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International mobility in Finnish higher education in 2015: exchange students

4B/2016

FACTS AND FIGURES -REPORT



International mobility in Finnish higher education in 2015: exchange students

1 Introduction.....	4
2 Development in the 2000s.....	5
3 By higher education institution.....	8
4 By field of study.....	15
5 Partner countries and regions.....	21
6 Mobility arrangements.....	27
7 Studying and traineeships.....	30
8 Finnish regions.....	31
9 Gender of students.....	33
Annex 1. Long (min. 3 months) mobility periods in Finnish universities in 2015 by continent and country.....	34

1 Introduction

International mobility in Finnish higher education in 2015: exchange students

This report is an overview of international mobility periods of higher education students in Finland in 2015: about its trends and priorities.

The overview is based on data collected by CIMO from Finnish higher education institutions, that is, universities and universities of applied sciences (UAS)¹ that cover incoming and outgoing exchanges - or mobility periods - of students. When students go on an exchange abroad, they complete only part of their degree there. The period abroad may include studies or a traineeship in a work place and it may be carried out through an exchange programme or be independently arranged and funded by students themselves.

Degree studies, that is, completing a whole degree abroad, is out of the scope of these statistics. CIMO reports about this type of international student mobility in Finland in its publication Facts and figures -report 5B/2016: International mobility in Finnish higher education in 2015: degree students.

CIMO's data covers all universities operating under the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture. The data on international mobility is collected each calendar year. It includes two categories: long mobility periods of a minimum of 3 months and short mobility periods of under 3 months. The short and long mobility periods are separated in this publication, too.

In addition to higher education mobility, CIMO also collects and publishes statistics on international mobility in school, vocational and adult education.

You can find pdf versions of our publications about international mobility, covering different education sectors on CIMO's website at www.cimo.fi | Services | Publications.

CIMO's website also has a comprehensive collection of information about international mobility at different education sectors at www.cimo.fi | Services | Statistics on internationalisation.

You can also find information about the international activities of universities on the Vipunen portal for education statistics, maintained by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture <https://vipunen.fi>.

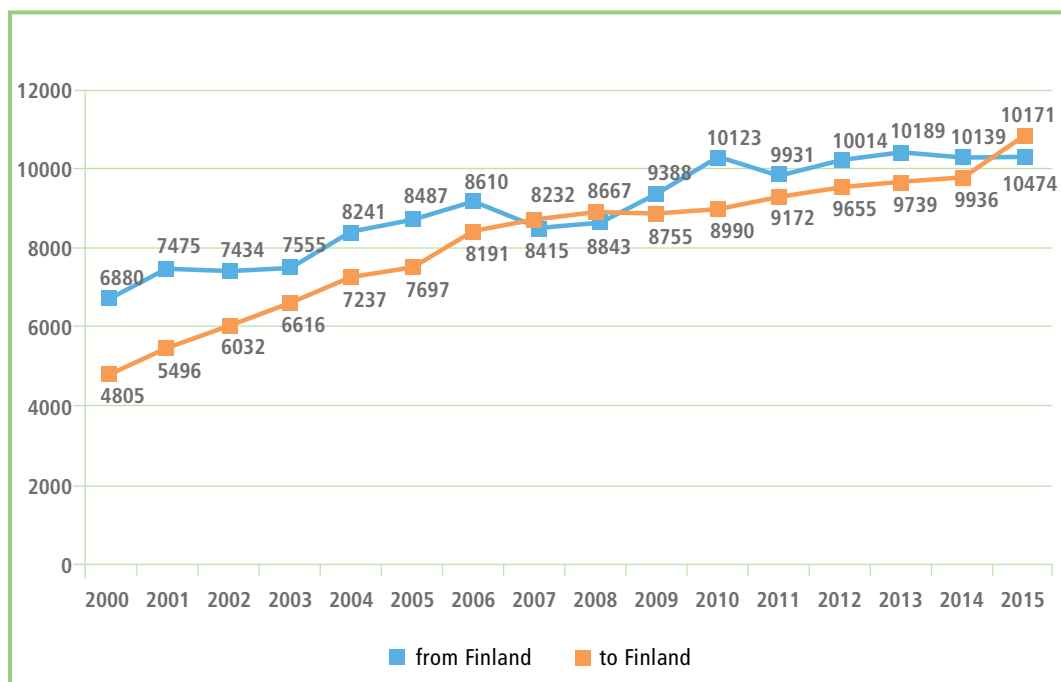
¹ Finnish higher education consists of two complementary sectors: universities and universities of applied sciences (UAS). Universities promote research and provide academic higher education based on research, whereas UAS's provide professional or 'vocational' higher education. For clarity in this publication, we often refer to universities as 'traditional universities' as opposed to Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS). When we just write 'universities' in the text we mean both sectors or just the traditional universities when it is clear from the context that we are only referring to them.

2 Development in the 2000s

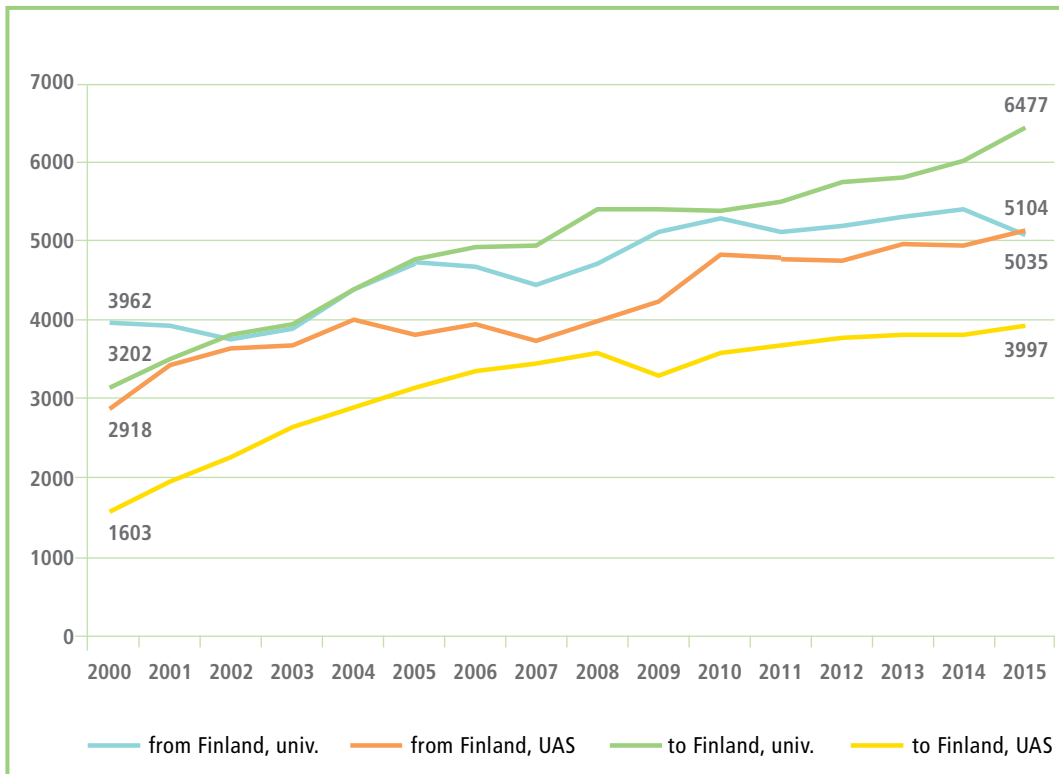
The volume of student mobility has increased during the 2000s, at least when we look at long mobility periods of a minimum of 3 months. Whereas there were just under 7,000 outgoing students from Finland at the beginning of the 2000s and just under 5,000 incoming ones, the corresponding figures in 2015 already top 10,000. The discrepancy between the incoming and outgoing numbers has also disappeared; now the numbers of outgoing and incoming students in Finland are more or less equal.

The outgoing long mobility periods spread relatively evenly between the two higher education sectors in Finland: the traditional universities and the universities of applied sciences (UAS). However, a clear majority of incoming students to Finland go to traditional universities rather than to UAS's.

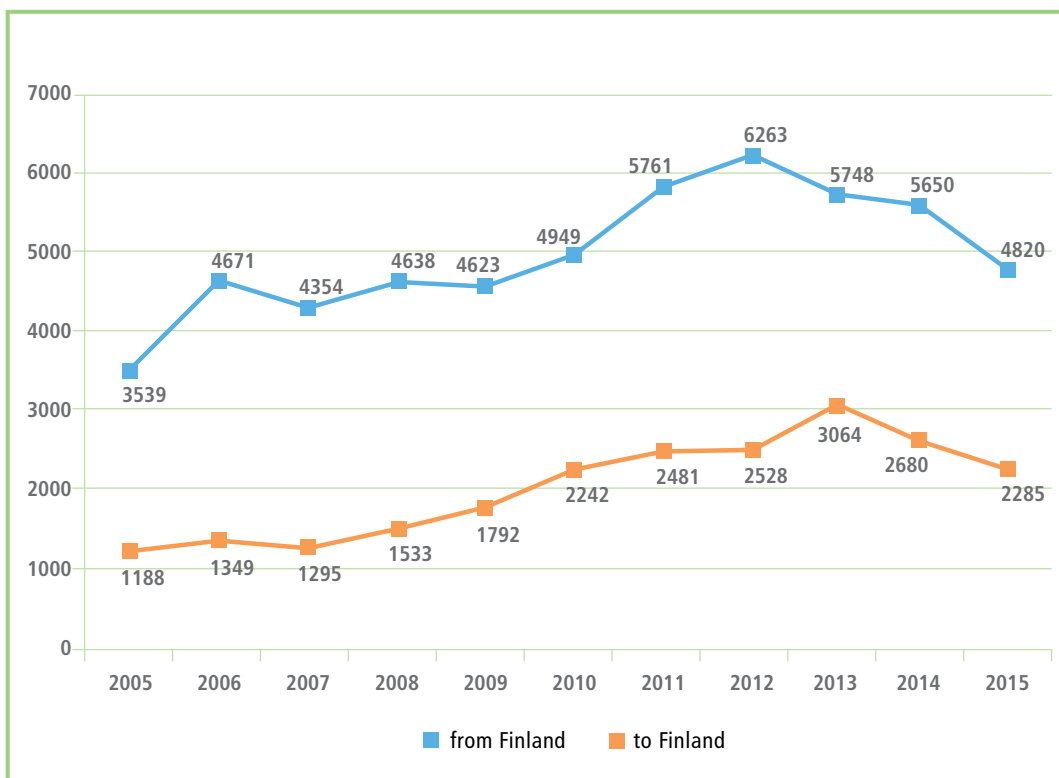
In addition to the long mobility periods, just under 5,000 students went out of Finland and just over 2,000 students came to Finland for a short mobility period of under 3 months. The number of short mobility periods has decreased over the past few years. There are clearly more students sent out on short mobility periods from UAS's than from traditional universities. There is no clear difference between the sectors in short incoming mobilities.



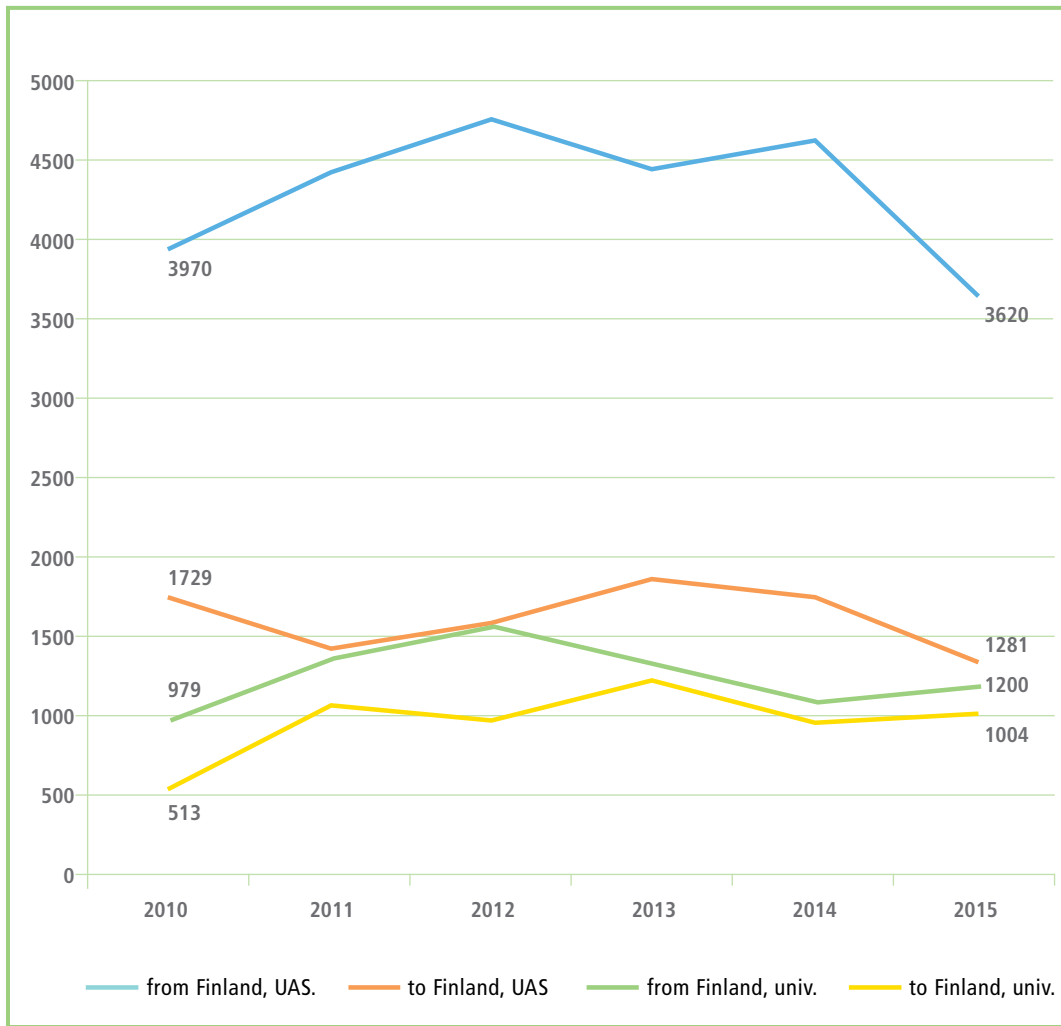
Picture 1. Long (over 3 months) mobility periods in higher education institutions 2000-2015



Picture 2. Long (over 3 months) mobility periods in higher education institutions 2000-2015, traditional universities and UAS's separately



Picture 3. Short (under 3 months) mobility periods from Finland and to Finland 2005-2015



Picture 4. Short (under 3 months) mobility periods 2010-2015, traditional universities and UAS's separately

3 By higher education institution

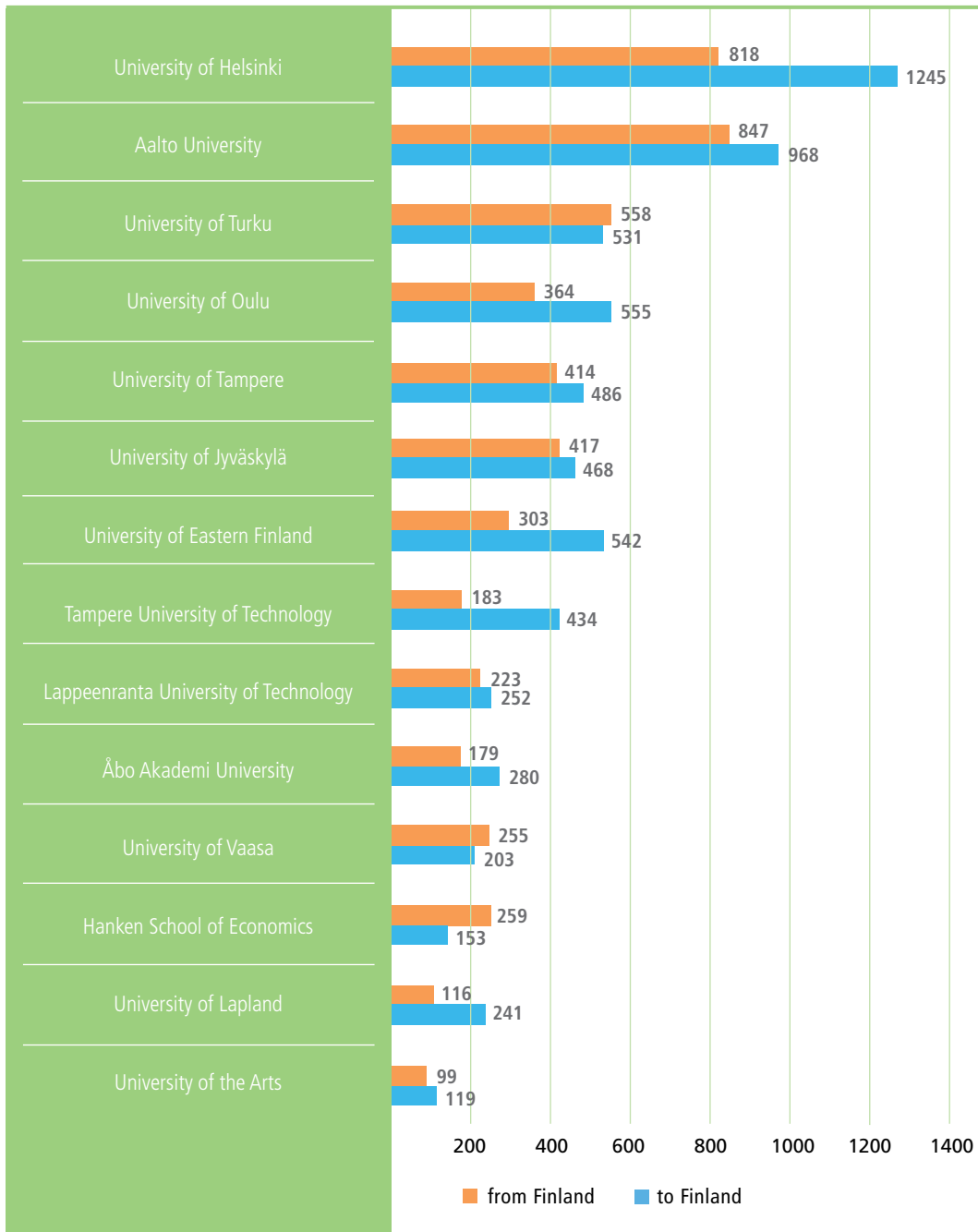
Most of the student mobility takes place in the big universities in Southern and Western Finland. The University of Helsinki and the Aalto University have the biggest student mobility numbers among traditional universities, and the Helsinki Metropolia and the Haaga-Helia among UAS's. When it comes to long mobility periods, traditional universities receive more incoming students than they send out their own students. Only the universities of Turku and Vaasa and the Hanken School of Economics sent out more students compared to incoming ones in 2015.

In contrast to traditional universities, the majority of UAS's send out more students on long mobility periods than they receive. Only the UAS's of Jyväskylä, Seinäjoki, Mikkeli and Kajaani receive more incoming students and they send out their own.

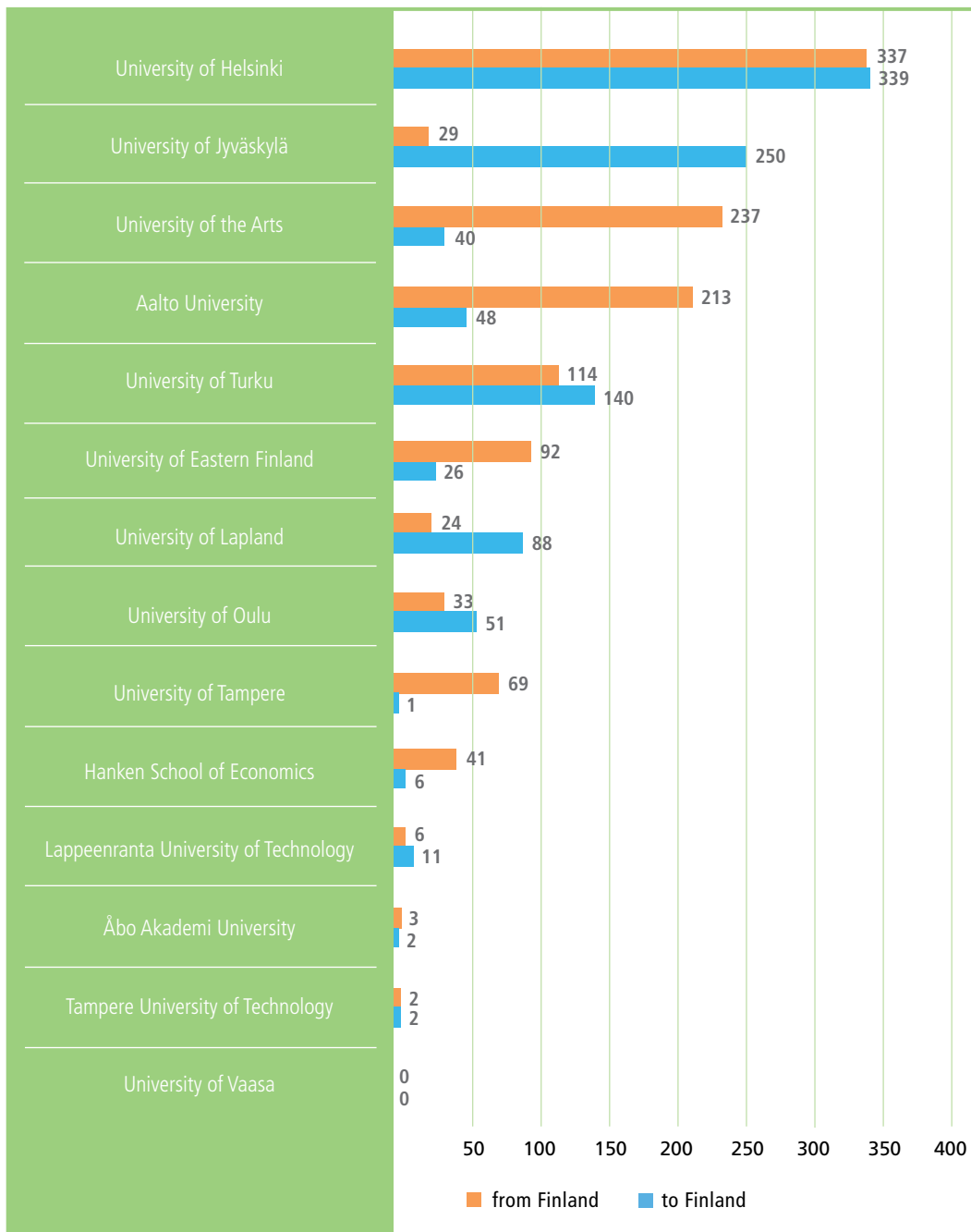
When it comes to short mobility periods of under 3 months, the focus is clearly on outgoing students. Apart from Mikkeli, all UAS's send out more students on short mobility periods than they receive. Among traditional universities, the universities of Jyväskylä, Turku, Lapland and Oulu also receive a large number of incoming students for short periods. This may be explained by the summer schools of universities that attract many foreign students.

However, focusing only on the absolute numbers does not take into account the differences in the sizes of the universities: the larger ones also have more mobility. Pictures 9 and 10 examine outgoing, long mobility periods of a minimum of 3 months in relation to the enrolment numbers of new students and completed degrees. This allows us to compare together universities with different student numbers.

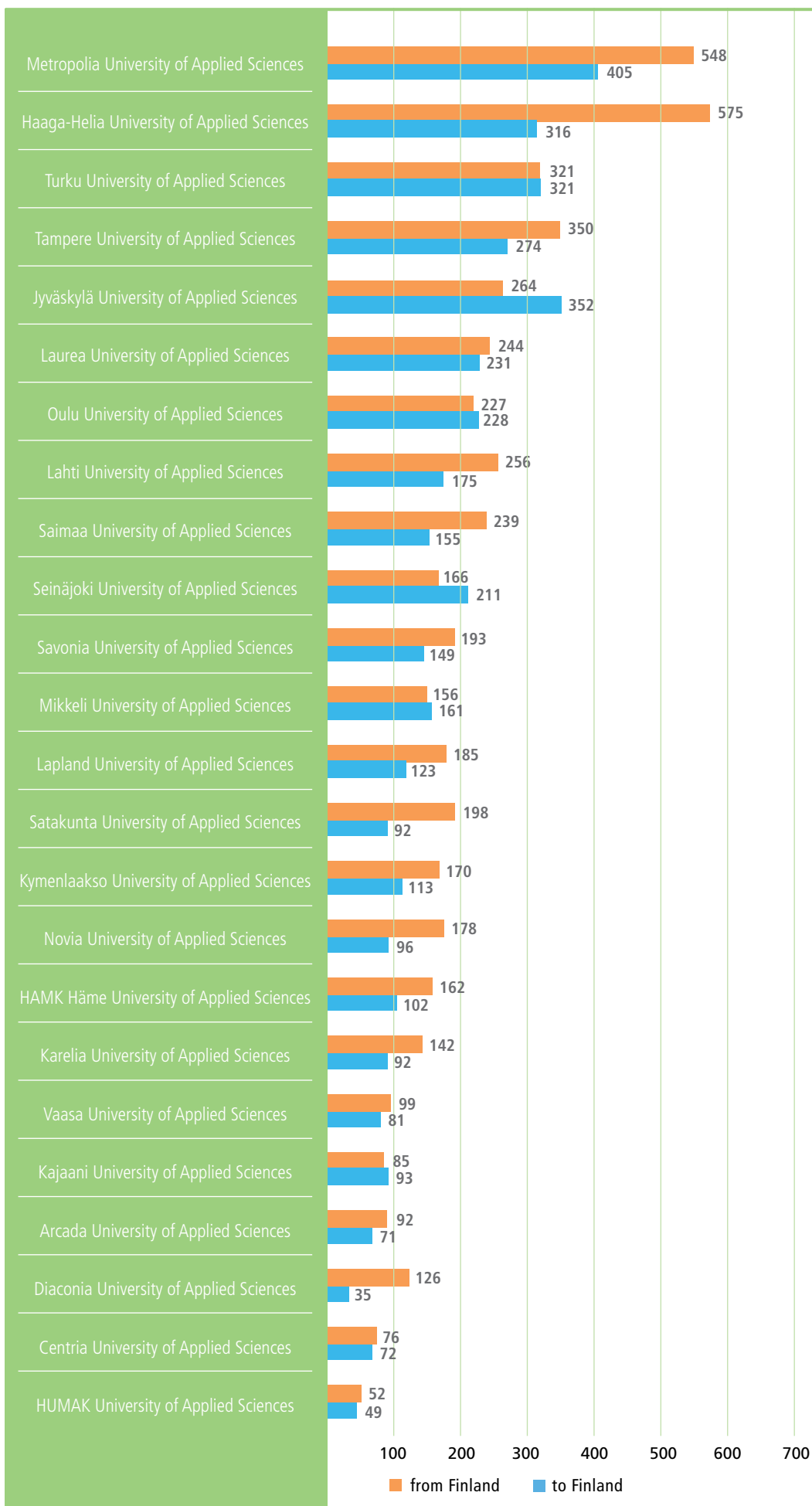
It makes more sense to make the comparison within the university sector, however, rather than between the two university sectors. When we compare long mobility periods from Finland to the enrolment numbers of new students, traditional universities reveal themselves clearly more active in sending out students than UAS's (traditional universities 24 %, UAS's 15 %), whereas when we compare the mobility periods to the number of degrees, it is the UAS's that are more active (20%) than universities (15%). This is explained by the fact that there are less new students in universities than those taking degrees; each new student will complete two degrees in a university: the Bachelor's and the Master's degree. In contrast, more students start studying in UAS's than complete their degree: some change their field of study or drop out.



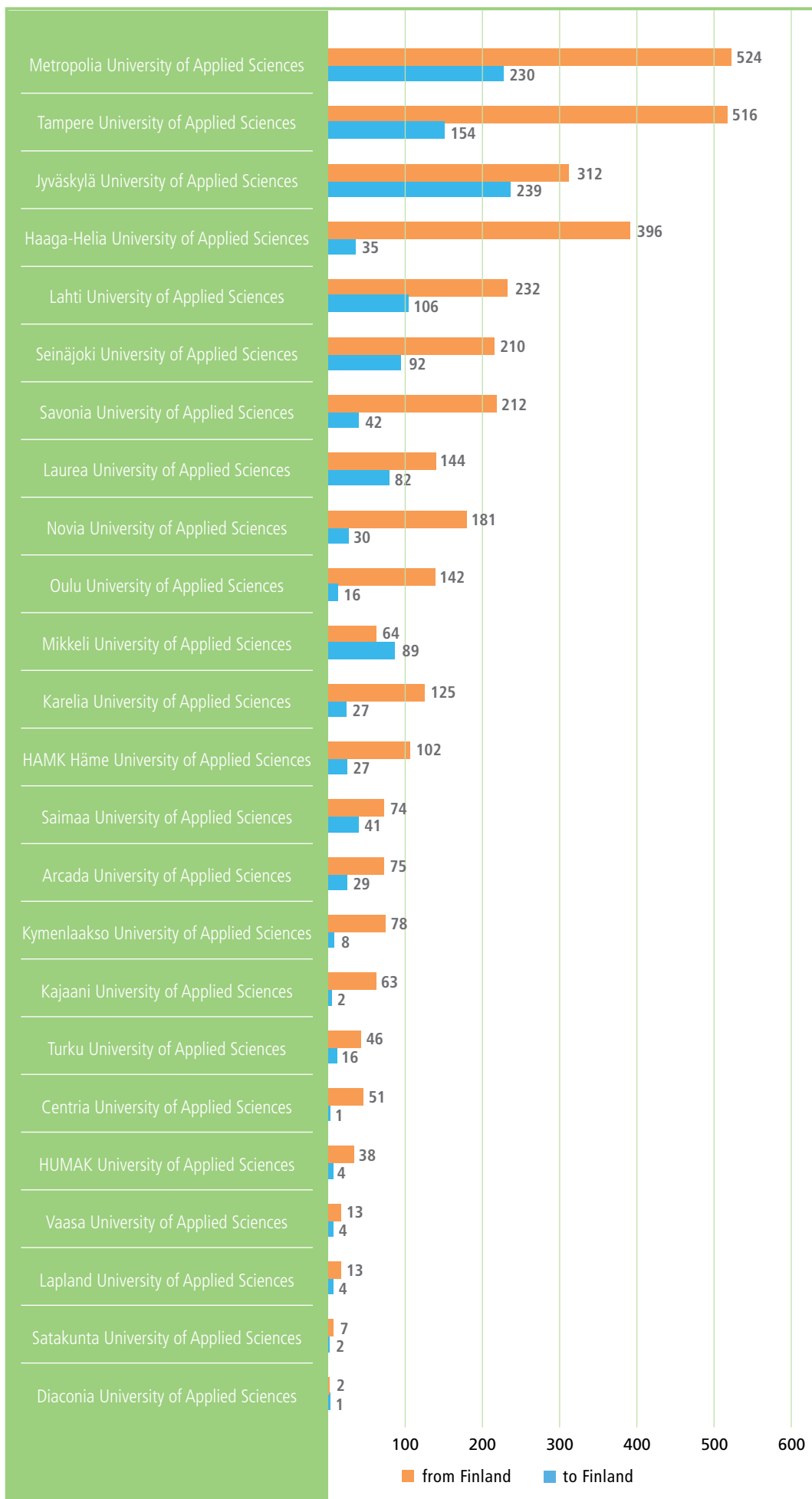
Picture 5. Long (min. 3 months) mobility periods in 2015 in traditional universities



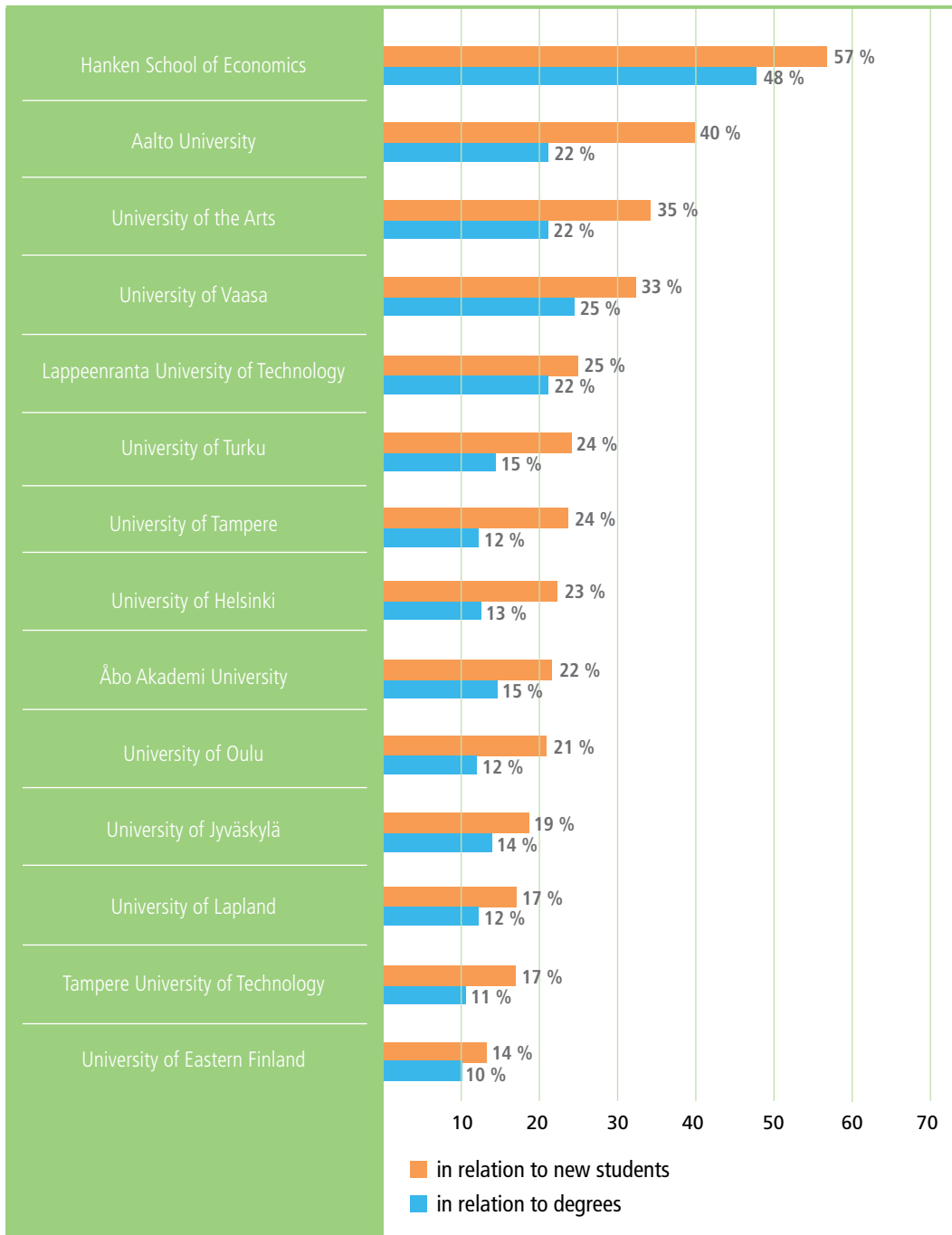
Picture 6. Short (under 3 months) mobility periods in 2015 in traditional universities



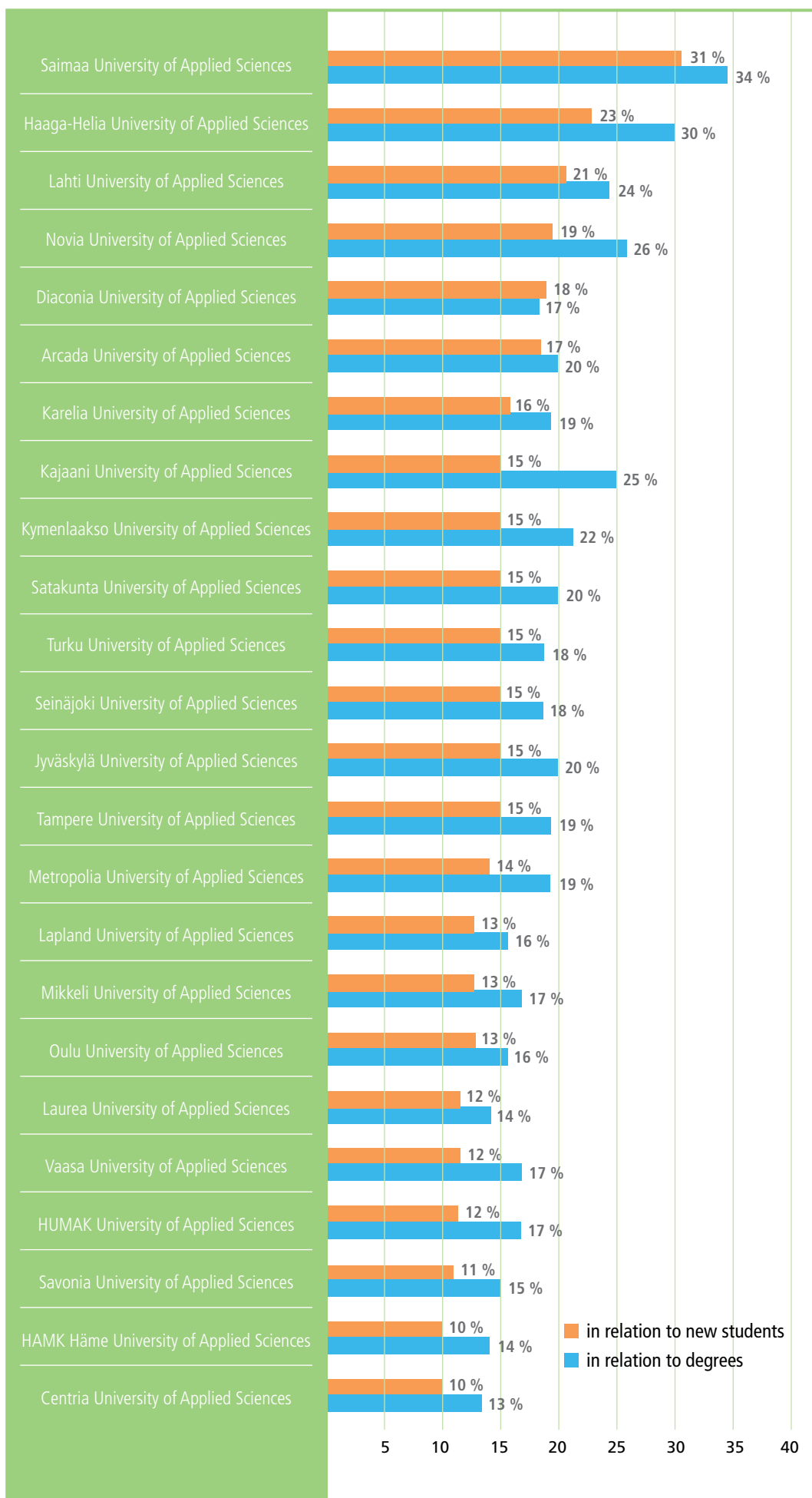
Picture 7. Long (min. 3 months) mobility periods in 2015 in UAS's



Picture 8. Short (under 3 months) mobility periods in 2015 in UAS's



Picture 9. Long (min. 3 months) outgoing mobility periods of traditional universities in 2015 compared to number of new students and degrees



Picture 10. Long (min. 3 months) outgoing mobility periods of UAS's in 2015 compared to number of new students and degrees

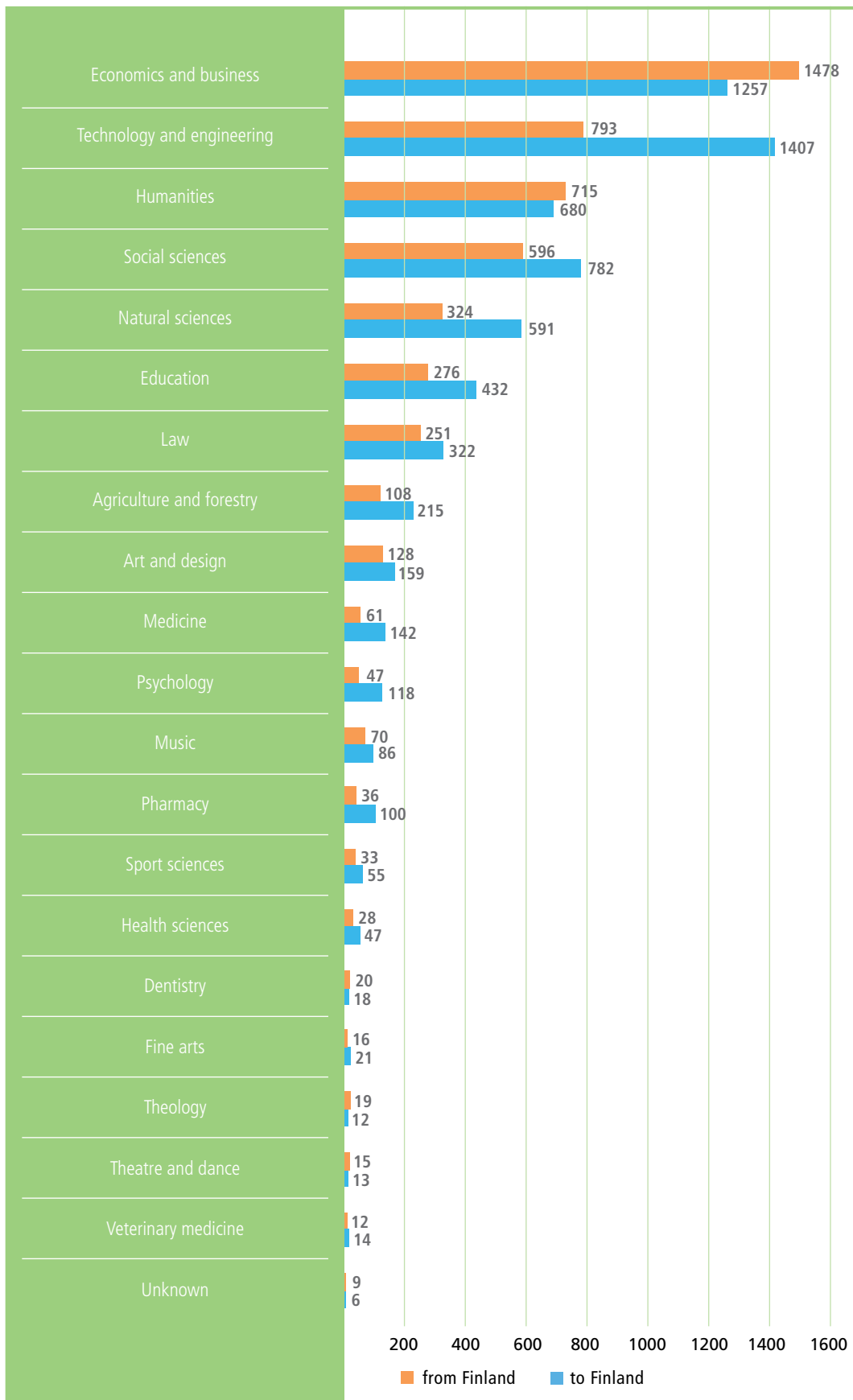
4 By field of study

Many students of economics and business in traditional universities go on long exchanges of a minimum of 3 months, and many foreign students come to study technology and engineering. Within the UAS sector, the biggest number of incoming and outgoing student flows take place in the business and administration sector.

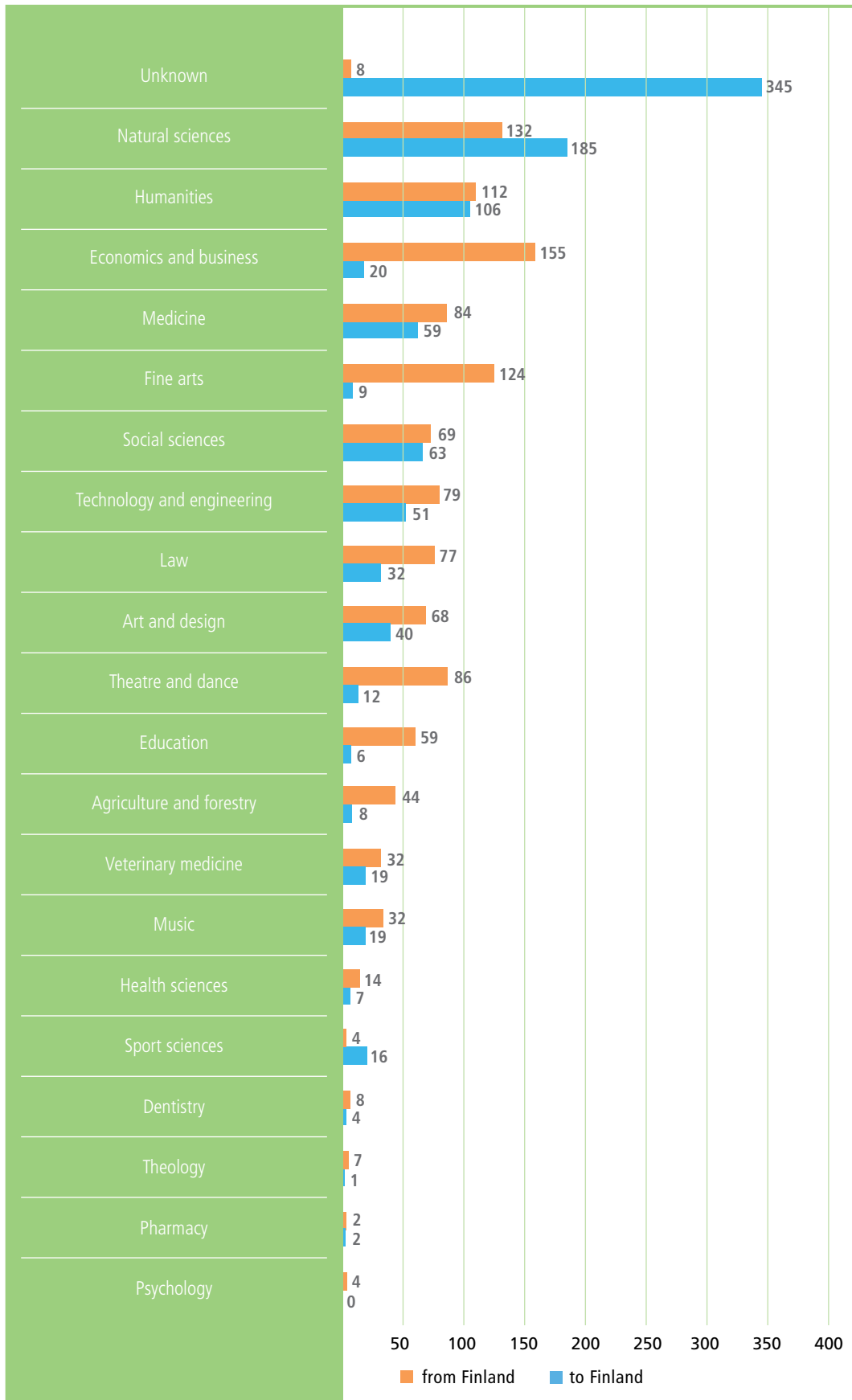
A lot of students of economics and business, natural sciences and visual arts in traditional universities go on short exchanges abroad. The most common fields in short incoming student exchanges are natural sciences or unknown. The reason for the big number of unknowns may be that some foreign students attend the multi-sectoral summer schools that cannot be categorised under a single field of study. Natural sciences feature strongly when it comes to short outgoing and incoming mobility but are not particularly prominent in the mobility periods of over 3 months.

In the UAS's, there is a more equal distribution of short mobility periods across different fields of study than when it comes to the long ones. Most short mobility periods are in the fields of business and administration, social and health care and technology.

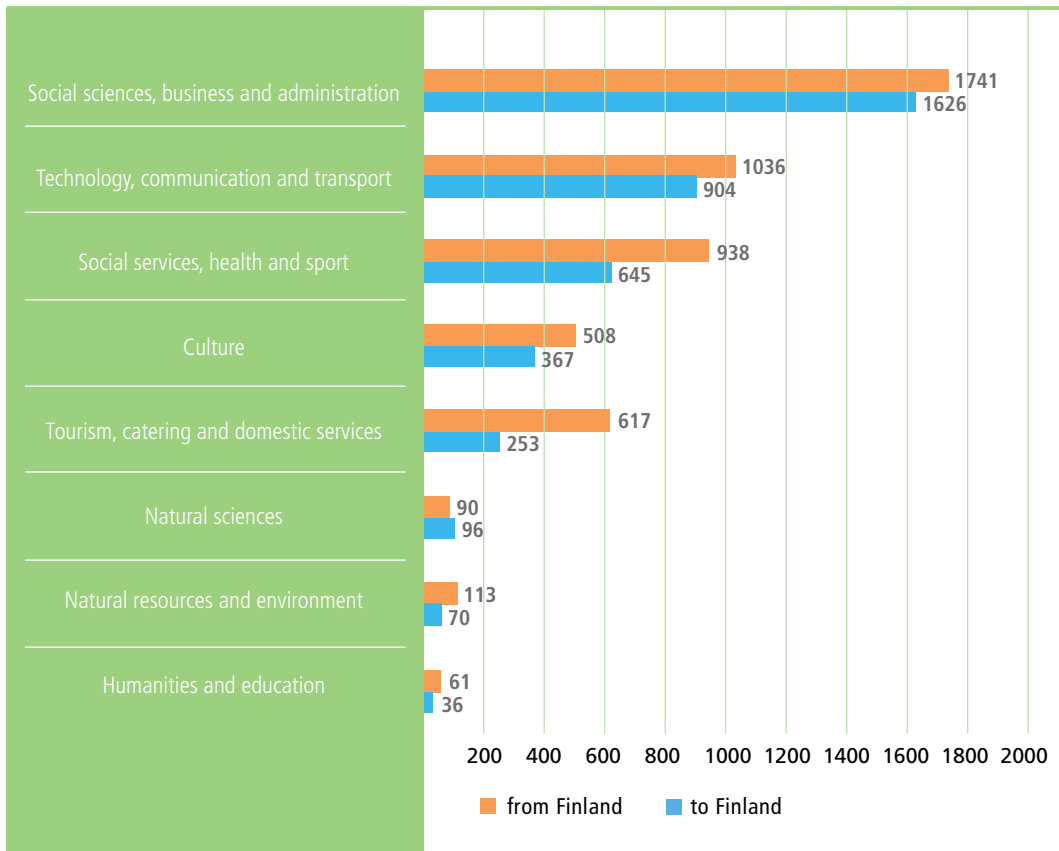
Pictures 15 and 16 look at international mobility by comparing the mobility numbers by field of study to the number of new students and degrees completed in the field. This makes it possible to compare study fields with different numbers of students. Economics and business, arts and law are the three most active fields in the traditional universities when it comes to sending students abroad. In the UAS's the most active field in sending students is tourism, catering and domestic services.



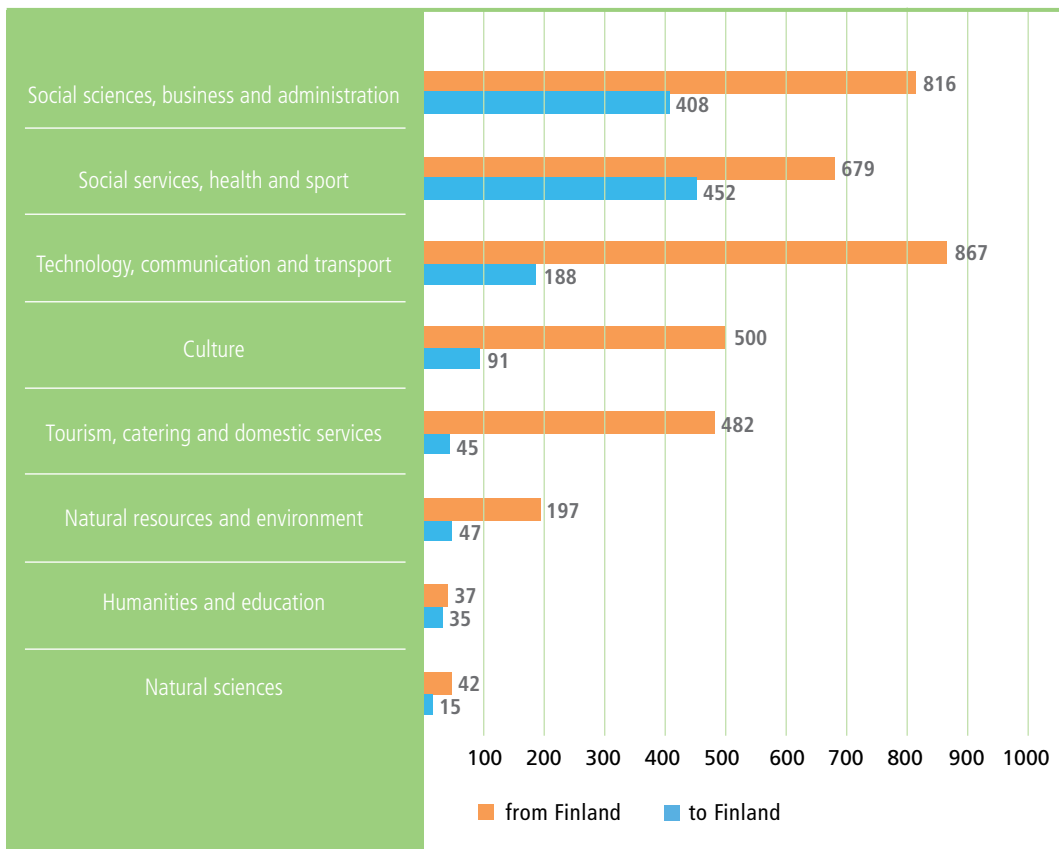
Picture 11. Long (min. 3 months) mobility periods in 2015 in traditional universities by field of study



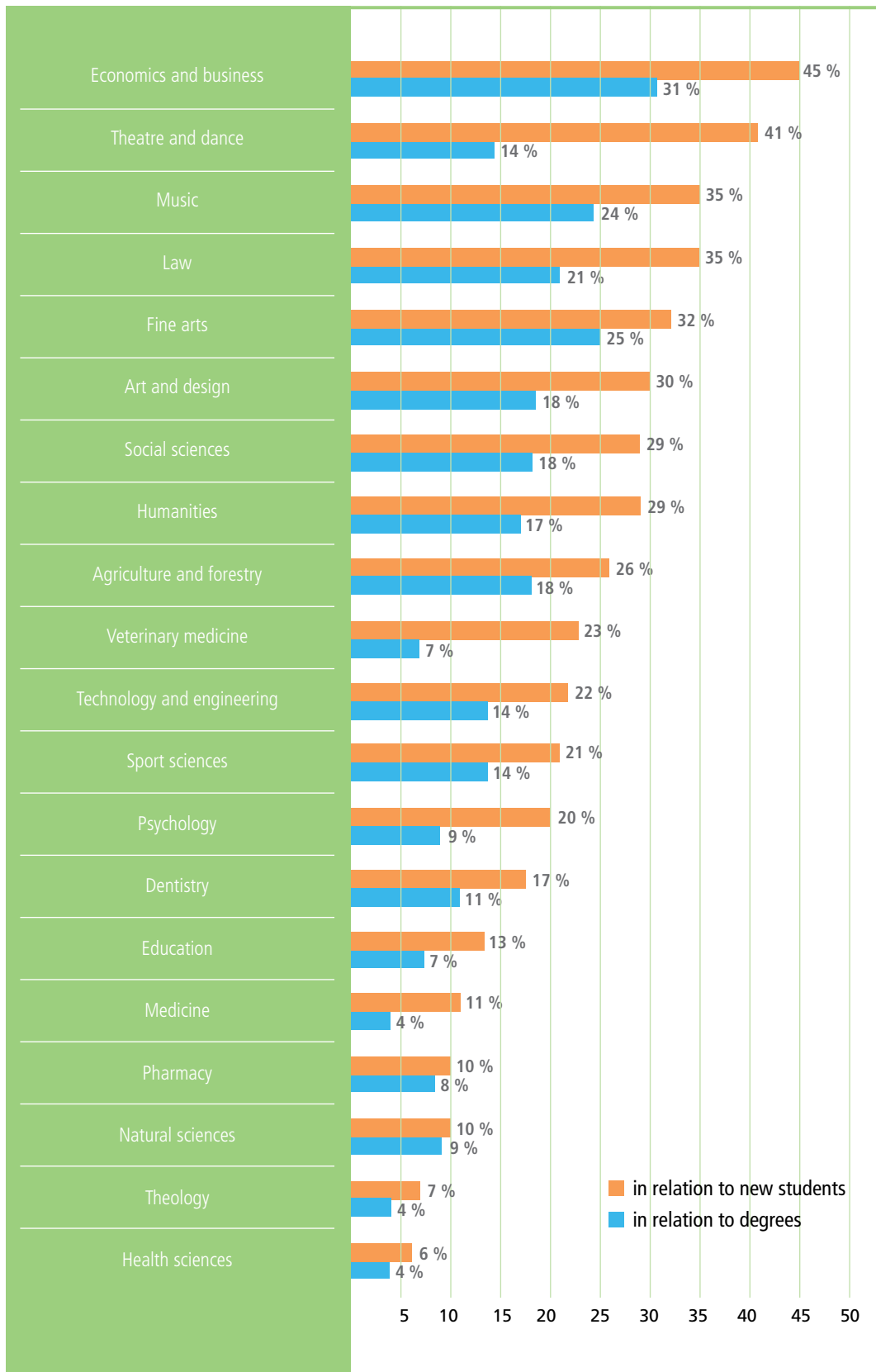
Picture 12. Short (under 3 months) mobility periods in 2015 in traditional universities by field of study



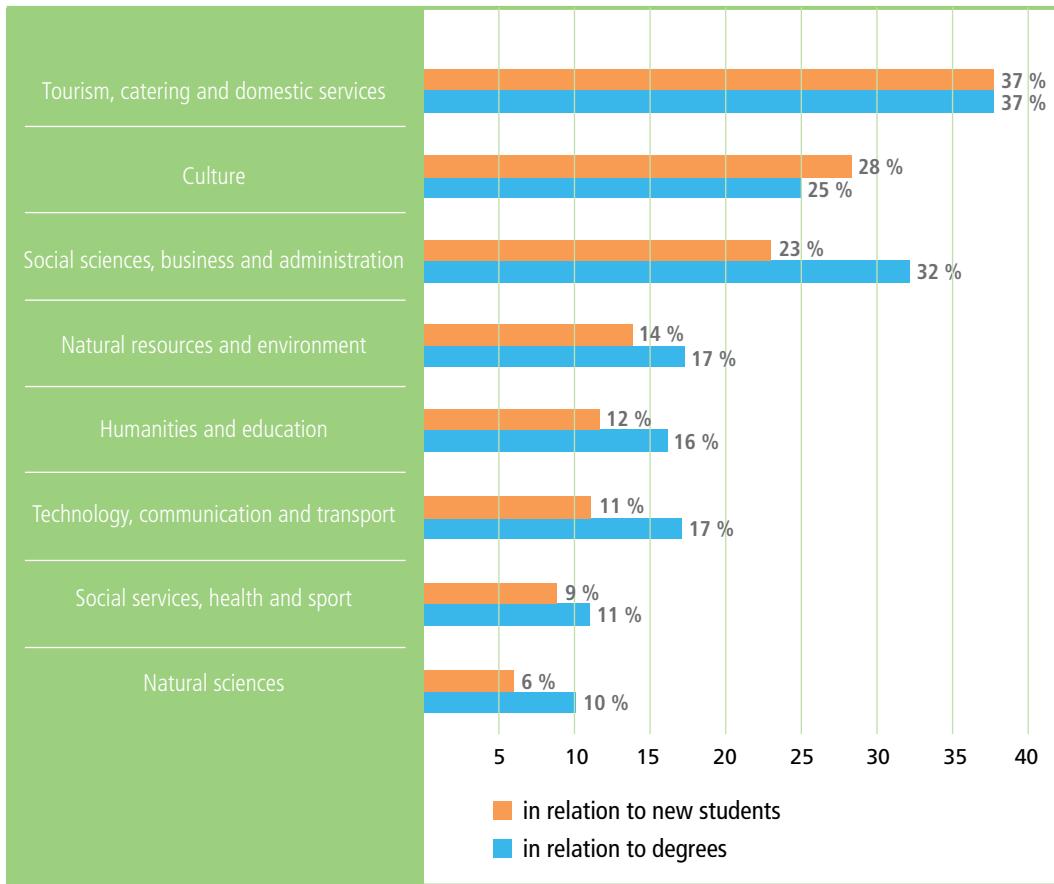
Picture 13. Long (min. 3 months) mobility periods in 2015 in UAS's by field of study



Picture 14. Short (under 3 months) mobility periods in 2015 in UAS's by field of study



Picture 15. Long (min. 3 months) mobility periods in traditional universities in 2015 compared to number of new students and degrees by field of study



Picture 16. Long (min. 3 months) mobility periods in UAS's in 2015 compared to number of new students and degrees by field of study

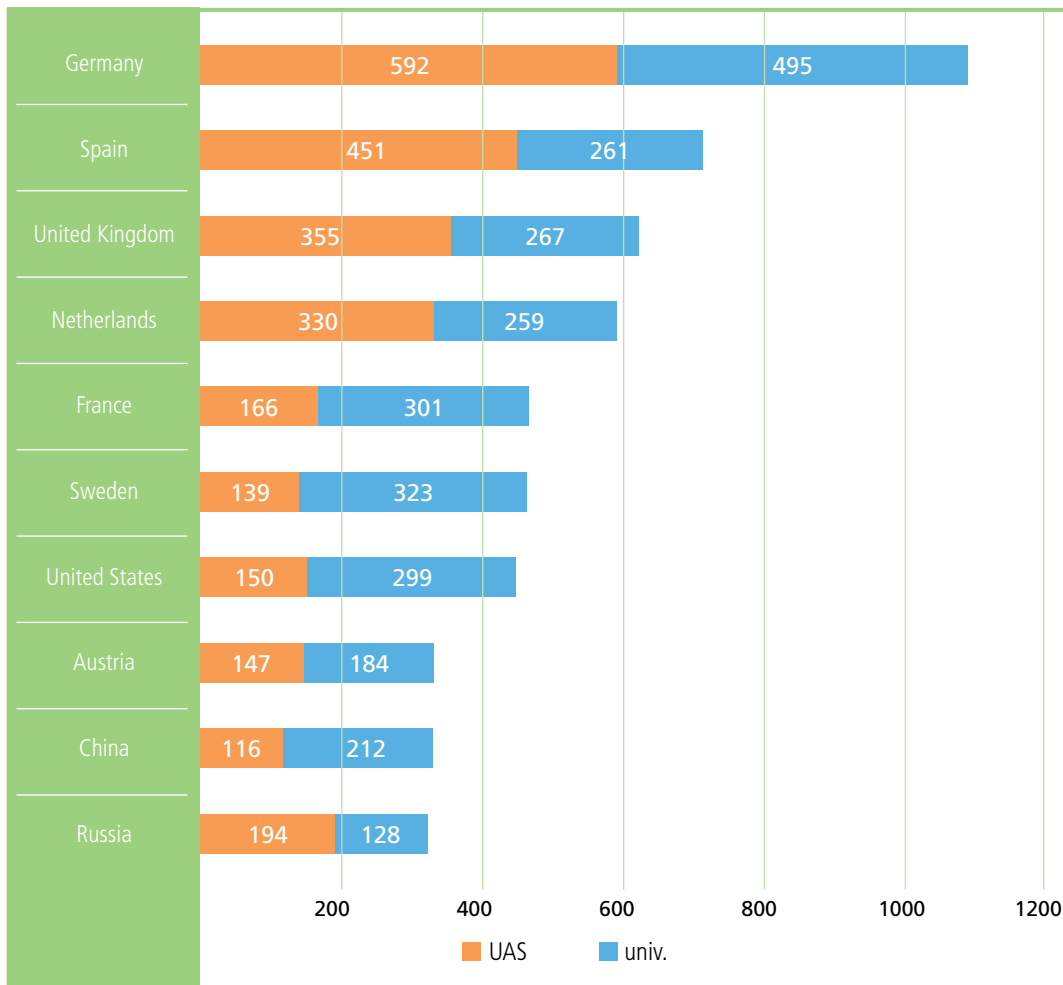
5 Partner countries and regions

The most popular target countries of long mobility periods of minimum of 3 months of Finnish higher education students are Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom, whereas most of the incoming students come from Germany, France and Spain.

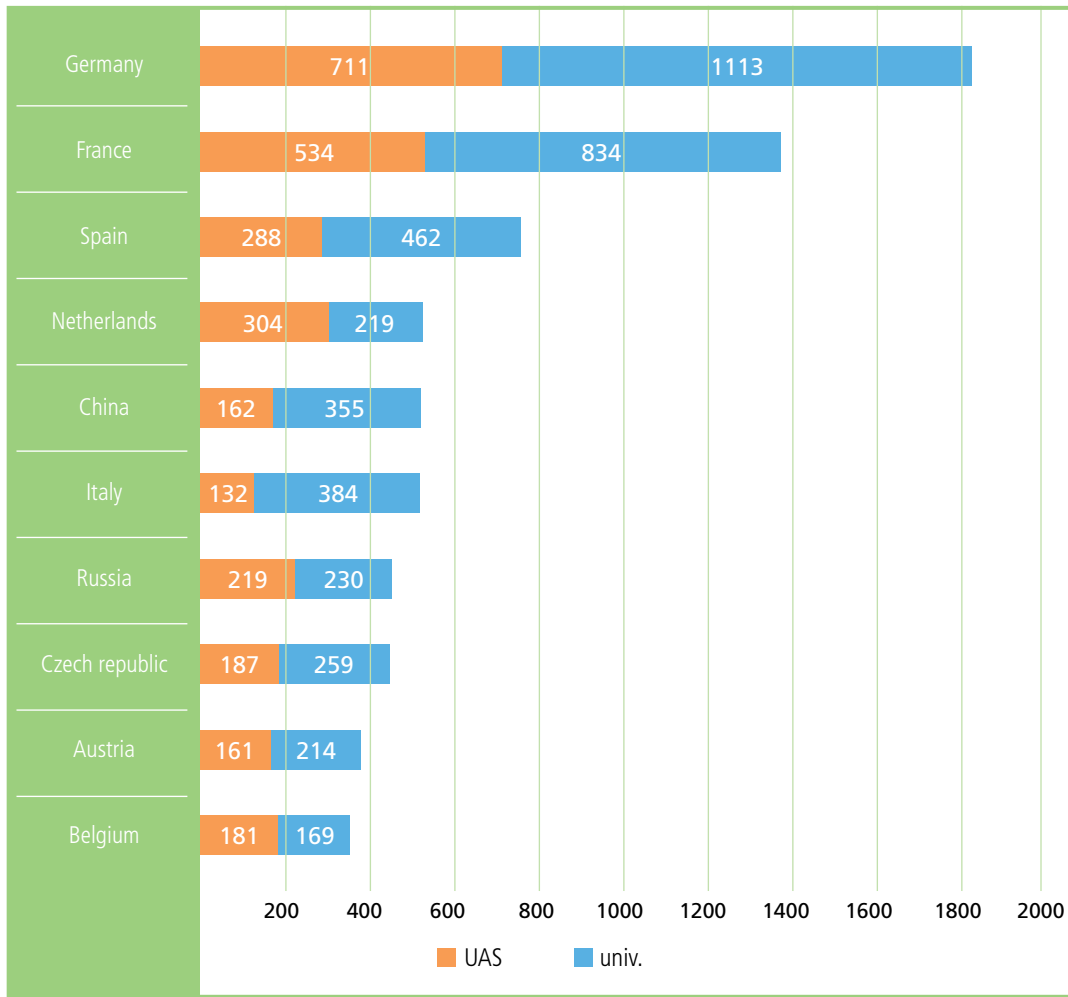
The target countries and countries of origin for the short mobility periods tend to be the same as in the long ones but there are differences, too. Apart from Germany, Finnish students also favour the neighbouring countries, Russia and Sweden, in their short exchange periods, whereas many incoming students come from the United States in addition to Germany.

The international mobility of higher education students is Europe-centred; two thirds of long, outgoing mobilities from Finland are to Europe and almost 80% of incoming mobility flows are from Europe. The distribution of international mobilities across the continents differs between traditional universities and the universities of applied sciences. More university students favour North America, whereas more UAS students favour Africa. There are more incoming students to UAS's from Europe than on average, and slightly more students coming from Asia and the Americas to traditional universities.

Although Europe is still clearly the most popular continent for both the incoming and outgoing students, its role has reduced somewhat over the years. At the same time, the popularity of Asia has grown. In 2005, 10% of outgoing students went to Asian countries; in 2015, the corresponding figure was already 17%. In 2005, 6% of incoming students to Finland came from Asia, whereas in 2015 the figure was already 14%.



Picture 17. The top 10 target countries for long (min. 3 months) mobility periods



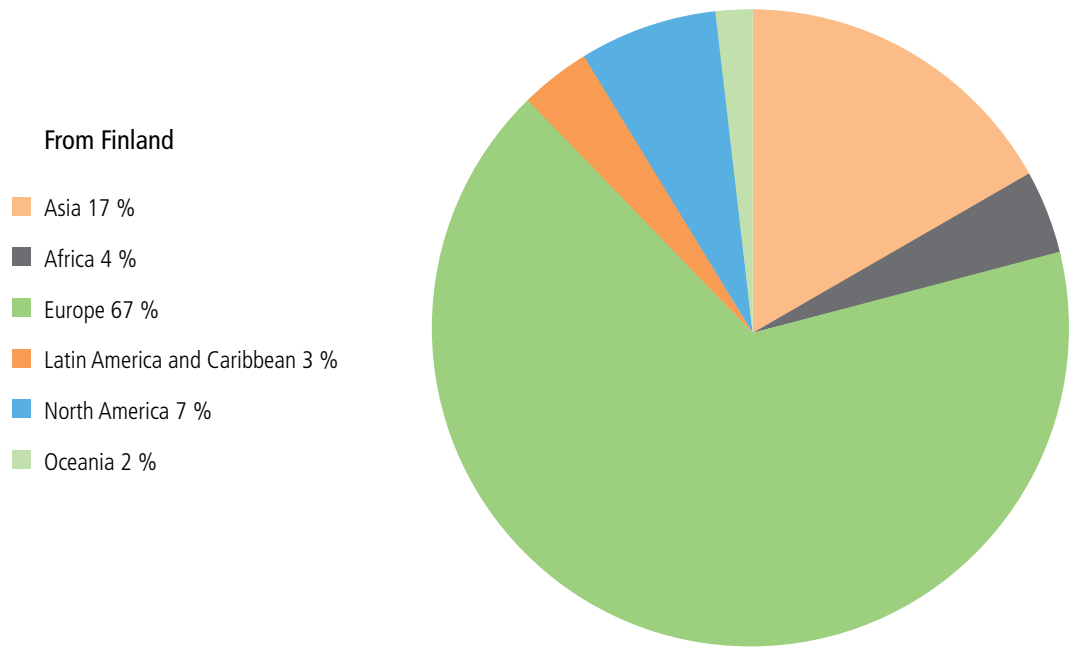
Picture 18. The top 10 countries of origin for long (min. 3 months) mobility periods

From Finland	Univ.	UAS	Total
Germany	112	503	615
Russia	45	492	537
Sweden	44	390	434
Italy	129	146	275
UK	67	175	242
Spain	45	162	207
Estonia	17	170	187
Belgium	16	119	135
France	36	99	135
United States	90	42	132

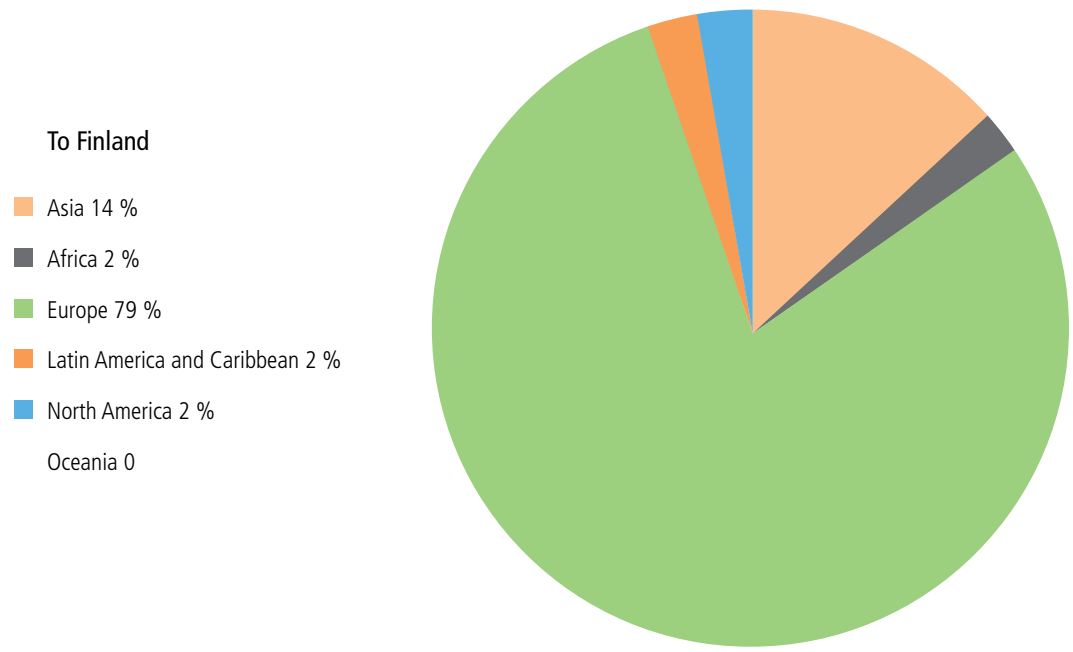
Table 1. The top 10 target countries for short (under 3 months) mobility periods in 2015

To Finland	Univ.	UAS	Total
Unknown	278	0	278
Germany	66	178	244
United States	56	115	171
Netherlands	7	127	134
Russia	41	91	132
UK	26	84	110
Spain	24	78	102
Japan	56	37	93
Austria	19	58	77
Belgium	10	63	73
France	35	38	73

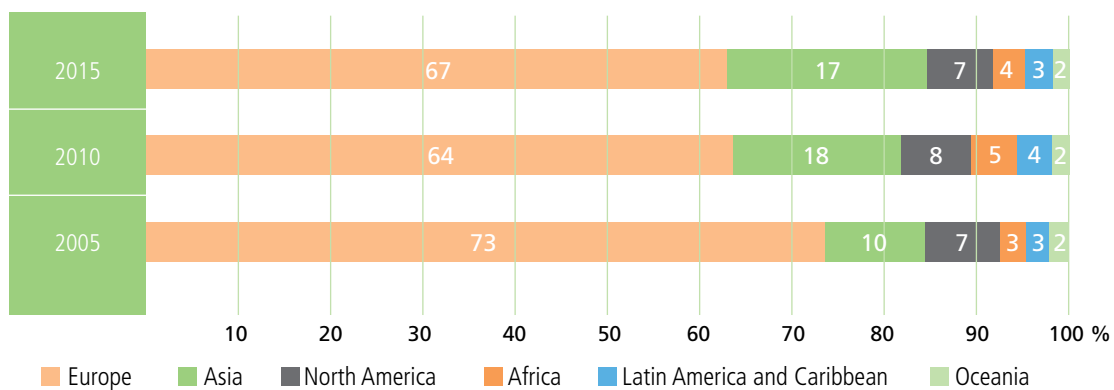
Table 2. The top 10 countries of origin for short (under 3 months) mobility periods in 2015



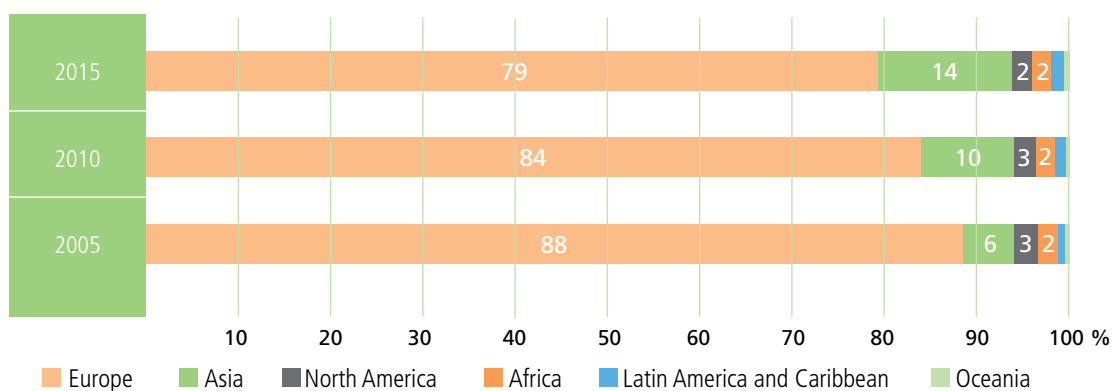
Picture 19. Long (min. 3 months) mobility periods from Finland in 2015 by continent



Picture 20. Long (min. 3 months) mobility periods to Finland in 2015 by continent



Picture 21. Long (min. 3 months) mobility periods from Finland in 2005, 2010 and 2015 by continent



Picture 22. Long (min. 3 months) mobility periods to Finland in 2005, 2010 and 2015 by continent

6 Mobility arrangements

The Erasmus+ programme of the European Union is the single most important tool for international mobility of higher education students. More than 50% of outgoing Finnish students going on long exchanges use the programme and over two thirds of the incoming ones. The Erasmus+ accounts for a bigger part of student mobilities in the UAS's than in traditional universities.

The own agreements of universities make up another significant channel for outgoing and incoming students in Finland. Just over 10% of Finnish students are so-called free movers, that is, they organise their exchanges themselves. The Nordic Nordplus Programme funds 4% of outgoing mobility periods from Finland. The traditional universities use this programme clearly more than the UAS's. The role of the programme is small when it comes to incoming students. Just over 3% of incoming and outgoing students benefit from CIMO's grants.

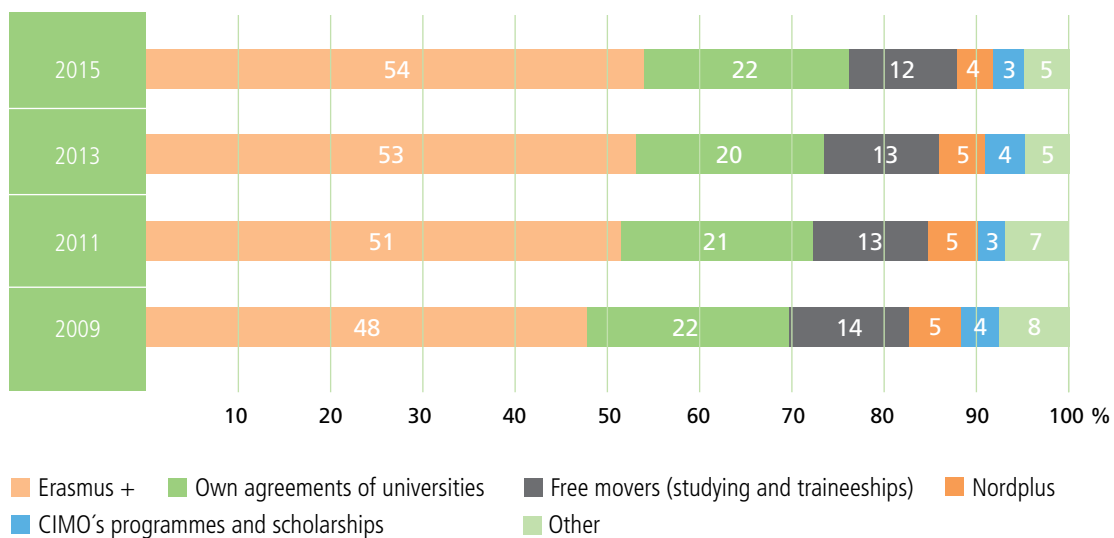
The role of the Erasmus+ Programme in outgoing mobilities from Finland has increased over the past six years. However, its role in incoming flows has become somewhat smaller.

	Trad. universities		UAS		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Erasmus +	2467	49,0	3032	59,4	5499	54,2
Nordplus	364	7,2	49	1,0	413	4,1
Own agreements of universities	1233	24,5	994	19,5	2227	22,0
CIMO's programmes and scholarships (incl. traineeships)	219	4,3	113	2,2	332	3,3
Free movers (studying and traineeships)	369	7,3	808	15,8	1177	11,6
Others	383	7,6	108	2,1	491	4,8
Total	5035	100,0	5104	100,0	10139	100,0

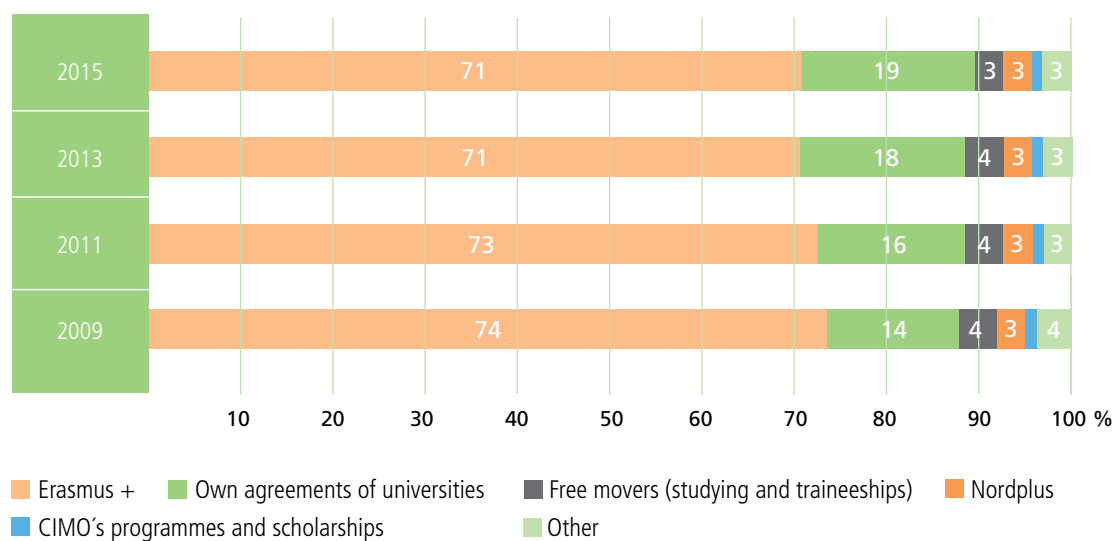
Table 3. Long (min. 3 months) mobility periods from Finland in 2015 by programme

	Trad. universities		UAS		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Erasmus +	4319	66,7	3084	77,2	7403	70,7
Nordplus	113	1,7	1	0,0	114	1,1
Own agreements of universities	1214	18,7	751	18,8	1965	18,8
CIMO's programmes and scholarships (incl. traineeships)	222	3,4	121	3,0	343	3,3
Free movers (studying and traineeships)	318	4,9	19	0,5	337	3,2
Others	291	4,5	21	0,5	312	3,0
Total	6477	100,0	3997	100,0	10474	100,0

Table 4. Long (min. 3 months) mobility periods to Finland in 2015 by programme



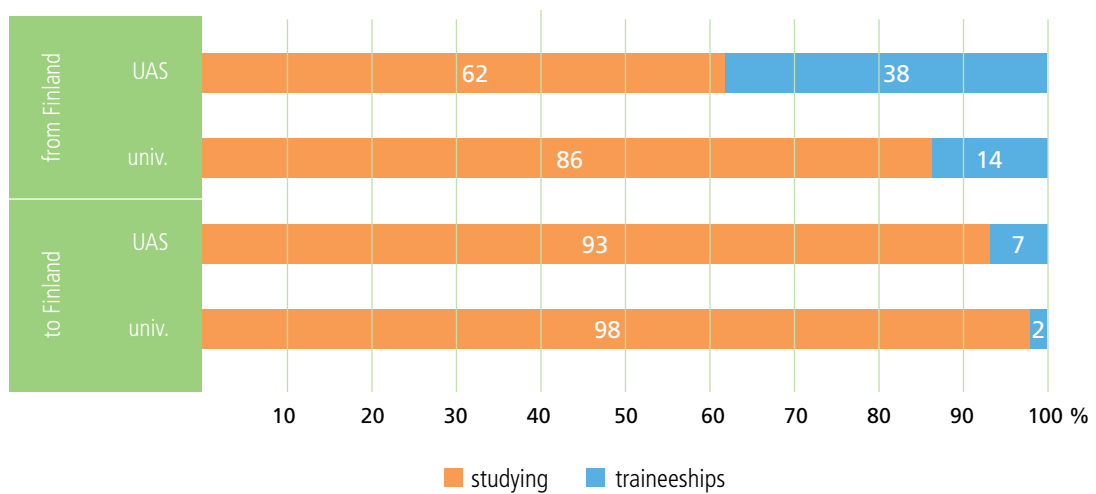
Picture 23. Long (min. 3 months) mobility periods from Finland by programme 2009-2015



Picture 24. Long (min. 3 months) mobility periods to Finland by programme 2009-2015

7 Studying and traineeships

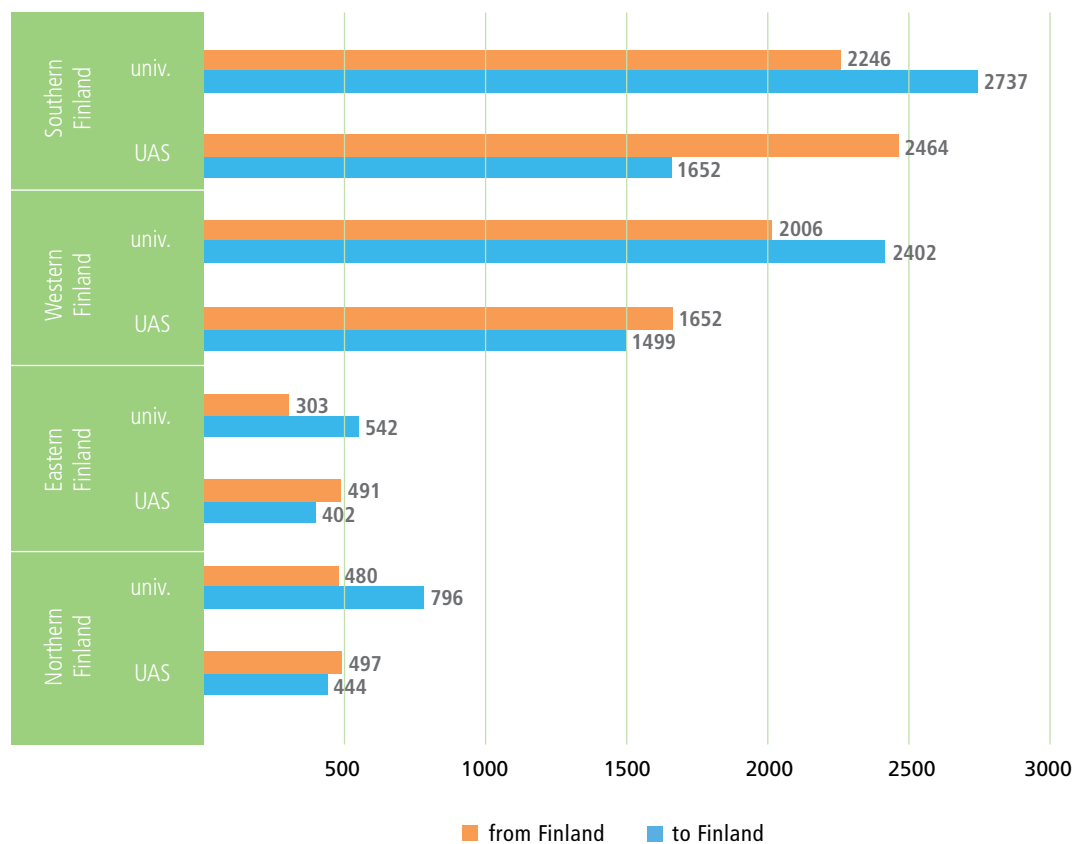
The vast majority of outgoing students go abroad to study in a higher education institution. There is a clear difference between traditional universities and UAS's in this respect, however: over 30% of the long UAS mobility periods of over 3 months are traineeships abroad, whereas in traditional universities the figure is only about 10%. The volume of traineeships in comparison to the total volume of higher education mobility has remained constant over the last few years.



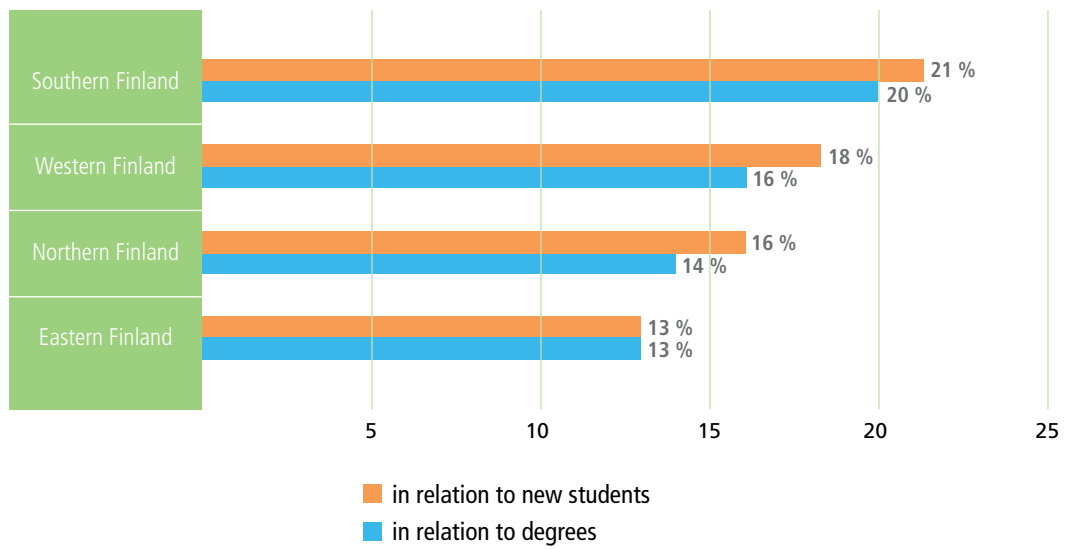
Picture 25. The relative volume of studies and traineeships in long (min. 3 months) mobility periods in 2015, %

8 Finnish regions

There are regional differences in the international mobility of students in Finland. The universities of Southern Finland have the highest numbers of long mobility periods they are also more active in international student mobility than universities in other regions when the number of mobility periods is compared to the number of new students or degrees. The universities in Eastern Finland are the least active.



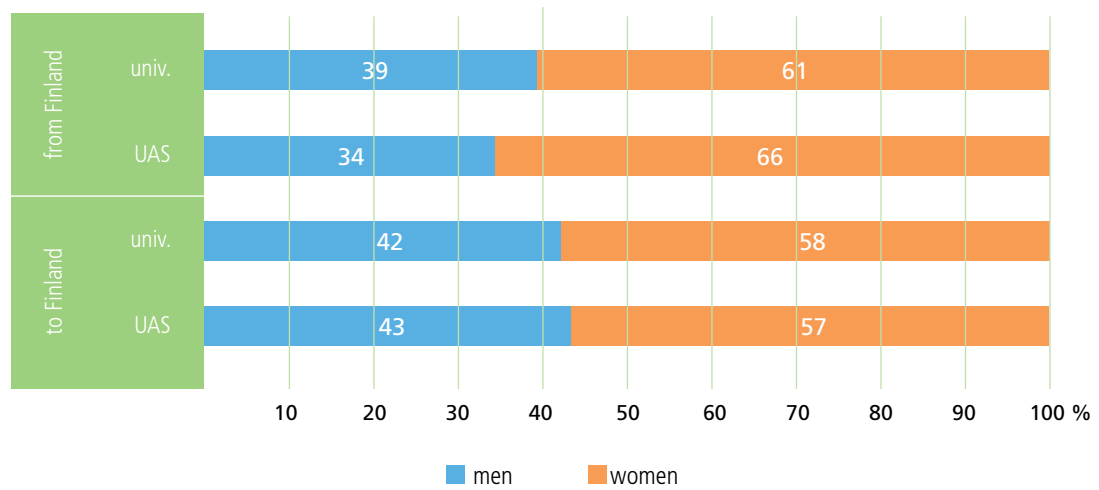
Picture 26. Long mobilities in Finnish regions in 2015



Picture 27. Long mobility periods from Finland compared to the number of new students and degrees in Finnish regions in 2015, %

9 Gender of students

Women dominate the outgoing mobility flows with over 60% of outgoing students from Finnish universities being women. As only 54% of higher education students in Finland are women, they are clearly over-represented among outgoing students. Regardless of the relative number of women in any field of study, there are more outgoing women in all of them compared to the total number of students in that field. The distribution of mobilities between women and men has remained much the same for many years already. The gender distribution among incoming students is more balanced.



Picture 28. Mobility periods in traditional universities and UAS's by gender, %

Annex 1. Long (min. 3 months) mobility periods in Finnish universities in 2015
by continent and country

From Finland	UAS	UNIV.	TOTAL	To Finland	UAS	UNIV.	TOTAL
Total	5104	5035	10139	Total	3997	6477	10474
Asia	893	869	1762	Asia	474	968	1442
United Arab Emirates	9	4	13	Armenia	0	1	1
Azerbaijan	1	0	1	Georgia	0	7	7
Bangladesh	8	1	9	Hong Kong	13	40	53
Philippines	6	4	10	Indonesia	0	5	5
Georgia	0	2	2	India	0	27	27
Hong Kong	21	38	59	Iran	0	5	5
Indonesia	69	45	114	Israel	1	4	5
India	18	15	33	Japan	49	119	168
Iraq	1	0	1	China	162	355	517
Iran	2	1	3	Kyrgyzstan	0	2	2
Israel	3	10	13	Republic of Korea	141	129	270
Japan	87	156	243	Cyprus	1	2	3
Jordan	0	5	5	Laos	0	4	4
Cambodia	2	0	2	Lebanon	3	0	3
Kazakhstan	2	1	3	Macao	0	2	2
China	116	212	328	Malaysia	5	3	8
Republic of Korea	134	122	256	Nepal	2	7	9
Cyprus	24	3	27	Pakistan	0	4	4
Laos	0	1	1	Singapore	5	106	111
Lebanon	0	1	1	Sri Lanka	0	1	1
Malaysia	33	32	65	Taiwan	24	44	68
Myanmar	1	0	1	Thailand	14	12	26
Nepal	69	0	69	Turkey	44	85	129
Pakistan	1	1	2	Vietnam	10	4	14
Palestinian Auto- nomous Areas	0	4	4				
Qatar	1	0	1				
Saudi Arabia	0	1	1				
Singapore	21	104	125				
Sri Lanka	1	2	3				
Taiwan	6	32	38				
Thailand	143	41	184				
Turkey	30	27	57				
Vietnam	84	4	88				

From Finland	UAS	UNIV.	TOTAL	To Finland	UAS	UNIV.	TOTAL
Africa	284	79	363	Africa	77	102	179
Benin	1	3	4	Botswana	3	3	6
Botswana	1	0	1	Egypt	0	2	2
Djibouti	0	1	1	South Africa	8	18	26
Egypt	4	0	4	Ethiopia	2	6	8
South Africa	10	22	32	Ghana	3	3	6
Ethiopia	14	3	17	Cameroon	0	1	1
Gambia	6	4	10	Kenya	16	13	29
Ghana	10	3	13	Madagascar	0	1	1
Cameroon	3	1	4	Malawi	2	0	2
Kenya	41	2	43	Morocco	0	2	2
Madagascar	8	0	8	Mauritius	0	1	1
Malawi	3	1	4	Mozambique	4	3	7
Morocco	2	3	5	Namibia	10	9	19
Mauritius	2	0	2	Nigeria	0	4	4
Mozambique	3	6	9	Rwanda	0	2	2
Namibia	35	11	46	Zambia	6	4	10
Nigeria	9	1	10	Sudan	0	1	1
Rwanda	1	0	1	Tanzania	19	15	34
Zambia	26	3	29	Uganda	4	13	17
Swaziland	34	0	34	Zimbabwe	0	1	1
Tanzania	57	9	66				
Uganda	6	5	11				
Zimbabwe	8	1	9				

From Finland	UAS	UNIV.	TOTAL	To Finland	UAS	UNIV.	TOTAL
Europe	3463	3332	6795	Europe	3363	4956	8319
Netherlands	330	259	589	Netherlands	304	219	523
Albania	1	0	1	Albania	0	2	2
Belgium	120	117	237	Belgium	181	169	350
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	0	1	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	1	1
UK	355	267	622	UK	113	117	230
Bulgaria	15	2	17	Bulgaria	7	3	10
Spain	451	261	712	Spain	288	462	750
Gibraltar	1	0	1	Ireland	28	30	58
Ireland	103	45	148	Iceland	1	6	7
Iceland	29	56	85	Italy	132	384	516
Italy	74	135	209	Austria	161	214	375
Austria	147	184	331	Greece	47	45	92
Greece	40	24	64	Croatia	3	12	15
Croatia	19	12	31	Latvia	11	47	58
Latvia	9	4	13	Liechtenstein	0	3	3
Liechtenstein	0	4	4	Lithuania	60	60	120
Lithuania	25	12	37	Luxembourg	2	4	6
Luxembourg	1	6	7	Malta	8	1	9
Malta	25	9	34	Norway	8	41	49
Montenegro	1	0	1	Portugal	68	87	155
Norway	60	90	150	Poland	81	143	224
Portugal	88	74	162	France	534	834	1368
Poland	35	32	67	Romania	16	13	29
France	166	301	467	Sweden	11	67	78
Romania	7	0	7	Germany	711	1113	1824
Sweden	139	323	462	Serbia	0	7	7
Germany	592	495	1087	Slovakia	33	79	112
Serbia	1	4	5	Slovenia	15	33	48
Slovakia	15	14	29	Finland	0	2	2
Slovenia	37	25	62	Switzerland	49	61	110
Finland	1	0	1	Denmark	11	41	52
Switzerland	38	112	150	Czech Republic	187	259	446
Denmark	90	128	218	Ukraine	1	10	11
Czech Republic	97	120	217	Hungary	53	97	150
Ukraine	5	1	6	Belarus	5	6	11
Hungary	99	52	151	Russia	219	230	449
Belarus	2	3	5	Estonia	15	54	69
Russia	194	128	322				
Estonia	50	33	83				

From Finland	UAS	UNIV.	TOTAL	To Finland	UAS	UNIV.	TOTAL
Latin America and the Caribbean	127	185	312	Latin America and the Caribbean	48	184	232
Argentina	10	23	33	Argentina	0	4	4
Barbados	7	4	11	Brazil	14	55	69
Bolivia	0	1	1	Chile	2	32	34
Brazil	22	37	59	Costa Rica	0	5	5
Chile	30	47	77	Guatemala	0	1	1
Costa Rica	1	3	4	Colombia	0	6	6
Dominica	3	0	3	Mexico	30	65	95
Ecuador	4	0	4	Nicaragua	0	1	1
Greenland	0	1	1	Peru	2	14	16
Guatemala	1	1	2	Puerto Rico	0	1	1
Colombia	2	4	6				
Mexico	37	40	77				
Nicaragua	1	1	2				
Panama	3	2	5				
Paraguay	0	1	1				
Peru	4	17	21				
Turks and Caicos Islands	1	0	1				
Uruguay	1	3	4				
North America	260	446	706	North America	33	220	253
Canada	110	147	257	Canada	25	85	110
United States	150	299	449	United States	8	135	143
Oceania	56	124	180	Oceania	2	47	49
Australia	42	111	153	Australia	1	43	44
New Zealand	14	13	27	New Zealand	1	4	5
Unknown	21	0	21				