

European Commission/EACEA/Eurydice, 2020. – 2020/21. Eurydice – Facts and Figures. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. <https://tinyurl.com/ydgm4kc8>.

Fee and support systems are important tools of national policies in this field as they play a role in supporting (or discouraging) access to higher education, and can also have an impact on progression and completion rates. While fees impose a financial burden – which may be more or less significant depending on the nature and level of the fees and the socio-economic conditions of students and their families –, support measures are able to alleviate financial obstacles to study. The Principles and Guidelines to strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA(5), adopted by the Rome2020 Ministerial Conference, also underlines that financial student support, universal or primarily need-based support, 'should make higher education affordable for all students, foster access to and provide opportunities for success in higher education'(p.6).

The Eurydice Network has been analysing fee and support systems in higher education for almost two decades. From 2011, and following the report 'Modernisation of Higher Education in Europe: Funding and the Social Dimension' (EACEA/Eurydice, 2011), the Network has been regularly producing reports on how fees and support in European higher education systems operate. This update is thus the eighth edition of the report. (F: from the Introduction to the report 18.12.20)

National Student Fee and Support Systems in European Higher Education – 2020/21

**Figure** Most common annual fees in first-cycle higher education, among full-time home fee-paying students progressing normally through their studies, 2020/21

