or real estate above a certain size is taken into consideration. The grant is awarded as a subsidy and only for the 1st and 2nd study stages, that means for the duration of normal studies.

In the Flemish-speaking area of Belgium, students living away

from home receive BFR 50,000 to 90,000 per academic year. Students who live at home (with their parents) and who commute to the university receive BFR 60,000 at most. Students who live at home in a university town receive BFR 55,000.

In the French community, the average amount a state-supported student receives is currently BFR 34,500 per annum. Students who live at home and who commute to their university receive a maximum of BFR 61,500; the average sum is BFR 24,000. Students who live away from home receive a maximum amount of BFR 112,000; the average amount is BFR 42,500. The amount received as a grant is based on the level of the parents' taxable income. The share of those receiving support, for example, in Liège, is 25%.

It should be pointed out, however, that the grants system in Belgium is only one form of financial support. The state also pays child benefit for children in education up to the age of 25. Thus, a family with two children still in education would receive BFR 9,250 per month child benefit. In all cases, the mother of the child receives the benefit. Furthermore, parents can claim tax allowances for children still in education; the taxation is reduced by BFR 8,750 for one child and by BFR 22,500 for two children.

Apart from these state grants and subsidies, the universities themselves maintain hardship funds for students in particular financial need. The allocation of these monies differs greatly from one university to the next; in some cases, the monies are awarded as subsidies, in other cases, as loans. In Louvain, for example, a total of BFR 260 Million per annum are available for such cases. Again, there is a great difference between the universities and the non-university institutions. The latter only

rarely have such monies at their disposal for students in need.

In 1990 the cost of living for students amounted to an average of BFR 182,000; rent has a decisive influence on the cost of living.

Study abroad for Belgian students receiving state support is only possible within the support system if the studies could not be carried out at any institution of higher education within Belgium. This only applies in very rare cases.

Within the German-speaking community, there is, however, a more open system of study abroad, for example, in Germany or in the Netherlands.

Citizens of EC countries may receive a Belgian state grant for studies in Belgium if their parents or the student himself or herself is or has been working in Belgium. The length of employment in Belgium is of no significance. Furthermore, the applicant must not be resident in Belgium at the time of submitting the application for the grant. If the employment in Belgium has already come to an end at the time of application, the grant is assessed on the basis not of income from employment but rather on current actual income. The proportion of students from EC countries receiving support on the basis of this legal provision and no longer resident in Belgium is very low (3%). Generally, the family remains resident and employed in Belgium once employment has been taken up. No cases are known in which a student from an EC country had claimed his or her own previous employment in Belgium upon application.

4. Student accommodation

A plan published towards the end of the 1960s for the extension of the higher education system envisaged that 30% of Belgian students would live in student hostels; the proportion of those living in hostels today is only 9%.

Places in hostels are offered by the universities and by private owners. There are various forms of accommodation, for example, flats, shared flats, and also simple single rooms. Rent for the hostels administered by the universities runs to between BFR 2,500 and 6,000 per month. The rent depends on the student's income and on the level of comfort in the room. The rents generally cover only about 70% of the costs. The remaining costs are subsidised. The universities receive loans from the state for the building of student hostels. The interest rate for these loans is very low, currently 1.145%. The loan is repaid over a period of 20 years by the contracting party. The universities must buy the building plot at usual market prices if they do not own the real estate. The building of new student hostels has been greatly reduced over the past few years due to the very limited financial resources of the universities. However, new programmes are now being planned.

Social criteria are the decisive factors for acceptance into the student hostels. The students must give details of their income situation in their application for a place. Normally, all recipients of state support are also accepted into the student hostels. Among foreign students, who account for about 16% of those living in hostels, preferential acceptance is given to students from Third World countries who have received a government grant or a university scholarship. Then come students who will only be studying at the university for a short period of time; as

a rule this already accounts for all foreign students. For students with scholarships out of EC funds, the authorities try to assist, but this does not always mean that they will be given preferential treatment over other students.

The length of the rent contract is often limited to 10 months. This is due to the study system in Belgium. The academic year lasts from mid-September/early October to the end of May. The examinations are held in June and July, re-sits in September. During the non-lecture period in July/August and September, it is usual for the universities to rent the student hostel places to the participants of congresses and conferences. This is a source of considerable income for the social sector. The social services have sole control over these funds. Students who do not pass their annual examinations in June must resit these in September. In such cases, legal provision has been made to allow the students to take up their rooms again in September without having to pay rent. This procedure is particularly unpopular with the private owners of student hostels and is the subject of current talks aimed at changing this rent contract clause.

At the Belgian university towns, it is normal for private rooms to be rented out to students. These are offered to students via the social services' own accommodation agencies. The rents are in general about 20 to 30% higher than in the student hostels.

A large proportion of Belgian students continue to live at home and commute every day to the university. This applies to about 60% of all Belgian students.

5. Student meals

This area is governed differently at the various Belgian universities. At some, the provision of meals falls under the authority of the social services. About half the costs are covered by the price of meals. The other half is subsidised by the budget for the social sector. Students pay between BFR 90 and 120 for a dish of the day. At a few universities, public sector staff, university and school staff, and pensioners are also entitled to use the refectories, since an agreement has been signed between the university's social sector and the relevant municipal authorities. This is the case, for example, in Gent. At the other universities, for example, the Free University of Brussels, the provision of meals has been contracted out to private enterprise. The leasehold has been signed for five years in Brussels. The university has, however, imposed extensive conditions.

At the University of Louvain with its 25,000 students, a total of 1.6 Million meals were served last year. There is a daily, very cheap, meal in Louvain's seven student refectories, as well as other dishes in various price categories. The prices also differ from day to day. There are no fixed prices for the whole academic year.

In order to be able to gain extra income, it is common practice at all universities for the student catering facilities to organise social events. These not only include university events, but also private functions. In New Louvain, the turnover from such functions amounts to about BFR 400,000 per annum.

6. Advisory services

The social sector at the universities generally has a well-structured system of advisory services at its disposal. The advisory services regard themselves as an important element within university life. This includes job placement which can particularly help students with financial problems by finding them a job within the university or at other institutions and companies.

Individual advice in social issues may, in certain cases, include awarding students financial support outside of the state grants system. Added to this is advice on personal, family and other social questions. In many cases, this advice includes referring the student to special advisory services, such as study advice, course advice, psychological advice, medical advice and also careers advice.

7. Students with disabilities

Since there is no central information office for students with disabilities, such students are advised to contact the relevant higher education institution for advice. The special problems are then discussed with the respective student and the social services, with a view to finding a solution. At some universities, disabled and non-disabled students live together in the hostels. Often they are within a mixed community. The students who live in such a special project can administer this themselves and pick their own flatmates. Upon request, the rent contract may be longer than normal for students with disabilities.

8. Students with children

In most cases, university students with children can make use of a wide range of services. There is often a nursery and kindergarten available under the leadership of an educator. Nurses, nursery nurses and social workers look after the children of students. These kindergartens are not only open to the children of students, but also accept the children of university staff. The kindergartens belong to the university's social sector, although they receive no direct subsidies from the university or from the social services. The university only places the rooms at the disposal of the kindergarten. The kindergartens are financed from the community's social security budget, since the whole field of child care falls under the jurisdiction of a special service in Belgium. Among other things, this pays for the staff in the child care facilities and centrally defines the charges for this care. Students without any personal income have to pay BFR 60 per day for a child in a kindergarten. This is the lowest fee. Those in work with an average income (approx. BFR 500,000/per annum) pay about BFR 240 to 280 per day; the maximum amount is BFR 516 per day. Students are given priority treatment when placing their children in the university child-care facilities.

9. Culture

The most varied cultural activities exist at Belgium's universities. The student groups, for example, in Louvain, have their own building which they administer themselves. The social sector subsidises the cultural activities of the student groups. By way of example of these subsidies, the Student Cultural Council in Louvain received BFR 3 Million. Furthermore, the salary of

a student assistant for the Cultural Councils is paid. The Cultural Council decides autonomously on how the monies are distributed, for example, for sporting activities and magazine subscriptions. In total, the University of Louvain receives some BFR 9.7 Million per annum in subsidies for student culture.

10. Student insurance

Students have health insurance cover as do all Belgians. Up to the age of 25 the students are insured through their parents. Older students and foreign students must insure themselves and may choose freely from one of the statutory health insurance schemes. The student must present the certificate of registration at the relevant institution of higher education for this. The monthly premium is about BFR 450. This insurance covers the costs for medical consultation, medicine and hospital stays. A personal contribution must be paid for medicines.

Some universities have their own medical departments which are part of the social services. At these, students can make use of the medical care facilities. The costs are also covered by health insurance. For foreign students who are receiving a grant, there is often an additional opportunity of getting the additional costs, for example, for dentures, reimbursed; Belgian students have to pay such costs themselves.

11. Job opportunities

In Belgium, foreign and Belgian students can take up paid employment. However, it must be pointed out that the rigid university teaching system means that part-time work can only be re-

conciled with study commitments with some difficulty. Also the general employment situation means that it is difficult to find any permanent work.

It is usual for students to work in the social sector, especially in the provision of student meals. They receive normal payment for this.

A law passed in 1978 and amended in 1985 contains passages on contracts of employment for students. These stipulate that a written contract of employment is mandatory. This must include the daily and weekly hours of work, the hourly wage rate and when payment is due, the place of employment and the expected length of the employment relationship.

The written contract of employment may contain a trial period of between 7 and 14 days. It can be terminated by student or employer within certain periods of notice. If the employer wishes to terminate the contract, the period of notice for contracts of employment valid for up to one month is 3 days. If the contract is longer, then the notice period is 7 days. The student must give between 1 and 3 days' notice.

In case of illness of the student, the employer can terminate the contract after 7 days, whilst observing the above periods of notice. The employer must then pay compensation to the student for the length of notice, i.e. 3 or 7 days. If the student works without any written contract of employment, then they may terminate the contract without any notice. Under certain circumstances, social security contributions need not be paid at all.

12. Statistics on social aspects

There are no national surveys available on the social structure in Belgium. In individual cases, local surveys may have been carried out.

13. National coordination of social affairs

In the Flemish community there is the Council of all Flemish Universities which has a Committee for the Social Sector. This council unites the directors of the social services of the individual universities. They deal, for example, with student funding, new conditions for jobs, accommodation problems and compile recommendations for the government.

Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad (VLIR)
Egmont Straat 5
B-1050 Brussel

There is a corresponding institution for the French-speaking community:

Conzeil Interuniversitaire de la Communauté française de Belgique (CIUF)
Rue d'Egmont 5
B-1050 Bruxelles

Further addresses:

Office for Cooperation in the Education System
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Section II**Federal Republic of Germany**

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1. General information

The Federal Republic of Germany has 16 Federal states or Länder. These are Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Berlin, Brandenburg, Bremen, Berlin, Hamburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein and Thuringia.

In accordance with the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany, not all, although still significant, areas of the education sector have been assigned to Federal responsibility; the resolution of outline provisions on the general principles pertaining to higher education (Hochschulrahmengesetz), the promotion of research, the organisation of educational support for students and non-school vocational education and careers counselling. The Länder are responsible for most of the education system, especially for the schooling system and the furthest areas of higher education. The construction of institutions of higher education, education planning and the promotion of national research facilities are defined as joint tasks for the Federal and Länder authorities. As state institutions under Länder authority, the universities have a right to self-administration in compliance with Federal and Länder laws.

There are more than 300 state and state-recognised institutions of higher education in Germany. The higher education landscape in the new Federal Länder (formerly East Germany) is currently undergoing transition and reorientation.

As a rule, the system distinguishes between the following types of higher education institutions: - Universities and university-status institutions (universities, technical universities/col-

leges, comprehensive universities, a distance-learning university, the Federal Army university, schools of medicine and veterinary medicine, college of sport, denominational and philosophical-theological colleges, teacher training colleges), - colleges of art and music, and - Fachhochschulen and public administration Fachhochschulen.

The institutions are divided into faculties or departments.

Subject areas taught at the universities, technical universities/colleges and the comprehensive universities, are generally theology, humanities, law, economics, social sciences, medicine, natural sciences and engineering.

The comprehensive universities, "Gesamthochschule", only found in Hesse and in North Rhine-Westphalia, combine functions in research, teaching and studies otherwise individually offered by the universities, teacher training colleges, Fachhochschulen and, in some cases, by the colleges of art and music.

The Fachhochschulen have been charged with preparing students for later professions which require the application of academic knowledge and scientific methods, or ability in the creative arts, through practice-orientated teaching on an academic, scientific or artistic basis. In particular, they offer degree courses for engineers, and in the areas of business/economics, the social services, agriculture and creative arts/design.

Apart from a few exceptions, institutions of higher education in the Federal Republic of Germany are state establishments. Some private (albeit state-recognised) institutions, especially in business/economics and medicine, have been founded over the past few years.

The academic year is organised on the basis of semesters; winter semester and summer semester. Studies generally begin in the winter semester.

Any person with a general or subject-related secondary school-leaving certificate is entitled to study. Any degree course can be taken with the general certificate, whilst only certain degree courses can be taken with a subject-related one.

For foreigners to be entitled to study in Germany, they must provide proof that their previous education is recognised as being equivalent to German senior secondary schooling (Abitur) or must take an assessment test to determine aptitude for higher education. The decision on equivalency is the responsibility of the Minister of Culture in the respective Land.

In those degree courses in which general national, or specific local, or institutional admissions restrictions are in force (Numerus Clausus), the proof of entitlement to study must be accompanied by a special admissions process for the desired degree course.

Numerus Clausus is currently in force throughout Germany for a number of degree courses, including business administration, domestic science and dietetics, computer science and information technology, medicine and political economy. Students wishing to register for these subjects must submit an application to the Central Office for the Allocation of Study Places "Zentralstelle für die Vergabe von Studienplätzen - ZVS" in Dortmund.

If a local Numerus Clausus is in force, then the prospective stu-

dent must submit the application direct to the respective institution.

The relevant deadlines must be adhered to for all application procedures.

Degree courses in the natural sciences, engineering, economics and the social sciences are generally concluded with a Diplom degree. The Magister degree is particularly common in language and cultural studies subjects. Final examinations are taken for the above two degrees; these are classified as higher education examinations (Hochschulprüfungen). By way of contrast, the final examinations for teachers and lawyers, in medicine, pharmaceuticals and food technology are state examinations (Staatsprüfungen). These are taken before state examination boards or committees.

There are currently more than 1.7 million students studying at Germany's institutions of higher education. Of these, some 1.6 million are German and more than 100,000 are foreigners. The proportion of female students is approx. 40%. Of the above-mentioned students, approx. 92% are currently registered at institutions in the old Federal Länder (formerly West Germany) and just under 8% in the new Federal Länder (formerly East Germany).

The most recent estimates in Germany expect to find more than 2 million students in higher education in future.

Students at state universities and colleges pay no study fees. Each student is obliged to pay a so-called Sozialbeitrag (social contribution) of about DM 50 per semester on registration. This is paid towards the social and economic care and adminis-

tration of students undertaken by the respective "Studentenwerk", Association for Student Affairs (cf. Chapter 2). A further sum of approx. DM 10 is also paid which is placed at the disposal of the student self-administrative body for carrying out its functions.

2. Organisation of the social infrastructure

Apart from the institutions themselves, Studentenwerke exist as independent statutory bodies of the Länder. These are responsible for providing economic, social, cultural and health support for students at all institutions in the respective town and, in some cases, in the surrounding region as well. The Studentenwerke have a long tradition. The first local associations were founded as early as in 1919 by students, lecturers and professors in collaboration of business and industry. Before 1933 the local Studentenwerke were legally independent bodies, but were transformed by the National Socialists into legally non-independent bodies, the newly formed "Reichsstudentenwerke". After the end of the Second World War, the local Studentenwerke took on the legal status of a registered association, foundation or statutory body and resumed their work. Since the mid 1970s, all Studentenwerke have been Länder statutory bodies, with the exception of Studentenwerk in the Saarland and that at the Private University of Witten/Herdecke. There are 66 Studentenwerke today, of which 16 have been founded in the new Federal Länder.

The Studentenwerke are therefore not uniformly structured or organised. Generally, there is an assembly of representatives, an administrative council or a management board. Executive authority lies with a director, who is elected by the Studenten-

werk committees and is appointed after confirmation by the competent minister of the respective Land. The Studentenwerk committees are comprised of student representatives, representatives from the institutions of higher education and from public life. The members of the administrative council and board are all honorary.

The business management and accounting of the Studentenwerke is based on commercial principles. In 1990, the Studentenwerke funded their activities as follows: approx. 60% from own income, about 10% from student contributions, and around 23% from Länder subsidies; another 7% came from the administration of educational support.

The local Studentenwerke are united at national level in the Deutsche Studentenwerk (DSW) (cf. Chapter 13).

3. Student funding

The first state student funding model, developed in the late 1950s, was the so-called Honnefer and later Rhöndorfer Model. In 1971 this model was replaced by BAföG, (Federal Law on the Promotion of Education and Training). According to this law, each student has a legal right to state educational support for education or training which corresponds to his or her wishes, aptitude and performance, if the necessary means to cover the cost of living, education and training are not available from other sources, in most cases, parental income. The law stipulates precisely when and to which degree parental or student income can be expected to contribute towards costs arising in respect of education or training and to which extent state

educational support is paid to supplement income. 65% of the resources for educational support are paid from Federal funds, and 35% by the Länder.

Apart from BAföG, the state also awards all families with children in education special tax allowances; child and educational allowance.

German students finance their studies mainly from three sources; parental support, employment and public funds. In the old Federal Länder, parental financial support for students is most common (74%), followed by students' personal earnings from employment during their studies (66%), and finally financial support from the state (34%). These percentages refer to the results of the 13. Social Survey 1991 (see chapter 12). Here the "normal" student (definition: single, in his/her first course of study, living away from home) is the focus of attention. Referring to the entire student population the percentage of students who received state assistance according to BAföG in 1991 amounted to 28% in the old länder and to 88% in the new länder. Students generally have up to nine different sources of income. Because most students have more than one source, the above percentages add up to more than 100.

A quite different picture exists in the new Federal Länder. Due to the income situation there, more than 80% of the students cited BAföG as a source of income. Students' personal earnings play a substantially smaller role because of the serious problems faced on the employment market. Only 23% of the students stated that they were partly financing their studies from their own employment.

Monthly expenses in the old Federal Länder for students not

living at home, currently amount to approx. DM 1,086. Of that, rent accounts for DM 345, food for DM 247, clothing for DM 72, travel for DM 116, educational materials for DM 60, and miscellaneous costs for DM 246. By contrast, students in the new Federal Länder spend an average of DM 581 per month (Valid May/June 1991). Of that, rent accounts for DM 64, food for DM 184, clothing for DM 64, travel for DM 86, educational materials for DM 39, and miscellaneous costs for DM 144. Higher costs must be expected in the new Länder caused by increases in the cost of living since mid 1991.

The level of BAföG not only depends on parental or spouse income, but also on student's personal income and on whether or not the student is still living at home. Educational support is only paid for a specific maximum period of time (Förderungshöchstdauer) which differs according to subject studied and for one degree course generally the first!

Educational support is paid to cover requirements on a calendar basis, that means during the semester vacations as well. For students living at home, those requirement, training and education costs and cost of living, are calculated as DM 640 (in the new Federal Länder it is DM 600). Students not living with their parents require DM 795 (new Länder DM 650). If rent is more than DM 225 (new Länder DM 80) then the required sum is increased by up to DM 75 in the old länder and up to DM 145 in the new länder (Valid: October 1992).

50% of the support is paid as a loan and 50% as a grant. Between 1982 and 1990 all support was paid in the form of loans.

Interest is not charged on the loan. The loan capital must be paid back within a period of 20 years in monthly installments

of not less than DM 200. The first installment is due for payment five years after the conclusion of the maximum period of support. Upon application, the loan capital sum can be reduced by DM 5,000 if the training or education was concluded four months before the end of the maximum period of support; if it was concluded two months before that, the reduction is DM 2,000. Students receiving support and finishing among the top 30% of an examination year receive a reduction, upon application, of up to 25% on the repayable loan sum.

State educational support is not paid automatically, but rather only on application. The students must go to the responsible office for education support, generally the local Studentenwerk, and submit the application.

Currently, 430,000 of the 1.7 million students are receiving BAföG; of these some 100,000 are in the new Federal Länder. Total support by Federal and Länder authorities is estimated at DM 3.1 thousand million for 1992.

Studies abroad are financed by BAföG if the education or training is necessary and if at least some of it can be allocated to the prescribed study period. Generally, studies abroad are supported for one year. Practicals abroad which form an integral course component can also be supported if recognition of the practical is guaranteed. For a student on a study trip abroad to be able to receive support, the period covered must be at least three months. Supplements and travelling costs up to a maximum of DM 9,000 per annum are paid for studies or training abroad. Such additional payments are regarded as grants and are therefore non-repayable. Support paid for up to one year's study abroad is not subtracted from the maximum period of support. In 1990, a total of approx. 30,000 German students

were studying abroad, of which almost 7,200 were receiving BAföG support.

Apart from BAföG, German students can also receive a scholarship for studies abroad from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD). These are generally awarded on the basis of performance and achievement criteria and in most cases are valid for one year.

BAföG stipulates that foreigners can also be supported during the whole of their studies in the Federal Republic of Germany if they are of equal status to German citizens. Those recognised as equal according to the law are:

- stateless foreigners;
- foreigners whose ordinary residence is in the Federal Republic of Germany and whose entitlement to asylum has been recognised;
- Foreigners whose permanent residence is in the Federal Republic of Germany if one parent is a German citizen;
- Students who have been granted freedom of movement in accordance with EC legislation on residence. This applies if the parents are citizens of an EC country and are or have been working in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Foreigners from EC countries can also receive BAföG if they were in employment in Germany before commencement of their studies and an objective relationship exists between the employment and subject of study.

Non-EC foreigners can receive BAföG in the Federal Republic of Germany for their studies, if either - they themselves spent at least five years in the Federal Republic of Germany prior to the

commencement of studies and were legally employed during that time; or - at least one of the student's parents was resident in the Federal Republic of Germany for at least three of the past six years and was in legal employment during that time.

In 1989 BAföG was paid to around 13,000 foreign students in Germany; 2,700 of these were EC foreigners.

Apart from the statutory state educational support as defined by BAföG, state and private foundations, trade unions, and the churches under certain conditions also award scholarships. Some of the most important and most well-known scholarship awarding institutions are the Study Foundation of the German People (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes), the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, the Hanns Seidel Foundation, the Hans Böckler Foundation, the Protestant Study Institution (Evangelisches Studentenwerk) and the Episcopal Study Support Institution (Bischöfliche Studienförderung or Cusanuswerk).

In certain cases of hardship, the Studentenwerke can provide short-term bridging loans from their appropriate accounts.

4. Student accommodation

In 1991, 36% of all university students were living in their own flats, 20% in a shared flat, 9% as sub-tenants, 12% in student hostels and 23% with parents or relatives.

On 1st January, 1991, there were 140,465 state-subsidised hostel places for students in the old Federal Länder. This means that not even every 10th student had a chance to receive one of these

reasonably priced student hostel places. Students pay a rent which covers costs. Depending on the standard of accommodation, this varies between DM 200 and 300 per month. A rent contract is signed with the students so that the rent law provisions of the Civil Code apply in cases of dispute. Generally, the duration of accommodation will be restricted to between four and six semesters, since the demand for such reasonable accommodation is correspondingly high. Any student can apply for a place in the town in which he or she is studying. As a rule, no special acceptance criteria apply.

The proportion of those able to take a reasonably priced place in a student hostel has remained relatively constant, since the 1960s despite increasing numbers of students. In particular, this is because the Federal and Länder authorities reacted to the enormous increase in student numbers in the early 1970s with a special accommodation programme for students. They agreed at the time on the joint support of student accommodation building. The building of student hostels is 100% state subsidised. The Federal and Länder authorities share the costs, each taking 50%. Between 1973 and 1983 about 60,000 new places were built. In early 1980, the German government unfortunately no longer saw itself in a position to subsidise the building of student accommodation. This has now fallen solely to the Länder and has resulted in only in a few Länder building substantial numbers of student accommodation. This is due to the differing financial capacity of each Land. The accommodation problem has escalated over the past few years, not least on account of this.

The reasons for the difficult situation are well known. In contrast to forecasts, the number of students is continuing to increase. The increasing numbers of students are confronted with a substantial decrease in the availability of private accommodation.

The old building stock in town and city centres has been redeveloped and refurbished, meaning that students can no longer afford the rent. The need for smaller flats is continuing to grow as a result of the increasing number of single-person households. In addition to this, a large numbers of Germans from the former countries of the Eastern Bloc are now moving to the Federal Republic of Germany. This latter group in particular is competing with students for reasonably-priced accommodation. The rents on the private accommodation market have continued to rise. Depending on city or town, rent can now be between DM 300 and 500 per month per room; in the large urban areas, it will be even higher.

Due to this difficult situation, the German Federal government adopted a new programme for the promotion of the construction of student accommodation in late 1989. A total of DM 600 million was placed at the programme's disposal. However, the Federal authorities required the Länder to equal support for the programme. According to agreements between Federal and Länder authorities, 40,000 places were, if possible, to be additionally funded in this way. Subsidies were to cover approx. 60% of the costs. The remaining 40% being funded by the hostel operators, generally the Studentenwerke. Initial estimates were based on costs per place of DM 50,000. These estimates have now turned out to be untenable, since the building and interest costs have increased substantially. The actual costs per place are now around DM 70,000, exclusive of costs involved with the purchase of building land. This means that the operators will no longer have to pay DM 20,000 per place, as originally estimated, but rather DM 40,000 or more. This will result in substantial rent increases.

The private accommodation market for students is practically exhausted, especially in the large traditional university towns. All

Studentenwerke have an accommodation service. In view of the difficult situation, the municipal authorities in several university towns have declared their willingness to pay premiums to the landlords of private accommodation if they provide reasonably-priced accommodation for students for a certain duration. These one-off payments or premiums amount to between DM 1,000 and 3,000. These monies are funded by the Länder and by the local authorities.

In 1991 an annual poster competition, financed by the Federal Minister for Education and Science and organised by the DSW, for students on design courses at the academies of art also tackled the problem of accommodation.

The situation is particularly difficult for first-year students, exchange students and other foreign students. In some cases, first-year students in Germany are notified very late of where they will be studying, since those subjects with admissions restrictions (cf. Chapter 1) are only allocated at a very late stage. At this point, those places in the student hostels which were available have already been taken, since they are generally allocated in January and June, respectively. In some towns, a specific proportion of places has been reserved. These are allocated to first-year students in a draw.

The same situation is often experienced by exchange students, since some also receive very late notification of their scholarship. They then hardly have any chance of taking part in the normal application procedure. Therefore, the Studentenwerke, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Conference of Higher Education Principals collaborated to propose the building of international guesthouses, so that foreign students would be certain of finding accommodation on first arrival.

Later, when rooms became available in the normal student hostels, they would transfer. This programme has been started in some university towns supported by various funding models.

The accommodation situation for students in the new Federal Länder is completely different to that in the old ones. 60% of the approx. 140,000 students are housed in a student hostel. However, they are not all accommodated in single rooms or flats; rather they are generally in rooms with 2, 4 and sometimes 6 beds. In most cases, students pay an average of DM 50 per month for such accommodation. The actual costs are much higher. A large cost factor in the new Länder is to be seen in very high energy costs. Rent increases are therefore to be expected.

In the past few years, the maintenance and modernisation programmes for student hostels in the former GDR have hardly been carried out at all. There is now an urgent need for such work to be carried out. As a consequence the German government has placed special funds of DM 190 Million at the disposal of such programmes. The aim is to maintain the existing stock of hostels, insofar as this is possible. Large-scale refurbishment or new construction programmes can certainly not be financed with these means.

5. Student meals

The student refectories (Mensen) at the German universities are operated by the local Studentenwerke. The great majority of the approx. 15,000 staff are employed in catering facilities. In all, the Mensen have some 150,000 places. At most refectories, students can choose between 4 to 6 dishes.

In many cases, they can individually select their own set meal. Wholefood meals and a salad bar are standard elements almost everywhere now. Some Studentenwerke also have an additional restaurant. The price level there is higher since these receive no state subsidies.

Almost half of student midday meals are provided by the Mensen. In view of the limited number of available places - 100 students "share" eight places - this is quite impressive. Much progress has also been achieved over the past few years in the variety of meals. In order to comply with the wishes of the students, almost every Mensa has special programmes once or several times a semester in which regional or foreign specialities are served.

The sales price of meals for students varies between DM 1,50 and DM 6,90. The average price is around DM 2,60.

Polls have shown that most students are content with the price/performance ratio of the Mensen.

The production of the meals is greatly subsidised by the respective Länder authorities. According to the DSW's so-called "Bochumer Mensaplan" (first published in 1962), the subsidy by the respective Länder ministry should ideally cover production costs whilst the student pay for materials. This can no longer be achieved in almost any of the Federal Länder. Students now also contribute differing amounts towards production costs, either through the meal price or through semester contributions.

The DSW's Office for Student Meals also employs a nutritional consultant who plans and carries out further training programmes for staff in the Mensen. The range of courses is sub-

stantial, ranging from seminars on staff management, to marketing and data processing in catering, right through to courses on wholefood nutrition and foreign specialities. At national level, the DSW holds cooking competitions. As part of the cooperation with the French student affairs associations (CNOUS/CROUS) regular information visits are undertaken with the support of the Franco-German Youth Agency.

Apart from the Mensen, the Studentenwerke also have just under 60,000 places in refreshment rooms. In these, students must cover all costs, including production costs. This sector receives no subsidies from the Länder. This is an increasing source of problems for the Studentenwerke, because, on the one hand, the refreshment rooms and cafeterias often take on an ersatz function for the overfilled Mensen and, on the other, because nutritional-physiological recommendations now mean that several small meals per day are preferred to one large meal. The Studentenwerke attempt to take this increased nutritional awareness into account by offering an often impressive range of small meals in the snack bars.

Environmental protection has gained increasing importance, above all in catering. In conjunction with the Federal Environmental Office, projects on the improvement of environmental protection in the Studentenwerk areas of competence are currently being implemented. Waste prevention and recycling are prime aspects.

6. Advisory services

The provision of advice for students is not subject to any uniform arrangement at institutions of higher education in Germany.

"Studienberatung", study counselling, is the only service that is provided throughout Germany; the institutions are legally obliged to offer this service. A differentiation is made between general study counselling, "Allgemeine Studienberatung" and subject-specific counselling, "Studienfachberatung". General counselling is provided by a central facility at the university (ZSB) by professional counsellors. Subject-specific counselling is given by the responsible professor or lecturer in close cooperation with the ZSB.

Counselling on questions related to career prospects or to the situation on the employment market can, by law, only be provided by the employment offices, Arbeitsämter. Placement services in the employment sector, whether for graduates or for students failing to complete their studies, is also subject to the Arbeitsamt monopoly.

In many university and other institution towns students with personal problems can turn to a psycho-therapeutical advisory office (PBS) which is operated either by the university or by the Studentenwerk.

About half of all Studentenwerke in the old Federal Länder provide counselling in their social advisory offices, "Sozialberatungsstellen", or assistance with general social problems. This tackles student funding and social security benefit eligibility, accommodation and special problems faced by particular student groups, such as problems faced by students with children in reconciling family life and studies. In the new Länder, these offices are being set up at the Studentenwerke.

In some places, the range of counselling offered by the Studentenwerke is complemented by a general legal advice service.

The student self-administration bodies, the "ASten" offer advice on social aspects; this advice is provided by fellow students.

The disabled and chronically ill have various contacts in the higher education sector; apart from the advisory services for all students (see above), each institution has an officer for disabled student affairs for tackling structural improvements to the respective institution so that these consider the needs of the disabled. Specific contact persons for special problems experienced by disabled and chronically ill students are also offered by some Studentenwerke (cf. Chapter 7).

The foreign student offices of the universities "Akademische Auslandsämter" and the DAAD provide advice on all issues concerning studies abroad (cf. Chapter 13). The foreign student offices are also the contacts for foreign students at a German institution of higher education.

Generally, the Women's Affairs Officers, "Frauenbeauftragten", will also provide advice on special problems experienced by female members of the institution.

The above list is not exhaustive. Rather it takes only the most common areas - although they may not be available everywhere into account. All of the above advisory services are generally free of charge and available to all students.

The institutions of higher education, the Studentenwerke and the students themselves would welcome an extension of the range of advisory services. So far, this common objective has faltered due to the lack of financial resources.

7. Students with disabilities

According to latest figures, the proportion of disabled and chronically ill students in 1991 was 13%; 3% disabled, 10% chronically ill.

Apart from the careers advice provided by the employment offices, the following agencies are particularly suitable contacts for disabled students.

The universities and colleges generally have an Officer for Disabled Student Affairs, "Beauftragter für Behindertenfragen". This officer is well acquainted with the prevailing study situation at the respective institution and will be able to assist disabled study applicants in answering important questions. The advice covers the accessibility of the institution's buildings or the possibilities of changing examination and study regulations to help balance out disadvantages caused by the disability.

At a few higher education locations, special advisory services for disabled students have been established; this is the case in Berlin, Bochum, Dortmund, Marburg, Regensburg and Tübingen.

Furthermore, some higher education locations also have interest groups organised by students with and without disabilities which provide information and support. Students with and without disabilities have joined forces there to jointly voice the interests of disabled students. They also provide advice, the chance to exchange experiences and an opportunity for mutual assistance.

Students with sight disabilities can obtain additional assistance from the "Deutscher Verein der Blinden und Sehbehinderten in Studium und Beruf" (DVBS); students with hearing disabilities

can turn to the "Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Hörbehinderter Studierender und Absolventen" (BHSA). These two organisations will provide advice on study problems arising from sight or hearing disabilities.

Disabled students can also turn to the special advisory service for disabled and chronically ill study applicants and students which was established by the DSW in Bonn in 1982 as part of the improvement measures for disabled students in higher education, initiated by the Conference of Länder Ministers of Culture.

This advisory office applies itself mainly to three areas:

- It collects and documents information material of interest to disabled people interested in studying, students with disabilities, and also organisations and institutions active in the field of providing counselling for disabled students.
- It is responsible for the nationwide provision of information to study applicants and students with disabilities; it arranges contacts and compiles its own information material.
- It represents the interests of disabled study applicants and students on a political, administrative and public level. It tackles the problems faced by disabled persons interested in studying and disabled students, points out deficiencies in their conditions of study and submits proposals for the improvement of these for discussion. In its activities, the office works together closely with the interest groups of disabled students, the officers for disabled student affairs, with the administration of universities and colleges, the local Studentenwerke and with groups representing student interests.

As far as financial assistance is concerned, disabled students can particularly receive support through BAföG and the Federal Social Security Act. Additional costs and expenses caused by the disability are only provided for in BAföG to the extent that an additional hardship sum is deducted from the assessment of the parental income (§ 25 Section 6 BAföG).

A serious disability can in some cases result in an extension of the maximum period of support. This is examined on a case by case basis in order to determine how long the studies have been prolonged by the disability. If the maximum period of support eligibility is prolonged, then all payments made during the prolongation are grants, i.e. non-repayable.

In some cases, assistance may also be claimed under the Federal Social Security Act. In practice, this means assistance for students in special life contingencies such as rehabilitation and integration assistance as an adjustment for disabilities, and assistance with nursing for students in need of such care.

8. Students with children

About 8% of all students in higher education in the western German Länder have children; the proportion in the eastern German Länder is substantially higher at 11%.

The situation faced by students with children is given hardly any consideration in the study and examination regulations. For a long time this also applied to nearly all aspects of social security and life planning. Only recently have the special social problems faced by students on the grounds of their parenthood been partly taken into consideration by the higher education authorities.

A core problem faced particularly by single parent students in the old Federal Länder is how to organise day-care facilities for their children. The majority of children with student parents are younger than 3 years. It is generally difficult to find creches or nurseries for children of this age in the old Federal Länder. Child care facilities at higher education institutions are correspondingly rare; the number of places for children under 3 years of age in this sector falls short of the required number by approx. 20,000. In the new Länder many more day-care facilities for children are available.

Day-care facilities which are exclusively or largely used by the children of students are run by the universities and colleges, the Studentenwerke, parents' initiative groups or other agencies. Such facilities are generally supported by public funds. Currently, the Studentenwerke and the institutions of higher education are endeavoring to further the creation and expansion of child day-care facilities. Many student parents also make use of the facilities offered by the local authorities and independent operators (churches, etc.).

Students with children also face accommodation problems and difficulties in covering their living expenses.

Some Studentenwerke provide special hostels with correspondingly large flats for students with children or student families. Most students with children (in the old Länder) still live in private accommodation, however. Under certain circumstances they can claim social security assistance (for example, housing benefit, social welfare assistance, education allowance, child benefit) which students without children would generally not be able to claim. Partial consideration is given to the situation of students with children in the assessment BAföG. Although students with

children do not receive any additional monthly BAföG payment, the maximum length of support eligibility can be prolonged by up to four semesters; in some cases, special repayment terms for the 50% loan element may be awarded.

Scholarships for women now also partially take the situation of mothers into consideration by awarding payment of a child supplement.

Counselling for students with children is generally provided by the Studentenwerk's social counselling offices. However, these are not situated at all higher education locations (cf. Chapter 6).

9. Culture

The range of cultural activities and culture in the higher education sector is largely organised by students or their elected representatives, by the universities and colleges or by the Studentenwerke.

As early as in 1960, the Studentenwerke committed themselves to an extensive programme of student culture support (Kiel Student House Plan); however, this was only implemented in a few locations. To date, student culture promotion by the Studentenwerke has in some cases been restricted to making premises or rooms available for events. Some Studentenwerke also support student culture activities by taking on administrative work, by providing advice and assistance for publicity work as well as by purchasing or renting technical equipment and other means for improving the infrastructure (for example, video cameras, sound studios, stages, and so on) for student cultural groups. Some Studentenwerke are themselves actively involved in the structuring of

cultural activities in the higher education sector (course programmes, the organisation of events and concerts, competitions for student amateur dramatics groups, and the like). The DSW documents these activities and organises national events, such as competitions.

The universities and colleges also generally cultivate the traditional fields of higher education culture; university orchestras and choirs, museums, art exhibitions, theatre, lecture series, and so on. Along with the Studentenwerke, the universities and colleges also provide premises and rooms for student cultural events.

Most student cultural activities are initiated by the students themselves. Student culture groups and culture initiatives can basically be found in any cultural field: music, theatre, fine arts, cabaret, literature, video, film, and so on. The extent of student commitment was documented in a survey published by the Federal Ministry of Education and Science in 1986

In the various committees of the student self-administration body, the Allgemeine Studentenausschuß (AStA), represented at each institution, staff (Culture Officers) are generally occupied with coordinating and supporting student cultural activities as developing new areas.

Many student artists have joined the Federal Association of Student Cultural Work (BSK) since the organisation's foundation in 1976. This coordinates and promotes student cultural activities in various areas as well as organising national projects.

Finally, there is the General German Higher Education Sports Association (ADH). This is a voluntary amalgamation of sport centres at German institutions of higher education. The ADH or-

ganises national and international competitions between institutions of higher education (higher education championships, international meetings and the University Games), promotes popular sports events for its members and arranges seminars and conferences on the problems faced by this sector for its teaching staff and for organisers of higher education sport. The facilities of this association are used by 21.9% of all students, as established by the 12th Social Survey.

10. Student insurance

a) Health insurance

Up until the age of 25, students can remain insured in their parents' statutory health insurance scheme. In addition to this, students in higher education in Germany are subject to compulsory insurance up to the end of the 14th subject semester or to their 31st birthday. The premium for statutory student health insurance is reasonable (currently DM 63,75 per month in the old Federal Länder and DM 49,50 per month in the new Länder). Following the end of compulsory insurance, voluntary insurance cover is available at a higher premium (approx. DM 120 to 170 per month).

German students studying abroad for one or several semesters remain covered by the compulsory insurance as long as they are still registered at a German institution of higher education (sabbatical). If they deregister in order to study abroad then it is possible for them to continue their insurance on a voluntary basis. If the student is attending an institution in an EC country or in another country with which Germany has concluded an agreement on social security, then the statutory health insurance will issue

an appropriate authorisation certificate upon request with which health insurance cover is also guaranteed in the respective host study country. The United Kingdom is an exception, since the National Health Service provides medical treatment free of charge. However, it cannot be ruled out that health insurance also has to be taken out in the host country for the duration of the foreign study stay there. If no agreement has been concluded with the country, then additional private insurance cover for abroad must be taken.

Foreign students can join the statutory student insurance schemes on the same terms as German students.

The Studentenwerk's social advisory offices, the institutions of higher education, the statutory health insurance companies, and the host institutions abroad will provide advice on questions of insurance; foreign students in Germany can also turn to the foreign student offices situated at each institution (cf. Chapter 6).

b) Accident insurance

The institutions of higher education have taken out accident insurance for their registered students; this generally covers accidents at the respective institution.

Some local Studentenwerke have also concluded general accident insurance cover for students, to cover all accidents outside of the institution.

Further insurance cover (for example, third party liability) is generally a matter for the students themselves to decide.

c) Social security

Students do not pay social security contributions, unless they are in paid employment.

Under certain circumstances and within limits, the study period is taken into consideration for the later assessment of pension rights. Further information on this can be obtained (BfA, LUA and others).

11. Job opportunities

The 13th Social Survey carried out by the DSW in 1991 showed that employment is playing an increasingly important role in student life.

In the old Länder this long recognised development is continuing, meaning that an increasing number of students are falling back on funding their studies through their own earnings. In the 1991 summer semester, 66% of all students were funding their studies through employment; in the 1982 summer semester, this was only 50%. 56% of all students in employment work during the semester.

In the new Länder, the proportion of students earning their own living is considerably lower at 23%. On the one hand, this is due to the limited availability of work and, on the other, is due to the broad-based financial BAföG support.

The average level of student earnings in the old Länder in 1992 was DM 351 (in the new Länder only DM 41). Compared with their total income, students studying for their first degree cover 27% of their budget; students studying for their second degree, cover 62% of their budget through paid employment. Paid em-

ployment therefore represents a substantial source of income for many students.

Basically, German students can work as long and earn as much as they wish in Germany. It should be noted, however, that a liability to pay social security contributions can arise. All employees working not longer than 2 months (50 working days) per year are free from the payment of social security contributions, regardless of income. However, several jobs taken in one year will be counted together.

Students are also free from compulsory social security contributions payment for work exclusively undertaken in the semester vacations (regardless of level of income), for work up to 20 hours per week (regardless of the level of income) and for work principally undertaken at the weekends, evenings or nights. Students in all other forms of employment are liable to pay social security contributions.

Students receiving BAföG will have the amount of support reduced if income from other sources exceeds certain allowances. Currently the monthly allowance for students in higher education is DM 300. The assessment is generally based on the sum of all positive income in accordance with §2 Sections 1 and 2 of the Income Tax Act. Taxes and social security contributions are deducted from this.

In principle, students also need an employee's wage tax card (Lohnsteuerkarte) if they take up employment. Taxes which are paid in the course of the year to the state by the employer can however be claimed back in full at the end of the year upon submission of the appropriate application to the inland revenue (Fi-

nanzamt), if gross income does not exceed DM 9,451 per annum or DM 787 per month (Valid October 1991).

Students may work without such an employee's wage tax card if the work is part-time or casual and the employer pays the taxes in a lump sum to the inland revenue. This lump sum wage tax cannot be reclaimed from the inland revenue at the end of the year.

In accordance with work permit legislation, foreign students in Germany are permitted to work for up to two months per year without a work permit, regardless of whether this work is in the semester vacation or during the semester. If they work for more than two months, then they must apply for a work permit. Foreign students from EC member states in principle do not require a permit as stipulated in the EC Free Movement of Workers Directive.

Special conditions apply to employment relationships which are related to training and further training.

The difficult situation on the employment market does mean, however, that job opportunities for students, especially in the new Länder, are limited. The universities do have a limited number of posts and jobs available; these posts are generally student assistantships. The universities and colleges of North Rhine-Westphalia alone, the largest Federal Land, have approx. 18,000 student assistants. Work is also available with the Studentenwerke. The students there work in the refectories or as hostel managers in smaller student hostels.

The respective employment office (Arbeitsamt) and the local daily papers can be of assistance in the search for a job. Due to

the employment office's monopoly on job placement services, the Studentenwerke cannot offer such a service.

12. Statistics on social aspects

Since 1951, social surveys have been carried out roughly every three years by the DSW. The Federal Ministry of Education and Science has supported these surveys for many years now. The continuity of these surveys permits comparisons to be drawn and gives an overview of a longer period. The DSW social surveys are an important indicator of changes in the conditions of study in the social sector and have become a decision-making aid for social policy and higher education policy measures. The following areas are subjected to individual examination:

- Social structure (background) and education participation in higher education;
- Student schedule, study progression, and additional qualifications;
- Student income;
- Monthly expenses and costs incurred by students;
- BAföG;
- The accommodation situation for students;
- Student dietary habits.

Special evaluations are generally carried out within the context of the general survey. These can cover such topics as "The situation of disabled and chronically ill students", "Popular sports at higher education institutions", "Study experiences abroad". The latest survey, which is currently being carried out, will undertake special evaluation of the situation of "Students with children".

The social background of students was presented as follows by the 1991 survey:

The proportion of students from the lower income brackets (blue-collar workers and white-collar workers, junior and medium-grade civil servants) accounted for 15% of all students; for the medium income brackets (qualified clerical staff and executive civil servants, small-scale self-employed without higher education) the proportion was 28%. 31% of all students came from the higher income brackets (qualified clerical staff, executive civil servants with higher education, senior staff and senior civil servants without higher education, small-scale self-employed with higher education, medium-scale self-employed without higher education). The highest income bracket (large-scale self-employed, qualified clerical staff in senior positions, executive civil servants and medium-scale self-employed with higher education, senior staff and senior civil servants without higher education) accounted for 26%.

In 1990 approx. 30% of 18 to 21 year old Germans in the old Länder registered at a German institution of higher education; in the new Länder the proportion was just under 16% (up until 1990 state admissions restrictions applied for access to upper secondary schooling).

The proportion of students in advanced semesters from the old Länder of the Federal Republic of Germany who studied abroad in 1991 was 19%; in the new Länder it was 15%. Of these, some 7% of western students and 6% of eastern students were registered at a foreign university or colleg. The greater mobility abroad among students from the old Länder is essentially based on the fact that more other forms of studies abroad had been developed than in the new Länder; such forms include practi-

cals (9%), language courses (4%) and other activities. The fundamental difference between the old and new Länder in respect of studies abroad lies in the target countries for study abroad. The respective orientation is still clearly discernible. In the old Länder the main streams of foreign study go above all to the United Kingdom (21%), France (21%) and the USA (18%). In 1991, the still existent Soviet Union only received 1% of students on foreign study. The main streams of foreign studies for students from the new Länder were directed almost exclusively towards the then Soviet Union (89%). In future, these old patterns of student studies abroad will lose significance. For example, 21% of students from the new Länder have already taken language courses in the United Kingdom. The different proportion of studies abroad in relation to study subject is also significant. Whilst 42% of all students of languages and/or linguistics in the old Länder had undertaken a study trip abroad (23% of these in the form of full-time study abroad), the proportion among students of mechanical engineering and electrical engineering was 10%, of whom 2% studied abroad. Students of economics accounted for 19% (study trips abroad) and 6% (studies abroad), which is about average.

13. National coordination of social affairs

At national level, the DSW coordinates the working areas of the local Studentenwerke by arranging specialist conferences, compiling forms of support and assistance for their work, publishing information material and carrying out training and further training measures.

The DSW is, as defined in its statutes, responsible for representing the social policy interests of students at public, Federal and Länder level.

A further function of the Deutsches Studentenwerk is the execution of tasks on behalf of the Federal and Länder authorities. The DSW has three organisational bodies; the General Assembly, the Executive Board and the Secretariat General. A board of trustees is available as a consultative body; it comprises representatives of the conference of higher education principals, the students, representatives of the Federal and Länder authorities, of the German conference of municipal authorities (Deutscher Städtetag), the DAAD, the German conference of trade and industry (Deutsche Industrie und Handelstag), the conference of German trade unions (DGB) and representatives of the political parties and public figures.

There are also specialist committees on questions such as educational support, student accommodation, and student meals. The specialist committees discuss existing problems and prepare decisions for the DSW's three above-mentioned organisational bodies (executive board, secretary general and general assembly). In addition to the experts from the various working fields at the Studentenwerke, students are also represented on the committees. A special advisory board deals with the affairs of disabled study applicants and students.

The DSW is funded by contributions from its members as well as through projects executed on behalf of the competent Federal Minister. It is a non-profit making body and is neutral in respect of all political, denominational and ideological groups.

The DSW works together closely with other agencies represented on the board of trustees as well with other organisations on a national and international level.

On an international level, the DSW has cooperated closely with the Centre Nationale des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires (CNOUS) in Paris for over 20 years; at regional level the Studentenwerke have cooperated closely with the Centres Regionaux des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires (CROUS) in France over the same period. Numerous exchange programmes for students and for staff of the respective institutions are organised with the help of the Franco-German Youth Agency.

In order to further the mobility of students between Germany and France, a government agreement was concluded for the creation of a Franco-German social charter. This gives French or German students the same benefits as local domestic students, even if they are not registered in the respective country.

Deutsches Studentenwerk
Weberstr. 55
W-5300 Bonn 1

Further addresses:

Bundesanstalt für Arbeit
Regensburger Str. 104
W-8500 Nürnberg 30

Bundesministerium für Bildung und Wissenschaft
Heinemannstr. 2
W-5300 Bonn 1

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD)
Kennedyallee 50
W-5300 Bonn 1

The DAAD's function is to promote higher education ties with foreign countries, especially by arranging the exchange of students, academics and scientists. This objective leads to the following tasks:

- the allocation of scholarships to foreign and German students, to people practicals, young academics and scientists and lecturers with an aim to promoting training and further training in higher education and research work;
- the placement and promotion of German academic staff in lectureships at foreign institutions of higher education (including "Lektors" for German language, literature and studies);
- the provision of information on study and research opportunities at home and abroad;
- the maintenance of contacts with former scholarship holders.

Apart from providing its own programmes, the DAAD also has a consultative capacity in the creation of the political and legal framework for the promotion of international mobility in science and higher education; it supports the German institutions of higher education in the establishment of contacts with institutions of higher education abroad.

Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK)
Ahrstr. 39
W-5300 Bonn 2

The HRK (Conference of Higher Education Principals) is voluntary amalgamation of universities, Fachhochschulen and other in-

stitutions of higher education in Germany. The member institutions of the HRK, represented by their principals or presidents, cooperate in all questions relating to the realisation of higher education tasks in research, teaching, studies and self-administration. A standing committee for student affairs has been established at the HRK.

Hochschul-Informationen-System GmbH (HIS)
Goseriede 9
W-3000 Hannover 1

The Hochschul-Informationen-System GmbH is an agency financed by the Federal and Länder authorities for the purpose of supporting the institutions of higher education and the competent authorities and administrations in the rational and effective realisation of higher education tasks. Surveys are carried out for this purpose to act as decision-making bases and reports compiled. Further functions of the HIS cover the formation of principles governing construction work in higher education and the exchange of information on questions of higher education organisation.

The HIS cooperates closely with the DSW. Since 1982 HIS and DSW have jointly carried out periodic social surveys (cf. Chapter 12).

Ständige Konferenz der Kultusminister der Länder in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (KMK)
Nassestr. 8
W-5300 Bonn 1

The Standing Conference of Ministers of Culture of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany, or KMK, is a voluntarily

convened working party consisting of the competent Länder ministers or senators responsible for education, science and research, as well as, for the general cultivation of art and culture.

The objective of this conference is the establishment of a common opinion, the representation of common issues and especially the coordination of education and cultural policy among the Länder which are largely autonomous in these areas. In this way, it is intended to establish the the necessary degree of uniformity and comparability for the German education system. At the same time, the KMK provides cooperation between the Länder and the Federal authorities, especially on foreign cultural policy, as well as international and European cooperation education and culture. The resolutions of the KMK must be passed unanimously, but require law-making confirmation by the respective Länder authorities in order to be transformed into Länder legislation.

Everyday management is carried out by the Secretariat of the KMK in Bonn. Special services offered by the Secretariat are the Central Office on Foreign Education Systems, the Educational Exchange Service, the Office of the Study Reform Committee and the Central Office on Standards and Efficiency in Education.

The Zentralstelle für Ausländisches Bildungswesen im Sekretariat der KMK
Nassestr. 8
W-5300 Bonn 1

is a joint Länder advisory office for the assessment of foreign education certificates.

Wissenschaftsrat
Marienburger Str. 8
W-5000 Köln 51

The Scientific-Academic Council (Wissenschaftsrat) is the only organisation in which the Federal and Länder authorities, academics and scientists as well as high-level representatives of public life, work together. It has 54 members: 16 representatives of the Länder governments, 6 representatives of the Federal government, 24 academics and scientists, and 8 public figures.

The Wissenschaftsrat formulates recommendations on the content and structure of development at the institutions of higher education, in science and research, and submits expert reports on these areas. It also submits recommendations on the construction of higher education institutions.

Section III

Denmark

- 1. General information**
- 2. Organisation of the social infrastructure**
- 3. Student funding**
- 4. Student accommodation**
- 5. Student meals**
- 6. Advisory services**
- 7. Students with disabilities**
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- 12. Statistics on social aspects**
- 13. National coordination of social affairs**

1. General information

Education is centrally administered in Denmark by the state. Most institutions of higher education fall under the authority of the Undervisningsministeriet, the Education Ministry. However, the Ministry of Culture (Ministeriet for kulturelle Anliggender) is responsible for the colleges of architecture, music conservatories, academies of art and library science colleges. There are two types of higher education institution in Denmark. On the one hand, there are the universities (universiteter) in Copenhagen, Århus, Odense and the university centres in Roskilde and Ålborg which offer traditional subjects and modern research and, on the other, 12 advanced colleges which offer specialised degree courses (højere læreanstalter). All universities and colleges are financed from tax revenue. For 1990, the Education Ministry quotes a sum of DRK 6.3 Thousand Million.

The normal length of studies is 5 to 6 years. There is a great variety of degrees. At the universities, the kandidateksamen is the normal degree. In 1991 approx. 90,710 students were registered at Denmark's universities and colleges. The proportion of foreign students among these amounted to 3%.

The conditions for admission to higher education can be fulfilled by the secondary school-leaving certificate "studentereksamen", the advanced preparation exam "højere forberedelsesexamen" and the advanced commercial examination "højere handelseksamen". Since 1976, admissions restrictions have applied to all higher education institutions and subjects. Once a year the number of study places is determined by the Education Ministry. This decision is based on a calculation of available capacity at the institutions of higher education and on the needs of the employment market. At present, study places are

being increasingly offered in economics and engineering. The registration procedure has so far been centrally coordinated by the Education Ministry; such a central procedure has resulted in multiple applications. For this reason, it is to be changed. Lectures are held during the semesters which last from September to December and from February to June. Examinations are held in January and June.

Freedom of research and teaching is guaranteed to Denmark's institutions of higher education, although the competent ministry does prescribe curricula contents, the conditions governing admission to the degree courses and the gaining of academic degrees as well as the appointment of academic staff. Furthermore, the Ministry determines the general regulations governing examinations, grading and other examinations-related affairs through directives. The study and examination regulations fall under the responsibility of the universities and colleges.

Study fees are not charged. Until recently, however, students still paid a one-off registration fee of DKR 500 which was returned upon successful completion of all examinations. As of 1st January, 1992, this fee was also dispensed with. The costs for study materials (text books, etc.) are paid for by the students themselves.

2. Organisation of the social infrastructure

Advisory and organisational responsibility for student social affairs falls to each respective university or college.

The students are represented on each of the respective institution's management levels and have a right to participate in all

decision-making. They stand for election to the offices in these bodies through their respective higher education political organisations. These delegate representatives to the Student Council of the respective university or college. Membership of the subject-related associations and the Student Council is voluntary. An annual membership fee must be paid. Membership of the Student Council has certain benefits for students, such as improved insurance terms through participation in a collective insurance agreement (accident and third party liability insurance) as well as reductions on purchases, especially of books. These reductions and benefits vary from one institution to the next, however. The student associations organise parties and fêtes, lectures, discussions, and so on.

3. Student funding

A new system of educational support was introduced in Denmark in 1988. In the new system, students receive financial support from the state in the form of grants and loans which are constantly realigned with the rising cost of living. This system of state support is based on the principle of equal opportunity; students are to be enabled to study regardless of social background. Each student has a legal right to receipt of financial support which is independent of his or her parents. This covers the cost of living as well as other expenses for books and other teaching materials, meaning that students are to be enabled to live off this support without being forced to work alongside their studies. The introduction of this new system of state educational support led to a doubling of state spending in this sector between 1987 and 1990. In 1991 the Danish state budget allocated DKR 4.271 Thousand Million for grants and DKR 1.148 Thousand Million for educational support loans in ter-

tiary education. The aim of this system is to bring about a reduction of study duration.

A condition for state support is that the student is at least 18 years of age and has fulfilled all the study conditions (examinations, and the like). The course and institution must be state-recognised. The course must be full-time and must last at least 3 months.

Generally, only Danish citizens have a right to educational support. This legal right however also applies to foreign students who have been resident in Denmark for at least two years, have been engaged in part-time work and have special relations with Denmark. Students from EC member states can receive state support in accordance with EC directives if their parents work or worked in Denmark. They can turn to the grants office (Stipendienkontoret) at each university.

Students from non-EC countries can receive state support if they are resident in Denmark with their parents and if they were under 20 years of age when they first arrived in Denmark. Recognised refugees or relatives of recognised refugees resident in Denmark are also entitled to support.

Studies in Denmark are normally financed through grants, loans and the student's own work. Financial assistance through parents is not usual. In 1989 a minimum amount of DKR 4,500 per month was assessed as the cost of living for a student living away from home. DKR 1,000 to 1,500 were allowed for accommodation and DKR 2,000 for meals, and so on. The remainder was divided up among travelling costs and other expenses, for example, for books and clothing. If a student wants to make use of state educational support, then a one-off application for a

grant is submitted to the Statens Uddannelsesstøtte (SU), the national office for support, an independent department within the Education Ministry. This application is valid for the whole of the standard period of study. A loan may also be applied for over in addition to the grant. The grant is taxable; the loan is tax-free.

The norm is that a loan is applied for at the same time, since the grant does not cover the cost of living.

In 1992 students entitled to support received the following amounts as educational grants and loans:

Grants: students living at home (with parents) DKR 1,826 per month;

students living away from home DKR 3,198 per month

Loans: students living at home (with parents) DKR 1,439 per month;

students living away from home DKR 1,439 per month

Support is paid on a monthly basis. The amount can be determined by the student, although there is a maximum amount. The financial support is reduced automatically if the student's earnings exceed an annual tax-free amount of DKR 37,629. Up until the student's 19th birthday, the level of support is dependent upon the parents' income (annual tax-free amount of DKR 175,000). Students with parents earning in excess of DKR 287,000 per annum receive no support.

A spouse's income is not taken into account in the assessment of educational support.

Since student funding in Denmark is independent of the parents, parents receive no further financial benefits, such as child benefit or tax allowances once the children are over 19 years of age.

As a result of the reorganisation of the educational support system, a kind of "chequebook system" was introduced in 1988. This system permits the maximum period of support and the amount of support to be influenced by the student himself or herself. Once the application for educational support has been passed, students are entitled to a chequebook at the beginning of their studies containing a number of cheques corresponding to the standard period of study (one cheque equals one month's support). For each month in which the student makes use of the financial support, one cheque is removed from the book.

Generally, a student can only receive support for one degree course. Students who change their study subject within the first year do not forfeit any cheques. Under certain conditions, the student may be supported longer than the standard period of study. In such cases, up to an extra 12 cheques may be handed to the student. Furthermore, students can receive up to 12 months' extra support if they have failed an examination and have to prepare for a resit.

The chequebook system aims to enable students to organise their financing more independently. If a student earns more in one month than the tax-free allowance permitted by the support system, then that cheque may be kept for a later month. If the cheque is nevertheless used, despite the additional income, then the support received in this period must be partly or wholly paid back at the end of the calendar year (with a 7% surcharge).

This rule allows students to save four of the twelve cheques available for each year. The unspent cheques can be transferred to the final year and can then be redeemed together with the regular ones. This is intended to avoid students having to take up paid employment in the final year.

Each student can apply for sabbatical semesters in which he or she is not registered. These can be used for political mandates, travelling, bringing up children, or other private purposes. The rules governing the sabbatical may be interpreted differently by each university. Therefore, the length of the study-free period can vary (in most cases two semesters). Students receive no support during this period. However, in the case of pregnancy "cash benefits" in accordance with §37 of the Assistance Act are available.

Loans are repayable. Repayments must begin at the latest one year after the completion of studies. The period of repayment must not exceed 15 years. Interest is also charged on the loans. During the studies, the interest rate is fixed at 4%, after conclusion of studies, it is generally 1% above the normal bank rate. At present this is 10.5%.

Apart from the state support system, students can also apply for a loan from the Danish Study Fund (Dansk Studiefond). This amounts to up to DKR 15,000 per annum and in special cases of hardship to DKR 25,000 per annum; such a loan may result in a reduction in the state loan.

Private scholarships, such as the Egmont H. Petersens Fund, are tax free as long as they are recognised by the Ministry of Social Affairs and do not exceed DKR 5,000 per annum.

Other endowments or legacies awarded to cover the cost of living are taxable. The scholarships of private foundations are mainly reserved for special target groups. Depending on the respective foundation, it may be a student's origins from a special region or the parents' occupation that is the decisive factor. A limited number of state scholarships are available for foreign students from non-EC countries. These are awarded by the Education Ministry.

No special system of support for highly-gifted students exists in Denmark; such students can apply to the private foundations.

Under certain circumstances, Danish students may also receive support during their studies abroad. Courses which are attended in the neighbouring Scandinavian countries must correspond in content and form with seminars at Danish universities and colleges and the degrees gained must be recognised in Denmark. The latter also applies to study trips to countries outside of Scandinavia. However, such courses are only supported if the courses taken could not be attended in Denmark. The maximum period of support for studies abroad is two years; as from 1993 it will be three years.

If the grant and loan possibilities have been exhausted and the student finds himself or herself in a particular emergency, then other forms of support are available. In cases of illness or pregnancy/childbirth, it is possible for the student to receive financial aid "bistandshjaelp" or cash awards "kontanthjaelp". For this, the conditions of a change in living circumstances, such as illness, pregnancy/childbirth, suspension of education and unemployment must be fulfilled. It is assumed, however, that the applicant has exhausted all possible work opportunities (obligation to provide for oneself). It must also be ensured that the ap-

plicant had examined or exhausted all other forms of support prior to application for the financial assistance.

A nine-month rule stipulates that after receipt of cash awards for a continuous period of 9 months, the basic sum is reduced from DKR 2,852 to DKR 2,509 per month. This does not apply if it can be proven that the recipient will be able to provide for him or herself in the very near future.

Financial assistance can also be applied for if the payment of state educational support has been delayed.

Each citizen, including students, can apply for assistance when moving "flyttehjaelp" if no personal means are available.

Assistance must be repaid only if the recipient was not entitled to it.

4. Student accommodation

The Housing Ministry "Boligministeriet" regulates student accommodation in the Law on Youth Accommodation. There are state supported youth flats in Denmark for the use of all young people. There are also the so-called Kollegier, hostels especially for students. Danish and foreign students can apply for a room in one of the state Kollegiers or in one of the other student hostels under other ownership. Student hostels are often maintained by foundations which have their own independent administrative committees.

The state hostels provide approx. 60% of all hostel places. The admissions committee (indstillingsudvalg) is responsible at the

state hostels for the allocation of rooms. The rent for a room with cooking facilities in a hostel is around DKR 1,200 to 2,000 per month. This rent only covers running costs; no profit is made. Only about 5% of first year students and around 15% of all registered students can reckon on getting a place in a student hostel. The home town of the student applying for a place in the hostel must be at least 60 km from the place of study so that daily commuting is no longer possible. Social reasons form further decisive criteria. Lists of hostels "Kollegioversigler" are published by the central study and careers advisory service at the University of Copenhagen. There is no limit on length of stay in a state student hostel. The hostel rooms can be sub-let during study abroad. The admissions committee reserves 10% of the available hostel places in the state hostels for foreign students.

Only at two universities, the campus universities in Århus and the technical college in Lyngby, are the student hostels directly on campus. All other student hostels are situated in various quarters of the respective university town. If a town has several universities, then no differentiation is made among the universities upon allocation of the hostel places. Students from different universities live together in one hostel.

Information on private rooms is also provided by the study advisory services at the individual institutions of higher education and by the Student Councils. It is also worthwhile looking in the newspapers. For example, one newspaper, "The Blue Newspaper" has specialised in accommodation ads. Although it is easier to rent a room or a flat on the private accommodation market than to find a room in one of the student hostels, the rents are approximately DKR 100/m² higher, and in Copenhagen even higher. Nevertheless, the renting of a room or a flat

on the private accommodation market is the most common form of student accommodation in Denmark.

5. Student meals

Almost every university or college has a refectory. However, these do not receive any subsidies from the institution. Some institutions even have several refectories; at the University of Copenhagen, for example, there are 5 cantines of which 3 are at the Technical College. There are no cafeterias at the universities.

The refectories are generally run by a private company which has concluded an agreement with the university management. Sometimes the Student Council also runs them. However, both have to ensure that the refectory runs without loss, meaning that it covers its costs. For this reason, the prices for a meal (cold or warm) are comparatively high (average of DKR 23,50). Due to the high prices, the refectories at the universities are not used so much.

The refectories are open from 8 am to 4 pm. Throughout this time, various cold and warm meals are offered; there is no special midday set meal. Vegetarian food is always available.

6. Advisory services

Study advice and information on social affairs are the responsibility of the individual institutions of higher education. A ministerial decree of 1982 stipulates that the universities and colleges are compelled to provide information material for poten-

tial and registered students. Freshly registered students receive information material from their university. At the beginning of studies, introductory seminars are held by tutors, and less often by young lecturers. These are mainly organised as one week long courses with accommodation in adult education centres "Folkehøgskole" or youth hostels. The organisation of these introductory seminars is undertaken in most cases by the Student Councils. In addition to these, there are study advisory offices at each university which deal with issues such as study planning and financing, exchange programmes, and so on. These are run by tutors or teachers (see above).

Most universities publish their own newspapers which also act as a source of information for students. The student organisations also publish papers.

At the four university towns of Ålborg (1), Århus (1), Odense (1) and Copenhagen (3) there are a total of 6 advisory centres for students (Studenterrådgivningen) which are responsible for providing individual advice on personal difficulties and problems faced by students. These advisory centres are funded by the Danish state and are administered by the Danish National Union of Students (DSF). Their services are free of charge. The advisory team is made up of social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists. Students use the assistance of these advisory centres when they experience social, financial, personal or study-related problems. Unfortunately, the resources placed at the disposal of these offices are not sufficient. Many students are turned away or placed on waiting lists.

Furthermore, the state institutions are of the opinion that students are adults who must consequently organise their lives themselves. Therefore, only a limited number of special advi-

sory services are offered in and around the university. Rather, the students are expected to make use of the advisory services which are placed at the disposal of all Danish citizens.

7. Students with disabilities

Neither the state nor the universities or colleges provide a special advisory service for students with disabilities.

The opportunity for students with disabilities to take advanced education is very good in Denmark due to a series of special regulations. The proportion of seriously disabled students among the total number of students is nevertheless low, since many leave the education system at an early stage.

The usual admissions procedure has been simplified for students with disabilities. The institutions of higher education need not comply with the admissions restrictions when admitting students with disabilities; they can accept disabled students in addition to the fixed student quota for a specific subject. For reasons of capacity, however, this is only possible in most cases at the larger education institutions. Therefore, the number of disabled applicants at the smaller institutions is relatively small.

The mentally and socially disabled are given less consideration than the physically disabled.

Responsibility for special assistance lies with the social security authorities and is seldom the cause of problems, since the promotion of the disabled is regarded as a social responsibility in Denmark.

Financial assistance is available for each disabled student if it is not possible to cover the costs for education through the normal study financing system. This assistance is awarded in accordance with §48 of the Assistance Act and covers the support for additional expenses caused by the disability. This amounts to DKR 10,381 per month for students aged over 23. Persons who are deaf or blind also have a right to assistance for the payment of a special contact person. If §48 is not sufficient to cover all costs (for example, for special expenses and transport costs), then special financing possibilities are available. There is also assistance available for medical aids (§58) and hostel nursing care (§51 - §53).

8. Students with children

Some financial assistance is available upon pregnancy and childbirth (cf. Chapter 3).

For students with children under 18 years of age, the tax-free allowance for employment increases to an annual sum of DKR 14,735 per child, regardless of how high the annual tax-free allowance would be in other cases. This increase applies for the whole year, regardless of when the child was born.

State benefit for children lies between DKR 788 and DKR 1,980 per quarter. For students with several children, a sum of DKR 1,275 per quarter and per child is paid. Child benefit is tax free.

Kindergartens are available for the children of students. The necessary number of places is guaranteed; in practice, however, long waiting lists exist. It is also possible to apply to social se-

curity for creche support and for payment of the costs for day care.

Subsidies are also paid for alternative care forms (for example, parents' associations). The level of the costs for a place in kindergarten varies from one town to the next (from DKR 1,130 to DKR 2,040). For families with several children, a discount of 33.3% is granted. If parental income is less than DKR 40,001, then they are exempted from paying the costs of the place.

9. Culture

The universities offer no cultural programmes. Some subject areas/departments do however organise activities, such as theatre groups, choirs, discussion evenings and concerts (big bands) or orchestras. As mentioned in Chapter 2, the political student organisations are normally responsible for cultural activities; however, this can differ considerably from one student association to the next.

10. Student insurance

The Danish National Health Insurance (DNHI) insures all Danes, including students. The costs for the DNHI are paid from the state budget and from tax revenue. No health insurance contributions have to be made.

There are two groups within the health insurance:

95% of the population is insured in Group 1. Choice of doctor is not unrestricted. The doctor must be selected from a list of

General Practitioners (GP); this GP can then refer the patient to a specialist. It is only possible to change one's GP once a year. Treatment is free of charge.

In Group 2 there is free choice of doctor; however, only the average costs of Group 1 treatment are reimbursed by the DNHI.

The costs for medicine are subsidised according to necessity by between 50% and 70%. Anyone who is not a member of the health insurance must pay his or her own medical costs. The costs for treatment in one of the few private clinics must be paid privately in all cases.

Dental treatment is also state subsidised; holders of DNHI cards receive a 66% reimbursement if they are under 26 years of age. After that they only receive 45%. Cosmetic treatment is not included. Students can have free treatment at the dental clinics at the universities of Århus and Copenhagen.

Students from EC countries who are in Denmark for more than 3 months must apply for a residence permit (cf. Chapter 11) and must register with the Resident's Registration Office. A health insurance certificate "sygesikringsbevis" is then automatically sent to them. Alternatively, they may submit a certificate from their health insurance in their home country to the Resident's Registration Office. This automatically transfers their rights to Denmark.

Assistance with medicines, costs for the treatment of illness and for dental care in accordance with §46 of the Assistance Act can be claimed if no personal means are available. This includes, for example, chiropractical and psychological therapies.

11. Job opportunities

Danish students can take on paid work during their education without any special form of permission through their institution of higher education. This income is taxable, however. The tax-free allowance in 1989 was approx. DKR 25,000. Paid employment may lead to a reduction of the state educational support if earnings exceed the tax-free allowance (cf. Chapter 3).

Since the unemployment rate has been at around 10% since the 1970s, the employment market is difficult for students seeking work. Foreign students must also overcome the language barrier. Students should not therefore rely on funding their studies through part-time work.

Opportunities for paid employment exist for students who have special qualifications (engineers, plumbers, car mechanics, etc.); otherwise available work will be as cleaners, dish washers, waiters, and so on. Ads in the papers can help (especially Sunday papers) as can the Yellow Pages. Students can also turn to local job agencies "Arbejdsformidlingen". Special job agencies, organised perhaps by the Student Council, for example, do not exist at Danish universities and colleges.

A limited number of jobs for students is available at the universities and colleges. There are considerably more at the Technical Colleges than at institutions offering humanities courses. The average working hours in these study-related jobs amount to 10 hours per week; students receive a contract of employment.

Students from other Scandinavian countries enjoy equal status with Danish students. Students from EC countries automati-

cally receive a work permit if they take up work during their first three months in Denmark.

Students from non-EC countries require a special work permit from the Direktoratet for Udlændinge; this must be applied for in the home country through the Danish embassy or the Consulate before travelling to Denmark. This work permit is only issued if proof is available that a job has already been found in Denmark.

Foreigners who are registered at a Danish university normally only receive a work permit during the first 18 months of study for the months of June, July and August (the summer vacation). After this they can apply for a work permit for part-time work (a maximum of 15 hours per week).

Collective wage agreements between the employers' associations and the trade unions are in force which do not, however, apply to each job. Other issues, such as payment, holiday rights, etc, must be negotiated separately. Sick pay is paid under certain circumstances, even if the work was on an hourly basis. The normal weekly working hours in Denmark range from 37 to 39 hours. Tax on earnings is 50%.

12. Statistics on social aspects

There are no special statistics on social aspects.

13. National coordination of social affairs

The Secretariat of the Board of University and Higher Education Institution Heads (Rektorkollegiets-Sekretariat; RS) is responsible for promoting national and international cooperation between institutions. Since 1st January, 1991, the RS has been an independent body as defined by the Finance Act, and therefore has the same status as the Statens Uddannelsesstøtte, for example. The great majority of its work was once the responsibility of the universities and of the international departments of the Education Ministry.

The RS participates in the EC ERASMUS, LINGUA, TEMPUS and COMETT programmes. It is responsible for the allocation of funds. The Secretariat also fulfils the function in Denmark of a NARIC information centre. It is the task of this centre to promote student and teaching staff mobility by providing information on the recognition of study periods and examinations within the EC.

The Secretariat's other non-EC functions cover the administration of scholarships for students and teachers which are governed by bilateral agreements. Another field of activity is in the compilation of precise descriptions of international degree courses. These are collated in Denmark and are made available to interested parties (Cooperation with IAU, Paris).

Sekretær for Rektorkollegiet
Undervisningsministeriet
Frederiksholms Kanal 26
DK-1220 København K

Further addresses:

Centralindstillingsudvalget (CIU)
(Central Admissions Committee)
Skindergade 36
DK-1159 København K

Danmarks Internationale Studenterkomité (DIS)
Skindergade 36
DK-1159 København K

Danske Studerendes Faellersråd (DSF)
National Union of Danish Students
Knabostraede 25
DK-1210 København K

Direktoratet for Udlændinge
(Directorate for Aliens)
Absalongade 9
DK-1658 København K

Styrelsen for Statens Uddannelsesstøtte (SU)
(Directorate for State Educational Support)
Danasvej 30
DK-1910 Frederiksberg C

Undervisningsministeriet
(Education Ministry)
Frederiksholms Kanal 21
DK-1220 København K

Section IV**France**

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1. General information

Around 1,200,000 students are currently studying in France at 74 universities which come under the central administration of the Education Ministry in Paris. Of these, more than 400,000 students are in the Ile de France, with more than 300,000 of these in Paris alone. In addition to this, there are more than 100,000 students registered at the Écoles Speciales or Grandes Écoles. These are administered separately to the universities and are partly state and partly privately run. Their creation originates from a French state objective to provide future senior civil servants with qualified training. As early as in 1747 a Grande École was founded for senior engineers. To this were added Grandes Écoles for especially qualified teachers at the grammar schools and also for the up-and-coming young research institution staff. After the end of World War II, the École Nationale d'Administration (ENA) was founded for the senior administrative services. There are 70 higher education institutes at which degrees can be gained in technology (IUT).

Whilst the Baccalaureate is required for admission to the universities, entrance examinations have to be taken for admission to the Grandes Écoles. The studies are divided into a two-year basic study stage (premier cycle) after which the student gains a state certificate in the scientific-technical field (DEUST) or a general state certificate (DEUG) which are required for admission to the second or main study stage (deuxième cycle). After one year in the main study stage, students can gain the maîtrise degree or a specialist diploma (for example, in law or engineering). The troisième cycle is intended for a doctorate and is exclusively reserved for research purposes or for gaining a doctorate.

The proportion of foreign students in France is approx. 13%. Students from African countries represent the greatest share of these with 57% of that number. Each foreign student must apply for a residence permit at the French embassy in the country of origin or within the first three months of arriving in France.

All education establishments, from kindergarten to university, are organised in 28 administrative districts, the académies. Each academy is headed by a "recteur" who is appointed by the government. It is the "recteur's" task to guarantee the coordination of all education within the competence of the respective academy.

The presidents of the individual universities, who are elected by the teaching staff, are organised within the Conférence des Présidents d'Université (CPU). The autonomy of the universities is restricted by their financial dependence upon the Ministry of Education.

The organisational structure of the Grandes Écoles is more hierarchical; there is no institutionalised system of participation in the decision-making process as found at the universities. The Conférence des Grandes Écoles is an independent institution which represents the interests of its members at government and public level.

In France, it is assumed that the number of young people who are still attending school at the age of 18 will increase to 90% in the coming years. The percentage of young people taking the Baccalaureate is currently 33% of the relevant age group. In all probability, this will also double in the coming years.

In order to relieve the pressure on the Ile de France region, 7 new universities will be created in other regions over the coming years.

University students currently pay a fee of FF 650 per year.

2. Organisation of the social infrastructure

Whilst the universities and the Grandes Écoles are responsible for scientific-academic education, the Centre National des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires (CNOUS), for all France, and the Centres Réginaux des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires (CROUS), for the regions, are responsible for the social and economic well-being of students.

The first steps towards a student social welfare organisation took place around 1920 when young people from the less well-off population groups began to gain access to higher education. Student facilities were established in numerous university towns, for example, in Lyons with the House for Students. In 1936 the main committee of the Association for Student Affairs was formed. Its task was to support efforts towards the foundation of individual associations and to ensure the allocation of available loans for such associations.

On 8th August, 1947, a general pupil and student organisation was formed at national level. A law passed on 16th April, 1955, then led to the foundation of the CNOUS at national level, and CROUS at regional level.

The CROUS are responsible for improving the living and working conditions of the students and are especially occupied with

organising, receiving and caring for foreign students and French government or international organisation scholarship holders. This includes the administration of the EC ERASMUS and LINGUA programmes. Furthermore, the CNOUS has been charged with coordinating and supporting the activities of the regional associations. It is also responsible for the allocation to the CROUS of state funds placed at its disposal for this purpose.

Higher education has gained a new status in France over the past few years. Faced with the prospect of having 2 million students in the year 2000, an ambitious university programme was developed which assumed increased state investment. In so doing, consideration was given to improving the living conditions of students.

The CROUS see the two programmes adopted by the Education Ministry in 1990/91 as a turning point. The first programme involves the initialisation of a social plan which aims at ensuring equal opportunity at national level; the other involves participation in the "Université 2000" plan. This programme substantially extends the mandate of the CROUS in France. It is also planned to harmonise direct and indirect support for students more effectively.

The social plan for students consists of the following stages:

- A student social welfare programme, to be administrated by the CROUS, will include, among other areas:
- Higher education grants - the number and value of these is to be increased.

- A new loans system, subject to a 50% state guarantee, and harmonised with a network of contractually participating banks. In addition to the existing grants system, students are to be entitled to an annual loan of FF 13,000 which is independent of parental income and which can be extended over three years (cf. Chapter 3).
- Indirect study assistance is also to be improved:
- 10,000 additional places in the refectories and 6,000 more places in the student hostels are to be created within 5 years. Government Loans will be available to assist in the achievement of these goals. At the same time, the renovation and refurbishment of old student hostels will be tackled.

The "Université 2000" plan

The CNOUS and CROUS are also involved in the Université 2000 plan which will have a substantial budget over the next five years for the development of education facilities. Within the context of this plan, the CROUS have been charged with the building of student hostels, refectories and meeting places.

The CNOUS and all CROUS are public law corporations with administrative tasks and legal and financial autonomy. They are subordinated to the Education Ministry. The CNOUS and CROUS are headed by a director and an administrative council.

At regional level, the administrative councils are responsible for determining the general policy of the associations and agreeing the budget for the CNOUS. The CNOUS' administrative coun-

cil is made up of representatives from the ministries, student delegates, and persons appointed by the minister. Half of the latter are appointed upon suggestion by the students. The chair of the State Council or by a consultative member of the supreme auditing office.

The regional administrative council comprises representatives of the regions, the universities, the students and CROUS staff, as well as experts appointed by the respective "recteur".

The CROUS directors are appointed by an Arrêté Ministeriel, the director of the CNOUS, by decree upon suggestion of the competent minister. This minister has authority to instruct the CNOUS director.

There are a total of 28 CROUS in France. These are situated at the head offices of the respective academies; there are also twelve Centres Locaux des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires (CLOUS) at other university towns.

In order to be able to make use of the services of the CROUS and CLOUS, students must fulfil the following conditions:

- Be registered at a public or private education establishment whose students or trainees are subject to student health insurance;
- Be under 26 years of age on 1st September of the relevant academic year;
- Provide proof of successful participation in relevant examinations.

Exceptions may be permitted by the CROUS. These include, for example, motherhood, illness, physical disability.

Each student who fulfils these conditions receives a pass from the respective CROUS free of charge which is valid throughout France and can then make use of the services of the associations.

3. Student funding

The focus of state financial support for families with children in France is not directed towards study and educational support, but rather to the field of other social security services, such as family allowance, child benefit and tax allowances.

Direct support is awarded in three different forms: as a higher education grant, as an interest-free loan and as an award from the academic assistance fund in cases of hardship.

The first two forms of support are administrated by the offices of the "recteur" and not by the CROUS; only the special assistance fund is governed by the CROUS. Different organisational forms are currently being discussed. As from 1992/1993, all administration of study assistance and benefits is to be transferred to the CROUS.

The level of the higher education grant is annually determined on the basis of the budget of the competent ministry. At present the maximum rate is approx. FF 15,000 per annum. The grants are allocated on the basis of terms. If an examination is not passed, then the grant is not automatically paid in the following year. About 300,000 students receive a grant. The number of students receiving the full amount of support remains a minority, however. The monthly cost of living for a student who uses the services of the CROUS is approx. FF 4,200

in Paris, and about FF 3,800 in the provinces. Students who do not have the CROUS pass have a cost of living of about FF 4,800 in Paris and around FF 4,400 in the rest of France.

French students who study abroad cannot be funded under the current Assistance Act. Special grants are awarded for such studies, which are independent of the general student funding programme. Current legislation stipulates that foreigners only receive a grant if their permanent residence is in France.

In addition to the grants system, there are two other areas of support:

Interest-free loans are provided on more or less the same conditions as the grants. A loan is only given to those whose life circumstances give reason for special support. This includes, for example, the bringing up of children, recommencement of studies after an interruption, and cases of social hardship. After approval by a special committee responsible for the allocation of loans, the student receives the loan interest-free for a period of 10 years after which the loan must be repaid.

The value of the loan is based on the available resources and on the student's financial need. Decisions are always made on a case-by-case basis.

The academic assistance fund is a state fund which is annually distributed by the CNOUS to the various CROUS. The applications are considered by the regional social committees once they have been processed by a social councillor at the CROUS. The income of the respective family also plays a decisive role. Approval of one-off assistance is generally connected with a subsidy. In many cases, resources from the academic assistance

fund are also awarded as an advance on a grant or scholarship (See Chapter 7).

With the commencement of the new academic year in 1992/93, an additional system of student funding has been introduced by the banks. It is a loans scheme up to a maximum amount of FF 13,000 per annum, although only for a maximum of three years, available for students. Repayment is made one year after the last drawing on the loan. Those students can apply whose parents' income is below the triple value of the so-called SMIG; this is currently around FF 4,600 per month net. In order to provide the banks with security for the loan, the state and the student health insurance schemes have formed a guarantee fund to the value of 50% of the loan drawn. An additional guarantee over and above this may be taken out by the student health insurance schemes. Those banks which wish to take part in this programme sign a contract with the state. At present four banks are participating in the programme. The state provides no interest subsidies. Each bank fixes its own interest rate.

Grants are awarded in France for 9 months per calendar year, since it has always been assumed that students live at home during vacation and therefore do not require any state support.

The French system of support concentrates on those who can commence with their studies before they are 26 years of age. It is unusual in France for secondary school-leavers to first undertake vocational training or an apprenticeship and then to commence with studies.

There is an extensive scholarship programme in France. In 1988, the CROUS supported 6,838 foreign long-term scholar-

ship holders and 5,119 short-term scholarship holders from 137 countries (particularly from Morocco, Algeria and the People's Republic of China) from funds supplied by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

4. Student accommodation

CROUS generally provide three types of student accommodation; hostels, subsidised social flats and private accommodation.

Places are available for about 10% of all students in the approx. 240 student hostels administered by the CROUS. In Paris, however, there are only 1,500 rooms for almost 300,000 students. Very many students studying in Paris therefore live outside Paris. The hostels are built using state subsidies and loans. The students' rent only covers the general running costs (heat, electricity, water and staff). The rent is approx. FF 700 per month. Rent contracts are generally concluded for a period of 9 months. Applications for rooms should be submitted as early as in February for the beginning of the academic year in October.

Places in hostels are primarily reserved for students with limited financial means. The respective CROUS decides on acceptance in consultation with the equally represented student council on the basis of social criteria and on condition of the student passing the annual examination.

In some cases, the CROUS may also have subsidised social flats. These can be bedsits or flats with four to five rooms. The flats are generally equipped with furniture and maintained by

the CROUS. As in the student hostels, the tenants only pay for the usual running costs. The rent for a two room flat is approx. FF 1,200 per month.

Students are informed about private accommodation in town by the regional and local associations (CROUS/CLOUS) through their accommodation services. The associations advertise in the press to find more rooms for students. A private room in Paris costs approx. FF 2,000 and a two room flat as from about FF 3,000. In the rest of France, the prices are much more reasonable.

A special state programme has been in force in France over the past few years which aims to create additional accommodation. Over the next few years, around 30,000 new places are to be created on the same conditions as the subsidised social flats. The majority of the costs, about 85%, will be funded through loans. The loans for the building of the flats are provided by the State Banks. The interest is minimally above the usual market rates. The loans must be repaid after 40 years. The interest on these loans must be earned. Students who live in these flats will have a right to housing benefit. The rent will be approx. FF 1,200 per month. Students in hostels will receive approx. FF 500 by way of housing benefit.

It is intended to make all students in France entitled to housing benefit. As from 1992 this already applies to the Paris region; in 1993 this will be extended throughout France.

5. Student meals

The refectories in France are run by the CROUS. Set meals are available both midday and evenings; these are state subsidised. Students pay a price of approx. FF 11.50, which covers about half the costs. Approx. 65 million meals are served in the 175 refectories.

Apart from those refectories which are directly administered by the CROUS, there are also other student restaurants administered by the association through contractual agreement. In general, these belong to charitable or non-profit making organisations.

The price for a refectory meal is fixed by the administrative council CNOUS and is binding for all facilities in France.

Students who do not have one of the above-mentioned passes, pay the full price, meaning there is no subsidy for these meals. Other users pay a fixed price set by the minister.

Apart from the classic "menue", the CROUS also offer other meals. This ranges from brasseries and cafeterias, to croissant bars and salad bars. Cafeterias and brasseries can be found on many accommodation estates.

There are more than 380 other restaurants which are contractually bound to the CROUS. Some 12 million meals were served in these in 1990.

6. Advisory services

The CROUS in France have a very well developed network of social advice centres. In each university town, the CROUS or the universities themselves have qualified, generally civil servant, staff available to provide students with general information on social questions and also to offer individual advice. Furthermore, there are psychological advisory centres and assistance on student funding; health advice is also available. The social advisory centre also administers the F.S.U. fund (Fonds de Solidarité Universitaire). In difficult cases, this fund can provide financial assistance.

In 1989 more than 9,000 students were supported with a total amount of approx. FF 9,500,000.

Each university in France has an information and advisory service (Services Universitaire d'Information et d'Orientation; SUIO). This service provides information for students entering employment and for the organisation of their studies.

There is also a special advisory service for foreign students. This is called the Service Universitaire pour les Etudiants Etrangers (SUEE).

In contrast to the Studentenwerke in Germany, the CROUS are also responsible for the management and supervision of government scholarship holders. Government scholarships are paid through the CROUS to foreign students. Apart from these scholarship holders, the CROUS also supervise holders of foreign government scholarships who are sent to France.

7. Students with disabilities

The CROUS have a certain number of rooms specially equipped for students with disabilities. Financial assistance is also available to reimburse travelling costs and as a supplementary scholarships. The age limit for student health insurance for the disabled has been raised to 30.

Information can be obtained from the Centre d'Information et d'Orientation (CIO) at the Ministry of Education.

Students with disabilities can now also turn to the Offices for Disabled Student Affairs at their institution.

8. Students with children

The CROUS have certain flats at their disposal for young families and single parents. Some CROUS have special kindergartens, although generally these are municipal facilities.

As from the age of three, and in some cases even younger, all children in France have a right to a free place in a kindergarten. Small children can, however, normally be found a place in a Crèche or nursery. The social advisors at the CROUS also attend to the affairs of young families and single parents.

9. Culture

The CROUS offer cultural activities in the student hostels and in the student cultural centres; they also organise trips and other cultural events.

Many student hostels have clubs and discos, libraries and various other facilities, such as cinemas, theatres and photography clubs. The success of such facilities, however, often depends on the students' degree of commitment.

Student cultural centres receive a low subsidy through the CROUS. They are generally run under the Law on Associations, Clubs and Societies and must therefore be non-profit making.

For many years now there has been a student travel agency in France called "Organisation pour le Tourisme Universitaire (OTU)". For two years now, the director of the CNOUS has also automatically functioned as director of the OTU. The CROUS sell all trips offered by the OTU. Local travel agents also sell all kinds of tickets for flights, busses, railways, and the like. These offices issue international student passes, too.

The cultural service informs students about cultural events in the towns and in the region through posters and booklets.

10. Student insurance

Student health insurance is part of the general insurance cover in France. The insurance cover for foreign students corresponds to that for French students if the student's country of origin has concluded an appropriate agreement with France. To be insured, students must be registered at a recognised higher education institution; the student must also be under 26 years of age on 1st October of the respective academic year. Exceptions are made for especially long degree courses.

The premium for insurance cover is FF 963 per academic year (valid in 1991) and the insurance covers the following areas:

- reimbursement of 75% of medical costs
- reimbursement of 60% of medicine costs
- 100% of hospital costs in certain cases of longer illness.

The costs for medical treatment and medicine must be paid in advance by the student. Only a small reimbursement is available for the costs of glasses and dentures.

There are two possibilities of taking out voluntary insurance to gain additional cover for those areas not covered by the general insurance.

The Mutuelle Nationale des Etudiants de France (MNEF) was founded upon the initiative of the National Student Union of France (Union Nationale des Etudiants de France, UNEF) and has administrated student social security since 1948. It offers three categories of additional insurance cover. The MNEF has offices throughout France.

The Union Nationale des Sociétés Etudiants Mutualiste Regionales is an association of several student insurance schemes which also offer various categories of additional insurance.

The student insurance schemes not only offer additional health insurance cover, but also private third party liability insurance and an accident and life insurance, too. They are administrated by the students themselves.

If a student is more than 26 years of age and is not entitled to any reduced premiums, then the contribution amounts to at

least FF 2,388 and up to a maximum of FF 15,660 per academic year (depending on insurance category) (Valid 1991).

11. Job opportunities

During the academic year, the lecture plan is so structured that hardly any opportunity remains for taking up paid employment. Paid work therefore concentrates itself on the summer vacations. The CROUS have established a special service in the vacations which offers students various jobs. The CROUS contact companies directly to find jobs and also advertise in the press.

Students work for two reasons: to fund their studies and to get to know the practical side of their future profession. The CROUS and the universities also arrange practicals and information visits to companies which give the students an insight into their future professional life. The CROUS also offer student courses, such as typewriting, or hotel and catering skills so that students may find it easier to get a job.

With the exception of some student jobs paid on an hourly basis, social security contributions must be paid on all income.

12. Statistics on social aspects

For about 2 years now, there has been a committee in France to advise the Minister on student affairs (Observatoire de la Vie d'Etudiants). This committee comprises 10 representatives of student organisations, 2 representatives of the student health insurance scheme, 7 members of higher education facilities and 2 representatives of the local authorities or of the regions. The director of the CNOUS is an observer at these meetings. The

committee submits an annual report to the responsible minister on measures to be undertaken in the field of student affairs to improve their living and studying conditions.

There are now specific plans for carrying out a social survey in France next year or the year after next.

The social background of students in France is as follows:

Self-employed	31.0%
Middle management/Section head	19.0%
Salaried staff	9.2%
Industrial worker	13.0%
Services sector worker	2.0%
Other categories	20.8%
No specification	4.0%

Important information is published by the French office of statistics (ONISEP) in Paris. This provides students and education institutions with all-round information.

13. National coordination of social affairs

The address of the CNOUS in Paris, which maintains many contacts with partner organisations in other countries, is:

CNOUS-Paris
Centre National des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires
69, quai d'Orsay
F -75007 Paris

The presidents of the universities are organised in the Conférence des Présidents d'Université (CPU):

Conférence des Présidents d'Université Secrétariat permanent
12, rue de l'Ecole de Médecin
F -75006 Paris

The Conférence of Grandes Écoles is an independent institution which represents the interests of its members at government and public level:

Conférence of Grandes Écoles
60, boulevard Saint Michel
F -75272 Paris Cedex 06

Further addresses:

Centre d'Information et d'Orientation (CIO)
8, rue Dieudonne-Cortes
F -75013 Paris

Mutuelle Nationale des Etudiants de France
16, avenue Raopail
BP 100 F -94252 Gentilly Cedex

Union Nationale des Sociétés Etudiantes Mutualistes
Régionales Union Nationale des Sociétés Etudiantes Mutualistes Régionales
4, rue Rezont
F -75014 Paris

Section V

Greece

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1. General information

Greek higher education (tertiary level) is under the authority of the Ministry of Education and Religion and is provided mainly by the universities and the tertiary technical colleges.

Tertiary education in Greece is only capable of accepting a very limited number of applicants. Apart from possessing a secondary school-leaving certificate, applicants are expected to qualify in subject-based general examinations. The total number of those admitted to each institution of higher education is decided upon for each academic year by the Ministry of Education in consultation with the respective institution, the Senate and the Council for Higher Education (SAP, see below). In the 1988/89 academic year, the following quotas were specified: foreigners born abroad - 1%; applicants born in Greece, but living or having lived abroad for more than five years - 5%; Greek government scholarship holders born abroad or in Greece - 1%; Cypriots - 5 to 10% (depending on subject). In addition to these places, a fixed - very limited - number of foreigners, expatriate Greeks and scholarship holders will be admitted. The Greek Constitution of 1975 states that art and science, research and teaching are free and that their development and promotion are the responsibility of the state. Higher education may, therefore, only be carried out by such establishments as are public corporate bodies with complete autonomy. These establishments come under the supervision of the state and are financed by the state. Private institutions of higher education are prohibited.

A law "on the structure and function of the institutions of higher education" passed in 1982 envisages, among other areas, the foundation of advisory bodies and think tanks: the National

Academy of Education and Science (EAGE) and the Council for Higher Education (SAP). The National Academy of Education and Science (not yet established) will advise the government on questions of higher education. The Council for Higher Education (established in 1986), to which representatives of the colleges and universities, the ministries and the political parties belong, reports to the government on questions of higher education.

The university bodies are the Senate, the Conference of University Presidents and the University President. Greece has 17 universities and polytechnical colleges, and 11 technical colleges (TEI). Depending on subject, degree courses last between 4 and 6 years. The 1986/87 academic year saw a total of 115,908 students enrolled at the Greek universities, of which some 35,884 were studying in Athens. 64,000 were students enrolled at the polytechnical colleges, of whom 16,288 were studying at the polytechnic in Athens.

Apart from certain cases, higher education in Greece is free of charge for foreigners (cf. Chapter 3). Most foreign students in Greece come from the Middle East (including many Palestinians, Ethiopians and Sudanese, Chinese and Japanese). The number of foreign students from EC countries is very low by comparison. Precise figures on the number of foreign students are not available. However, the admissions quota for students of foreign birth is officially limited to 1% (with the exception of government scholarship holders).

Higher education study in Greece is free of charge. Foreign citizens of non-Greek birth who are enrolled on a full main or basic degree course or postgraduate degree course form an exception. Such students are obliged to pay registration and study

fees. Scholarship holders are exempt from the payment of study fees, as are students from countries in which Greeks pay no study fees.

Students of limited means who excel in respect of aptitude and performance may, following a decision by the Minister of Education on the basis of a report from the respective higher education institution, be granted scholarships which serve to fully or partly exempt the student from registration and study fees.

In the 1988/89 academic year, the study fees were set at DR 54,000, with the exception of the faculties of medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine and the faculties at the polytechnical colleges where the study fees amounted to DR 72,000.

2. Organisation of the social infrastructure

An Office for Student Affairs and Student Care at the Ministry of Education and Religion is responsible for student social affairs in higher education. Apart from the universities themselves, responsibility for the organisation of student accommodation and student meals falls to the National Youth Foundation.

The National Youth Foundation is also responsible for boarding and lodging secondary school pupils who to date have occupied a large proportion of the available spaces. This is due to the limited availability of secondary schools in remote areas which would mean unacceptable commuting distances for pupils if they could not use the boarding facilities. Until now, the National Youth Foundation has been under the administration of the Ministry of Culture. However, in the near future it

will be assigned to the Ministry of Education and Religion. It is hoped that this will bring about a better coordination of the offices responsible for student social affairs in higher education. The organisation of the social infrastructure, which is only rudimentary by comparison with that in other EC countries, is consequently undertaken in many areas by higher education institutions themselves.

Although there is a national student representative body (EFEE, National Student Union of Greece), which is elected by all students, the body is de facto inoperative due to internal differences.

3. Student funding

Since the 1983/84 academic year, the state has granted students at Greek institutions of higher education in the basic, main or postgraduate stages and students at the polytechnical colleges, interest-free loans as a means of financial educational support. The allocation of loans depends on the following factors:

- performance in compulsory subjects,
- the applicant's personal or family's financial circumstances.

No figures are available as yet on the number of students receiving financial assistance, however this will be very minor. Generally, educational financial assistance can only be granted for the period in which lectures are held and not during the semester vacations. Parents receive child benefit for children still in education.

The Foundation of State Scholarships, IKY, grants scholarships to:

- Students in tertiary education who excel in respect of study achievements and character,
- Students of Greek birth from Cyprus,
- Greek citizens - for the purpose of postgraduate studies for further training abroad or in Greece after successful participation in a special selection competition,
- Students of Greek birth with a foreign degree - for the preparation and completion of a thesis in Greece,
- Foreign students holding degrees and coming from member states of the Council of Europe or from the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America - for the preparation and completion of a thesis in Greece.

The initial duration of a scholarship is one year and may be extended if the performance of the scholarship holder is satisfactory.

The amount of financial support paid to Greek scholarship holders is decided upon by the administrative board at the Foundation of State Scholarships. Scholarship holders of Greek and foreign birth engaged in further education in Greece receive:

- a monthly cost of living allowance amounting to DR 40,000,
- a one-off grant of DR 50,000 travelling costs and settlement in residence, c) a sum of DR 60,000 towards the printing of the thesis.

In 1989 the Foundation of State Scholarships was appointed as the national office for the allocation of student scholarships within the framework of the EC's ERASMUS programme.

In addition to this, the University of Athens has an educational support fund. This fund aims to provide moral and material/monetary support for students of limited financial means (including foreign students) studying there.

In addition to this, the state supports all students by providing:

- free medical care,
- teaching materials required for lectures and examinations free of charge,
- fare reductions of between 25% and 50% on public transport.

The monthly cost of living for students residing in a student hostel is estimated to amount to approx. DR 30,000, and for students in private accommodation, to DR 60,000.

4. Student accommodation

The student hostels are run by the state through the National Youth Foundation. In addition to these, there are also private and denominational establishments providing accommodation for students. The University Clubs will provide assistance in finding accommodation. Some universities also rent hotel rooms. The National Youth Foundation has 17 hostels with a total of 5,500 places. A specific proportion of places is reserved for foreign students. Students who receive a place in one of the National Youth Foundation hostels may use these for one year beyond the time allowed for studies.

Students must fulfil the following conditions in order to qualify for the allocation of a place in a hostel:

- they must be registered at a university or polytechnic,
- they must not already hold a degree from another university,
- their family must not have a permanent residence at the place of study,
- they must be under 25 years of age,
- they must not have forfeited the right to a place in any other hostel for reasons of discipline.

Parental income and the number of children in education are taken into consideration in the allocation of places.

The state subsidises the construction and maintenance of student hostels so that the monthly rent of approx. DR 1,500 is far below that found on the private accommodation market. The average rent on the private accommodation market for a private room comes to about DR 20,000 per month. In Greece, too, it is very difficult for students to find suitable accommodation. Along with the problem of funding their studies, this is the greatest problem encountered by students in the organisation of studies. Students do not have a rent contract for the place in a student hostel, often do not pay their rent and refuse to leave the hostel at the end of the academic year. A board of trustees at the National Youth Foundation decides on applications for accommodation in a student hostel. The financial circumstances of the applicant's family is of decisive importance in the selection procedure. Approx. 6% of all students receive a place in a student hostel. 8% of these places are reserved for foreign students.

5. Student meals

The National Youth Foundation and the universities are re-

sponsible on behalf of the state for the provision of student meals. The state subsidises the National Youth Foundation and the universities for the establishment and maintenance of student catering facilities. 6% of all students can take their meals in the student hostels; most students, however, (precise figures are unavailable) eat in the student refectories or in private restaurants which have signed contracts with the universities. The price for three meals a day in the refectories of the National Youth Foundation amounts to DR 300. This price, however, does not even cover material costs. The prices in private restaurants vary greatly, depending on the meal chosen. Students with limited financial means receive vouchers for the private restaurants with which they can then pay for their meals. Vegetarian dishes are also offered in all student catering facilities. Apart from the above-mentioned catering facilities, the universities and the National Youth Foundation also operate snack bars and shops. Privately-operated facilities may not exceed a contractually agreed profit margin.

6. Advisory services

General study advice is provided by the Study Office and by the Student Welfare Office found at the universities, as well as by the Offices for Research, Statistics and Organisation at the universities and polytechnical colleges, and by the Public Relations Office of the University Club at Athens University.

7. Students with disabilities

Admission of students with disabilities to universities at their parents' place of residence is unrestricted. Medical care facilities and

stays in hospital are free of charge. The secretariats of the institutions of higher education are obliged to ease the study conditions for these students in various areas, for example, lectures and examinations. The provision of ramps for people in wheelchairs and of special lifts is also planned. At present, however, such facilities exist neither at the universities nor in the hostels.

A central advisory service for students with disabilities does not exist in Greece. Disabled students may, however, turn to the social services in their town for assistance and advice.

8. Students with children

There is no special financial support for students with children. Neither do the hostels have any special facilities for students with children. Some universities do have kindergartens for university staff which may also be used by students with children.

9. Culture

The availability and extent of cultural activities events depends on the personal initiative of the university staff and students themselves. Some student groups organise cultural events on their own behalf.

The National Youth Foundation organises the general conditions for cultural events and sporting facilities for students living in the hostels. For example, it funds the organisation of theatre performances. The choice is very limited, although this is also due to a lack of student initiative and to existing political differences within the National Student Union of Greece.

10. Student insurance

Students studying in the basic and main study stages and in the postgraduate stage (Greek nationals and non-nationals) have a right to free medical care. This right is limited to the minimum period of study duration plus 50% of that minimum study duration. In order to receive the above medical care, students must present their entitlement book for student care, which they receive upon registration, to the doctor.

Medical care includes: medical examination and treatment, hospital treatment, provision of medication, home visits by a doctor, childbirth, physiotherapy, dental treatment, orthopaedic appliances, contact lenses and glasses. Furthermore, there is the opportunity for treatment abroad if the illness or disease cannot be diagnosed and treated in Greece.

11. Job opportunities

Official figures on student employment in Greece are not available. There is no student job placement service at Greek universities and colleges.

Students often do work in order to earn some extra money, for example, in restaurants, even if they are studying full-time.

Generally, however, this income is never declared so that there are no sources for figures on student employment. So far, foreigners theoretically require a work permit in order to be able to work in Greece, although in practice such a permit only plays an insignificant role.

12. Statistics on social aspects

The range of statistics on student affairs is very limited. The Ministry of Education and Religion has no general figures available. Some individual institutions of higher education have established Offices for Research, Statistics and Organisation.

13. National coordination of social affairs

An Office for Student Affairs and Student Care at the Ministry of Education and Religion is responsible for student social affairs in higher education.

Υπουργείο Εθνικής Παιδείας
και Θρησκευμάτων
Τηλ. κέντρο 3 23 04 61-5
α) Διεύθυνση Σπουδών και
Φοιτητικής Μέριμνας
β) Ειδική Γραμματεία ΤΕΙ
γ) Συμβούλιο Ανωτάτης
Εκπαίδευσης
Μητροπόλεως 15
GR-101 85 Αθήνα

(Ministry of National Education and Religion / Office for Studies and Student Welfare / Special Office for the TEI / Council of Higher Education Institutions).

Apart from the individual universities, the National Youth Foundation is responsible for the organisation of student accommodation and the provision of student meals.

National Youth Foundation
Syngrou AV 126, Athens 17610
Tel: 00301 - 9215271
Fax: 00301 - 9217103

Further addresses:

Πανεπιστημιακή Λέσχη
Πανεπιστημίου Αθηνών
Γραφείο Δημοσίων Σχέσεων
(προϊστάμενος:
κ. Μ. Γεράρδου
Τηλ. 3 60 92 95)
Ιπποκράτους 15
GR-106 79 Αθήνα

University Club of Athens - Office for Public Relations

Ίδρυμα Κρατικών
Υποτροφιών
Λυσικράτους 14
GR-105 58 Αθήνα
Τηλ. 3 25 43 85

Foundation of State Scholarships

Διαπανεπιστημιακό Κέντρο
Αναγνώρισεως Τίτλων
Σπουδών
Αλλοδαπής (ΔΙΚΑΤΣΑ)
Συγγρού 112
GR-117 41 Αθήνα
Τηλ. 9 22 25 26

General Academic Office for the Recognition of Foreign Degrees

Section VI

Ireland

- 1. General information**
- 2. Organisation of the social infrastructure**
- 3. Student funding**
- 4. Student accommodation**
- 5. Student meals**
- 6. Advisory services**
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1. General information

Higher education in Ireland is mainly provided by the Universities, Technical Colleges and Teacher Training Colleges. There are 7 universities in Ireland. These are: University College, Dublin (UCD), University College, Galway (UCG), University College, Cork (UCC), Trinity College, Dublin (TCD), St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Dublin City University, and the University of Limerick. There are also 9 Regional Technical Colleges. There is a general tendency in Ireland today to integrate the smaller colleges into the competence of the universities. Ireland also has colleges of art and design, medicine, theology, music, law, and hotel management and catering.

Particularly the universities and the technical colleges are largely funded by the state. They receive just under 70% of their financial resources from the state, although this is decreasing. The remainder is financed mainly through study fees.

The Higher Education Authority (HEA), which was established in 1968 by the Education Minister, is responsible for the planning of higher education and the allocation of state funding for the universities and certain other colleges. The effects of recession and inflation resulted in the introduction of drastic savings measures in the early 1980s. The institutions of higher education reacted to this by raising their study fees and opening university facilities to commercial use during the vacations.

In 1988/89 just under 62,970 full-time students were registered the more than 40 institutions of higher education in Ireland. 35,820 (provisional figure for 1990/91: 40,319) of these were at the universities, 1,659 were at teacher training colleges and 25,491 were at other colleges. 5.9% of the university stu-

dents were foreign. Of these, some 48% came from EC countries (especially from the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland). 36% of the other foreign students came from Asia, 38% from North America, and 21% from Africa.

In 1986 the proportion of women among the first-year students was 48%. In 1980, it was only 46%. In 1988/89 the proportion of women among all students was 48%. An above-average proportion of women students is to be found in the following subjects: hotel management and catering, tourism, social sciences, education, art and design.

1986/87 saw 25% of the appropriate age group entering higher education. Student numbers have again been increasing greatly over the past few years. In 1991, for example, the University of Limerick reported an increase in undergraduate registrations of more than 10%; for postgraduate registrations, this rate exceeded 23%.

There is no automatic right of admission to higher education. Admission is usually based on the school-leaving certificate or on the results of the matriculation tests. In most cases, the number of available study places is limited. Therefore, these are allocated by the respective universities on a specific points system. Degree courses such as human and veterinary medicine, architecture and engineering are in particularly great demand. Applications for many colleges are processed centrally at the Central Applications Office (CAO) in Galway.

The academic year normally begins in October. The length of studies varies from 3 years to 6 years for a Bachelor's degree. The humanities and social sciences, law and economics take three years. Engineering, agriculture and the natural sciences

take four years. Students of architecture and medicine study for six years. The postgraduate degree courses last at least three years (Master's degree). A doctorate requires between two and four year's study.

The National Council for Educational Awards (NCEA) governs the formal recognition on a national level of most degree courses offered by non-university institutions.

All Irish institutions of higher education charge study fees. Since 1980/81 these fees at most colleges have been just as high for students from EC member states as for Irish students. The level of the study fees depends on the respective degree course. At the university colleges it is between IR£ 1,000 for humanities and economics courses and IR£ 1,500 or more for natural science or medicine courses (in the 1989/90). At the colleges of technology and the regional technical colleges, the study fees for 1989/90 were considerably lower. All students have to pay these study fees. They must be paid by them (or by their parents) in addition to their normal everyday living costs. If the student receives a study grant, then the fees are covered by this.

2. Organisation of the social infrastructure

There are no specific facilities in Ireland which are responsible for the social infrastructure at the institutions of higher education. Therefore, responsibility for the organisation of the social sector in higher education falls to the individual universities. Student funding forms an exception to this.

3. Student funding

The Higher Education Grants Scheme, based on the Higher Education Grants Acts of 1968 and 1978, stipulates that students are only eligible for support if their permanent place of residence is in Ireland. Grants awarded under these acts are valid both for Northern Ireland and for the Republic of Ireland. The grants are administered by the respective local county councils. The entitlement to a grant is based on the grades of the school-leaving certificate examination and on parental income. In 1991 the conditions of support, as stipulated by the Higher Education Grants Scheme, were as follows: Students must be permanently resident in the district of the respective university and must fulfil at least the minimum requirements in major subjects of the leaving certificate. They must not yet have received any public financial support for higher education and must not yet have a degree. The calculation of the grant is based on the parents' or on the student's respective gross income, without taking pension contributions, child benefit (in accordance with social security legislation), the candidate's income from holiday jobs or payments based on the Family Income Support Act into account. The number of children under 16 years of age or in education will also be taken into consideration in the assessment of parental income. The student receiving the grant must be at least 17 years of age. Application for grants must be submitted prior to the commencement of studies. Upon approval, the student will receive the grant for the duration of his or her studies. Annual reapplication is not required. If the student is accepted for a doctorate, then the grant is transformed into a postgraduate scholarship. The grant is a non-repayable subsidy.

Students whose family live more than 15 miles from the institu-

tion of higher education and who cannot be expected to travel from the family residence to the institution of higher education every day, will receive the maximum grant of IR£ 1,409 per academic year, if family income is IR£ 10,787 or less per annum. If family income is between IR£ 12,403 and 13,214 per annum, then, the minimum grant (IR£ 561) is due for a family with one or two children. For students living at home, the sum is IR£ 561, given an income of up to IR£ 10,787 per annum; and for an income of between IR£ 12,403 and 13,214, the grant is IR£ 225. Depending on the level of family income, study fees for each student receiving a grant are wholly or partly paid. Appendix 1 to this section is table indicating the grant value on the basis of family income and number of children for the 1991 academic year.

Part-time or evening courses are not supported by the programme. The duration of study support depends on course length.

The grant provided by the Vocational Education Committees (VEC) is only awarded to students at certain technical colleges. The level of support for the 1991 academic year corresponds to that of the Higher Education Grants Scheme and the grants are allocated on similar conditions. The allocation of grants is administered by the local county VECs. Upon recommendation by the respective institution of higher education, it is possible for students to be supported during their postgraduate studies as well. This applies to the Higher Education Grants Scheme and to the VEC Scheme.

Students at the technical colleges on short courses receive a European Social Fund Grant (ESF) which is awarded without regard to family income. The European Social Fund Grants Sys-

tem represents a second important financing possibility in addition to the above-mentioned educational grants systems. Students supported by this programme receive reimbursement of their study fees and a grant of between IR£ 464 and 1,160 per academic year, depending on the distance from place of residence to college. The parents' or student's own income is of no significance to the allocation of these grants. The grants are awarded to help students gain National Certificate Level at the regional technical colleges and the colleges of technology. The courses last between one and two years. The certificate gained in such a course cannot, however, be compared with a university degree. Each university also has scholarships administered by the universities themselves.

The proportion of wholly or partly supported students in Ireland is not known exactly. A study published by the Higher Education Authority in 1986 (A Second National Survey of Participation in Higher Education) showed that first-year students in 1986 funded their studies as follows: 21.8% through a Higher Education or VEC Grant, and 1.5% through other sources; 37.3% had no source of financial support 39.4% through the European Social Fund (ESF). If family income exceeds the levels laid down by the state educational grant programmes, then the family must pay the relatively high study fees as well as the normal living costs. Traditionally, parents in Ireland invest a great deal of money in the education of their children. The average cost of living in the 1991 academic year for one student, living away of home, was IR£ 3,616 plus study fees.

Apart from the above-mentioned support programmes, there are also loan programmes for students. These are allocated by the major banks. However, the interest rate is only slightly be-

low the normal bank-interest rate. Normally, loans are only given to students in their second or later year.

Each form of state support is suspended during the summer vacations. During this period, students can claim social security assistance if they fulfil certain conditions. However, if the student receives educational support during term, then the social security assistance is offset against the total support sum for the appropriate year. That means that for each week in which the student claims social security assistance, 1/52 is deducted from the annual grant sum.

Foreign students have no right to study support in Ireland. They may, however, apply to the university for a scholarship for highly-gifted students. The allocation of ERASMUS scholarships is administered by the Higher Education Authority, which is also generally responsible for the grants system.

4. Student accommodation

The large majority of students at Irish institutions of higher education do not live on the university campus where the availability of accommodation is very limited. Figures issued by the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) described the student accommodation situation at universities in 1989 as follows: 41.67% of those registered were living at home; 38.6% had found a room or flat on the private accommodation market; a further 8.6% took a furnished room in a private guest-house; 5.62% were living on campus; and another 5.51% lived elsewhere, for example, in quarters offered by denominational institutions.

In contrast to most other EC countries, the building of student

hostels is not specifically subsidised by the state. Private builder-owners of student hostels can expect nothing more than tax allowances. By reducing the building costs in this way, it is hoped that lower rents will be achieved for the students. Generally, however, the private builder-owners cannot buy the land on which the student hostel is to be built; rather it is only let to them for an average of 15 years. After this leasehold expires, the university regains the land. The number of available hostel places on campus is not known.

Due to the lack of subsidies for the building of student hostels, the rooms on campus at Irish universities are usually more expensive than off campus. The average weekly rent for a room in college is approx. IR£ 35, for a flat or room off campus the price is from about IR£ 20 upwards. There are no generally valid acceptance criteria for the student hostels on campus. At the University of Limerick students in the early terms are given preferential allocation of hostel places. No provisions have been made for foreign students. They do not have the benefit of any privileged allocation of rooms on campus. With the exception of Trinity College, Dublin, student hostels have only existed on campus for a few years now. Consequently, the question of restricting the duration of a stay in a student hostel has not been dealt with yet. Generally, the rooms are rented out for one academic year, meaning exclusive of the summer months. As is the case in the United Kingdom, the hostels and other university buildings are used for commercially in the summer.

The institutions of higher education generally assist the students in finding accommodation and have lists of guesthouses, flats and other accommodation available. In most cases, the Dean of Residence is responsible for this sector. At the larger institutions of higher education, the student union and associa-

tions will also help in the search for accommodation. These also provide legal advice on rent affairs.

5. Student meals

Generally, there are catering facilities such as refectories, cafeterias and snack bars to be found on campus. Some of these are run by the institutions of higher education themselves. However, often they are let to private operators as well. Some snack bars are also run by the student union. In general, these catering facilities are neither subsidised by the state nor by the institutions of higher education. The refectory at Trinity College, Dublin, is an exception, since it traditionally receives funding from the university. The operators of catering facilities must, therefore, bear all costs. As a result, the prices for meals are high; IR£ 2 is paid for a standard meal. In the opinion of the USI, the universities and colleges not only aim to cover their materials and labour costs with these prices, but also aim to make a profit. This is because they are compelled to finance 5% of their total costs from means other than state subsidies and study fees.

6. Advisory services

The organisation of advisory services at the institutions of higher education in Ireland also falls under the competence of the individual institutions. There are no official coordinating offices, apart from the informal Association of Graduate Careers Services, AGCSI. Study planning and careers planning services are offered by the Careers and Appointments Services situated at the universities and the larger colleges. The range of

services offered by these advisory centres is very varied. They offer personal advice conversations with a careers advisor, further group sessions in which students can discover their particular aptitude and skills, lectures which provide information on specific career areas, information services, vacation practicals, contacts with possible employers and psychological tests. As in the United Kingdom, the Careers Services represent an important element of the advisory assistance offered in higher education. Moreover, they maintain close contacts with the academic sector of the university. Often, they also keep close contacts with the accommodation and health services. As such they form a central contact office for advisory services. The AGCSI also maintains close relations with services in Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom, where similar associations exist (Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services in Britain). Overall, however, the advisory services at the institutions of higher education differ greatly and vary a great deal depending on the size of the institution.

A general higher education advisory agency is to be found in the Irish Council for Overseas Students (ICOS), which assists foreign and, in particular, Third World students in finding accommodation and in completing all administrative formalities, and the like.

7. Students with disabilities

All the universities and a number of colleges in Ireland offer facilities for students with disabilities. There is no central advisory facility for students with disabilities. The number of disabled students is very low. Only three disabled students are registered at UCD/DCU, for example.

The National University of Ireland, which is comprised of the autonomous universities of UCD, UCG and UCC, annually awards a 5-year scholarship to a seriously-disabled student. The UCC also awards such a scholarship on an annual basis.

8. Students with children

Children's groups and play groups have been established at some institutions for the children of university staff and students. These are either run by the universities themselves or by the student unions and receive no state subsidies. Students and university staff pay costs which differ from town to town; at the University of Limerick, for example, a student pays IR£ 35 per week. In cases of financial need, the university may award a reduction.

9. Culture

Student organisations and associations at the universities and colleges engage in cultural and social activities. Each institution has a Student Union which coordinates the activities of societies there and which publishes an extensive handbook. The handbook includes information on various events and provides a guide to what is on offer to the students. The Irish Council for Overseas Students (see above) also organises a cultural programme.

The cultural activities partly receive indirect funding through student contributions. The institutions of higher education charge the students an annual capitation fee which is placed at the disposal of the Student Union. A proportion of these funds

is provided as financial support for cultural activities. A committee, comprising students and university members, decides on the allocation of the funds to the various student societies.

Student societies are a characteristic feature of Irish university life. They are formed on the basis of like political, religious, sporting or subject interests and offer their members extracurricular leisure time activities. Generally, many sporting activities are offered.

10. Student insurance

Irish citizens can make use of all public health care facilities free of charge. The Irish General Medical Service, a service comparable to the British National Health Service, is available for general use. Students whose family income does not exceed a certain ceiling may apply for a Medical Card from the competent Health Board which then entitles them to free treatment by a private GP who is registered in the scheme or free treatment in the general care category at a General Medical Service hospital. Such students also have a right to medicines, dental treatment and other services. Students from EC member states who are insured by the national insurance schemes of their home country are generally entitled to make use of the full range of services. Students from developing countries and who already receive an Irish government scholarship, in practice, enjoy the same medical care as Irish citizens. There is, however, no legal basis for this. Each case is negotiated and decided upon separately between the Regional Health Boards and the Irish Council for Overseas Students (ICOS).

Students from non-EC countries who are not covered by the

above system can take out insurance through ICOS. The universities and colleges often have Medical Services which can be used free of charge.

11. Job opportunities

There is no organisation which is officially responsible for placement of student jobs. At some institutions, the student organisations provide information on job opportunities. Some universities run cooperative training programmes for certain degree courses in which students are placed in paid jobs as part of the course requirement. Similar programmes in industry are also available at certain regional technical colleges. Overall, the same applies to Ireland as to the UK; the economic situation makes it difficult to find paid spare-time work. In addition to this, the rigid timetable hardly leaves enough free time for any other work. Grant holders are forbidden from taking on any spare-time work. There are plans for all students who take on spare-time work of at least eight hours per week to be covered by social security insurance.

12. Statistics on social aspects

The Higher Education Authority publishes the "Report on Accounts & Student Statistics" which provides an extensive summary of its activities in the allocation of state subsidies and which also includes statistics on facilities and institutions financed by the Authority. A further report by the Higher Education Authority, published in 1988 (Who goes to College? A Second National Survey of Participation In Higher Education), investigated the socio-economic status of first-year students. So-

cial inequalities became manifest. More than 55% of the first-year students came from five social groups (higher professional, lower professional, employer and manager, senior white-collar staff, junior white-collar staff) although these only accounted for 30% of the total sample. By contrast, the other five groups were clearly under-represented (other white collar staff, skilled workers, semi-skilled and unskilled workers, and other workers). Although this group accounted for 55% of the relevant age-group, only 24% of the first-year students came from it.

13. National coordination of social affairs

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) is responsible for the planning of higher education and allocation of state funding for most institutions of higher education (see Chapter 1).

Higher Education Authority
21, Fitzwilliam Square
IRL-Dublin 2

The principals of the universities are organised in the Committee of the Heads of Irish Universities

Mr. John Nolan
Executive Officer
49, Merrion Square
IRL-Dublin 2

The National Council for Educational Awards (NCEA) is nationally responsible for the recognition of most degree courses outside of the universities.

The National Council for Educational Awards
26, Mountjoy Square
IRL-Dublin 1

Further addresses:

Association of Graduate Careers Services (AGCSI)
The AGCSI has no permanent address. The convener for 1991/92 is

Muireann Ni Dhuihneain
Careers and Appointment Service
Dublin City University
IRL-Dublin 9

Careers Information
Service Department of Labour
Mespil Road
IRL-Dublin 4

Central Applications Office
Tower House
Eglinton Street
IRL-Galway

Dept. of Education
Marlborough Street
IRL-Dublin 1

Irish Council for Overseas Students
41, Morehampton Road
IRL-Dublin 4

Union of Students in Ireland
16, Nth. Great Georges St.
IRL-Dublin 1

Appendix I

Grants for Students not living with their Parents

From	To	1 or 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
£ 17,528	£ 17,978	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	D
£ 17,079	£ 17,528	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	D	C
£ 16,629	£ 17,079	-	-	-	-	-	-	D	C	B
£ 16,180	£ 16,629	-	-	-	-	D	C	B	A	
£ 15,506	£ 16,180	-	-	-	D	C	B	A	A	
£ 14,832	£ 15,506	-	-	D	C	B	A	A	A	
£ 14,023	£ 14,832	-	-	D	C	B	A	A	A	
£ 13,214	£ 14,023	-	D	C	B	A	A	A	A	
£ 12,403	£ 13,214	D	C	B	A	A	A	A	A	
£ 11,595	£ 12,403	C	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	
£ 10,787	£ 11,595	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
-	£ 10,787	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	

Category A: -£ 1,1409 *

Category B: -£ 1,129

Category C: -£ 847 *

Category D: -£ 561 *

Appendix II

Grants for Students living with their Parents

From	To	1 or 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
£ 17,528	£ 17,978	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	J
£ 17,079	£ 17,528	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	J	I
£ 16,629	£ 17,079	-	-	-	-	-	-	J	I	H
£ 16,180	£ 16,629	-	-	-	-	-	J	I	H	G
£ 15,506	£ 16,180	-	-	-	-	J	I	H	G	G
£ 14,832	£ 15,506	-	-	-	J	I	H	G	G	G
£ 14,023	£ 14,832	-	-	J	I	H	G	G	G	G
£ 13,214	£ 14,023	-	J	I	H	G	G	G	G	G
£ 12,403	£ 13,214	J	I	H	G	G	G	G	G	G
£ 11,595	£ 12,403	I	H	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
£ 10,787	£ 11,595	H	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
-	£ 10,787	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G

Category G:	-£ 561 *
Category H:	-£ 449 *
Category I:	-£ 337 *
Category J:	-£ 225 *

Section VII

Italy

- 1. General information**
- 2. Organisation of the social infrastructure**
- 3. Student funding**
- 4. Student accommodation**
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1. General information

There are 55 universities in Italy of which 46 are state-run and 9 are privately run, although they are recognised by the state. Apart from the universities, the institutions of higher education include two technical colleges (Politecnica), special institutes for the teaching profession and for architecture, sports colleges, music conservatories and academies of art. The institutions of higher education are spread over 41 locations plus branches. Some faculties are located in a different town to where the central institution is. The Italian institutions of higher education are statutory public bodies and possess extensive autonomy. The Ministry of Education is responsible for all the institutions of higher education and for the distribution of state funding. In other cases, responsibility and competence are decentralised. The individual regions have differing organisational forms for the education and higher education.

In the course of the regionalisation process which took place in Italy in the 1970s, state responsibilities were increasingly shifted to the regions. The administration was decentralised; a national general law on higher education did not exist until November 1991. Competence for education was transferred to the regions, although this initially applied only to the school sector; since 1977 it has also applied to the higher education sector.

Studies are structured into academic years, and in some few cases, semesters. The length of studies is generally four years. In the natural sciences, engineering, dentistry and veterinary medicine the length of studies is five years, and in human medicine and surgery, six years. Studies are structured in great detail. Compulsory and optional subjects are offered; the courses are offered in the form of traditional lectures. Students in Italy

choose a faculta which provides extensive teaching in its respective field. The study of languages, for example, would consist of English, a second foreign language, Italian literature, linguistics plus certain optional subsidiary subjects.

The Laurea is the traditional Italian academic degree. Around 95% of all Italian students are studying for this degree. By gaining the Laurea, students also gain the title of dottore/dottorressa. There are a few shorter degree courses which last two or three years and which are concluded with a state examination, the Diploma. Graduate training concludes with the Dottorato di ricerca, an academic post-Laurea degree. Higher education graduates who hold the Laurea can take up any profession, including, for example, a university career. After the introduction of the Dottorato di ricerca in 1980 an international downgrading of the Laurea took place, although this did not occur within Italy.

The admissions requirement for higher education is the secondary school leaving certificate, the Diploma di maturita. Successful attendance of a secondary school (five years) entitles a student to attend any faculty at a university. The introduction of admissions restrictions is currently the topic of much public debate. However, restrictions (Numero chiuso) only apply so far to dentistry and orthodontics.

The admissions requirement for foreigners corresponds to that in their country of origin. Foreign students can apply for a study place in Italy if their school-leaving certificate would entitle them to study in their own country. The application forms have to be requested from the Italian consulates in the respective country. For application, it is necessary to submit originals of all certificates and papers (school-leaving certifi-

cate, diploma); these are then kept by the secretariat of the respective institution of higher education for the duration of the studies. The allocation of places at institutions of higher education is organised centrally by the Foreign Ministry in Rome. Foreign students must take an Italian language test at their host institution. Students from foreign universities who only want to study in Italy for a short period of time, can be admitted to individual courses (corsi singoli) as guest students. Upon completion of the course, they will receive a certificate of participation.

The total number of students in Italy is approx. 1,300,000, of which some 2.2% are foreigners, equating to about 26,000 students. Half of these come from EC countries. The proportion of women studying at Italian institutions of higher education is 46%. Female students are most strongly represented in the humanities (76%) and are least represented in engineering (15%).

The universities were not prepared for the explosion in student numbers which has taken place since the 1960s and are still suffering under the large numbers of students. Almost half of all students are registered in the five cities of Rome, Naples, Milan, Bologna and Turin. The largest university is that in Rome with around 170,000 students, followed by Naples with about 100,000. Nine universities have more than 40,000 registered students. Six universities have between 20,000 and 40,000 students, eleven between 10,000 and 20,000 and twenty-six have fewer than 10,000 students. No university has all of the 20 listed faculties, meaning that not all degree courses are available at each university. Frequently, up to 12 faculties are represented at one place. Some institutions have specialised in certain disciplines in order to avoid competition with other near-by institutions.

Study fees have to be paid at both the state as well as at the private institutions of higher education. These are made up of a basic charge (*tasse*), surcharges (*sopratasse*), and other contributions (*contributi*). The level differs depending on the higher education facility. At the state institutions they amount to between LIT 300,000 and 400,000 per annum. In some cases, for example, low net family income, a (partial) waiver of the study fees may be granted. Students who exceed the prescribed duration of study have to reckon with paying annually increasing substantial study fees.

2. Organisation of the social infrastructure

Since the regionalisation of higher education in the early 1980s (cf. Chapter 1), there has no longer been any centralised organisational structure for the social sector at the universities. The regions are responsible for legislation, planning, finances, supervision and control of all aspects of study support. There are different organisational forms of support for students. The regional offices work independently of each other. Competence for the associations for student affairs has been withdrawn from the Ministry of Education, with the exception of a few cases.

The associations for student affairs (*Opera Universitaria*), established at each university town in 1933, were initially maintained under central administration in four of the five regions with special status (Sicily, Sardinia, the Aosta Valley, Julian Venice). In the meantime, regional laws also apply to some of these regions or in some of their provinces (Bolzano and Trieste).

Despite regional independence, the region of Tuscany in 1979 took on responsibility for the coordination of education, to which the social sectors at the universities also belong. In the individual Italian regions, *istituti per il diritto allo studio universitario* (DSU-Right to Study) have been established on the basis of the regional laws. These have different names at each university, for example ISU in Lombardy, IDISU in Latium, and ERSU in Marches. These institutions have the following organisational structure: an administrative board, made up of professors, students and administrative representatives, an executive (president), a director and a committee of auditors appointed by the regional parliament. The staff is employed full-time by the respective region. The director is appointed from among the full-time staff.

These institutions are financed through their own income, through subsidies paid by the regions and partly through study fees which the region's universities transfer. Some regions have transferred areas of competence for the study support sector to the local districts in which the universities are situated. Consequently, the cities of Pisa, Florence, Siena, Arezzo and Carrara have a local authority organisation (*Azienda del diritto allo studio universitario*) with its own administrative council, executive, director and auditors' committee.

The autonomy of the regions and their respective financial capacity are the reason for the difference in services for students. A general law on the financial support of students was discussed for 12 years. On 15th November, 1991, this general law was passed by Italy's lower house, the Camera dei deputati, and will be implemented within the next two years.

The law filled a vacuum which had been left since autonomy

had been passed over to the regions. In the course of the 1980s, all the regions had passed regional legislation which supported students in their social affairs. The regions were unable to make any effective decisions because the corresponding national directives were not in force. With this general law, such directives now exist, for example for the building of university accommodation. A specific proportion of public state funds allocated to the regions can now, by decree, be spent on these purposes. The areas of competence for state, region and university have been defined. The law envisages that cooperation take place between the three levels, without fundamentally touching upon the autonomy of the regions. The areas of educational support, accommodation, foreign students and many more have been governed on the basis of this national law.

The General Law on Higher Education has finally clarified services some of which the regions had offered almost illegally. Foreign students form a prime example. Under certain conditions, foreign students received the same support as Italian students. This is now only legally possible on the basis of, and within the context of, the new law.

3. Student funding

The estimated cost of living is approx. LIT 800,000 per month. Of this, between LIT 300,000 and 400,000 are required for accommodation, LIT 290,000 for food (assuming use of the refectories; snack bars do not exist), LIT 30,000 for travelling costs (although this varies greatly) and LIT 80,000 for books and literature (this also differs greatly from one faculty to the next). These costs also differ greatly from place to place. Continual price increases must also be taken into account.

As far as the financial support of students with limited means is concerned, the criteria for support have been defined on a national basis. These funds are distributed by the regional offices. The small range of financial support offered by non-state institutions means that the students rely on state or regional educational support. Gifted, but financially limited, students have a constitutional right to study support in Italy. "Gifted" is not regarded as "elite promotion", although the criteria for the allocation of support are restricted to success in the annual final examinations. The most important study assistance, the *assegno di studio* or *presalario*, is awarded annually by way of public competition. Students can apply to the regional DSU offices for such support. Apart from the candidate's (educational achievements), an income test (net family income) is carried out to establish the extent of financial need. Support is paid for between four and six years, depending on degree course, and must be reapplied for annually.

Reliable figures on the percentage of students receiving regional support are not available. However, it may be assumed that the proportion of those receiving support is less than 6%. In principle, financial educational support is available for all areas of university education. The requirement for receiving support, in addition to that mentioned above, is Italian citizenship. Educational support is paid in the form of grants, part-grants and loans (*prestito d'onore*). The loans are interest-free or with only very low interest rates and are repaid after completion of studies, if the former student is in employment. The repayment sums can be up to 20% of income.

The amount of support paid in Italy is also dependent on the student's place of residence. For students living in the catchment area of the institutions of higher education, a smaller sup-

port payment is made than for those who generally have to travel more than 1 hour to the institution. The average annual sum for support is LIT 1 Million.

Apart from granting financial assistance (LIT 146,000 - 182,500 per month), the Italian support system also provides substantial reductions on accommodation in student hostels and on meals in the refectories. Some places in hostels are provided for students for one year free of charge. In addition to this, students who receive state financial support are exempted from payment of the study fees.

Apart from the above-mentioned opportunities for financial support, the regions also award their own scholarships in accordance with their own financial possibilities. The regions also offer a whole range of other support to help students in need with short-term subsidies, such as bonuses for doctorates (contributi tesi di laurea) or book grants. Moreover, the Ministry of Education awards scholarships to postgraduates, for example, for research projects.

Foreign scholarships are awarded by the Foreign Ministry. This financial support is provided on the basis of bilateral cultural agreements between EC member states. The individual regions and universities also award scholarships for study abroad. Furthermore, there is a small number of public and private institutions (banks, businesses, associations and clubs, foundations and trusts, etc.) which make monies available. Foreign students are largely excluded from making use of the Italian educational support system. However, there are exceptions, for example, for students who come from an EC member state. Such students can receive the same support as Italians can if their parents were or are in employment in Italy.

Moreover, government scholarships are available for foreign students. These are awarded by the Foreign Ministry (LIT 600,000 per month).

4. Student accommodation

Student accommodation in Italy is provided by student hostels (casa dello studente), other accommodation financed by non-public institutions, mainly the church, and private accommodation.

The student hostels are run exclusively by the authorities responsible for the institutions of higher education and the available places are for students only. There are some 27,000 hostel places available for the 1,300,000 registered students. The hostel proportion is 2.5%. This proportion varies from institution to institution. Thus the 170,000 students in Rome have just under 2,000 places available, meaning 1.2%. In Naples, the 100,000 students only have 300 places available (0.3%), in Perugia, there are some 1,500 places available in the hostels for 18,000 students (8.6%).

Throughout Italy, some 1,000 student hostel places have been reserved for foreigners.

The places in the hostels are awarded through public competition (concorso). The rents are very low. The students are housed in single, twin or even three-bedded rooms. Students receiving support in Italy are given preferential treatment in the allocation of the few available student hostel places. Alternatively, the stay in a hostel may be awarded as a scholarship in kind by the region or university.

In Italy it is usual for students to live at home whilst they study and to commute every day to the university, that is to the university in the town or in the region in which they live. 70% of students generally live with their parents until they complete their studies. The estimated number of students attending university and who do not live in their home town therefore requiring accommodation is about 12% (approx. 156,000 students).

After a long period of stagnation, new support programmes for the building of student accommodation were established in Italy, although differences between the individual regions exist; previously this sector only received 5% support from public funds. This change is also due to the need to increase mobility within the EC. Nevertheless, the accommodation problem remains unresolved within the Italian infrastructure.

The general situation on the private accommodation market is critical. A serious lack of accommodation is probably the best way to describe the housing market in Italy. A serious lack of accommodation for students exists not only in the large university towns, such as Rome, Milan, Turin, Bologna, Florence, Naples and Bari, but also in the smaller towns, such as Siena or Pavia. There is a serious lack of sufficient rooms and flats throughout Italy, especially in Southern Italy, which therefore restricts mobility within Italy.

The law on the regulation of rents (*equo canone*) which favours tenants is neither respected by house-owners nor by estate agents. The general housing and accommodation situation means that rooms and flats in the large cities become the object of rent speculation, making private accommodation prohibitively expensive. Particularly in the historic quarters, houses

are being purchased by insurance companies and banks for redevelopment and refurbishment as flats.

5. Student meals

The 55 Italian universities have a total of more than 100 refectories which are open to all students. In total, approx. 35 Million meals are served per annum. These are very reasonably priced. A main meal costs less than LIT 3,000. The students can also apply to have reduced meal prices (*pasti a prezzo ridotto*). Italian students have to apply for a user pass (*tessera or libretto*) to be able to use the refectory at the university.

6. Advisory services

Regional DSU (Right to Study) offices exist at each higher education institution location; These are at the disposal of all students. Their function is to provide careers and study advice and at the same time to act as information offices on life at university and on the range of social services that are offered. These services include travel services, legal advice offices, advice on complementary courses to the studies, reductions on public transport (railways), a special fund for short-term loans, printing presses, book shops, the organisation of cultural events and sports.

Apart from the above-mentioned infrastructural facilities, there are also further services for students which are mainly provided by student organisations or by public institutions (local councils, banks).

7. Students with disabilities

The laws of the individual regions have special provisions for students with disabilities. In order to facilitate the participation of disabled students in the lectures and cultural life of the university, some of the regional DSU offices have established advisory services. Students with disabilities can apply for annual grants and subsidies towards the purchase of special technical equipment or towards the costs of accompanying persons, assistants or interpreters.

8. Students with children

No special provision is made for students with children, although this group of students is automatically classified among the group of students in need of support.

9. Culture

The regional DSU offices provide information on cultural events: concerts, films, study and language trips.

10. Student insurance

The national health service is open to all for an annual contribution of LIT 328,500. Students are insured free of charge in a compulsory insurance scheme until their 27th birthday. This insurance is concluded with the regional health offices (*assessorati regionali alla sanita*). In addition to free medical treat-

ment (health insurance), students are also covered by life insurance and accident insurance.

Students from EC member states are treated free of charge upon presentation of a health insurance certificate issued in their home country. Students from non-EC countries must insure themselves.

11. Job opportunities

In general, employment for students engaged in full-time study is not recommended. The opportunities for part-time work are very limited. There are, for example, no posts for research assistants or student assistants at the universities or DSU offices for reasons of labour legislation. The region of Lombardy has, however, created such posts for students (library supervision, work in the refectory, etc.) as a form of "scholarship".

Italian students who do not live at home are, nevertheless, usually financially supported by their parents. The number of students in Italy who are working illicitly is unknown, as is whether such illicit workers exist at all.

Students from EC member states do not require any special work permit. Their job-hunt is most likely to succeed in restaurants or with tourist companies; work as a language teacher at a private school or state grammar school is also a promising channel. However, they are all employed on the basis of a *professionista libero*, which means they have neither insurance cover nor any protection against dismissal. Nor do they have any right to paid holiday leave.

Students from non-EC countries are not permitted to engage in paid employment during the semester. However, they are allowed to take on casual work for up to 500 hours per year.

12. Statistics on social aspects

The region of Tuscany has established an agency with responsibility for the coordination of the regions. This has commissioned and funded two studies on this subject:

- "Quando assistere non basta. Indagine sul diritto alla studio universitario", Franco Angeli, 1990, Milan (national social survey)
- "Fondazione Residente Universitarie Internazionali (RUI)": "Informastudente" (specific information on study support in Italy)

13. National coordination of social affairs

The coordination between the state and the regions is administered by a conference of regional presidents (Law No. 400 of 23rd August, 1988). This conference has its seat in Rome. In order to support the work of the conference of presidents, conferences of the relevant government ministers are held. One of these is the Conference of Ministers of Culture, which is coordinated by the Region of Tuscany. In the period from 1980 to 1991, this agency organised the following conferences:

- 5 national conferences (political level) on general topics concerning study support;

- Various specialist conferences (technical level) on the following topics: grants and scholarships, culture and sport, loans, student income, refectories, staff, student hostels, investments, careers advice, EC programmes for students, Italian and foreign students, performance levels of the institutions and facilities, and the effectiveness of investments made by the regions.

Furthermore, surveys and statistics were compiled for the field of study support and documents and report submitted on national legislation, planning and regulation.

Region of Tuscany

Giuntat Regionale

Dipartimento Istruzione e Cultura

Via Farini 8

I-50121 Firenze

§8 of the Higher Education Act passed in 1991 (cf. Chapter 2) provides for a national council on the support and promotion of higher education study. The council has not yet been established.

Further addresses:

C.I.M.E.A.

Centro di informazione sulla mobilità e le equivalenze accademiche

Via XXI Aprile, 36

I-00162 Roma

Fondazione RUI = Fondazione Residenze Universitarie Internazionali

Via XXI Aprile, 36

I-00162 Roma

The Fondazione Rui was established in Rome in 1959. It cooperates with the ministries, regional offices, the European Community and the Council of Europe. In 1987 the C.I.M.E.A. (Centro di informazione sulla mobilità e le equivalenze accademiche) was established under the authority of the RUI. It aims to promote the mobility of students, researchers and professors within the European Community. C.I.M.E.A. offers an extensive information service which can be used by Italian and foreign universities, cultural institutions, international organisations and member states of the EC.

C.I.M.E.A. represents Italy within the EC Committees, NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centres), works on behalf of ERASMUS, coordinates the publication of VADE-MECUM, and supports FEDORA.

The Fondazione RUI awards scholarships and loans to Italian and foreign students, especially to students from Third World countries.

Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione Direzione Generale istruzione universitaria

(Ministry of Education - General Directorate for Higher Education Affairs)

Via Trastevere

I-00185 Roma

Section VIII

Luxembourg

- 1. General information**
- 2. Organisation of the social infrastructure**
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1. General information

In the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg higher education falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of National Education, is centrally administered and financed by the state. Luxembourg has only state institutions of higher education. There are no private institutions.

School-leavers in Luxembourg can only take certain specific degree courses in Luxembourg itself; it is only possible to gain a university degree abroad.

The tertiary education system is essentially restricted to the following:

- The first academic year (Cours universitaires) at the Centre Universitaire de Luxembourg in the following subject areas: languages and humanities, natural sciences, medicine and pharmacology. Students receive a certificate upon successful completion of this academic year which entitles them to continue their studies at a foreign university. The large majority of Luxembourg students continue their studies either in France or in Belgium. The Federal Republic of Germany, Austria and Switzerland are also popular countries among Luxembourg students for university studies. The degree gained abroad is subsequently confirmed and recognised by the Ministry of National Education in Luxembourg.
- Further education following completion of a higher education degree at the Institut Universitaire International de Luxembourg. This institute offers postgraduate courses in economics, politics, law and many other international areas. The

requirement for admission is usually a degree in law, political economy or political science.

- A three-year degree course at the Institut Supérieur de Technologie de Luxembourg, a specialist higher education institution for the training of engineers in mechanical engineering, civil engineering, industrial computer science and electrical engineering. The degree conferred is the Diplôme d'ingénieur-technicien, which entitles the holder to take a postgraduate course at a foreign university.
- A two-year vocationally-orientated short degree course in computer science and economics (cycle court d'études supérieures en gestion) at the Centre Universitaire de Luxembourg. This degree does not entitle the holder to take any postgraduate studies at an institution of higher education abroad.

The academic year begins in the first week of October and ends in late May the following year.

For admission to studies in the above-mentioned subjects, with the exception of Point 3, the applicant must present a secondary school-leaving certificate. Admissions restrictions apply only to foreign students.

The total number of Luxembourg students at home and abroad in 1991 amounted to approx. 3,600. The number is a projection based on the number of applications for foreign study support. 80% of all students receive study support. There are no precise figures on the proportion of women studying.

In 1991, 160 foreign students were registered in Luxembourg.

These were studying there within the context of the ERASMUS programme on an exchange basis.

The institutions of higher education in Luxembourg do not require payment of any registration or study fees; however students must pay a social security contribution of about DM 50 every semester.

2. Organisation of the social infrastructure

The Centre de Psychologie et d'Orientation Scolaires is responsible for student affairs. This institution is subordinated to the Ministry of Education, although it has been self-administrating since a corresponding law was passed on 1st April, 1987.

3. Student funding

Educational support is based on a law passed on 8th December, 1977, and has been recently amended. This law stipulates that each student has a legal right to state support (l'aide financière de l'Etat pour études supérieures et universitaires). The Centre de Psychologie et d'Orientation Scolaires is responsible for the allocation of state educational support. The application must be submitted by the 10th July or 10th January before the semester for which the support is being applied for. At the beginning of each academic year, the levels of support are reassessed. Parental income and the number of children are taken into account in the assessment of the amount of educational support received. For families with many children and/or low parental income, half of the educational support is awarded as a grant and the other half as an interest-free loan. This loan is

paid by the banks and is subject to a state guarantee. The maximum amount of educational support currently runs to approx. DM 13,000 per annum and is paid throughout the year.

The maximum period for which support can be awarded is 5 years; in some cases it is 7 years, for example, in medicine.

High registration fees (Switzerland, Belgium at about DM 1,000) are partly paid if the student cannot pay for these out of the state support he or she is already receiving. This currently applies to study fees in excess of LFR 5,000; in such cases the difference is paid in addition to the state educational support already received. There are no special scholarships for highly-gifted students.

As described in Chapter 1, most Luxembourg students only take their first academic year in Luxembourg and must then continue their studies abroad. During the time in which the student is studying in Luxembourg, the educational support is cut by two-thirds, since it is assumed that the cost of living is lower than when the student is studying abroad. No exact figures are available on a Luxembourg student's cost of living during studies there. For foreign students, these ran to at least LFR 20,000 in 1989/90. Since the rest of the studies are spent abroad, the cost of living varies, depending on host country and university town.

Foreign studies are strongly supported, since they are, in most cases, unavoidable. In addition to the above-mentioned state support through grants and loans, the Luxembourg state also tries to secure further social benefits for Luxembourg students abroad. Such a benefit is, for example, a right to live in student

hostels in Belgium, Germany and France which has been acquired by the signing of purchase agreements for rooms.

Families continue to receive child benefit of DM 1,400 per annum per child. Child benefit is generally paid up to the child's 25th birthday, although this can be prolonged upon submission proof of study.

The law passed on 8th December, 1977, stipulates that foreign students who have their permanent residence in Luxembourg and who have a grammar school-leaving certificate or who have a diploma or a certificate of completed studies at a Luxembourg institution or at the Ecole Européenne can receive financial support. Other foreign students receive support in Luxembourg if they have one of the latter two forms of school-leaving certificate. An exception is formed by students who are supported on the basis of the ERASMUS programme.

4. Student accommodation

Since students practically study "next door", most still live at home. There is only one state student hostel in Luxembourg with 40 places. It is attached to the Centre Universitaire with which the rent contract is signed. Which costs the monthly rent of LFR 2,500 actually covers is not recorded in any statistics. The rent contract is limited to one year, since the students generally continue their studies abroad after their first year.

The number of foreign students is so low that their accommodation is arranged on a case-by-case basis. They are often housed in the existing student hostel. Early planning is possible in most cases, since the large majority of students are sup-

ported within the context of the ERASMUS programme, so their details are known well in advance. Students who take part in the seminars at the Institut Universitaire International de Luxembourg can be found accommodation by the institute's secretariat either in private rooms or at the Centre Universitaire. The latter accommodation costs approx. LFR 3,000 per month.

5. Student meals

There are two student refectories; one is at the Centre Universitaire and one is at the engineering college. Both fall under the authority of the Luxembourg Education Ministry's Centre de Psychologie et d'Orientation Scolaires. There are no other cafes or restaurants apart from the two refectories.

The refectories are contracted out to a private company by the state. The price for a refectory meal costs DM 6 for all who use it. The Luxembourg state subsidises the meals with DM 300,000 per annum.

The refectories are also open to grammar school pupils, since the number of students is so low that exclusive use by the students could hardly be financed.

6. Advisory services

Due to the low proportion of students in Luxembourg, there are only few advisory services available which are specially orientated towards students. Advisory services have been mainly established at the grammar schools and are open to pupils and

students alike. Students are offered advice by a psychologist and a team of teachers and professors at the Centre Universitaire.

For four years now, an annual information fair has been held annually for students on two days in November. In 1991 some 4,700 visitors attended the fair with its 120 information stands covering all areas of higher education, public administration and private industry.

7. Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities are entitled to the general financial study support on offer (aide financière). If required, they can be accommodated in the student hostel. There is no special advisory office.

8. Students with children

Students with children receive special financial support; the assessment of this is based on tables published by the legislative bodies. The sum is higher than is normally the case. There are no institution-attached kindergartens for students with children.

9. Culture

The director of the Centre Universitaire is responsible for cultural affairs.

10. Insurance for students

Luxembourg students up to the age of 25 are insured through their parents' health insurance scheme. Insurance cover in the parents' health insurance scheme may be extended beyond this by the Inspection Générale de la Sécurité Sociale upon application and upon provision of proof of student status. Medicine and medical treatment are free of charge.

During their studies abroad, students remain insured in the health insurance scheme of their home country, which is recognised by the other EC countries.

This in turn applies to foreign students in Luxembourg on the basis of bilateral agreements.

Furthermore, a proportion of the social security contribution pays for accident insurance cover. This accident insurance applies to Luxembourg citizens and to foreigners in Luxembourg alike.

11. Job opportunities

Student employment in Luxembourg has not been statistically recorded. It may be assumed, however, that student employment is not widespread. If students are in work, then they mainly take on jobs during the semester vacations. Only few students work during the lecture periods. At present, part-time work is basically only offered by the hotel trade.

A special job agency for students does not exist. Information

can be obtained at the Service d'Orientation Professionnelle d'Administration de l'Emploi.

Legal provisions have been made to ensure that each working student must conclude a contract of employment with the employer. A minimum wage has also been specified. It is slightly below the statutory minimum wage. No income ceiling has been specified.

Students from EC countries do not require any special work permit and are subjected to the same rules regarding employment as apply to Luxembourg students.

12. Statistics on social aspects

The state information service carried out an evaluation of grants (approx. 80%) and gained information on trends in respect of choice of university and subject.

13. National coordination of social affairs

On an international level several agreements have been signed between Luxembourg, the Centre Universitaire and other countries.

For example, contacts exist with the Standing Conference of Ministers of Culture and the Central Allocation Office for Study Places in Germany. These contacts are very active and are characterised by the necessity for cooperation caused by the special nature of the Luxembourg higher education system.

The Centre de Psychologie et d'Orientation Scolaires (CPOS) is responsible at the Ministry of National Education for student social affairs:

Centre de Psychologie et d'Orientation Scolaires
du Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Jeunesse
29, rue aldringen
L-1118 Luxembourg

Further addresses;

Administration de l'Emploi
38, rue Philippe-II
L-2349 Luxembourg

Centre Universitaire
Cycle court
Département de droit et des sciences économiques
and
Département des lettres et des science humaines
162a, avenue de la Faiencerie
L-1511 Luxembourg

Centre Universitaire
Département des sciences
Place Auguste-Laurent
L-1921 Luxembourg

Institut Universitaire Internationale
162a, avenue de la Faiencerie
L-1511 Luxembourg

Institut supérieur de technologie
Rue Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi
L-1359 Luxembourg

Section IX

Netherlands

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1. General information

Institutions of higher education in the Netherlands enjoy a long tradition of academic freedom and autonomy. The Ministry of Education and Science plays an important role in national education policy-making. Although the institutions of higher education have to implement the ministry's policies, they nevertheless possess extensive independence. In respect of income, the Dutch education establishments are largely dependent upon the state. They receive an annual budget which is assessed partly according to the number of registered students and partly on the basis of other factors. There are two types of higher education institution in the Netherlands: universities "instellingen voor wetenschappelijk onderwijs; universiteit" and vocationally-orientated colleges "instellingen voor beroepsonderwijs; hogeschool". Whilst there are only 13 universities, there are almost 100 vocationally orientated colleges. Both higher education sectors enjoy equal status. In the past few years the two sectors have increasingly complemented each other and have moved closer together. It is, for example, becoming increasingly easy for students to transfer after the first academic year from the universities to the "hogeschoolen" and vice versa.

Academic teaching at the universities comprises diploma degree courses "doctoraal programma's" which officially last four years and a number of other advanced teaching and research programmes (for example, for human medicine - two years, for dentistry - one year). Since many students do not manage to complete their studies in four years, they may take up to six years to complete their studies. The full-time programmes at the vocationally-orientated "hogeschoolen" also take four years. The admissions requirements for studies at the universities are fulfilled through successful attendance of a preparatory

course "voorbereidend wetenschappelijk onderwijs"; for studies at the vocational "hogeschoolen", the secondary school-leaving certificates, "hoger algemeen voortgezet onderwijs" or "middelbaar beroepsonderwijs" level suffice.

Admissions restrictions in the form of fixed numbers of places apply to degree courses with large numbers of applicants. The degree courses which are subject to these restrictions are redefined annually. In 1988/89 these included, among others, degree courses in medicine, business administration, and also industrial design, politics and management, as well as Japanese studies. The study places on degree courses subject to the fixed-number rule are allocated by lots.

In 1990 the number of students at the vocationally-orientated colleges and at the universities was approx. 410,000, inclusive of part-time students. This figure can be broken down as follows:

Students at the vocationally-orientated colleges:

Full-time students: 191,963 / Proportion of women = 46%

Part-time students: 54,319 / Proportion of women = 48%

Students at university:

164,000 / Proportion of women = 43%

Percentage of foreign students:

Vocationally-orientated colleges: 2.04%

Universities: 2.72%

Each student who registers at a university or at a vocationally orientated college in the Netherlands must pay study fees; in

the 1992/93 academic year these amount to HFL 1,950; in the 1992/93 academic years, these will be increased by HFL 100.

2. Organisation of the social infrastructure

Apart from the institutions of higher education, there is no other central organisation in the Netherlands with responsibility for student social affairs. Care and advisory services for students are part of the university organisation in the Netherlands. Within the university, the Dean of Students plays a central role, since the Dean is responsible for dealing with the external conditions of studying. These conditions include financial and accommodation problems, personal and study problems, as well as general problems faced by disabled or foreign students.

The Deans of Students are part of the Department for Student Affairs found at each university. The psychosocial advisory service and student sports section fall under the authority of this department. The department receives all necessary financial resources directly from the university.

3. Student funding

Until 1986 educational support awarded by the state in the Netherlands consisted of a combination of benefits, child benefit and tax-allowances. The level of support was based on parental income.

In the course of the 1970s and 1980s, various proposals for a new system in the Netherlands were put forward in order to

provide "equal opportunity in education" as well as to promote the right to education.

Since 1986, a new system of educational support has been in force. This is now a mixed form based on a basic grant for all young people in education and/or training and a loan as well as an additional grant which is awarded on the basis of certain social conditions.

Tax allowances for parents and, in most cases, child benefit were dispensed with. The calculation of the cost of living does not distinguish between students in the secondary and tertiary sector, although it does distinguish in respect of education costs.

In order to receive support, the student must be at least 18 years of age and not older than 26. In general, only Dutch students have a right to educational support in the Netherlands. Recognised refugees and children whose parents come from other EC countries or from certain Mediterranean countries, especially Morocco and Turkey, form an exception, if they had their permanent residence in the Netherlands before they were 18 years of age. In principle, enrollment at a Dutch institution of higher education is equal to the fulfilment of the requirements for receipt of support. In certain cases, students can also receive support if they are registered at a foreign university. The conditions for such cases are published by the Dutch Ministry which awards such support abroad. Since September 1991, provision of educational support has been limited to 5 years. This can be prolonged by 2 years, although the support is then paid to the students in the form of a loan only.

The basic monthly grant is currently for students/trainees living at home HFL 235 for students/trainees living away from home HFL 570

The maximum supplementary loan is for university students HFL 310 for students at the vocational "hogeschoolen" HFL 227

The additional grant is only awarded if the parents are unable to contribute towards the studies. For students at university this is HFL 182.53 and for students at the "hogeschoolen" HFL 254.26.

The applications for support are processed by a central office in Groningen; universities will provide information and advice.

All support which is awarded above the basic grant takes parental income into account. Interest-bearing loans are given when the parents have insufficient income, additional grants when the parents cannot support the student at all. The student's/trainee's income is also taken into account. An annual tax-free allowance of HFL 8,040 is permitted. The remainder is first deducted from the basic grant and then from the additional grant and finally from the additional loan.

Repayment of the supplementary loan can begin at earliest on 1st January following the discontinuation or completion of studies; it must begin at latest by 1st January of the next year. Until the end of 1991, interest was only charged on loans as from 1st January following the discontinuation or completion of studies, i.e. as from the commencement of the repayment period; the interest was annually assessed by the ministry and was about 0.5% above the normal market interest rate. If the

student repaid the total loan sum in full on commencement of repayments, then no interest was charged at all. Since 1st January, 1992, interest is charged on the supplementary loan from the date it is drawn. Loans which were drawn prior to 1st January 1992, are still subject to the former ruling; interest will only be charged on these as from 1st January following discontinuation or completion of studies.

If a graduate has too low an income at the date when the repayments begin, for example, if they are receiving social security assistance, then repayment is suspended, although interest continues to be charged. All remaining debt is remitted after 15 years.

In a later phase of studies, Dutch students can study abroad for one year. Since the Dutch university must recognise the courses taken there, a list of universities is published, whose study regulations are recognised.

The Netherlands have now become acquainted with the new education system. As a result, some modifications have been made. However, no change has been made to the basic idea that the part of the support paid to all students, the so-called basic grant, is independent of parental income. Since early 1991 students have no longer received travelling costs as part of the basic grant; rather, anybody in training or education now receives a free travel pass for the Dutch railways and for all public transport. For this reason, the amount of support was reduced from HFL 620 to HFL 570.

The ministry bases its assessment of state educational support on the following monthly costs:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Cost of living: | HFL 756.84 |
| 2. Books and literature: | HFL 82.97 |
| 3. Insurance: | HFL 60.03 |
| 4. Registration fee: | HFL 154.17. |

This amounts to a total of HFL 1055.01 which can be covered when all educational support channels are used.

A limited number of scholarships are available for foreign students; these are awarded under bilateral cultural agreements between the Netherlands and other countries through NUFFIC (Netherlands Universities Foundation For International Cooperation) (cf. Chapter 6).

4. Student accommodation

Until the end of the 1970s, the provision of accommodation for students depended on the type of higher education institution. Up to this time, student hostels were only built for university students. No organisation existed to build state-subsidised hostels for students at other kinds of higher education institutions. For several years now, a building programme has been in force which is neither administrated nor financed by the Ministry of Education; rather it is managed and funded by the Housing Ministry. Foundations were formed for the building of accommodation at the respective towns in which the institutions are situated. These foundations have been assigned the task of providing all accommodation for young people in education or training. The foundations not only build new hostels, but also renovate, refurbish and redevelop old ones. Representatives of the universities, students and important public figures selected

by the executive board sit on the management committees of these foundations.

Students have normal rent contracts; the landlord and tenant law, however, is restricted by student status. After the end of their rent contracts (right to live in the hostels) students often refuse to give up their rooms. Since it is difficult to provide these students with alternative accommodation with which to encourage them to relinquish their rooms, better cooperation with other rent association is now an objective.

Committees at the foundations decide on the acceptance of students into the student hostels. The distance between place of residence and the respective institution forms an important selection criterion. Various stages have been established to help decide this; the first covers a travelling time of 1.5 hours, the second, 2 hours, and so on. The order of priority for acceptance into a student hostel is based on this. First-year students often have to wait four months. During the waiting time, they commute between place of residence and the institution. Due to the travel passes, this does not cause any extra costs, although the time factor is a decisive element.

The rent amounts to at least HFL 300 per month for elementary accommodation units in the student hostels. Newer units with a bath and kitchen cost around HFL 360 per month. There are also units for two persons. The rent is calculated so that costs, that is rent for the room inclusive of electricity, heating and cleaning (and also for furniture), are covered. Apart from certain subsidies paid by the ministry, financial resources for the building of student hostels are borrowed on the capital market.

The provision of accommodation by the foundations is supplemented by private accommodation services with private rooms in the respective university town. The rent is considerably higher. Depending on university town, this can be between HFL 400 and 500 per month.

A special agreement is now in force with the universities for ERASMUS students. The universities rent a certain number of rooms in the student hostels and pay the foundations the rent, regardless of whether the room is occupied or not.

A particular problem still exists in the provision of accommodation at the "hogeschoolen". This was also the reason for the creation of the foundations, which aim to ensure as equal a provision of accommodation as possible.

The following table gives a survey of the available hostel places in individual university towns:

Town	Number of students	Places in Student hostels
Leiden	17,348	5,000
Utrecht	20,730	5,000
Groningen	16,944	3,600
Rotterdam	15,393	3,500
Maastricht	6,040	-
Amsterdam (UvA)	23,216	4,500
Amsterdam (VU)	10,619	2,000
Nijmegen	11,135	4,000
Tilburg	7,544	1,400
Delft	12,063	4,500
Eindhoven	6,601	900
Enschede	6,691	2,030
Wageningen	6,081	4,600

Accommodation services, so-called "Stichtingen Studenten Huisvesting" exist at the universities which find flats and rooms. Students from the "hogeschoolen" and from other education institutions can also make use of these services. However, very long waiting periods must be expected between registration for and allocation of a room.

5. Student meals

The universities have special restaurants for students in which the students can take a set meal for an average price of around HFL 5. These restaurants are not directly subsidised by the ministry. The number of available places in the refectory differs from one university to the next. The universities provide all premises and equipment. The prices are generally calculated so

that staff and material costs are covered. There is also a daily vegetarian meal.

Disposable dishes are frequently no longer used in the refectories. The cafeterias are also increasingly dispensing with the use of plastic dishes.

6. Advisory services

The departments for student affairs have several advisory services for students. Apart from the Dean of Students, who is principally responsible for social affairs, including student funding issues, there are offices for sports activities, for psychosocial care as well as project groups for career preparation. Furthermore, almost all degree courses have a study advisor who provides students with information and advice on questions of study organisation, for example, choice of subjects, examination regulations, and the like. The psychological advisory service offers therapy and various other courses for approx. HFL 25 per course.

The Dean of Students is generally the initial contact for students with problems of most kinds, for example, for students whose parents refuse to pay any support towards the cost of living, for foreign students or other students who require help in choosing a future career. After the advisory talk, the student often has further conversations with other advisory services. At the University of Nijmegen, for example, the Dean of Students' office has two full-time and four part-time staff.

An important role, especially for more confidential advice such as drug problems or students potentially at risk through sui-

cide, is played by the student church which is situated at the universities and which is ecumenical by principle.

The student can also turn to student initiatives which work together with trade and industry, for help in respect of the transition from study to employment. These enable students to gain practical experience during their studies. Application courses for students are also offered which aim to teach students how to formulate a correct application and which provide orientation on the employment market.

Foreign students can obtain information from the Deans of Students or the Foreign Student Offices at the universities and "hogeschoolen". Furthermore, there is a Dutch organisation for international cooperation in higher education situated in The Hague (Netherlands Universities Foundation For International Cooperation, NUFFIC). NUFFIC has been appointed by the Dutch Ministry of Education and Science for the Council of Europe as NEIC (National Equivalence Information Centre) and for the EC as NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centre). There is also the Foreign Student Service (FSS) in Amsterdam.

7. Students with disabilities

Disabled study applicants can turn to a central office in the Netherlands, the Stichting Handicap en Studie situated in Utrecht. This compiles extensive information for disabled pupils and students.

The Deans of Students are always responsible for students with disabilities. In individual cases, the Deans will negotiate with

the Examination Boards on the examination formalities for students with disabilities and will arrange the purchase of special equipment as defined in the AAW (General Invalidity Act). In some cases, the educational support system envisages additional grants for students with disabilities. Depending on the degree of disability, the student can receive invalidity support. The student hostels have suitable rooms for students with disabilities.

8. Students with children

The university sector has its own kindergartens, although these are not for the children of students, but rather for the children of members of university staff. There are not enough places. This also applies to the hostel places for single parents and for student couples. There is a great shortage in this area.

Students with children receive child benefit; they do not receive any special award as part of their general educational support.

9. Culture

In the Netherlands, the promotion of student cultural activities is not a state responsibility; rather responsibility for this falls upon the individual institutions of higher education. At some institutions, foundations exist for the promotion of cultural activities. At the University of Nijmegen, for example, student groups who want to become involved in cultural activities in some cases receive subsidies from the Stichting Nijmeegs Universiteitsfonds. So the following activities are supported: study trips by student groups, theatre performances, four music clubs

and a student magazine, sporting activities, events during the two introductory weeks for first-year students. Furthermore, the foundation bears the operating costs for a cultural centre and also maintains a day-care camp for the children of university staff and students; it also provides support in many individual cases. The Stichting Eigen Gebouwen at the University of Nijmegen ensures that the student clubs and societies can use rooms for their activities free of charge.

Cultural festivals are held at some universities. There are, for example, workshops on "Graffiti Art", "Acrobatics", "Jazz Dance", "Photography" and journalism as well as film and music events.

10. Student insurance

In the Netherlands, students whose parents have a low gross income (max. HFL 53,000) are automatically insured through their parents. If the students' parents have a higher income or if the students are already 27 years of age, then they must take out separate health insurance. The costs for this insurance are HFL 464 per annum for students up to 24 years of age, HFL 510 per annum for students aged between 24 and 34. Students at university or at the other institutions can also take out health insurance with the Stichting Studentengezondheidszorg (SS-GZ).

A general student insurance for all students with a unified premium rate of HFL 60,03 per month was introduced 1992. This insurance is a non-profit making organisation.

Foreign students can also choose to use the International Stu-

dent Insurance Service = ISIS. A student with this pass receives his or her medical costs reimbursed, up to a certain level. At some Dutch universities, doctors are available to provide limited medical care to registered students there free of charge.

11. Job opportunities

There are no special job agencies for students at the universities, with the exception of job offers for work within the university itself. Students do, however, have the opportunity to seek advice on their job hunting within the university administration by going to the university personnel service or to the faculties. Job agencies are generally private institutions. Dutch students are permitted to take up paid employment if organisation of their own studies allows this. Students who have concluded a contract of employment for their work pay the same social security contributions as all other employees, despite fewer weekly working hours; they are automatically health insured. However, if the income earned exceeds ceilings laid down by the state educational support system, then state educational support is reduced accordingly (cf. Chapter 3).

Average student income through employment has been the subject of a statistical survey. Monthly income can be broken down as follows:

	University	Hogeschool
Men, living at home	HFL 175	HFL 200
Men, living away from home	HFL 200	HFL 200
Women, living at home	HFL 100	HFL 75
Women, living away from home	HFL 150	HFL 100

These figures are valid for 1986. Source: Informatiseringsbank Groningen

Paid employment is also possible for students from member states of the European Community without the need for any special work permit. Students from Portugal and Spain still form an exception to this rule. These require a special work permit as do all non-EC foreigners. This is generally only granted when neither Dutch nor EC citizens are available for the specific work.

A special employment office for graduates is available to help in the search for qualified employment after the end of studies.

12. Statistics on social aspects

In the Netherlands, various statistical surveys exist on the social situation of students, including an analysis on the social background of students:

	University	Hogeschool
Men, upper stratum	17.7%	14.2%
Men, middle stratum	9.8%	12.5%
Men, lower stratum	3.5%	7.2%
Women, upper stratum	12.2%	17.3%
Woman, middle stratum	5.9%	11.5%
Woman, lower stratum	3.5%	6.4%

Source: CBS, statistieken van onderwijs en wetenschappen, mededelingen nr. 7857 (October 1986), quoted in: HOOP (Hoger Onderwijs en Onderzoek Plan), Feiten en cijfers, 1987.

13. National coordination of social affairs

The Conference of Principals in the Netherlands has a special committee on student social issues; students are also represented on this committee. Important questions relating to student social issues are discussed there.

Vereniging van Samenwerkende Nederlandse Universiteiten (VSNU)

Postbus 19270

NL-3501 DG Utrecht

Apart from this committee, there is a national council of all Deans of Students which convenes approx. 10 times a year and which cooperates closely with the Committee of the Conference of Principals. This council itself has various committees, for example, on questions of student funding, problems faced by foreign students, advisory services, and so on. Representatives of the Deans of Students represent student social policy affairs by consulting and discussing these problems with representatives of the political parties, the Members of Parliament and with the respective ministries.

Landelijk Beraad Studentendecanen (LBS)

Attn: Mrs Poppeliers

Katholieke Universiteit Brabant

Postbus 90153

NL-500 LE Tilberg

Further addresses:

Netherlands Universities Foundation For International Cooperation (NUFFIC)

Postbus 90734

NL-2509 LS 's-Gravenhage

Foreign Student Service (FSS)

Oranje Nassaulaan 5

NL-1075 AH Amsterdam

Ministerie van Onderwijs en Wetenschappen

Central Directie Studienfinanciering

Postbus 30150

NL-9700 LA Groningen

Stichting Handicap en Studie (NSS)

Willem Barentszstraat 5 NL-3572

PA Utrecht

Stichting Studentengezondheidszorg (SSZG)

Postbus 152

NL-2200 AD Noordwijk

University Assistance Fund (UAF)

Postbus 14300

NL-3508 SK Utrecht

Section X**Portugal**

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1. General information

The education system in Portugal is under the central administration of the Ministry of Education. In October 1986 a general law (Lei de Bases do Sistema Educação) was passed for the education system. This law defines the universities and polytechnical institutions of higher education as comprising the higher education sector. The reorganisation of the higher education system has not yet been completed. There are, therefore, three state-run advanced colleges of art and design in the tertiary sector which belong neither to the one area nor to the other. The universities are responsible for promoting research, innovation and very advanced training. By contrast, students at the polytechnical colleges can complete their subject-specific, more careers-orientated higher education training on the basis on applied research. The universities offer degree courses in the humanities, engineering, natural sciences, mathematics, medicine and sports. Students at the polytechnical institutions can take courses in technology, business management, engineering, art and education.

The institutions of higher education may be either state or privately run. There are 12 state-run universities and 13 state-run polytechnical colleges. All institutions of higher education are autonomous. The state-run universities and colleges are funded by the Ministry of Education through taxes and study fees.

Studies at Portuguese institutions of higher education may be divided into semesters or academic years, depending on the specific degree course. The academic year begins in October.

Studies at a polytechnical institution of higher education take 3 years on average and are concluded with the "Bacharelato" de-

gree. This may be followed by postgraduate studies. Students who study at a Portuguese university choose between a "Licenciado", "Mestre" and "Doutor" degree. The "Licenciado" is awarded upon the successful completion of degree courses lasting four to six years. Students may then gain the title of "Mestre" by completing a one or two year postgraduate course and submitting an independent advanced thesis. A further degree course is required if the student wishes to gain the degree of "Doutor". However, proof of certain additional achievements must be provided and a high-level research thesis must be submitted,

In addition to the above-mentioned degrees, the universities and the polytechnical colleges offer short degree courses which are concluded with appropriate certificates and diplomas.

The entry requirement for admission to a Portuguese state-run institution of higher education is a school-leaving certificate for the 12th school year plus participation in a general admission examination (*prova geral de acesso*). Furthermore, the individual institutions of higher education are entitled to lay down admissions requirements for individual degree courses and to set admission examinations. The latter do not serve to eliminate study applicants, but rather as one of the criteria for allocating the candidates to the various degree courses.

Admissions restrictions apply at all state and privately-run institutions of higher education in Portugal. The study places at the state-run institutions of higher education are allocated by a national admissions procedure (*Concurso nacional*). This admissions procedure assesses the grades gained during secondary education (10th, 11th and 12th years of schooling) and the results of the *prova geral de acesso*. The results of a subject-spe-

cific examination set by the respective university and colleges for that course may also be taken into consideration.

Around 130,000 students are currently registered at the state-run universities. Of these, some 50% are women. The proportion of foreign students is very low and national figures are not available. In Lisbon there are about 100 foreign students. These are mainly students studying under the ERASMUS programme, students from the former colony of Angola and from the Cape Verdian Islands and from Brazil.

Study fees are charged for registration at an institution and enrollment in courses. At present, students pay an annual fee of ESC 1,700.

2. Organisation of the social infrastructure

Until 1983 each university had its own social affairs department directly answerable to the university president; its budget was coordinated by the Directorate General for Higher Education. In 1980 a new law was passed (Law 132/80) on the universities' social services (*Servicio Sociais*). The requirements of this law see the social services as an independent legal entity. They can decide on their budget and manage their administration independently and are responsible for student accommodation and meals as well as for the allocation of grants.

Each local social service has three organisational levels; the president, the general council and the administrative council. The office of president is always taken by the current university president. The general council comprises the president, that is the university president, the vice-president, the director of the

Servicio Sociais, and two professors, as representatives of the university, and two student representatives. This body is responsible for the compilation of a one-year plan, for voting on the draft budget and on the respective annual report. The administrative council is made up of the president and vice-president of the Servicio Sociais and one expert appointed by the minister. The council is responsible for financial affairs as well as for co-ordination work. This body convenes once every two weeks.

On a national level, the social services are organised in the C.A.S.E.S. (cf. Chapter 13).

The University Autonomy Law (Law No. 108/88 of 24th September) has been in force since 1988. However, it is not yet possible to claim that the realisation of the principles of the Autonomy Law has been effective. An outline plan is required to define essential principles. At present, surveys are being carried out among the respective interest groups for this very purpose. For a transitional period, it is necessary to harmonise the types of support which apply to each university. This is now occurring on the basis of a C.A.S.E.S. proposal which specified the basic rules for social services in higher education in 1989/90.

3. Student funding

There is no legal entitlement to state educational support in Portugal. This is based on the principle that family income is the prime source of student funding. Students from families with low income can apply for a grant. They are always exempted from payment of study fees.

The details regarding the awarding of grant are annually speci-

fied by the council of university presidents and the government in a specially-formulated agreement. This always occurs after consultation with C.A.S.E.S.. The grant paid by the state depends on family income and on the student's personal income and therefore varies. The current maximum available grant is approx. ESC 40,000. per month and the minimum is ESC 10,000. The grant sum is calculated so that a maximum grant would cover the student's costs for food, accommodation, books and literature, and other expenses. The cost of living for students not living at home may amount to between ESC 40,000 and 60,000, exclusive of study material, if the rent for accommodation is based on private accommodation without any cooking facility. The cost of living will, however, differ greatly depending on the town in which the institution is situated. A higher education grant covers just the most necessary expenses. It will not cover those costs if the student is studying in an "expensive" university town.

About 11,000 students in Portugal receive a grant. The funds received by students are non-repayable. The maximum length of support is five or six years, although this only applies in the case of uninterrupted studies. An extension of studies caused by a failed examination will not be funded.

In some cases, loans are given. Each case depends on an assessment by the respective university president and by the director of the social service. In cases of financial need, the grant may be increased by 20%, although this is only the case if the student is already a grant holder.

Students who have children of their own under 12 years of age and working students who apply for a grant can claim special

status. This has to be confirmed by the president of the respective social service.

In addition to these state grants, there are also scholarships which are awarded by private corporations, foundations and other institutions. The allocation of these is beyond the control of the university or of the social services.

Grants, scholarships or social benefits may also be claimed by stateless persons, political refugees and foreign students under the same conditions as apply to Portuguese students. For this, it is necessary that a cooperation agreement has been signed with the student's country of origin which provides Portuguese students studying in that country with the same possibilities.

4. Student accommodation

Placement into student accommodation is one of the responsibilities of the social services. These have student hostels (*Residências universitárias*) at their disposal; there are, for example, 13 hostels with a total of some 750 beds in Lisbon. In all, approx. 5% of Portuguese students can find accommodation in these. It must be pointed out, however, that the demand for student hostel places far outweighs availability.

The building of student hostels is subject to 100% state subsidy. The rent for places in hostels is also approx. 50% state subsidised. At present, the monthly rent for a student in a hostel is around ESC 5,000. This income from rent only covers 1/3 of the actual costs. The rooms in the student hostels are of a simple standard.

Only students who receive grants will receive a place in a student hostel. The allocation of the hostel places always takes the distance from place of residence into account as well as the degree of need. The student may live there throughout his or her studies, but will lose the place if a semester has to be repeated.

Foreign students are not given preferential treatment. On the contrary, they pay a higher rent for a room in a student hostel than do Portuguese students.

The social services also run an accommodation for private rooms or flats. The monthly costs for a private room currently run to between ESC 17,000 and 25,000. Approx. 70% of all students are compelled to find their accommodation on the private market. If the general cost of living in Portugal is taken into account (cf. Chapter 3), then the costs for rent are much too high for students to be able to cover these with an average grant. On the private accommodation market, too, demand is greater than supply.

In the meantime, students have formed initiatives in order to rent apartments and even flats for groups or several persons. Shared flats are particularly common in Coimbra, Lisbon and in Porto. They are called "*Repúblicas*" and also act as centres of cultural activity.

5. Student meals

The social services in the university towns operate student restaurants (refectories). The state subsidises the wage and operating costs of these, so that the students normally only pay for

materials used. At present, the price for a set meal is about ESC 220.

The student restaurants are used a great deal by the students. The proportion of regular users of the refectory in Coimbra, for example, is 70%; at the other universities this figure is around 40%. There are 5 student restaurants in Lisbon with a total of 5,000 meals produced per day.

In addition to the normal refectories, the social services also run snack bars, grill bars and pizza parlours. The prices for a meal in these is between ESC 150 and 350. These meals are not subsidised, meaning that the prices charged cover the actual costs.

6. Advisory services

The social services have various advisory facilities for students. Apart from giving advice on matters such as on how to structure the studies or how to apply for a grant, they also provide information on exchange studies within the context of the ERASMUS programme, information on accommodation and, at some universities, advice on possible career prospects. The social services also have advisory services for social and personal issues affecting students, including psychological support. Each student hostel has a social affairs assistant who is responsible for giving advice on all questions related to studies.

7. Students with disabilities

Students with mental and physical disabilities can have the ex-

amination procedures adapted to correspond with their specific disability. In some cases they can be exempted from the obligation to attend lectures. A special quota applies for students with disabilities in the application and registration procedures.

Students with disabilities should contact the respective social service at the university. Furthermore, there is a "Centro de Recurso do Ensino especial" at the Ministry of Education and Culture. The "Centro" has the necessary teaching materials which students with disabilities require for their studies. It must be said, however, that in principle only very few people with disabilities study. This means that financial, technical and psychological assistance is available in addition to the above measures to solve problems on a case-by-case basis.

8. Students with children

No precise figures are available on this. Creches and kindergartens do exist in Lisbon and Coimbra. There are 2 kindergartens at the University of Lisbon which are open to the children of university staff and students. One of the two kindergartens is for infants up to 3 years of age and has 50 places. The other kindergarten can take 70 children aged between 3 and 6 years.

The average monthly contribution per child is ESC 25,000, although the contribution level for students depends on their income.

Students with children are awarded benefits within the context of the existing study support programme (cf. Chapter 3).

9. Culture

All kinds of cultural activity in Portugal, including the within the universities, are generally organised by the responsible ministries, secretariats or municipal authorities. Apart from the social services at the universities, cultural activities for students are provided by the academic associations and the Youth Secretariat situated in Coimbra. The financing and execution of these are the responsibility of the president's office at the respective university in cooperation with the competent ministry.

Moreover, most institutions of higher education have a student organisation which is financed by institution and state subsidies. These organisations participate in the cultural life at the institution and offer cultural, political, sporting and social activities.

10. Student insurance

Students are insured through their parents' health insurance. Students at the state universities can visit the doctors who are employed by the social services upon presentation of their student identity card. This treatment is free of charge.

Furthermore, the social services at some universities have their own medical care facilities for students. These can also be used by foreign students. The latter may also attend the Health Ministry's medical treatment centres (Serviços de assistência médica e medicamentosa).

There is no uniform regulation for students from EC countries. Bilateral agreements exist between Portugal and the United

Kingdom and between Portugal and France. Students from these countries have a right to free medical care. The regulations for students from other EC countries or from non-EC countries are available upon request from the Ministry of Health.

Students are also covered by accident insurance in Portugal. This cover automatically comes into force upon registration. The semester contribution is approx. ESC 300. All universities have their own insurance scheme. By way of example, the Institut Superior Tecnico at the University of Lisbon pays approx. ESC 500,000 in case of invalidity and ESC 150,000 in case of death. All students have a right to this insurance. There is no age limit.

11. Job opportunities

There are two types of student in Portugal. These are "normal" students who finance their studies by means of a grant or scholarship or through their parents and "employed" students. The proportion of employed students is estimated to be approx. 15%. Special rules exist for such students, for example, in respect of number of semester credit hours to be taken and the applicable examination conditions. However, the student's income must not exceed 50% of the statutory minimum wage. This also applies to grant holders who work to earn some extra money.

Employed students find it difficult to reconcile full-time, day-time work with the normal lecture timetable. In order to give

this group of students due consideration, most universities offer evening lectures as well.

There is no job or employment agency at the universities.

If a student is working, it is dependent upon on the individual contract of employment whether social insurance contributions are paid or not.

There are only very few foreign students in Portugal and the proportion of those who have to finance their studies through work is even lower. After Portugal's accession to the EC, the possibility for foreigners from the member states to work or exercise their profession in Portugal is subject to no work permit restriction. Foreigners from non-EC countries will not receive a work permit.

12. Statistics on social aspects

Statistics on the student social affairs are either not gathered or are not available.

13. National coordination of social affairs

On a national level, the social services are organised in the C.A.S.E.S council (Conselho da Acção Social do Ensino Superior). This body comprises the 12 university presidents, in their function as presidents of the social services, the 12 directors of the social services as vice-presidents, 12 students and one representative from the Ministry of Education. This body must convene at least once a year with the Minister of Education in

order to discuss student affairs. During this meeting, the council decides on budget directives, specifies the rules for the allocation of grants and makes proposals on the provision of direct and indirect support for students.

Conselho da Acção Social do Ensino Superior (C.A.S.E.S.)
Universidade de Aveiro
Campus Universitario Santiago
P-3800 Aveiro

Further addresses:

Centro de Recurso do Ensino Especial
Av. 24 de Julho 138
4.º Esq.
P-1300 Lisboa

Departamento de Recursos Humanos da Saúde
(Health Care Department)
Av. Miguel Bombarda, 6-2º
P-1000 Lisboa

Ministério da Educação e Cultura
Centro de Informações de Relações Públicas - CIREP
Av. 5 de Outubro, 107
P-1051 Lisboa Codex

Ministério de Saúde
(Health Ministry)
Serviço de Informações
Av. dos Estados Unidos da América, 75
P-1700 Lisboa

Section XI

Spain

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1. General information

In accordance with the new Spanish Constitution of 1978, there is a new model of regional division which not only provides for state and local authorities, but also for Comunidades Autónomas as a further administrative level. These autonomous regional bodies, which correspond roughly to regions in other countries, have the right to self-administration, including in higher education. At present, seven (the Basque Country, Galicia, Catalonia, the Valencian Community, Andalusia, and the Canary Islands) of the total of 17 autonomous regions exercise jurisdiction over the higher education sector.

However, the state institutions of higher education, in their capacity as independent public statutory bodies, possess a high degree of autonomy, regardless of whether they come directly under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education and Science (MEC) or whether they come under the jurisdiction of the autonomous regions. This self-administration includes the fields of internal administration, free choice of academic staff and other staff, free administration of the budget, approval of the course curricula and the awarding of state higher education diplomas and degrees.

The Law on the Reform of the Higher Education System of 25th August, 1983, forms the legal basis for current training and education in higher education. This governs the individual competence of the local authorities, autonomous regions and universities, appoints the university council, the Consejo de Universidades, as a coordinating and planning body between the individual universities on a national level and governs the self-administration of the universities. Most institutions have passed their own statutes to govern internal administration, al-

though the reform of degree courses and curricula, also begun in 1983, is far from complete. This reform comes under the jurisdiction of the individual universities and is harmonised within the university council.

In Spain, the universities make up almost all of the higher education sector. Since 1970 there have been only a few, highly specialised disciplines in higher education outside of the university system. Approx. 900,000 students are studying at Spain's 36 universities (32 state universities and 4 universities under the auspices of the Catholic Church). Of these 900,000 students, some 30,000 are enrolled at private universities. The proportion of foreign students is about 3%.

Of Spain's 32 state universities, 30 are general universities (including 4 polytechnical universities) and 2 are special universities: The UNED (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia/the National Distance-Learning University), for whose students most of the below mentioned social benefits do not apply and the International University of Menéndez Pelayo, which has the official status of a university, but which is a centre of cultural development, since it offers seminars on subjects of topical interest.

Studies at Spanish universities are organised according to the four types of institution:

- Facultades (faculties);
- Escuelas Técnicas Superiores de Ingeniería y Arquitectura (faculties of engineering and architecture);
- Escuelas Universitarias (a higher education facility offering 3-year courses for degrees with a professional qualification);

- Colegios Universitarios (institutions established to relieve the larger universities and often situated in the "Provinces" and at which the first three years of studies at the Facultades can be taken).

Degree courses in merchant navy studies, sport, tourism and degree courses in artistic fields, such as theatre and dance, singing and music, are regarded as belonging to non-university areas.

It is possible to take long-term degree courses, comparable to standard university study, and short-term degree courses, at Spanish universities. These end with various degrees. The "Licenciado", "Ingeniero" or "Arquitecto" degrees are awarded after five or six year's study at a Facultad or Escuela Técnica Superior. The 3-year studies at the Escuelas Universitarias end with the "Diplomado" degree; the 3-year degree courses which can be taken at the Escuelas Técnicas de Ingeniería y Arquitectura end with either the "Ingeniero Técnico" or "Arquitecto Técnico" degrees. Following successful study in the long-term courses, students can add a third study stage to gain the title of "Doctor", which requires at least 2 years' study in doctorate courses and the submission of a doctoral thesis.

The entry requirements for university study in Spain are gained through successful attendance of the general branch of the "Enseñanza Media", which are comparable with grammar schools, attendance of a one-year orientation course (Curso de Orientación Universitaria), C.O.U., graduation from which is equal to proving aptitude for higher education, and an admissions examination (prueba de aptitud) at the university. National admissions restrictions only exist for certain, individual subjects, such as medicine and dentistry (1988). However, admissions

quotas are in force at almost all universities for individual disciplines.

Spain's universities usually organise degree courses on the basis of academic years and not semesters. The academic year begins on 1st October and ends on 30th September. Lectures are restricted to the period from early October to mid June. At some universities, this lecture period is also divided into terms.

In Spain, high study fees have to be paid every year for each subject. In 1987/88, these were between PTA 37,065 and 52,000. They are determined by the MEC or by the competent regional authorities in some of the Comunidades Autónomas and are harmonised by the university council. The church institutions of higher education determine their own study fees.

There are several possibilities for exemption from payment of study fees. No students who have been awarded a state grant pay fees; nor do students who come from families with many children. The universities themselves also award a certain percentage of free registrations. There is, for example, the *Matricula de Honor*, which exempts the holder from payment of study fees on the grounds of extraordinary academic achievements. MEC civil servants and their children aged under 25 are also exempted from payment of the fees.

2. Organisation of the social infrastructure

There is no central institution in Spain which is responsible for attending to student social affairs. All facilities and services (with the exception of the state grants) are provided and maintained by the respective universities. They, therefore, differ con-

siderably from one university to the next. The University Council (*Consejo de Universidades*) undertook a first survey to gain an initial overview of the existing social infrastructure for students in Spain in 1986 when it sent a questionnaire to all universities. Although only 24 of the universities completed the questionnaire and although the great divergence of services offered made a general representation difficult, this survey was a first attempt to evaluate this hitherto neglected aspect on a national level.

Apart from the MEC, the Foreign Ministry bears responsibility for scholarships and other financial support for students who do not come from EC countries. The *Instituto de Cooperación Iberoamericana* (Institute for Latin American Cooperation) provides assistance and programmes for Latin American students.

3. Student funding

Real Decreto (Royal Decree) 2,298/1983 of 28th July, 1983, governs the grants system in Spain. The general principle is that this support not only covers actual costs, but also acts by way of compensation for loss of income. The cost of living for Spanish students can only be estimated, due to the lack of any statistical surveys. In May 1988 a total sum, exclusive of study fees, of between PTA 50,000 and 60,000 was assumed. This sum would be a little higher in Madrid.

There are various possibilities of gaining a grant or other forms of support. The state grants are announced annually in a government decree issued by the MEC. This precisely defines

which support students receive for which studies, how much that is and which conditions have to be fulfilled.

Approximately 20% of all students receive state support. According to the Ministerial Directive of 7th June, 1990, students receive an annual grant (Ayuda Compensatoria) of PTA 214,000 if they fulfil the following conditions:

One condition is that the family income does not exceed a certain ceiling. That ceiling is:

PTA 525,000	for one person
PTA 970,000	for two persons
PTA 1,380,000	for three persons
PTA 1,745,000	for four persons.

Another condition is that students fulfil precisely defined academic achievements, which are based on respective study year, subject and type of university.

This is complemented by a travel grant of PTA 14,000 (for 5 - 10km) up to PTA 80,000 (for more than 50km). This can be supplemented by a grant for the use of urban public transport (not less than PTA 14,000). If the student does not live in the university town itself, then an extra PTA 208,000 accommodation benefit is paid. Students receive PTA 10,000 per annum for study materials. The total of these benefits amounts to the student's total grant if the conditions have been fulfilled. Students receiving grants are also exempted from payment of study fees. Students who have once been awarded a grant receive this until they complete their studies, as long as they fulfil all the academic achievements.

Students who fulfil the same academic achievements, but whose family income exceeds the below ceilings, are only exempted from payment of the study fees:

PTA 645,000	for one person
PTA 1,240,000	for two persons
PTA 1,800,000	for three persons
PTA 2,280,000	for four persons.

Assessment of the grant is based on the student living at home with his or her family. Students who live away from home must provide proof of through an appropriate rent contract as well as furnish proof of their own income and make a declaration to the effect that they are not living with their family.

The state grant for the 1991/92 academic year was raised considerably:

Ayuda Compensatoria	PTA 225,000
Travel grant	PTA 15,000 to 85,000
Accommodation benefit	PTA 220,000
Didactic materials	PTA 22,000

The income ceilings for students or their families at which the student was still entitled to receive a grant were raised accordingly:

PTA 795,000	for one person
PTA 1,385,000	for two persons
PTA 1,955,000	for three persons
PTA 2,435,000	for four persons.

In those degree courses in which a Project must be submitted to conclude the studies (Escuela Técnica Superior, Escuela Universitaria) a one-off sum of PTA 50,000 awarded by the MEC is paid to the holders of a state grant.

All students may receive a Beca de Colaboración, a scholarship for an assistantship with a professor or lecturer or for cooperation in research projects during the final 2 years of the longer 5- or 6-year degree courses and for the final year of the 3-year degree courses. This amounts to PTA 300,000 for students studying in their home town and PTA 500,000 for students studying elsewhere. This scholarship is not compatible with other forms of state support and does not apply to students who have already completed their studies. The conditions for the awarding of this scholarship are good academic achievements, which are also precisely defined, and the same family income conditions as apply to the general grants.

The regional authorities also award various scholarships to students from their respective region, generally in cases of hardship or for students in particular financial need, and so on. Often students who cannot or can no longer receive a state grant due to inadequate academic achievements receive such scholarships. These scholarships are usually not governed by any decree or law.

The individual universities also award a whole series of grants and benefits, for example, in the form of free accommodation in a Colegio Mayor or in a Residencia, or vouchers for refectory meals, or travel grants. With the exception of the latter, all these forms of assistance are primarily awarded for economic reasons and only in the second instance on account of study

achievement or other reasons. All state grant holders are excluded from receiving such awards or benefits.

Since there are many different scholarships, grants and benefits for students in Spain (cf. Chapters 4 and 5), the authorities ensure that students do not submit double claims.

The Scholarships for Postgraduates represent a special Spanish feature. These postgraduate scholarships may be awarded towards a doctorate or for funding research projects or any other research or work related to studies. The scholarships, which can be awarded for one or several years, are often very high. They are granted by the MEC as well as by the regional authorities, universities, ministries, public research institutes, local authorities, private companies, banks, savings banks, foundations, and so on.

Finally, there are the bilateral agreements between Spanish and foreign universities which also often include scholarships (for Spaniards studying abroad and vice versa). This may be in the form of exemption from the need to pay study fees, accommodation grants or travel grants, and so on.

4. Student accommodation

The Colegios Mayores are institutions established especially for students. These student hostels are either directly maintained by the universities themselves or are often maintained by public or private organisations. They have a long tradition, especially at the old universities, and are often housed in historical buildings there. Apart from accommodation, students receive half or full-board. Added to this come a broad range of cultural activi-

ties (newspapers and magazines, films, lectures, computer courses, language courses, etc.). All the students at the respective university can make use of this range of activities. There are long waiting lists for acceptance into the Colegios Mayores. Early application is recommended in all cases.

The number of applicants far exceeds the number of free places. At the University of Granada, for example, there are some 300 applicants for the 30 available places in the new academic year. Selection is normally based on student qualifications.

The right to live there is always valid for one academic year (9 months). Students must reapply in the following year. The monthly rent is between PTA 32,000 and 60,000. The buildings are generally redecorated and repaired in July. The vacations take place in August. In September the Colegios Mayores are used for seminars and courses. Students can move in during October.

Scholarships are awarded annually for the Colegios Mayores. Approx. 15% of the places are free of charge, whereby academic achievement represents the primary selection criterion followed by financial need.

Apart from the Colegios Mayores (some universities do not have such facilities, others have 10 to 15) there are also the Residencias. Most of these student hostels are private, commercial facilities. Some are, however, maintained by the universities or by foundations, associations, and so on. Apart from accommodation in single or twin rooms, the Residencias also provide shared facilities, such as a TV-room, kitchen, washroom and sometimes cultural facilities. Each university town has several

such Residencias. The rent for these and the facilities offered vary greatly. Accommodation grants are also offered by the institutions responsible for these. Students can also rent private rooms or flats, live in shared flats, or live at home.

The survey carried out by the University Council (cf. Chapter 2) in which 24 of the total of 36 universities participated found that 60% of the universities have their own Colegios Mayores. Colegios Mayores or Residencias which are maintained and run by organisations other than the universities are to be found at 45% of the 24 universities. It should be mentioned that these student hostels under non-university management supply three times as many places as the university student hostels. 50% of this accommodation is provided by the University of Madrid.

A recently published report by the University of Granada on the living conditions of its students and compiled on the basis of questionnaires issued to students (Sample: 4,907 of a total of 51,697 students) showed that

46.2% of students live at home 35.5% live as tenants 5.2% live as subtenants 13.1% live in student hostels.

This result is broken down into study years in the following table:

	At Home	Student Hostel	Subtenant	Tenant
1st Year	49.71%	14.2%	6.3%	29.8%
2nd Year	45.4%	12.7%	5.3%	36.6%
3rd Year	46.4%	11.9%	4.0%	37.8%
4th Year	31.9%	12.6%	3.4%	52.2%

The table shows that the longer students have been studying, the more move away from home (the figure drops from almost 50% living at home to just 32%) and that the number of students living in hostels drops a little (from 14% to 12.6%) but that it remains relatively constant. The rents for a flat vary according to district from PTA 29,898 (in the cheapest district, Elvira-Albaicin) to PTA 42,238 (in the most expensive district, Gran Capitan). Most of the flats have three rooms, meaning that three students generally share.

Various means are at the students' disposal to help them with the search for accommodation. At most universities the student secretariats issue lists containing the free places at the Colegios Mayores and student hostels. There is also a notice board at the universities which is normally a good starting point for finding somewhere to live. Some universities have special information services to assist students in finding a room. In Granada, there is the Asessoria Juridica, a university facility providing legal advice for students in questions relating to their studies, but also on accommodation problems, conscientious objection, and so on. This Asessoria Juridica also publishes the "Borsa de Vivien-das" (meaning something like "Accommodation Exchange") in which flats, rooms, shared flats, etc. are offered. In Barcelona an "Accommodation Exchange", the "Borsa de l'habitage" is also published, which helps students quickly find affordable accommodation. It helps them to find rooms with families, or in shared flats, and in student hostels. Furthermore, it provides legal advice on accommodation issues.

In order to make the search for accommodation easier for ERASMUS students, the presidents have suggested that in Madrid, for example, the 45 Colegios Mayores houses each reserve two rooms for guest students. The experience gained by

this, however, has not been positive. The students from other European countries often do not want to adhere to the rules and customs of the Colegios Mayores, which result in problems within the houses. Furthermore, they regard the costs as too high, so that they soon attempt to move into a shared flat. Following this, they are no longer prepared to fulfil the contracts signed with the Colegios Mayores. It is intended to make the rent payable in advance in future.

5. Student meals

Each university, each faculty and almost each institute has a bar or cafeteria in which students can buy reasonably-priced food and drink. Some universities also have refectories in which a midday set meal is offered for a price of between PTA 300 and 500. Students can generally receive benefits for the use of these refectories, meaning that they can have their meals there free-of-charge for one year. In Granada there are three refectories with a total of 800 benefit holders. If the university is located in the middle of the town, then there will also be a great number of nearby bars, restaurants and so on in which reasonably-priced snacks and set meals can be taken.

The University Council survey of 1987 showed that 10 of the 24 participating universities had a refectory for the whole university; at 15 universities there were smaller refectories situated in the various faculties. The refectories receive subsidies from the respective universities.

If the number of students attending the refectories is compared with the total number of students, then large numbers of stu-

dents only use these facilities at the two universities in Barcelona, the two in Madrid and at the university in Valencia.

One of the largest and most modernly-equipped refectories is that at the Pedrables University in Barcelona at which set meals are offered every midday between 12:45 and 15:30 for a price of less than PTA 350. Students can choose from among 50 dishes. There are some 2,000 places available.

As far as the many bars and cafeterias available at the various faculties at the respective universities are concerned, these are often not subsidised by the universities, and if they are, then only with very small amounts. However, the general expenses of the universities may also include support for the bars and cafeterias. The University Complutense in Madrid, for example, can cover 40% of the expenses in this sector through income from the bars and cafeterias.

6. Advisory services

In general, the student vice-rectorate, the "Vicerectorado de estudiantes" is responsible for all questions linked with the studies (change of subject, registration, etc.). General questions are answered in the principal's office of the respective central administration, whilst subject-related questions are answered by the secretariat of the relevant faculty. At some universities, additional information offices have been established for answering questions pertaining to the search for accommodation, job hunting, or scholarships and grants. The COIEs (Centro de Orientación e Información de Empleo/Orientation and Information Centre for Employment Affairs) are a special facility formed out of cooperation between the universities and the

INEM, the Spanish Employment Office. In a manner of speaking, this office is a specialised placement agency for students which aims to

- maintain and promote contacts between the universities and trade and industry,
- collate and distribute information for both parties,
- inform students and advise them on the search for their first employment,
- register students with the INEM and vice versa, also to pass on offers of employment either directly or through the employment office,
- inform students of specific further training courses or practicals for students, and so on.

The COIEs are a part of the universities. So far, these facilities are to be found at the universities of Cordoba, Granada, Malaga, Seville, Oviedo, Leon, Valladolid, Santiago de Compostela, Madrid (at all 4 universities), Murcia and Valencia.

The example of Granada will show how this information for students might be structured in a concrete example. As mentioned above, such offers depend above all on the individual universities and the initiative of the respective student body.

In Granada, there is the Secretariado de Becas y Servicios which provides information on various scholarships and grants (state, regional, local and international), which has the competition documents available for consultation and which also assists in filling in the forms.

The Secretariado de Asociaciones y Participación is intended to promote the participation by students in all university af-

fairs. On the one hand, the secretariat will inform on the possible participation by students in the various university bodies, as provided for in the Estatutos de la Universidad de Granada (E.U.G., the statutes of Granada University), and, on the other, will also support the participation by students in these bodies.

The Secretariado de Asociaciones y Participación's other responsibility entails providing support and advice on the founding of Asociaciones (clubs and societies). This is governed by Decree 68/1986 on the Foundation and Rights of Clubs and Societies for Young People. These clubs and societies might be subject-related ones formed by the students of the respective subject, for example, the Society of Economics Students, Association of Students for Independent Psychology, or may be common interest societies, for example, the Society for Culture at the University of Almeria, political societies, for example, the Society of Progressive Students, the Students' Union of the C.G.T., or societies reflecting origin, for example, the Society of Moroccan Students, or religious conviction, for example, the Society of Catholic Students. These are all examples of societies at the University of Granada; other universities will have similar clubs and societies. The clubs and societies in Granada receive subsidies of a material and technical nature from the government of Andalusia. These are allocated for their activities and for equipping their offices. These subsidies cover up to 50% of costs. Groups of students which have not constituted themselves as a club or society may also apply for subsidies for a specific project or for a cultural programme.

The third secretariat which has been established by the University of Granada for the students is the Agencia Estudiantil (Student Agency). Several services are offered there: the COIE, the CIDU and the Asessoria Juridica (the legal advice service). As

mentioned above, the COIE offers advice and assistance to students on entering employment. The CIDU (Centro de Información y Documentación del Universitario) is an information and documentation centre for members of the university. This centre compiles information on all spheres of student life (studies, education, social questions, etc.) and holds them at the disposal of users of the facility. Several publications are printed, such as the Student Handbook for the University of Granada, the student bulletin (Boletín del Alumno), information on databases and several others.

The Asessoria Juridica provides free legal advice to students on all desired topics, ranging from labour law to administrative complaints/action, from conscientious objection to residential rights. The Borsa de viviendas, the accommodation exchange mentioned in Chapter 4, is also published by this facility.

The Instituto de la Juventud, the Youth Institute, is an independent body belonging to the Ministry of Culture. It offers a whole range of programmes and facilities which are aimed at young people up to 26 years of age and students up to 30. The programmes and facilities will not be listed here, with the exception that an Oficina de Información para la Juventud (Information Office for Young People) exists in every larger town and provides information of all topics which are of interest to young people.

The T.I.V.E (Oficina Nacional de Turismo e Intercambio de Jovenes Estudiantes/National Office for Tourism and Exchange of Pupils and Students) is a facility belonging to the Instituto de la Juventud and is exclusively for the use of young people up to 26 years of age and for students up to 30, as well as for teachers, youth camp staff, parents and tutors, if these are ac-

companying young people up to 18 years of age. The T.I.V.E. offers programmes, publications, services and reductions of all kinds. Many kinds of travel are offered, for individuals and for groups; it provides addresses and contacts, compiles route plans and maintains special offers for students and pupils. The offices provide information on various reductions which are granted by airlines, railways, bus companies, shipping lines and other means of transport for young people and/or students in Spain and Europe; in most cases, the office will also issue the required passes. The office also issues other passes, such as the International Student Pass, or travel insurance, or the Teacher Card (a special pass for teachers). The T.I.V.E. also specialises in offering language courses in Spain and abroad. The T.I.V.E.'s range of services ranges from providing information to placing students and pupils in host families. The T.I.V.E. head office is placed in Madrid. It also has offices in the following towns: Abacete, Málaga, Barcelona, Burgos, Ciudad Real, Córdoba, Cuenca, Granada, Guadalajara, Guipúzcoa, La Laguna, Las Palmas, León, Madrid, Murcia, Oviedo, Palma de Mallorca, Pamplona, Salamanca, Santiago, Seville, Toledo, Valencia, Valladolid and Vizcaya. The head office in Madrid will be pleased to provide the addresses of the local offices.

The Institutos de la Mujer (Women's Institutes) aim to promote equality between men and women in all walks of life and to take action against discrimination of women at work, in culture, science and politics and to further the participation and presence of women in all areas. Many programmes and projects are available for this aim. The Women's Institutes are the right addresses for obtaining information on legal questions, for finding addresses where personal advice can be obtained, for fostering relations between various women's groups and for much more. The head office is situated in Madrid and

a list of the local centres, which are to be found regionally and in many towns, is available there.

7. Students with disabilities

There is no central facility for students with disabilities. Therefore, details on the question of students with disabilities can be obtained from the relevant university or respective department or faculty. The available facilities differ from town to town or from region to region. In Barcelona, there is a municipally-maintained Institute for Disabled Persons, which provides and coordinates the following services for people with physical, mental or psychological disabilities:

- advice for all spheres of life and in any situation,
- assistance in finding work,
- training in special centres,
- the "Architectural Barriers" scheme: this initiative aims to remove existing and prevent future architectural barriers in public buildings and facilities and private flats,
- rent subsidies (supports disabled persons living on their own),
- parking assistance,
- special bus facilities for people with disabilities.

Further information for students with disabilities is also available from the above-mentioned Oficina de Información para la Juventud.

At present only few university buildings are suitable for use by disabled persons. However, great efforts are now being undertaken in order to give this aspect greater attention.

8. Students with children

The survey carried out by the University Council in 1987 showed that 7 of the 24 participating universities had kindergarten facilities with a total of 691 places. Two of these were self-administered. The costs for a kindergarten place varied greatly between PTA 2,500 a month (Universidad Politécnica de Valencia) and PTA 18,000 a month (Autónoma de Barcelona). This is due to the great differences in subsidies paid by the universities. Subsidies are paid by other organisations at one university only, the Politécnica de Valencia.

The ratio of demand and supply is very poor. If the number of married students and university staff with children is compared with the number of kindergarten places, then only 6.35% of these children can receive a place in a kindergarten. In Málaga and at the Politécnica de Valencia the number is 12% or respectively 16%.

9. Culture

There is a broad range of cultural activities on offer. The 24 universities surveyed placed a total of PTA 178 Million at the disposal of culture. Apart from accommodation and sports, culture is by far the area of student social affairs which is most supported. Of course, the range differs greatly from one university to the next.

Each university has a whole range of cultural activities to offer, such as cinemas, theatres, choirs, excursions, lectures, exhibitions. In addition to these, there are sports and leisure clubs, cultural centres and courses. For some areas, only the rooms

are provided and sometimes financial resources and/or materials (for example, a record library).

Most cultural activities are provided either by other organisations (clubs and societies, etc.) in collaboration with the university, or by student associations, which then take on responsibility for certain events and/or programmes.

10. Student insurance

Health care and health insurance are part of the state health system which has special services for students. Upon registration, all students up to the age of 28 are automatically insured. The insurance contribution for this is paid upon registration. The social security department (Instituto Nacional de la Seguridad Social) is responsible for the student insurance scheme which pays for the treatment of illnesses and diseases, accidents and for general medical care. The costs for medicine and dental treatment are not reimbursed by the student insurance scheme. In addition to the normal areas, the scheme also provides assistance in serious family emergencies. All EC countries and many Latin American, Asian and African countries have signed health treaties with Spain so that the students from these countries are also insured upon registration.

Students from Spain and abroad who are over 28 years of age must take out private insurance. This is possible for a premium of about DM 50 per month.

11. Job opportunities

Students who receive state financial support are not officially allowed to work. However, most students have a job, which means that they work on an hourly basis as couriers, waiters in pubs and bars, give private tuition or work in offices. In most cases they work without any contract of employment. As a rule, they only get a contract of employment once they work more than at least 20 hours per week, which is difficult to reconcile with study commitments. In such cases, the students are treated as normal employees, meaning they pay social security contributions and are, basically, insured twice, once as a student and once as an employee. Practicals (Prácticas) are a special form of work. For this, the student must have concluded a stage of education (secondary school, university, vocational school). These practicals, which are advertised at the employment offices and which must be registered later can last from between 3 months and 3 years. The employer saves 75% of the employer contributions on the regular social security payments.

Many students work in the three summer months. There are several special job placement agencies which provide an opportunity for work abroad. Further details on summer jobs can be obtained from the T.I.V.E.s and the Centros de Información para Jovenes (Information Offices for Young People).

At some universities, information offices exist for the placement of jobs. These can also be used by foreign students. However, foreign students require a work permit. Temporary employment is possible in principle, although the situation on the Spanish labour market means that there is very little opportunity. Students from EC countries will have the same status as Spanish students after the transitional period agreed upon in

the treaty on the accession of Spain into the European Community. Until then, relatively flexible special rules apply.

12. Statistics on social aspects

There are no statistics available on student social aspects.

13. National coordination of social affairs

In view of the university infrastructure in Spain, cooperation is primarily to be found among the Colegios Mayores. All the directors of the 162 houses form a General Assembly. This convenes once a year. In addition to this there is a council to which each university town delegates a representative. Five directors of this council form a standing committee which represents the interests of the Colegios Mayores at all levels, including in public.

Consejo de Colegios Mayores
Universidad de Granada Neptuno, 5
E-18004 Granada

The University Council can also be contacted:

Consejo de Universidades
-Secretaría General-
Ciudad Universitaria, s/n
E-28040 Madrid

Further addresses:

Instituto de la Mujer
c/Almagro, 36
E-28010 Madrid

Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores
(Foreign Ministry)
Plaza del la Provincia, 1
E-28071 Madrid

Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia
Sede central Alcalá, 34
E-28014 Madrid

T.I.V.E. (Head office)
José Ortega y Gasset, 71, 3
E-28006 Madrid

Section XII**United Kingdom**

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1. General information

Higher education in the United Kingdom is provided by the Universities, Polytechnics, and the Scottish equivalents, the Central Institutions, as well as by other institutions (colleges, institutes of higher education, colleges of further education, etc.). At present, there are some 50 universities and 30 polytechnics in England and Wales, with 14 central institutions in Scotland.

Through their historical development, the universities have become independent self-administering bodies. Each university decides on the admission of students, appointment of teaching staff and on which degrees are awarded. Although they are largely government financed, the universities do not come under the jurisdiction of any of its ministries. The universities receive their rights and privileges by Royal Charter or parliamentary resolution.

University funding is organised through a general grant annually agreed between the University Funding Council (since 1989 successor to the University Grants Committee) and the government. In addition to this, the universities charge study fees of between £ 1,755 and £ 5,000 (see Chapter 3). However, the government does exert some influence on university funding by determining student numbers. Furthermore, the universities have endowments and/or funds from third parties at their disposal for research work.

The polytechnics and, in Scotland, the central institutions are national and regional education establishments focussing on higher education for full-time, part-time and sandwich-course students. Sandwich courses are degree courses with an inte-

grated practical employment component in trade and industry. Many of the degree courses offered by these establishments are of a vocational, professional or practical nature and were founded in the 1960s.

On 1st April, 1989, the funding of polytechnics in England and Wales ceased to be a matter for the local authorities. Responsibility for the allocation of financial resources was transferred to a central system controlled by the Polytechnic and Colleges Funding Council. The polytechnics also have income from study fees. Generally, it is the intention of the government to balance out the differences between polytechnics and universities and to fund them through a single system. Thus it is planned to establish just one Higher Education Funding Council for England, Scotland and Wales. The Scottish central institutions are still funded by the local authorities. Degree courses at polytechnics are recognised by the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA) which guarantees that the standards achieved are equivalent to those of the universities.

For the 1991/92 academic year, study fees for students from EC countries amounted to a minimum of £ 1,755 for undergraduates, depending on subject, and £ 2,104 for graduates, although generally only undergraduates receive support. For students from non-EC countries, study fees for undergraduate studies amounted to around £ 5,000. Since 1st September, 1986, students from EC countries are reimbursed their study fees if they are on degree courses in which British students would be entitled to a mandatory award.

At present, approx. 670,000 students are studying at the United Kingdom's higher education institutions. 360,000 of these are at university and 310,000 are at the polytechnics and central

institutions. The proportion of foreign students at the universities is 14%, which is higher than at the other institutions. 11% of the foreign students pay Overseas Student Fees, which means that they do not come from an EC country. The proportion of foreign students at the polytechnics is 8.5%. The proportion of women registered at university (not polytechnics) 1989/90 year was 43.1%.

Student numbers are expected to increase in the coming years, meaning that by the year 2000 one in three young persons will be taking advantage of higher education. On the one hand, this is connected with efforts by the government to enable more young people to take higher education and to make access to university easier and, on the other, with university interest in additional income through more study fees.

The academic year is generally divided into terms. In most cases, studies can only begin in October. The introduction of semesters is currently under consideration.

The most common degrees are the BA (Bachelor of Arts) and the BSc (Bachelor of Science), both normally achieved after three years' study. In addition to this, there is the BEd degree (Bachelor of Education) and degrees. In Scotland the first academic degree is the MA (Master of Arts), awarded after four years of study; the broad-based Ordinary MA, which is a special feature of the Scottish education system, is awarded after three years.

Due to the relatively short length of studies, the average age of British graduates is between 22 and 23 years of age. Postgraduate degrees take one year (MA, MSc) or three years (PhD). There are a great number of postgraduate degree courses and

research opportunities. Of the 350,000 students registered at university in 1989/90, some 17.3% were postgraduate students; with few exceptions, the remaining 82.7% entered into careers after graduation.

As mentioned above, the British universities are free to structure their own affairs. Oxford and Cambridge, and London and Wales, have their own special internal organisation. In formal terms, the University Court is the highest body on which university representatives and other social groups - friends, trustees and in many cases students, too - sit. The Council makes all essential decisions on financial affairs, building projects or contracts and agreements which are to be signed. (In Scotland, this body is known as the Court). The Senate is responsible for academic affairs; depending on the size of university, the Senate may consist of some or all of the professors, a number of other lecturers, and possibly also students. The Chancellor, as highest representative of the university, is an honorary post, whilst the Vice-Chancellor (in Scotland, Principal) is the head of the university. The Registrar is the head of university administration.

The supreme body in the organisation of the polytechnics is the Governing Board on which external public figures, especially from trade and industry, are in the majority. Academic affairs are governed by the Academic Board.

2. The organisation of the social infrastructure

There are no special facilities in the United Kingdom which are responsible for student social affairs. This is carried out by the universities themselves and therefore varies from one institu-

tion to the next. Due to their historical development, most social concerns of students are cared for in and around the traditional student hostels. It is for this reason that the chapter on "Student accommodation" is given more extensive coverage than other sections.

3. Student funding

The grants system in the United Kingdom remained unchanged until long after its establishment in 1962. In 1985 the government began to give new consideration to the system of financial support which resulted in the publication of a government White Paper in November 1988. This envisaged the introduction of "Top-Up-Loans" to supplement the grants and parental support. In October 1990, this new system of financial support was introduced. Whilst the old system had relied only on grants, the new system consists of a grants element and a loans element. Assessment of these elements is described below. The government intends to raise the loan proportion for students up to 50%. That means that the maximum grant and assessed parental support would be frozen at the monetary value of 1990. Through inflation, the real value of grant and parental share would fall until this made up 50% of total support, with the loan share accounting for the other 50%.

The Grants Element:

In accordance with the 1962 Education Act, the grants system is administered by the Local Education Authorities (LEAs), although their expenditure is compensated by central government (the Department of Education and Science, in England and Wales, and the Scottish Office and the Northern Ireland Of-

fice, for Scotland and Northern Ireland, respectively). Full-time students studying for their first academic degree at a university, polytechnic or college (BA, BSc, BEd, etc.) and students in certain other degree courses are entitled to a "Mandatory Award". Other students, for example, those taking a part-time course or a non-diploma course may receive a so-called "Discretionary Award" if the authority agrees to the allocation of the award or grant. Normally, students have a right to support for one higher education degree course if the residence requirements are fulfilled, i.e. if the student has been resident in the UK for the three years prior to course begin; British nationals returning from an EC country where they have been working are also entitled, as are students from other EC countries whose parents have been classified as "migrant workers" or who have acquired this status themselves; refugees, their spouses and children and those who have been granted asylum fulfil the personal qualification requirements for a mandatory award and a loan.

In the 1988/89 academic year, the total number of students receiving support was 550,708.

The mandatory award consists of two elements:

- Study fees are paid directly by the LEA to the university, regardless of the level of parental income.
- A grant is paid towards the cost of living. The amount of this grant depends on the level of parental income or on the student's personal income, unless the student is receiving support under the "independent of parents" category. This status is granted if the student is over 25 years of age, or if he or she has been married for two years or if the student has financed himself or herself for the past three years before commencement of studies.

The parental contribution to the cost of living is assessed for all recipients of a mandatory award; it takes the household income, that is the income of both parents, into account; this is defined as gross parental income in the past year, minus certain deductions for dependents, interest and rent payments, and so on.

Parents who earn more than a specified amount (for the 1991/92 academic year this sum was £ 12,650) must contribute towards the support of the student. The assessed proportion is deducted from the full amount of financial support and the student then receives the remainder. The assessed parental contribution is dependent upon annual income and amounts to:

Annual Parental Income	Assessed Parental Contribution
£ 12,650	£ 45 (minimum contribution)
£ 15,000	£ 274
£ 20,000	£ 912
£ 25,000	£ 1,638
£ 30,000	£ 2,493
£ 35,000	£ 3,348
£ 40,000	£ 4,203
£ 45,000	£ 5,057
£ 49,343	£ 5,800 (maximum contribution)

For the 1991/92 academic year and the following years the maximum amount of the support grant for students who are not living at home will be £ 2,845 in London and £ 2,265 elsewhere. Figures supplied by the British Council place the cost of living at around £ 375 per month; in London, the figure is £ 475 per month. The maximum support paid for a studies-related stay abroad is between £ 2,265 and £ 3,570, depending on the estimated cost of living in the country of destination.

The grant is reduced accordingly for students who contribute personal income towards their own living expenses. This is the case, for example, for students who receive more than £ 3,295 from an employer or if that amount is received through any other scholarship than through the mandatory award. Vacation jobs or scholarships awarded in the context of ERASMUS or other EC programmes do not reduce the mandatory award.

Apart from the general educational support system, there are several other individual scholarships which are awarded by industry and other sources.

Child benefit is also paid to parents of children under 18 years of age. With the exception of the above-mentioned cases, foreign students are entitled to neither an award nor a loan, as described below. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the British Council award study and research scholarships to foreign students.

The new Loan Element - The "Top-Up Loans":

All full-time students under 50 years of age who fulfil the above-mentioned residence requirements and who are currently resident in the UK are entitled to take out a loan under the new loans scheme to cover their cost of living. This does not apply to postgraduate students. The loans are awarded regardless of financial need, meaning that parental or personal income is of no significance to the allocation of such loans. The maximum loan for students in the 1991/92 academic year living away from home is £ 660 for London and £ 580 elsewhere; for students living at home, the respective amount is £ 460. In the final year the maximum amount is lower since the academic year is shorter.

The loans are administered by the Student Loans Company, which was established by the government to manage the loans scheme. Universities, polytechnics and other colleges must confirm that the student is fulfilling all attendance requirements during his or her studies. The conditions of repayment are as follows:

- repayments must begin at latest in April following the conclusion of studies;
- repayments are index-linked, meaning that they are annually realigned with the retail price index so that the student repays the real value of the loan (the annual inflation rate in 1991 was 5.8%);
- repayments are made over a specified period (5 or 7 years);
- repayments are made in monthly installments;
- all outstanding debt is remitted after 25 years or when the borrower reaches the age of 50;
- in the event of death, the debts are cancelled;
- repayment is suspended if the borrower's income is less than 85% of average monthly income (in 1991 this was £ 1,055). Parental or spouse income is not taken into account in the assessment of income.

As presented in the White Paper, the government intended to establish three Access Funds when the loan scheme was introduced in order to make further assistance available to British students in the form of discretionary support. These Access Funds are administered by the university which have discretionary powers on their allocation. Originally the three funds were to receive £ 5 million each per annum; the funds are replenished. According to the government, the funds are required in order to balance out the fact that full-time students are no longer entitled to social security benefits. As from the introduction of these funds, stu-

dents are no longer entitled to apply for income support, unemployment benefit or rent benefit. For some students, these sources accounted for a substantial proportion of income. The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals criticised this government action, since the allocated resources fell far short of what was actually required to compensate for lost social security benefits. A report by the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaus (CAB) of September 1991 describes the consequences for students of the loss of above-mentioned social security benefits. The local bureaus are called on by many students who face financial problems, especially in the summer months. The CAB sees this as a result of loss of unemployment benefit, rent benefit and income support and of loss of income from summer jobs due to the recession and of the falling real value of the mandatory awards.

4. Student accommodation

Approximately 44% of all university students are allocated either university-owned or university-administered accommodation by the university authorities. Of these students, some 30 to 33% live in traditional student hostels, and 15% in other university accommodation. By contrast, the polytechnics only provide 17.5% of their students with accommodation. Responsibility for student accommodation lies with the respective institution and not with any state or national authority. Accommodation services have been established at each institution. On a national level, the Association of University Accommodation Officers (AUAO) coordinates the services; a comparable association exists for the polytechnics, too.

As described above, the polytechnics were controlled until re-

cently by the local authorities, generally by the councils, and the amount of accommodation placed at their disposal by the authorities varied accordingly. Now that the polytechnics have become autonomous bodies, the earlier differences will increasingly disappear.

There are three different forms of accommodation for students:

- Traditional student hostels have single, twin or multiple bed rooms, services and advisory offices, meals and leisure activities.
- Self-catering student hostels have single, twin or multiple bed rooms with a shared kitchen, a recreation room and shower/bath for the use of groups of 2 to 6 students, who organise their accommodation unit themselves.
- A third accommodation opportunity is in the private sector. The accommodation offices at each university maintain lists of organisations and private persons who offer accommodation for students, for example, guesthouses, private house-owners and housing societies.

Traditionally, students leave home when they begin to study, since independence is regarded as part of the learning experience. Even today, only a small proportion of students still live at home with their parents.

Acceptance to the universities, polytechnics, colleges or central institutions is decided by selection on the basis of qualification. It is for this reason that the institutions feel responsible for the well-being and accommodation of selected students, especially of students with disabilities and foreign students. Foreign students

engaged in full-time studies are in most cases guaranteed accommodation for one year. First-year students are also given preferential consideration, being mostly accommodated in the traditional student hostels where meals and services are available. During the Easter and summer breaks, the hostels are often used for commercial purposes, which provides other income in order to be able to guarantee socially-acceptable rents for the students.

The type of accommodation preferred by students has changed over the past 20 years. Most students nowadays reject life in large communities with strict rules and codes of conduct. For this reason, self-catering accommodation and shared flats are now being constructed. Such accommodation is also less cost intensive than traditional student hostels because fewer staff are needed.

The costs for accommodation differ considerably within the UK, both in rural and urban areas. This is particularly true in respect of London and other areas; the rents in London in some cases are about twice as high as elsewhere. A place in a student hostel with meals costs between £ 40 and £ 65 per week, without meals the cost is between £ 22 and £ 60 per week.

The management of student accommodation is closely linked with other services for students, such as catering, advisory services, leisure activities and general welfare services. In all cases it is dependent upon the internal administrative structure of the university or hostel. In the past few years, some universities have seen a gradual merging of departments with responsibility for various aspects of student accommodation and related facilities and services. The aim is to provide a better service, optimal co-operation and continuity in the students' well-being. The majority of universities and polytechnics now have central offices with responsibility for the marketing of all services, including the stu-

dent hostels. This enables the institution to increase income by renting out capacities such as theatres, seminar rooms, catering facilities and hostels. For this reason, students are only permitted to rent the accommodation for the time in which they are expected to be in attendance for their respective subject. Students who wish to remain in the hostel during the vacations must apply for this separately.

Most higher education institutions regard student tutoring in academic matters and in personal, informal matters (problems in the family and in relationships, integration problems, alcohol problems, etc.) as necessary. A personal tutoring system exists for this purpose. Most universities, polytechnics and colleges older students to whom responsibility for the well-being and discipline of the students, but mainly for their general care, has been delegated. Tutors are expected to call upon the advice of other student services, and to offer study counselling, health advice, careers advice, and to call upon the academic tutors and collaborate with these. They are paid in the form of rent-free accommodation. Before the students are accepted into a student hostel, they are acquainted with certain codes of conduct to which they have to agree. Any contradiction of this code may be punished by loss of their place in accommodation.

Students sign special rent contracts called Licences for a hostel place. In this licence, the student agrees to pay the rent and accepts that the right to the place in the hostel expires at the end of the academic year.

Students who are offered a place in a self-catering flat are offered two types of rent contract; this is either one of the above-mentioned licences or an assured shorthold tenancy contract. The latter contract, which was introduced two years ago by

the government, permits the renting out of the place for a fixed period (of at least 6 months) for a fixed rent. The student signing the contract has no right to stay any longer than the fixed period. The difference to a licence lies in the fact that the signing students have fewer rules to comply with.

English law permits education institutions to accommodate students in the form of student lettings. This means that the institution can demand that the student must leave the accommodation at the end of his or her studies, including at the end of the period of compulsory attendance after each academic year.

Since greater student numbers are expected, the institutions of higher education are attempting to extend their business activities and to house the students in their preferred form of accommodation. This means finding ways of providing cost-sensitive and long-term facilities. The students often desire more modern facilities; a number of facilities with a higher standard of accommodation at a correspondingly higher rent were surprised by the great demand.

The 1960s, and also largely the 1970s, saw student accommodation in the UK generously supported by the University Grants Committee (UGC). The Overseas Students Welfare Programme (OSWEP) also provided financial resources for the establishment of special accommodation for foreign students. The OSWEP programme expired in 1977 and the UGC (now UFC) no longer places any funds at the universities' disposal for these purposes.

The old regulations, however, did leave the universities with a "stock" of accommodation and so with income to finance future projects. The University of Birmingham, for example, built around 1,500 self-catering flats in the early 1970s. These flats

now provide good profits through the rent paid by the students. These profits are now used to fund new projects. This practice is known as cross-subsidy. Not all new projects are financed in this manner, however. The majority are designed to be self-financing. Some universities rely on donations from former students and local trade and industry to support the creation of additional accommodation.

The universities use various methods to collect the financial resources for building new hostels. However, these have led to an increase in rents in excess of the annual rate of inflation.

Loans for credit financing can be gained from the banks and building societies. Building societies are institutions specialise in investing monies saved with them (mainly by small private investors) in home building and land purchase.

Fixed-interest loans for a specific repayment period between 14 and 25 years are another form of investment. Apart from fixed-interest rate loans, the banks also provide variable-interest rate loans which are either fixed to the bank interest rate or to the London Bank Overnight Rate.

State financial resources are also available for building projects which serve to redevelop derelict property or real estate. A knowledge of local politics and building development plans is decisive for this.

The Business Expansion Scheme (BES) aims to encourage private builders to erect more rented accommodation for general public use by awarding tax incentives.

In some areas, especially in Scotland, the universities also collaborate with housing associations, which create accommodation for people of limited financial resources. Sometimes it is possible for the university to let extra accommodation from such housing associations, local authorities, hospitals and other public and private bodies.

The cost of building land differs greatly. In most cases, however, the university already owns the land or can purchase it at a favourable price.

5. Student meals

As mentioned above, student hostels partly offer full-board or half-board which enables them to manage the hostel effectively. Refectories which are situated near to competing restaurants have bigger problems. Some catering facilities on site are let to private enterprises. There is an increasing tendency to offer facilities on a leasehold basis.

In addition to these catering facilities, the student unions also offer alternatives which they manage with the funds annually allotted to them. The student unions also run bars, shops and travel agencies.

The universities must at least break even in their catering facilities. At Essex University, a two-course meal (meat, vegetables and dessert) costs £ 2 on average.

The funding of new building projects in the field of student catering facilities falls under the same conditions as the funding of student accommodation.

6. Advisory services

There is a broad network of responsibility for providing extensive care services for students in the UK.

At a departmental level, each student has a personal tutor, chosen from the members of staff, who observes the student's academic progress and serves as a contact for discussing personal problems. The first contact for all problems of a non-academic nature is often the Dean of Students. The student union, associations and also church groups offer advisory services. For more serious problems, such as difficulties in getting to know other people, problems within relationships, depression, etc, there is a Counselling Service. The Health Service is responsible for the physical well-being of the students. In most cases, a General Practitioner has been employed for the physical well-being of students.

The Careers Advisory Service, which many employers advise about posts, is particularly important. Some of these facilities can look back on a long history; the advisory service in Oxford, for example, was founded 100 years ago. Students can obtain information from these on future careers and on postgraduate courses as well. The services also provide information on jobs and studies abroad. The advisory services will also arrange interviews. At a national level, these services are combined in the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS). Through their national organisation, the Careers Advisory Services have a good communications structure and an effective network so that graduates can also benefit from the support of the Careers Advisory Service at another institution in their choice of a future career. All Careers Services are represented in the Central Services Unit, situated in Manchester.

Foreign students who wish to study in the UK are first advised to contact the British Council representation in their home country. This will provide general information and advice.

Foreign students will find someone at each institution who is responsible for their affairs; generally this is the Overseas Student Advisor. The United Kingdom Council for Overseas Student Affairs provides information on special rules and regulations for foreign students.

7. Students with disabilities

The National Bureau for Students with Disabilities sits in London and provides an information and advisory service. Among their publications, there is also a general information booklet "Applying to Higher Education: Some Notes for Disabled Students, their Parents and Advisors" as well as other booklets which are specially intended for deaf or disabled students. There are also other organisations, such as SKILL and the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, which publish special booklets for students with disabilities.

Many institutions of higher education in the UK today have facilities for students with disabilities. These institutions have also appointed a member of the teaching staff to act as a coordinator for students with disabilities. The student unions have also often appointed someone with responsibility for the affairs of disabled students. The universities of Essex, Southampton, Sussex and Oxford have suitable accommodation for people with disabilities. At some universities, there are officers responsible for the welfare of disabled students, at others support is arranged through the Community Service Volunteers.

Apart from the mandatory award, students with disabilities can generally claim for special expenses which caused by their disability. Grants can be awarded for additional travelling expenses of up to £ 207 for students living at home, and £ 133 for students living in a student hostel; up to £ 4,240 annually is available for a non-medical study companion and up to £ 3,180 for special equipment and study assistance; up to another £ 1,060 can be reimbursed for further expenses. Furthermore, special repayment terms apply to disabled students who take out a loan, for example on the grounds of a temporary inability to work.

8. Students with children

Due to the above described education structure in the UK, most students are aged between 18 and 22, that is at an age in which the percentage of students with children is low. It is very difficult for students with children in the UK to find suitable accommodation. There is no special financial support for this group. Nurseries have been established at most universities, although the availability of places is very limited, meaning that demand far outweighs supply.

A 1988 survey of universities by the Times Higher Education Supplement showed that only 8 had creches or nurseries. Long waiting lists for places in a university creche or nursery were no exception. The survey also showed that one in three polytechnics and one in seven universities had no facility for children at all, although the average age of the students at the polytechnics was higher and so a greater proportion of students with children was to be expected. The facilities for children were also affected by the savings measures introduced by the former University Grants

Committee. In cases of hardship, the fees for a place in a creche or nursery can be reduced at many universities.

9. Culture

On the one hand, social life is organised by members of the university; on the other, the student unions, clubs and societies also play a traditional role, especially in fields such as sports, theatre, music, religion and politics. A Student Union or Student Representative Council exists at most universities, polytechnics, colleges and central institutions.

These activities are financed via study fees and by the university. A proportion of the study fees is allocated for the activities of the student clubs and societies. The university makes funds available for sporting facilities and for the maintenance of the buildings in which the student clubs and societies are housed.

The student sporting activities revolve mainly around leisure and training activities for a large number of students and, in some cases, for university staff as well. Sometimes the university also seeks financial support from the local authorities in order to finance this area; in return, they make the sporting facilities available to non-students.

10. Student insurance

Students in the United Kingdom are covered by the National Health Service (NHS). This also applies to foreign students. Many higher education institutions have their own General Practitioner (GP) whom the students can consult. Registration and

general medical treatment are generally free of charge; some universities charge a minor fee for these services. A legally prescription fee must be made towards the costs for dental treatment, optical aids and medicines.

11. Job opportunities

There is no government restriction in respect of work permits for students from the UK and from EC countries. As from 1992 this will also apply to students from Spain and Portugal, who have been excepted from this rule until now. Other foreign students can only work with a work permit issued by the local employment office. They will generally only receive this for work for which no local labour is available. In rare cases, the student's passport may contain a general prohibition from work.

As from October 1991, foreign students have applied for part-time or vacation work by submitting a new form which must be completed by the student, the expected employer and the higher education institution. Normally, employment will not be permitted to amount to more than 20 hours per week during term.

Single students may earn up to £ 3,290 tax free, married students up to £ 5,010. Students who have been awarded a special scholarship should inquire whether the awarding institution or person permits paid employment before commencing work.

The very rigidly organised teaching schedule means that students cannot normally take up paid employment during term. Some institutions of higher education expressly forbid their students from

taking up employment. In such cases, students can only take up employment during vacation.

Most, and perhaps all, universities have their own rules on the employment of their students. In some cases, students must seek permission from the university; often the number of hours per week which the student can work is restricted. In general, however, it should be said that the current economic situation in the UK means that it is very difficult to find a job.

Of the 360,000 students at university (as mentioned in Chapter 1), approx. 53,850 (15.3%) are part-time students. No details are available for the number of part-time students studying at the polytechnics.

In general, they do not receive study support. In some cases, study fees are reduced. Such students either fund themselves through their own income or sometimes through an employer.

12. Statistics on social aspects

Statistics on the social background of undergraduate students in the UK are published in the reports of the Universities Central Council on Admissions (UCCA). The students' social background is based on their parents' occupations. The last survey was carried out in October 1990 with the following results:

Social Background Percentage of admitted applicants

I	Academic	19.6
II	Secondary education	50.1
IIIa)	Skilled worker (not manual)	11.0
IIIb)	Skilled worker (manual)	11.9
IV	Semi-skilled worker	6.4
V	Unskilled worker	1.0

The above and university statistics are available from the following address:

Universities Statistical Record
PO Box 130
GB-Cheltenham
GL50 3SE

13. National coordination of social affairs

The heads of the universities are organised in the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP). The CVCP coordinates the political strategy in all affairs affecting the universities and functions as a lobbying instrument and information office, carrying out joint activities such as negotiations with the trade unions in which university staff are represented:

Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom
29, Tavistock Square
GB-London
WC1 H9EZ

The CVCP also maintains contacts with committees of university heads in other countries.

The equivalent of the CVCP at the polytechnics is the:

Committee of Directors of Polytechnics
Kirkman House 12-14, Whitfield Street
GB-London
WIP 6AX

The Conference of Registrars and Secretaries is an organisation in which the joint interests of the heads of university administration and management are represented. It organises training and further training activities for university administration staff and supports the CVCP in its policy work. It is also responsible for establishing and maintaining contacts with the University Funding Council and with other organisations as well as with the heads of administration of foreign universities. The Conference of Registrars and Secretaries has no permanent address, although it convenes on a regular basis. Other national associations and conferences in the UK with various areas of responsibility in the universities are:

- Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS)
- Association of University International Liaison Officers (AUILO)
- Building Officers Conference
- Conference of Finance Officers
- Admissions Officers' Conference
- Association of University Accommodation Officers (AUAO).

Further addresses:

Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA)
344-354 Gray's Inn Road
GB-London
WC1X 8BP

Department of Education and Science (DES)
Elizabeth House
York Road
GB-London
SE1 7PH

Department of Education for Northern Ireland
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
Bangor
County Down
BT19 2PR

National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC)
The British Council
10, Spring Gardens
GB-London
SW1A 2BN

National Bureau for Students with Disabilities
336, Brixton Road
GB-London
SW9 7AA

National Union of Students
461, Holloway Road
GB-London
N7 6LJ

Scottish Education Department
New St. Andrew's House
St. James Centre
GB-Edinburgh
EH1 3SY

United Kingdom Council for Overseas Student Affairs
60, Westbourne Grove
GB-London
W2 5FG

Literature

- 1) Higher Education in the European Community
Student Handbook
Studying in Europe
6th Edition, revised by Dr. Brigitte Mohr
Published by the Commission of the European Communities
- 2) Vademecum
to the University Reception – de l'Accueil Universitaire
from university to university in Europe in pursuit of
knowledge. En Europe d'une université à l'autre à la
recherche du savoir.
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Verona 1989

and the DAAD study guides on the individual countries as well
as information material from the respective countries.