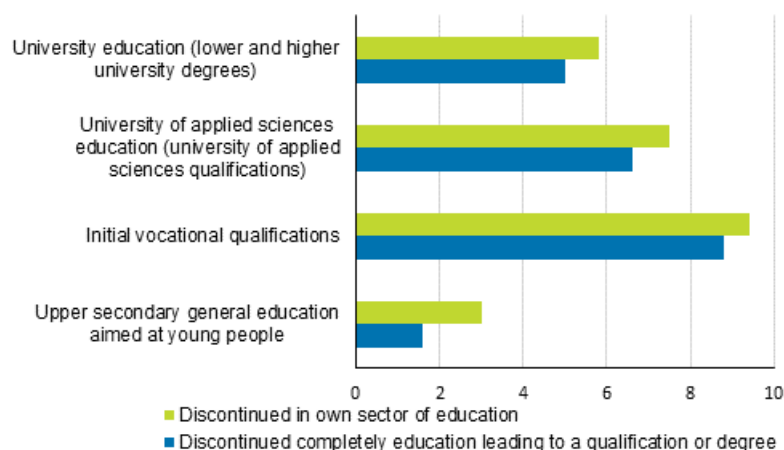


# Discontinuation of education 2019

## Altogether 5.9 per cent of students discontinued education

In all, 5.9 per cent of students attending education leading to a qualification or degree discontinued their studies and did not resume them in any education leading to a qualification or degree in the 2018/2019 academic year. In upper secondary general education aimed at young people the discontinuation percentage was 3.0, in initial vocational education it was 9.4, in university of applied sciences education (university of applied sciences qualifications) 7.5 and in university education (lower and higher university degrees) 5.8 per cent. These data derive from Statistics Finland's Education Statistics.

### Discontinuation of education leading to a qualification or degree 2018/2019, %



The population used in the calculation of discontinuation in vocational education has changed and the data on discontinuation in vocational education are no longer comparable with previous years.

## Male students discontinued studies in all sectors of education more frequently than female students

Men discontinued their education leading to a qualification or degree more often than women. Of men, 7.1 per cent discontinued education completely and 4.8 per cent of women in the academic year 2018/2019. Women changed the sector of education slightly more than men. Both men and women discontinued their

vocational education most often. Men discontinued their university of applied sciences education as often as their initial vocational education.

### Discontinuation of education leading to a qualification or degree by sex and sector of education in academic year 2018/2019<sup>1)</sup>

Sex / sector of education		Number of students used in the statistics on discontinuation of education 20 Sept. 2017	Discontinued in own sector of education	Changed sector of education	Discontinued completely education leading to a qualification or degree
		Pieces	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>		498 584	6,7	0,9	5,9
Men and women	Upper secondary general education (aimed at young people)	96 853	3,0	1,5	1,6
	Vocational education (initial vocational qualifications)	140 019	9,4	0,7	8,8
	University of applied sciences education (university of applied sciences degrees)	127 419	7,5	0,9	6,6
	University education (Bachelor's and Master's degrees)	134 293	5,8	0,6	5,2
Men	<b>Total</b>	237 105	7,9	0,8	7,1
	Upper secondary general education (aimed at young people)	40 612	3,4	1,5	1,9
	Vocational education (initial vocational qualifications)	72 638	9,7	0,5	9,3
	University of applied sciences education (university of applied sciences degrees)	61 808	9,7	0,9	8,7
	University education (Bachelor's and Master's degrees)	62 047	6,8	0,6	6,2
Women	<b>Total</b>	261 479	5,7	0,9	4,8
	Upper secondary general education (aimed at young people)	56 241	2,8	1,4	1,4
	Vocational education (initial vocational qualifications)	67 381	9,1	0,9	8,2
	University of applied sciences education (university of applied sciences degrees)	65 611	5,4	0,8	4,6
	University education (Bachelor's and Master's degrees)	72 246	4,9	0,6	4,3

1) Numbers of students used in calculating discontinuation differ from total numbers of students, because part of students had to be removed from the data (see the quality description, only in Finnish). The data do not include the Emergency Services Academy Finland and Ålands yrkesgymnasium (Åland Vocational Gymnasium), because discontinuation could not be calculated due to insufficient monitoring data.

### Large differences in fields of education

In the academic year 2018/2019, studies were discontinued most in the field of agriculture and forestry (12.4 per cent), information and communication technology (ICT) (11.6 per cent) and natural sciences (11.2 per cent), and least in general education (3.0 per cent) and education (5.7 per cent). Discontinuation in various sectors of education focuses on different fields of education.

In initial vocational education discontinuation was most common in natural sciences (20.8 per cent) and agriculture and forestry (15.1 per cent), and lowest in health and welfare (9.0 per cent). (See more details in Appendix table 2.) When examining with a more detailed classification of field of education discontinuation was most common in the field of environment (20.8 per cent), fisheries (18.5 per cent)

and agriculture and forestry (16.9 per cent) and lowest in the field of health and welfare (9.1 per cent) and administration and commerce (9.5 per cent).

Discontinuation in applied sciences education was most common in ICT (11.9 per cent) and natural sciences (11.6 per cent). Discontinuation in university education was biggest in agriculture and forestry (11.1 per cent) and ICT (10.7 per cent). Discontinuation in both university of applied sciences education and university education was lowest in health and welfare, in university of applied sciences education 5.1 per cent and in university education 3.0 per cent.

The statistics on discontinuation of education use the [National Classification of Education 2016](#) in examining discontinuation. The discontinuation figures were calculated to levels 1 and 2 of the National Classification of Education.

The [database tables](#) of the statistics contain information on discontinuation of studies by sector of education in different fields of education and regions. There is a new table including students under the age of 25 in initial vocational education. The figures are not comparable with earlier years when the population consisted of students in vocational education aimed at young people, but give information on those aged 16 to 24 in initial vocational education.

### **Calculation of discontinuation of education**

These statistics describe the discontinuation of post-comprehensive school education leading to a qualification. Data concerning discontinuation in the academic year 2018/2019 have been obtained by examining the situation in September 2019 of the students who attended education in September 2018. If a person has not obtained a qualification or continued education during this period, he/she is counted as having discontinued education. In order to calculate the discontinuation, students have been followed in a certain logical order where completion of a qualification is always prioritised above studying. The calculation of discontinuation and the definition of the population are explained in the [quality description](#) (in Finnish).

More information related to the progress of studies is available from statistics describing [Progress of studies](#) and [Employment of students](#).

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## Appendix tables

**Appendix table 1. Discontinuation of education in upper secondary general, vocational, university of applied sciences and university education in academic years 2000/2001 to 2018/2019, %**

Academic year	Sector of education			
	Upper secondary general education (aimed at young people)	Vocational education (aimed at young people / initial vocational qualifications) <sup>1)</sup>	University of applied sciences education (university of applied sciences degrees)	University education (Bachelor's and Master's degrees)
2000/2001	4,2	13,1	9,5	4,2
2001/2002	4,1	12,3	7,6	5,3
2002/2003	3,7	11,3	8,2	5,0
2003/2004	3,8	10,7	8,4	4,8
2004/2005	3,9	10,5	8,7	5,4
2005/2006	4,2	10,5	9,2	5,8
2006/2007	4,2	10,2	9,0	5,6
2007/2008	4,5	9,8	9,2	6,1
2008/2009	3,9	8,5	8,6	6,2
2009/2010	4,0	9,1	8,6	5,9
2010/2011	4,0	9,1	8,8	6,5
2011/2012	3,5	8,7	8,5	6,4
2012/2013	3,4	8,5	8,3	6,9
2013/2014	3,4	7,6	8,3	6,7
2014/2015	3,1	7,6	7,6	6,2
2015/2016	3,0	7,3	7,2	6,1
2016/2017	3,1	7,4	7,3	5,9
2017/2018	3,2	8,7	7,1	5,9
2018/2019	3,0	9,4	7,5	5,8

1) Data on vocational education are not comparable starting from 2018/2019 because the population has changed. From 2018/2019, the population consists of students in initial vocational education, while in earlier years it was students in vocational education aimed at young people.

**Appendix table 2. Discontinuation in field of education (National Classification of Education 2016) by sector of education in the academic year 2018/2019, %**

Sector of education/ field of education (level 1)		Students on 29 Sept 2018		Completed a quali- fication in own field	Studied in own field	Discon- tinued in own field	Completed a qualifi- cation in a different field	Studied in a different field	Discon- tinued education in the sector completely	Comple- ted a qualifi- cation in a different sector	Studied in a different sector	Discon- tinued education leading to a qualifi- cation completely
			%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>		<b>498 584</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>25,0</b>	<b>67,1</b>	<b>7,9</b>	<b>0,1</b>	<b>1,1</b>	<b>6,7</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>0,8</b>	<b>5,9</b>
Upper sec- ondary general edu- cation	Total	96 853	100,0	30,4	66,6	3,0	0,0	0,0	3,0	0,0	1,5	1,6
	Generic programmes and qualifi- cations	96 853	100,0	30,4	66,6	3,0	0,0	0,0	3,0	0,0	1,5	1,6
Voca- tional edu- cation	Total	140 019	100,0	29,4	59,1	11,6	0,0	2,1	9,4	0,0	0,6	8,8
	Arts and humanities	9 049	100,0	30,3	57,5	12,2	0,1	2,1	10,0	0,0	1,4	8,6
	Business, adminis- tration and law	16 651	100,0	31,2	59,3	9,5	0,0	1,5	8,0	0,0	0,6	7,3
	Natural sciences, mathemat- ics and statistics	891	100,0	30,2	49,0	20,8	0,4	2,4	18,0	0,3	1,6	16,0
	Information and Communi- cation Technolo- gies (ICT)	8 077	100,0	23,6	63,9	12,5	0,1	3,0	9,3	0,0	0,6	8,6
	Engineering, manu- facturing and construction	42 341	100,0	27,8	61,1	11,2	0,0	1,7	9,4	0,0	0,4	9,0
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	7 250	100,0	29,1	55,8	15,1	0,1	2,0	13,0	0,1	0,8	12,1
	Health and welfare	27 742	100,0	32,9	58,1	9,0	0,0	2,2	6,8	0,0	0,6	6,2
	Services	28 018	100,0	28,6	57,1	14,3	0,0	2,7	11,5	0,1	0,6	10,9

Sector of education/ field of education (level 1)		Students on 29 Sept 2018		Completed a quali- fication in own field	Studied in own field	Discon- tinued in own field	Completed a qualifi- cation in a different field	Studied in a different field	Discon- tinued education in the sector completely	Comple- ted a qualifi- cation in a different sector	Studied in a different sector	Discon- tinued education leading to a qualifi- cation completely
			%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Univer- sity of applied sciences edu- cation	Total	127 419	100,0	19,5	72,4	8,1	0,0	0,6	7,5	0,1	0,8	6,6
	Education	1 236	100,0	18,9	74,8	6,2	0,2	0,5	5,6	0,4	1,5	3,6
	Arts and humanities	6 917	100,0	17,9	74,8	7,3	0,0	0,3	7,0	0,1	1,1	5,8
	Social sciences, journalism and information	302	100,0	24,2	64,2	11,6	0,0	0,0	11,6	0,0	1,0	10,6
	Business, adminis- tration and law	26 080	100,0	18,4	73,3	8,2	0,0	0,6	7,6	0,1	0,7	6,9
	Natural sciences, mathemat- ics and statistics	257	100,0	16,7	75,1	8,2	0,0	0,4	7,8	0,0	1,2	6,6
	Information and Communi- cation Technolo- gies (ICT)	13 044	100,0	14,2	73,9	11,9	0,0	1,4	10,5	0,1	0,8	9,6
	Engineering, manu- facturing and construction	30 176	100,0	16,2	73,8	9,9	0,0	0,7	9,3	0,1	0,9	8,3
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	3 074	100,0	16,2	74,1	9,7	0,0	0,6	9,1	0,1	1,3	7,7
	Health and welfare	37 164	100,0	25,0	69,9	5,1	0,0	0,2	4,9	0,0	0,7	4,1
	Services	9 169	100,0	21,3	70,5	8,2	0,0	0,7	7,5	0,1	0,8	6,6

Sector of education/ field of education (level 1)		Students on 29 Sept 2018		Completed a quali- fication in own field	Studied in own field	Discon- tinued in own field	Completed a qualifi- cation in a different field	Studied in a different field	Discon- tinued education in the sector completely	Comple- ted a qualifi- cation in a different sector	Studied in a different sector	Discon- tinued education leading to a qualifi- cation completely
			%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Univer- sity edu- cation	Total	134 293	100,0	21,7	70,8	7,4	0,1	1,5	5,8	0,1	0,5	5,2
	Education	13 552	100,0	27,0	67,3	5,7	0,1	0,7	4,9	0,1	0,5	4,4
	Arts and humanities	22 925	100,0	20,4	71,4	8,2	0,2	1,2	6,8	0,1	0,8	6,0
	Social sciences, journalism and information	17 364	100,0	21,9	70,9	7,2	0,1	1,2	5,9	0,1	0,4	5,4
	Business, adminis- tration and law	20 949	100,0	25,9	68,2	5,8	0,1	1,6	4,2	0,0	0,2	4,0
	Natural sciences, mathemat- ics and statistics	12 799	100,0	18,7	70,7	10,6	0,2	3,4	7,0	0,1	1,0	5,9
	Information and Communi- cation Technolo- gies (ICT)	13 390	100,0	15,6	73,7	10,7	0,2	1,0	9,5	0,1	0,7	8,8
	Engineering, manu- facturing and construction	18 897	100,0	20,8	72,0	7,1	0,1	1,4	5,7	0,0	0,6	5,0
	Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	2 937	100,0	22,2	66,8	11,1	0,5	5,9	4,7	0,1	0,6	4,0
	Health and welfare	9 640	100,0	20,2	76,8	3,0	0,1	0,8	2,1	0,0	0,1	2,0
	Services	1 840	100,0	32,8	63,4	3,8	0,0	0,7	3,2	0,2	0,2	2,7



**Appendix table 3. Discontinuation in sector of education by age group (age 31 Dec 2019) 2018/2019, %<sup>1)</sup>**

Age group	Upper secondary general education (aimed at young people)		Vocational education (initial vocational qualifications)		University of applied sciences education (university of applied sciences degrees)		University education (Bachelor's and Master's degrees)	
	Students 20 Sept. 2018	Discontinued completely education according to sector of education, %	Students 20 Sept. 2018	Discontinued completely education according to sector of education, %	Students 20 Sept. 2018	Discontinued completely education according to sector of education, %	Students 20 Sept. 2018	Discontinued completely education according to sector of education, %
Total	96 853	3,0	140 019	9,4	127 419	7,5	134 293	5,8
-15	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	234	5,1	...	...	-	-	-	-
17	29 972	3,1	19 911	2,6	...	...	-	-
18	30 378	2,1	23 724	3,4	...	...	...	...
19	29 430	2,2	24 192	6,1	252	3,2	91	4,4
20-24	6 815	10,3	29 592	15,0	49 049	4,8	46 553	2,3
25-29	...	...	12 936	15,4	38 963	8,2	46 693	4,6
30-39	...	...	16 340	13,2	26 488	9,8	25 273	10,8
40-49	-	-	8 688	12,4	9 341	10,4	10 174	11,0
50-	-	-	4 614	15,9	3 309	12,1	5 505	12,4

1) ... confidential. Discontinuation data are not reported for groups of under 45 students due to the effect of random variation.

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Source: Education. Statistics Finland