

University graduates by field of study

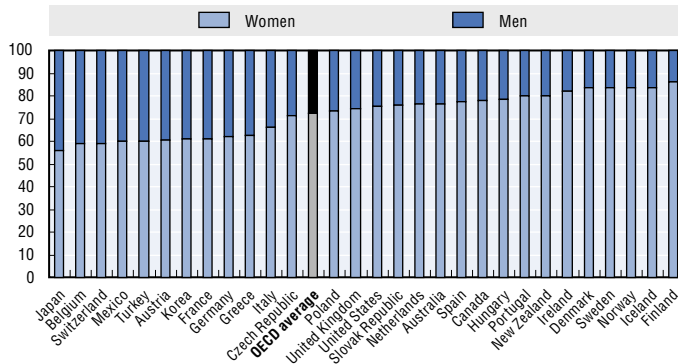
Did you know?

For all OECD countries taken together, *health and welfare* subjects are the most popular for women with *humanities, arts and education* a close second. For male graduates, subjects related to *engineering, manufacturing and construction* come first – just ahead of *mathematics and computer science*.

About an equal number of men and women opt for *life sciences, physical sciences and agriculture* and for *social sciences, business studies and law*.

There are large gender differences in the subjects that young men and women study at university. Female preference for health and welfare subjects is most marked in Nordic countries – Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. In these countries less than 20% of graduates in these subjects are men. In Japan, Belgium and Switzerland, on the other hand, more than 40% of graduates in the “caring sciences” are men.

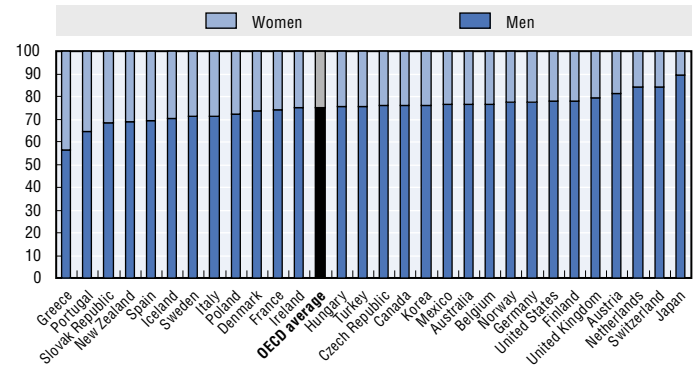
Percentage of university graduates in health and welfare subjects
2004 or latest year available



The gender gap is equally marked in subjects related to engineering, manufacturing and construction. Less than 20% of graduates in these topics are women in Japan, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Austria. The largest shares of women graduates in these subjects are in Greece and Portugal.

Such differences in subjects studied at university both reflect and influence different career choices, contributing to occupational segregation in the labour market.

Percentage of university graduates in engineering, manufacturing and construction subjects
2004 or latest year available



Source: OECD Education database and OECD (2006), *Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators*, OECD, Paris.

Further reading:

OECD (2006), *Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators*, OECD, Paris.