MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

Statistics Booklet

2019 - 2023

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Foreword by the Minister

As the Minister of Higher Education for the Maldives, I am both honoured and humbled to present this booklet, a vital snapshot of our nation's higher education landscape at a moment of unprecedented challenge and change.

The global pandemic and the resulting lockdowns have left an indelible mark on every aspect of our lives and higher education in the Maldives is no exception. This period of crisis has tested our resilience, compelling us to adapt and innovate in the face of extraordinary constraints.

In this booklet, you will discover an inspiring narrative of triumph over adversity. Despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic, our educational system has witnessed encouraging trends, such as a rise in overall enrollment and a marked increase in students choosing the sciences and technical fields. These achievements are a powerful testament to the resilience,

"Despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic, our educational system has witnessed encouraging trends, a powerful testament to the resilience, creativity, and dedication of all who have a stake in higher education" - Dr. Ibrahim Hassan

creativity and dedication of our students, educators, administrators and all who have a stake in higher education.

However, there are areas where we must strive to do better. The pandemic has also spotlighted areas that demand our focused attention and concerted effort. We must continue to work to expand our international collaborations, foster inclusive education and ensure that our educational institutes are fully equipped to meet the ever-changing needs of our dynamic society and global trends.

I extend my gratitude to all those who have been a part of this journey and encourage every reader to use this booklet as a source of insight, understanding and motivation. May we move forward with renewed vigour, embracing the lessons of this unique period in our history and striving together to realise our vision for higher education.

Sincerely,

Ibrahim Hassan, PhD
Minister of Higher Education

Executive Summary

This Statistics Booklet presents a comprehensive overview of higher education data and trends in the country for the academic years 2019 - 2023.

The fields of study with the local highest enrollments are management and administration, religion and theology, nursing and midwifery, teaching, accounting, law and programming. The least popular subjects include philosophy and ethics, fine arts, environmental sciences, journalism and reporting, therapy and rehabilitation, building and civil engineering and literature and linguistics. There has been a notable increase in enrollments in pharmacy, psychology, motor vehicles, ships and aircraft, as well as in fashion, interior and industrial design. However, there's been a decrease in enrollments in travel, tourism and leisure, literature and linguistics, architecture and town planning and environmental sciences.

During the same period, the government's First Degree Scheme saw the enrollment of 18,880 students and 1,693 scholarship opportunities were provided. From 2019 to 2022, there was a 62% increase in enrollments for bachelor's degrees and higher education levels. During this period, the government also provided numerous study opportunities through loans and scholarships, enabling students to study in over 40 countries.

A total of 2.70 billion MVR was spent on higher education, which includes First Degree Scheme, Higher Education Loan Scheme and scholarships. Moreover, in the government sectors, 12,724 training requirements were identified for 2021-23, with over 7,511 at MQA level five and above. Within this scope, 19 fields have met their individual targets by September 2023. So far, 9,275 individuals have been trained at MQA level five and above surpassing the overall expected figure. The focus is now on training the remaining individuals in the individual fields within the next two years.

The information in this booklet paints a picture of a higher education sector that is continually evolving and growing. There are certainly challenges to be addressed, but the overall trends are positive and indicative of a strong commitment to advancing higher education in the Maldives.

Higher Education Institutions
2019 - 2023

Overview

The information below shows the registered Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Maldives as of 30 September 2023. We extend our sincere appreciation to all institutions for their valuable support.

Universities and registered colleges

Institutions	Type	Sector
Islamic University of Maldives	University	Public
The Maldives National University	University	Public
MIANZ International College	College	Private
Maldives Business School	College	Private
Mandhu College	College	Private
Avid College	College	Private
Clique College	College	Private
College of Defence and Security Studies	College	Public
National College of Policing and Law Enforcement	College	Public
Cyryx College	College	Private
Villa College	College	Private
MAPS College	College	Private
Zikura International College	College	Private
Maldives Institute of Technology	College	Private

Local Enrollments 2019

27,421
Locally Enrolled
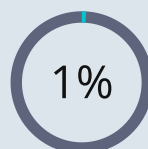
99% **Local**

1% **International***

These are international students studying in the Maldives.

41%
 59%

47%
 53%
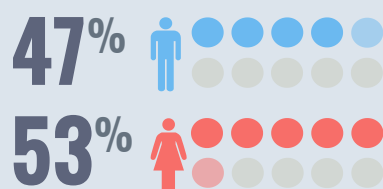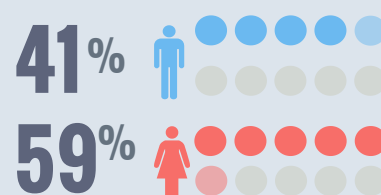
11,254
NEW LOCAL GRADUATES

2,691 DROPOUT

One in every ten students dropped out.
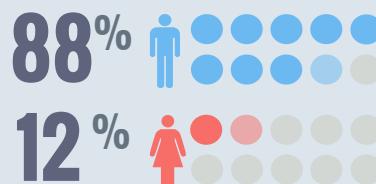
88%
 12%

869
Academic Staff
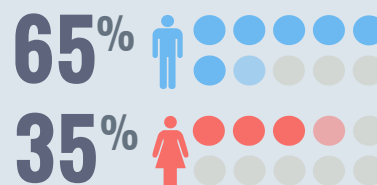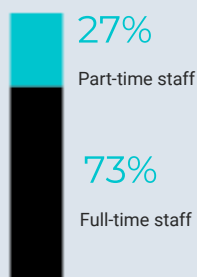
27% Part-time staff

73% Full-time staff

65%
 35%

Note: The academic staff numbers presented in this booklet are based on the data provided by the HEIs.

Local Enrollments 2020

26,825
Locally Enrolled

99% Local

1% International*

These are international students studying in the Maldives.

38% (male)
62% (female)

39% (male)
61% (female)

7,245
NEW LOCAL GRADUATES

1,991 DROPOUT

One in every twenty students dropped out.

42% (male)
58% (female)

2,146
Academic Staff

33% Part-time staff
67% Full-time staff

52% (male)
48% (female)
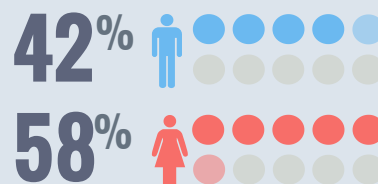
Note: The academic staff numbers presented in this booklet are based on the data provided by the HEIs.

Local Enrollments 2021

26,733
Locally Enrolled
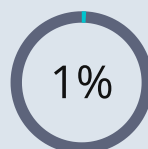
99%
Local

1%
International*

These are international students studying in the Maldives.

36%
64%

33%
67%
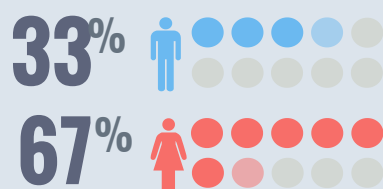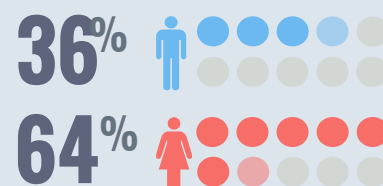
12,837
NEW LOCAL GRADUATES

4,066 DROPOUT

Three in every twenty students dropped out.
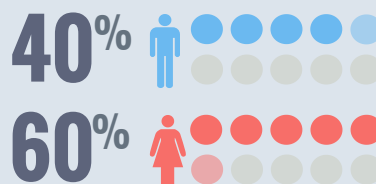
40%
60%

1,867
Academic Staff
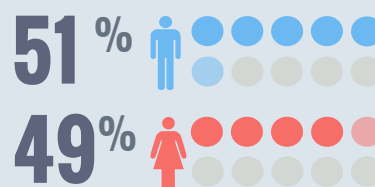
60% Part-time staff
40% Full-time staff

51%
49%

Note: The academic staff numbers presented in this booklet are based on the data provided by the HEIs.

Local Enrollments 2022

29,016
Locally Enrolled
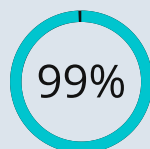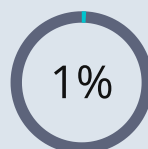
99%
Local

1%
International*

These are international students studying in the Maldives.

36%
64%

42%
58%
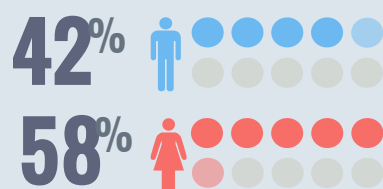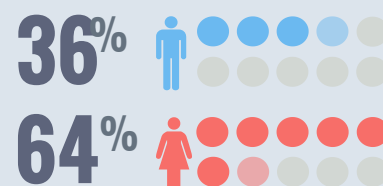
6,093
NEW LOCAL GRADUATES

2,897 DROPOUT

38%
62%
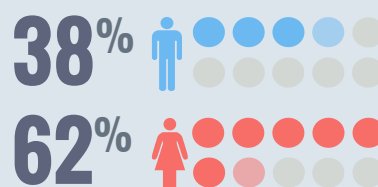
One in every twenty students dropped out.

2,395
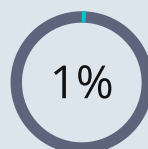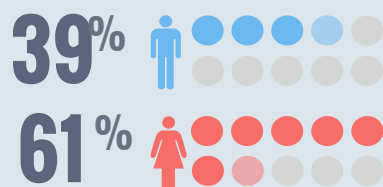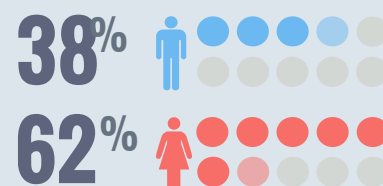**Academic Staff**
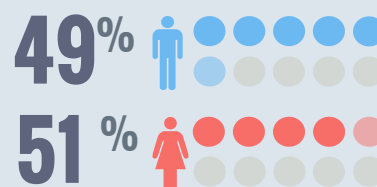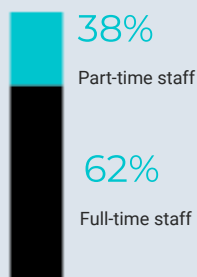
38%
Part-time staff

62%
Full-time staff

49%
51%

Note: The academic staff numbers presented in this booklet are based on the data provided by the HEIs.

Local Enrollments 2019 - 2022

Field of study
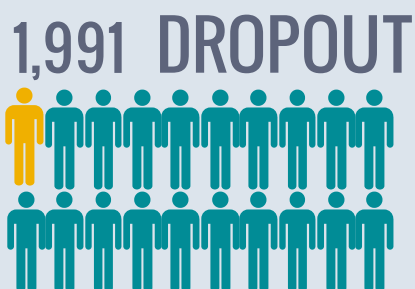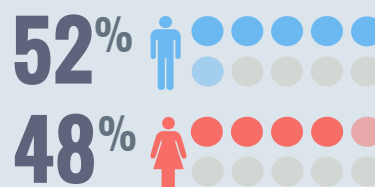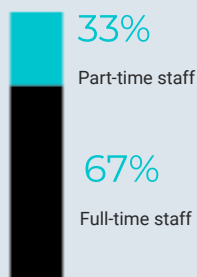
Field of study (classified according to the ISCED)	2019	2020	2021	2022
Accounting	1,302	1,252	1,030	1,618
Architecture and town planning	92	112	66	57
Audio-visual techniques and media production	0	194	313	118
Basic programmes and qualifications	0	996	2,121	1,858
Building and civil engineering	57	47	30	99
Database and network design and administration	333	755	1,060	965
Education science	131	726	830	709
Electricity and energy	0	248	267	396
Environmental sciences	27	58	0	20
Fashion, interior and industrial design	20	60	36	291
Finance, banking and insurance	155	387	109	158
Fine Arts	0	22	2	66
Hotel, restaurants and catering	145	172	114	259
Journalism and reporting	43	61	29	49
Language acquisition	105	964	726	627
Law	1,318	1,411	838	1,437
Library, information and archival studies	27	220	13	84
Literature and linguistics	50	39	166	23
Management and administration	3,968	4,242	5,050	6,441
Marketing and advertising	69	341	0	157
Medical diagnostic and treatment technology	195	148	48	308
Medicine	140	134	185	700
Motor vehicles, ships and aircraft	10	54	166	106
Nursing and midwifery	1,521	2,032	1,482	3,803
Pharmacy	58	633	1,290	408
Philosophy and ethics	4	8	1	10
Political sciences and civics	59	79	46	152
Protection of persons and property	0	162	174	299

Local Enrollments 2019 - 2022

Field of study (cont.)

Field of study (classified according to the ISCED)	2019	2020	2021	2022
Psychology	110	544	467	877
Religion and theology	635	4,780	4,074	1,244
Social work and counselling	209	306	196	318
Software and applications development and analysis	208	547	315	422
Sports	0	210	54	14
Teacher training with subject specialisation	1,590	1,245	1,223	2,255
Teacher training without subject specialisation	1,140	1,606	1,398	1,387
Therapy and rehabilitation	21	38	17	112
Training for pre-school teachers	307	173	514	421
Transport services	0	374	382	22
Travel, tourism and leisure	159	459	427	72
Field of study not identified	13,213	986	1,474	654
Total	**27,421**	**26,825**	**26,733**	**29,016**

Note: The 'Fields not identified' category includes fields not represented in the main list. The elevated enrollment figure of 13,213 for 2019 occurred as several institutions reported student data without specifying the associated fields of study. Improvements in data collection and reporting procedures have led to a reduction in this category in the subsequent years.

Local Enrollments 2019 - 2022

Local enrollments by qualification

Details	2019	2020	2021	2022
Below bachelor's degree				
MNQF Level 1	5,593	5,342	5,599	538
MNQF Level 2	672	940	820	21
MNQF Level 3	2,291	2,519	3,753	2,138
MNQF Level 4	4,938	4,135	5,075	6,172
MNQF Level 5	2,930	2,995	2,344	1,783
MNQF Level 6	756	234	384	1,732
	17,180	16,165	17,975	12,384
Bachelor's degree and above				
MNQF Level 7	8,028	7,778	5,948	13,266
MNQF Level 8	265	590	431	661
MNQF Level 9	1,922	2,273	2,375	2,681
MNQF Level 10	26	19	4	24
	10,241	10,660	8,755	16,632
Total	**27,421**	**26,825**	**26,733**	**29,016**

Note: The table above presents an overview of students enrolled across various levels of the Maldives National Qualifications Framework (MNQF), from Level 1 to Level 10, for the corresponding years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Higher Education Loan Scheme

Overview

This section provides an illustration of the Higher Education Loan Scheme funding process, detailing the total number of opportunities available, the loans awarded and the utilisation of these loans across all schemes.

Since 2019, a total of six loan schemes were announced. During this period, 3,165 loan opportunities were provided, out of which 2,942 were awarded under Higher Education Loan Scheme. The loan utilisation figures in the chart encompass all utilisations from each year from 2019 to September 2023, capturing data from loan schemes that even preceded 2019.

Total Loan Opportunities Provided and Awarded
2019 - 2023
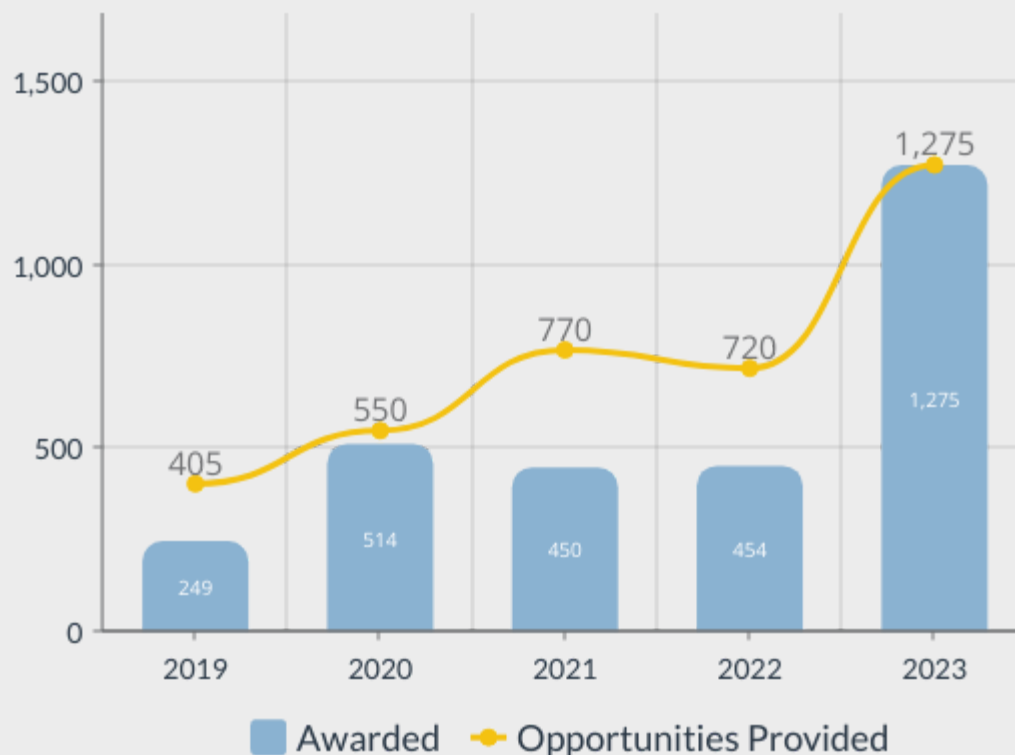
6
Loan Schemes Announced

3,720
Loan Opportunities Provided

2,942
Awarded

Higher Education Loan Scheme

Loans awarded and utilisation

Details	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Number of loan schemes	2	1	1	1	1	6
Number of opportunities provided	405	550	770	720	1,275	3,720
Number of loans awarded	249	514	450	454	1,275	2,942
Loan utilisation from schemes 2019-23	192	407	349	298	383	1,629
Loan utilisation (all schemes including pre-2019)*	345	339	325	257	475	1,741

Notes:

(1) Despite an initial allocation for 720 students in 2023, a policy decision was made to award loans under Higher Education Loan Scheme to all eligible candidates. Once a loan is awarded, students have a period of 18 months to utilise the loan.

*(2) * Loan utilisation (all schemes including pre-2019) shows a cumulation of loans accessed by candidates from Higher Education Loan Schemes introduced prior to 2019 and continuing up to September 2023.*

Loan Utilisation

2019 - Sep 2023

Number of loans awarded

Loan utilisation from schemes 2019 - 2023
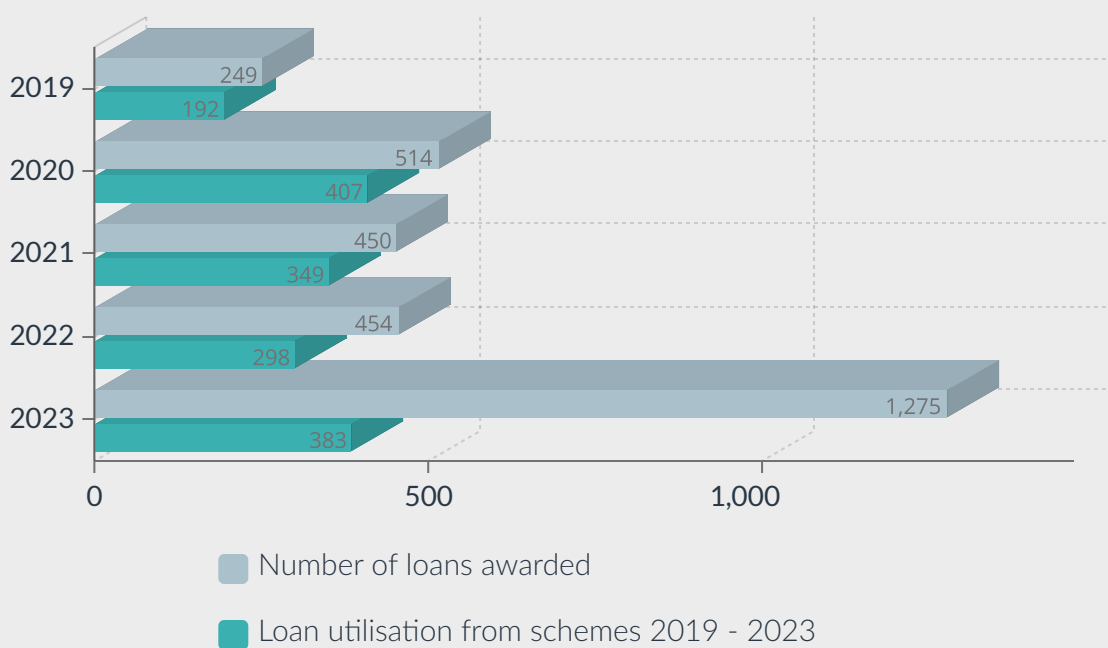
Higher Education Loan Scheme

Loan utilisation by education level

Loan Distribution by Level
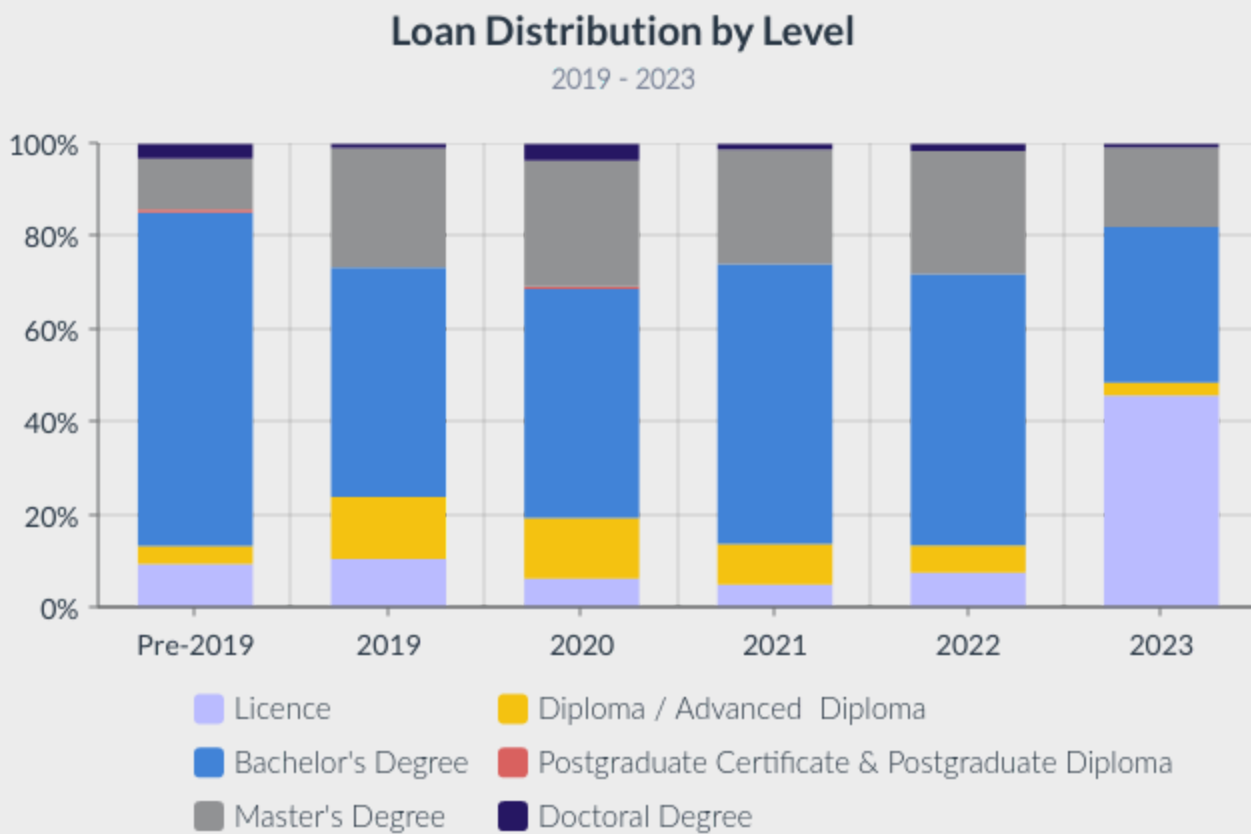
2019 - 2023

Qualification	Pre-2019	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
License	15	37	22	17	20	218
Diploma / Advanced Diploma	6	46	44	28	15	13
Bachelor's Degree	112	170	167	196	150	159
Postgraduate Certificate & Postgraduate Diploma	1	0	2	0	0	0
Master's Degree	17	89	92	80	68	81
Doctoral Degree	5	3	12	4	4	4
Total	**156**	**345**	**339**	**325**	**257**	**475**

Higher Education Loan Scheme

Loan utilisation by gender

Gender Distribution
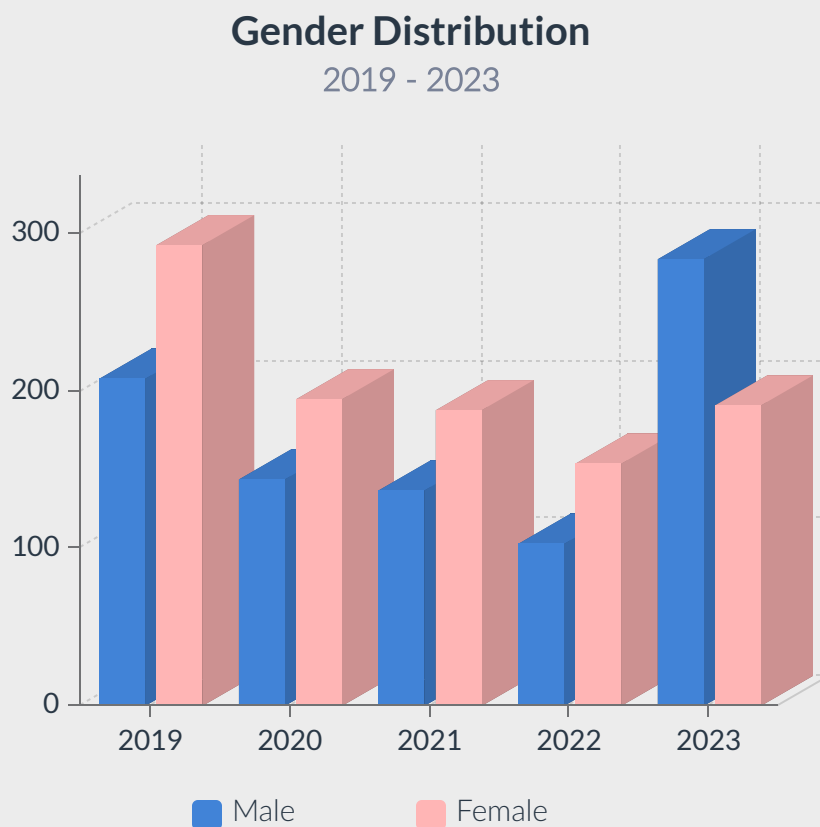
2019 - 2023

Year	Male	Female	Total
2019	208	293	501
2020	144	195	339
2021	137	188	325
2022	103	154	257
2023	284	191	475
Total	**876**	**1,021**	**1,897**

Higher Education Loan Scheme

Students studying in 40 countries
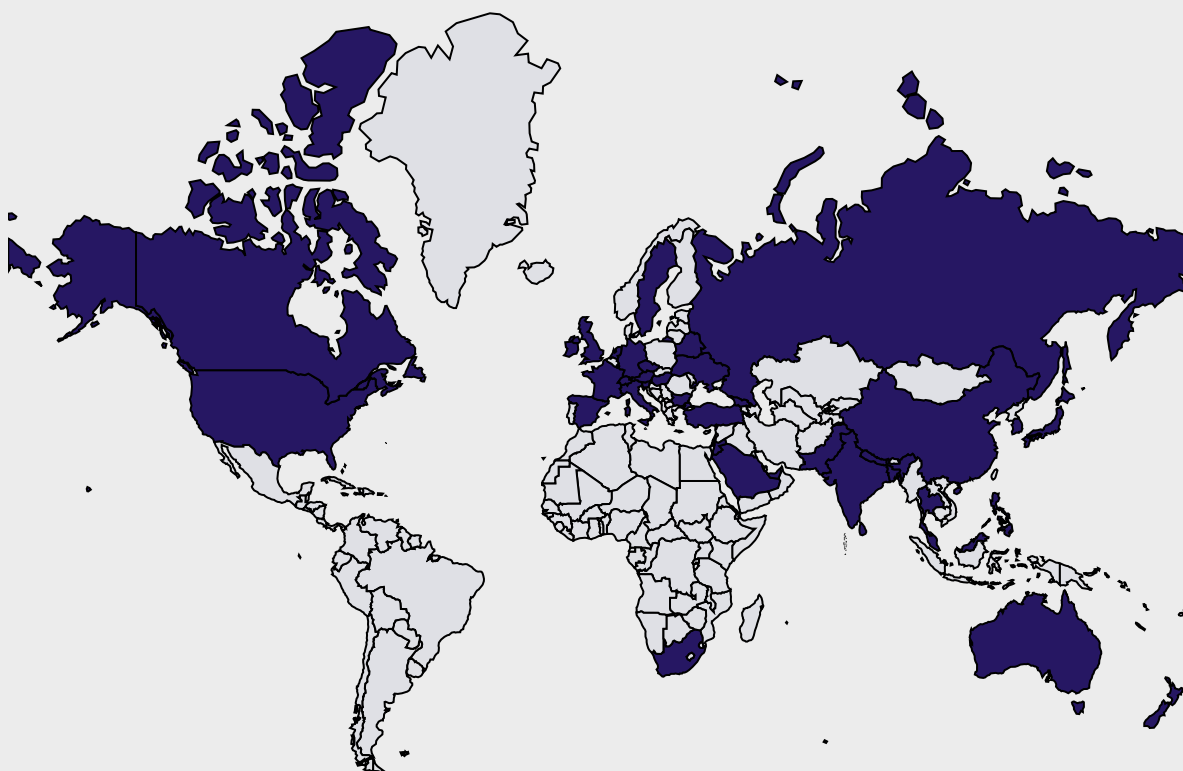
Australia	China	India	Maldives	Russia	Spain	Ukraine
Austria	Czech Republic	Ireland	Nepal	Saudi Arabia	Sri Lanka	United Arab Emirates
Bangladesh	France	Italy	Netherlands	Singapore	Sweden	United Kingdom
Belarus	Georgia	Japan	New Zealand	Slovenia	Switzerland	USA
Bulgaria	Germany	Jordan	Pakistan	South Africa	Thailand	
Canada	Hungary	Malaysia	Philippines	South Korea	Turkey	

Higher Education Loan Scheme

Distribution of loan utilisation by country

Country	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Australia	9	8	14	10	23	64
Austria	0	0	0	1	2	3
Bangladesh	0	1	0	1	0	2
Belarus	26	11	5	5	13	60
Bulgaria	1	0	0	0	0	1
Canada	1	1	0	2	0	4
China	2	2	1	1	5	11
Czech Republic	10	11	5	1	7	34
France	0	0	0	0	1	1
Georgia	0	0	0	0	1	1
Germany	0	0	2	3	1	6
Hungary	0	0	0	0	1	1
India	6	7	8	4	1	26
Ireland	1	1	0	0	0	2
Italy	0	0	1	0	0	1
Japan	0	0	1	0	0	1
Jordan	0	0	1	2	0	3
Malaysia	214	179	211	151	152	907
Maldives	90	37	12	10	9	158
Maldives / Philippines	1	0	0	0	0	1
Maldives / Spain	1	0	0	0	0	1
Maldives / Sri Lanka / Spain	1	0	0	0	0	1
Nepal	3	1	0	3	4	11
Netherlands	0	1	0	0	0	1
New Zealand	1	0	2	0	2	5
Pakistan	2	0	0	0	0	2

Higher Education Loan Scheme

Distribution of loan utilisation by country (cont.)

Country	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Philippines	27	7	10	12	42	98
Russia	17	5	3	2	0	27
Saudi Arabia	1	0	0	0	0	1
Singapore	1	1	0	1	1	4
Slovenia	0	1	0	0	0	1
South Africa	0	0	0	1	0	1
South Korea	0	0	0	0	2	2
Spain	0	2	2	1	97	102
Spain/USA	2	0	0	0	0	2
Sri Lanka	44	36	13	8	8	109
Sri Lanka/Philippines	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sweden	0	0	2	1	1	4
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	1	1
Thailand	1	3	1	3	0	8
Turkey	1	1	1	0	0	3
Ukraine	12	0	0	0	0	12
United Arab Emirates	0	0	2	5	2	9
United Kingdom	25	21	25	27	27	125
United States of America	0	2	3	2	72	79
Total	**501**	**339**	**325**	**257**	**475**	**1,897**

Higher Education Loan Scheme

Loan utilisation by field of study

Field of study (classified according to the ISCED	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Agriculture	0	0	0	0	1	1
Architecture and construction	14	8	14	10	15	61
Arts	20	12	26	10	16	84
Biochemistry	0	0	0	1	0	1
Biological and related sciences	15	13	18	13	9	68
Business and administration	117	82	85	49	60	393
Earth sciences	1	0	0	0	0	1
Education	14	5	2	6	5	32
Engineering and engineering trades	42	39	27	23	23	154
Environment	0	1	0	1	0	2
Food processing	0	0	0	0	1	1
Health	136	56	44	48	66	350
Humanities	2	0	1	0	1	4
Information and Communicationa Technology	13	22	28	17	22	102
Journalism and information	5	7	3	2	1	18
Languages	0	1	1	0	1	3
Law	20	16	8	8	10	62
Manufacturing and processing	1	1	0	2	0	4
Mathematics and statistics	5	1	5	4	2	17
Mechanics and metal trades	2	5	4	2	1	14
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics not further defined	2	3	0	1	0	6
Occupational health and safety	0	1	1	0	0	2
Personal services	5	6	3	8	4	26
Physical sciences	0	2	2	2	1	7
Political sciences and civics	0	0	0	1	0	1
Security services	1	0	0	0	0	1
Social and behavioural sciences	31	36	36	32	17	152
Transport services	51	19	16	17	215	318
Veterinary	0	1	0	0	1	2
Welfare	4	2	1	0	3	10
Total	**501**	**339**	**325**	**257**	**475**	**1,897**

First Degree Scheme

Overview

The government's First Degree Scheme was inaugurated in February 2019. The information below demonstrates enrollments from 2019 to 2023. It is projected that the scheme will have extended its benefits to over 20,000 students by the end of 2023.

Gender Distribution
2019 - 2023
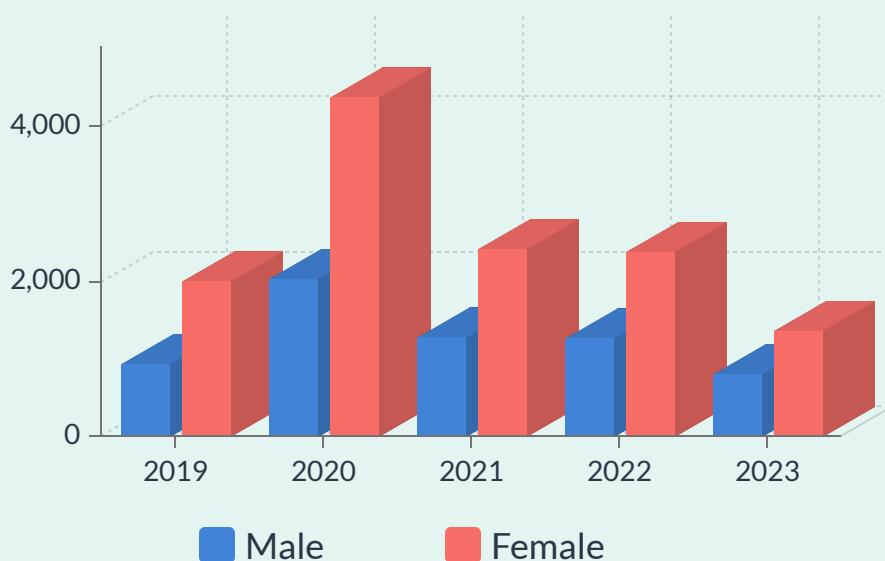
- Male
- Female

18,880

cumulatively enrolled and benefitted from the government's First Degree Scheme since its introduction in 2019, through to 30 Sep 2023.

Gender	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Male	938	2,037	1,280	1,268	806	**6,329**
Female	2,003	4,377	2,421	2,384	1,366	**12,551**
Total	**2,941**	**6,414**	**3,701**	**3,652**	**2,172**	**18,880**

Note: In the government's First Degree Scheme, 3,127 students who were enrolled prior to 2019 transitioned into the scheme upon its launch. Additionally, as of 30 September 2023, the scheme has welcomed 2,172 new students for this year, with further enrollments expected in the coming months.

First Degree Scheme

Graduate Output

Gender Distribution
2019 - 2023
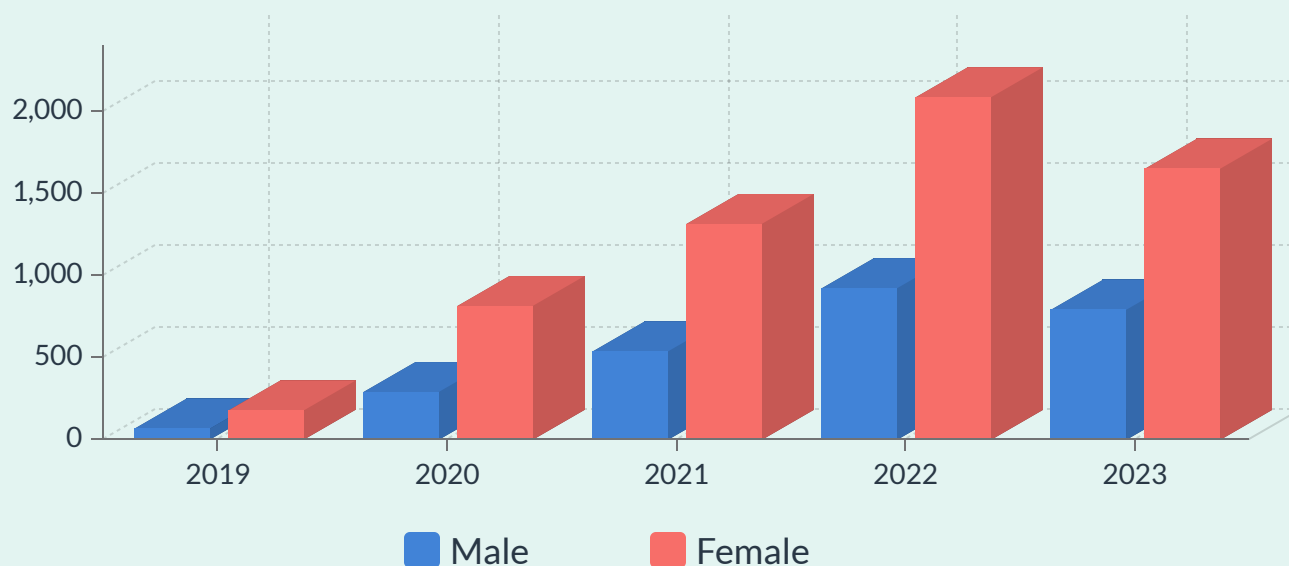
Gender	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	Total
Male	67	291	538	923	792	2,611
Female	178	815	1,315	2,086	1,651	6,045
Total	**245**	**1,106**	**1,853**	**3,009**	**2,443**	**8,656**

Dropout and Deferred

Gender	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Male	6	11	6	12	2	37
Female	7	11	18	20	0	56
Total	**13**	**22**	**24**	**32**	**2**	**93**

Note: The dropout figures only account for students who have informed the Ministry of their withdrawal from their educational programme.

First Degree Scheme

Enrollment by field of study

Field of study (classified according to the ISCED	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Accounting and taxation	303	602	322	307	257	1,791
Architecture and construction		2			14	16
Architecture and town planning	10	65	26	8	10	119
Audio-visual techniques and media production	26	33	26	28	24	137
Biology	0	17	2	0	0	19
Building and civil engineering	9	9	2	8	3	31
Chemistry	0	9	2	0	0	11
Database and network design and administration	89	172	149	149	76	635
Earth sciences	1	8	2	6	0	17
Economics	0	10		0	0	10
Electricity and energy	0	12	21	17	7	57
Environmental sciences	2	23	0	0	0	25
Fashion, interior and industrial design	4	9	1	33	18	65
Finance, banking and insurance	25	90	34	18	12	179
Hotel, restaurants and catering	1	0	0	0	0	1
Journalism and reporting	8	3	0	0	3	14
Language acquisition	4	9	7	0	2	22
Law	250	535	203	133	63	1,184
Library, information and archival studies		1	0	13	2	16
Literature and linguistics	5	6	0	0	0	11
Management and administration	1,046	2,440	1,422	1,380	906	7,194
Marketing and advertising	17	52	4	5	11	89
Mechanics and metal trades	0	12	19	24	13	68
Medical diagnostic and treatment technology	58	61	37	27	24	207
Medicine	48	63	37	62	58	268
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics not further defined	5	3	0	0	0	8
Nursing and midwifery	177	355	214	154	113	1,013
Pharmacy	0	0	0	24	8	32
Physics	0	14	0	0	0	14

First Degree Scheme

Enrollment by field of study (cont.)

Field of study (classified according to the ISCED	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Political sciences and civics	7	44	19	18	8	96
Psychology	25	160	104	122	68	479
Religion and theology	33	76	33	103	25	270
Social work and counselling	36	108	105	63	4	316
Software and applications development and analysis	78	197	127	103	102	607
Sports	1	0	0	8	5	14
Teacher training with subject specialisation	233	470	361	470	217	1,751
Teacher training without subject specialisation	320	586	313	251	72	1542
Therapy and rehabilitation	12	17	10	13	16	68
Training for pre-school teachers	108	139	98	105	31	481
Travel, tourism and leisure	0	2	1	0	0	3
Total	**2,941**	**6,414**	**3,701**	**3,652**	**2,172**	**18,880**

The data presented in the above table is current up to 30 September 2023.

Scholarships

Overview

Presented below is an overview of the scholarship funding process, encompassing the total scholarship opportunities provided, awards granted and utilisation across all schemes. Between 2019 and 2023, the Ministry announced a total of 156 scholarship schemes, contributing significantly to the promotion of higher education. Please note that the figures provided are current as of 30 September 2023.

Opportunities provided and awarded
2019 - 2023
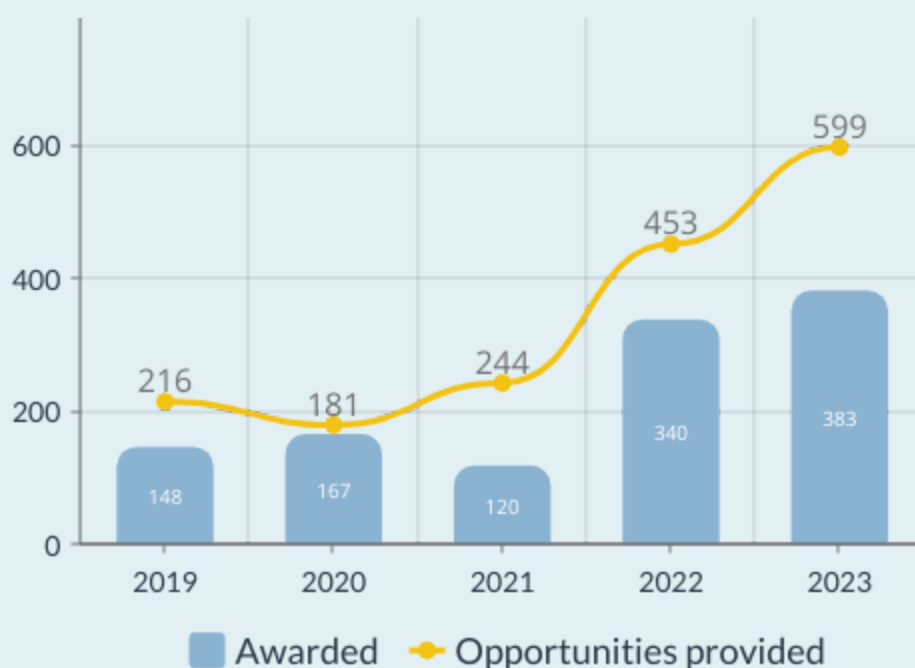
162
Scholarship Schemes Announced

1,693
Opportunities Opened

1,158
Awarded

633
Utilised

Details	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Number of scholarships announced	34	37	33	38	20	162
Number of scholarships opportunities provided	216	181	244	453	599	1,693
Number of scholarships awarded	148	167	120	340	383	1,158
Scholarship utilisation (all schemes)*	91	114	58	228	142	633

Note: The Covid-19 pandemic led to a decrease in scholarship utilisation. In response, we provided the option to extend the timeframe for scholarship utilisation to support students during these challenging times. The data presented in this table is up to 30 September 2023.

Scholarships

1,693 Scholarships

34+ Countries

40% **60%**

Utilisation by Gender
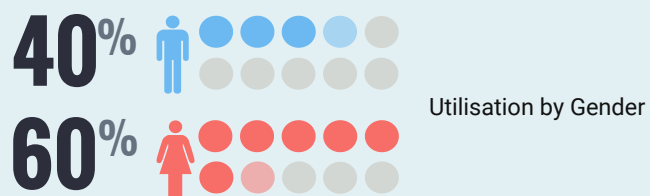
Scholarship Utilisation
2019 - 2023

Year	Awarded	Utilised
2019	148	91
2020	167	114
2021	120	58
2022	340	228
2023	383	142

0   200   400

■ Awarded   ■ Utilised
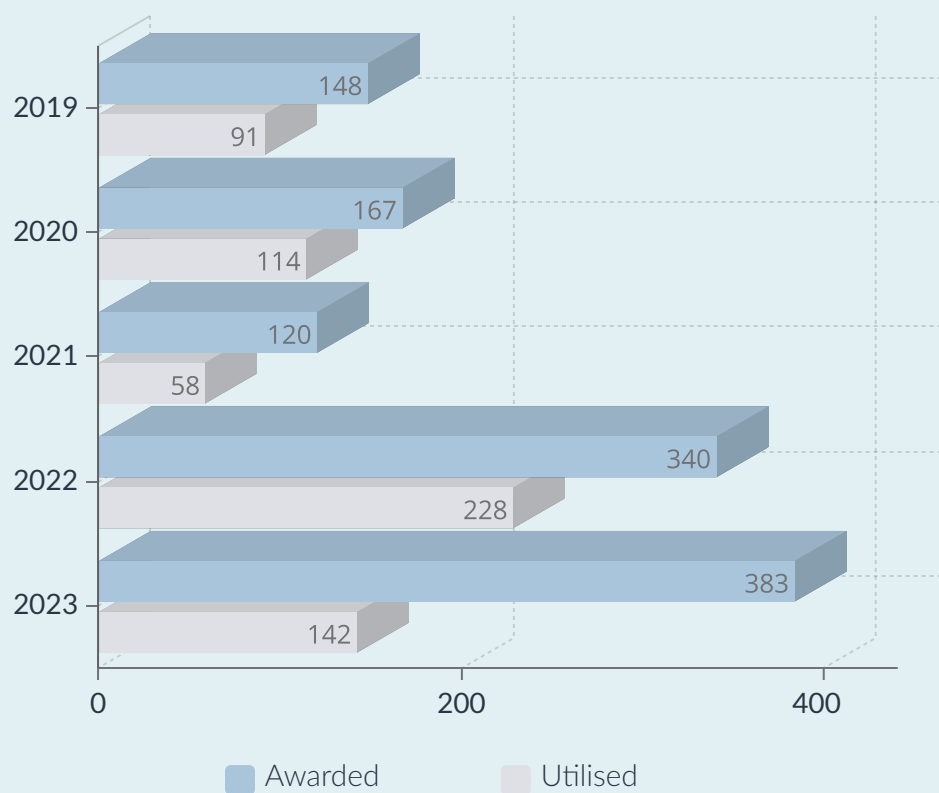
Scholarships

Scholarship funding - Maldivian Government

Between 2019 and 2023, the government's expenditure on scholarships was strategically directed to support academic excellence, develop local doctors, foster professional accountants, assist students affected by Covid-19 and support other areas. This expenditure demonstrates the government's commitment to professional development and support during the pandemic.

Breakdown of Expenditure on Scholarships
2019 - 2023

- 3.00%
- 1.00%
- 1.00%
- 8.00%
- 60.00%
- 27.00%

Legend:
- President's Award
- High Achievers' Scholarship
- Medical Doctors Specialisation Scholarship
- Professional Accountants Training Scholarship
- Covid-19 Assistance
- Other Scholarships
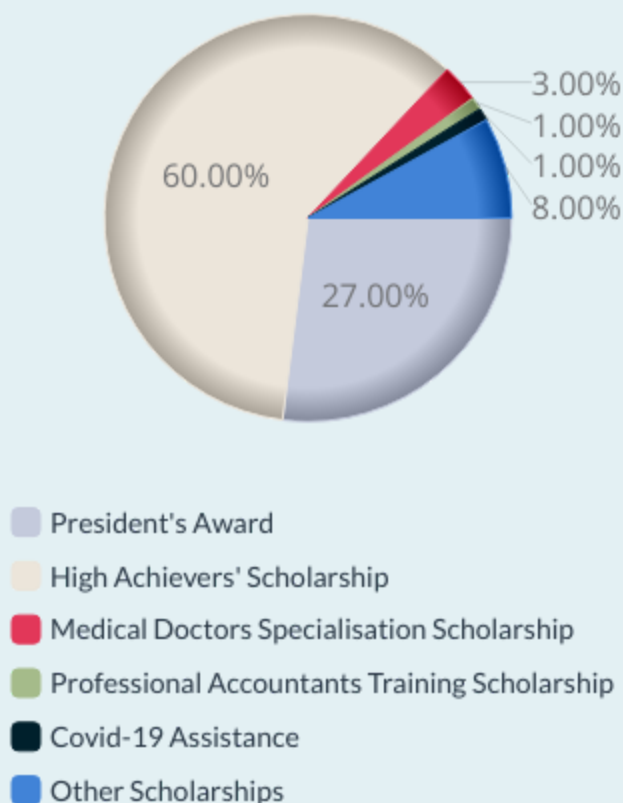
Figures are in MVR

571m
Total

500m
President's Award and High Achievers' Scholarship

18m
Medical Doctors Specialisation Scholarship

3m
Covid-19 Assistance

5m
Professional Accountants Training Scholarship

45m
Other Scholarships

Scholarships

Number of President's Award and High Achievers' Scholarship Awardees

President's Award
in numbers (2019 - 2023)

Year	President's Award
2019	5
2020	7
2022	6
2023	17

■ President's Award

High Achievers' Scholarship
in numbers (2019 - 2023)

Year	High Achievers'
2019	46
2020	49
2022	79
2023	138
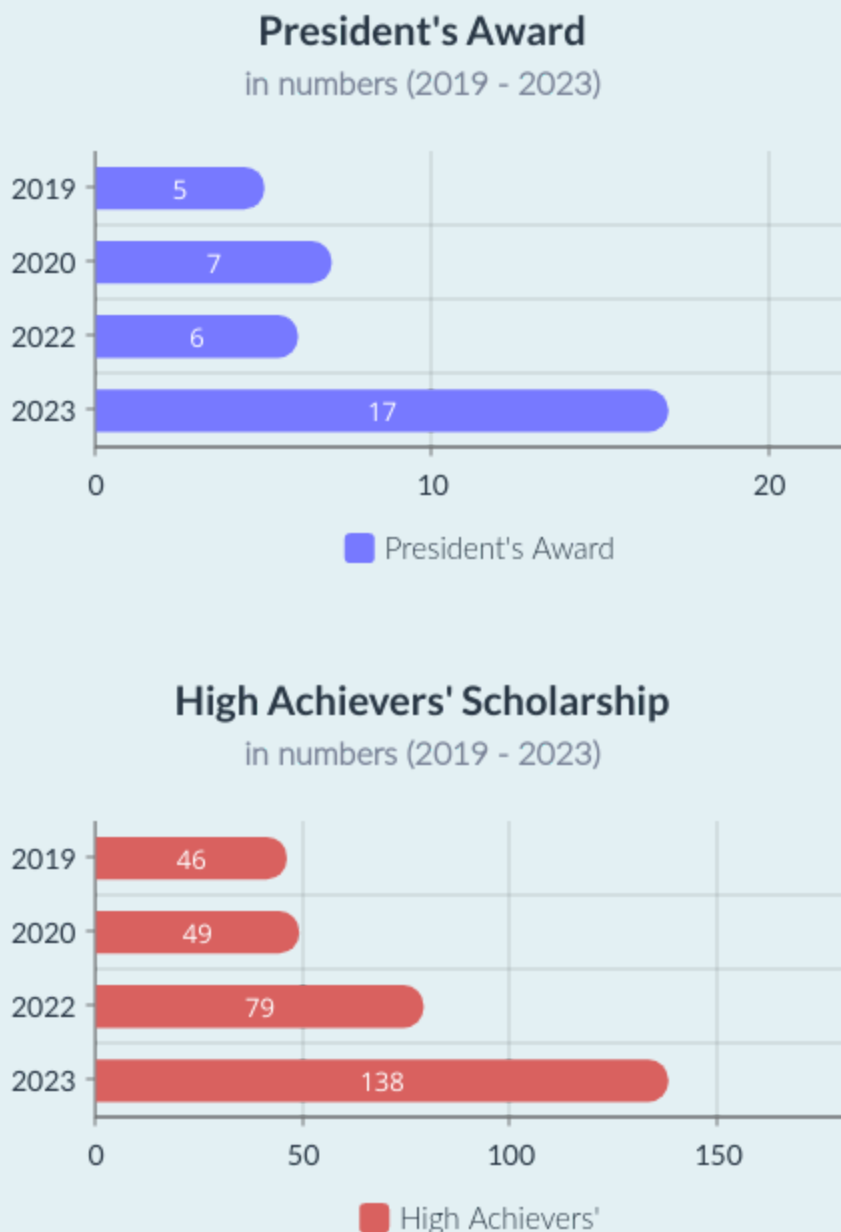
■ High Achievers'

Note: The absence of President's Awards and High Achievers' Scholarships for the year 2021 in the chart is due to the impact of Covid-19. Examinations were not held that year.

Scholarships

Scholarships: utilisation and funding

During the years 2019 to 2023, a significant number of scholarships were utilised internationally, with 634 of the 1,695 on offer being accepted by recipients. The Maldivian government funded the majority, offering 851 scholarships. This, along with efforts from other countries through agreements and partnerships, demonstrates a strong international support for educational development in Maldives. Overall, there were 1,244 fully funded scholarships, 375 partially funded, and 76 self-financed, culminating in a total of 1,695 scholarships over the five-year period.

Scholarships: annual funding by type (2019 - 2023)
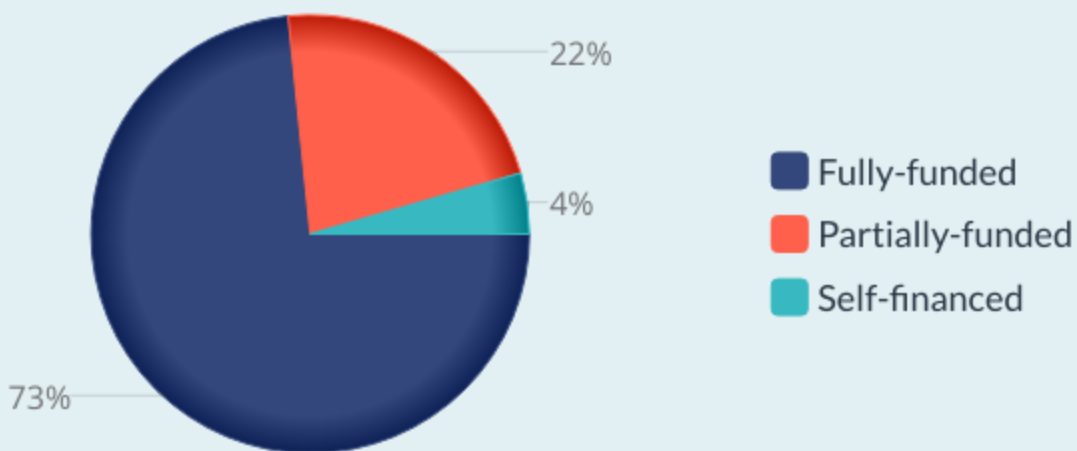
Year	Fully-funded	Partially-funded	Self-Financed	Total
2019	115	90	15	220
2020	85	69	27	181
2021	142	85	15	242
2022	346	96	11	453
2023	556	35	8	599
Total	**1,244**	**375**	**76**	**1,695**

Scholarships

Scholarships: educational status and fields

This table provides a detailed summary of the engagement of scholarship holders in various fields of study, including those who started their studies before 2019. It accounts for students who enrolled, graduated, deferred, or withdrew between 2019 and the end of September 2023. At any given point during this period, there were 1,285 students enrolled in courses.

553	**703**	**5**	**24**
Currently Studying	Graduated	Deferred	Withdrawn and/other

Note: The term 'withdrawn and/other' refers to students who have not started, those who have passed away, or those who have withdrawn from their courses.

Field of study (classified according to the ISCED	Total
Accounting and taxation	330
Architecture and town planning	19
Arts not further defined	3
Audio-visual techniques and media production	2
Biochemistry	16
Biology	7
Building and civil engineering	32
Chemical engineering and processes	6
Chemistry	3
Database and network design and administration	13
Dental studies	5
Earth sciences	6
Economics	33
Education science	5
Electricity and energy	20
Electronics and automation	3
Environmental protection technology	1
Environmental sciences	10
Fashion, interior and industrial design	5
Finance, banking and insurance	61
Food processing	3

Scholarships

Scholarships: educational status and fields (cont.)

Field of study (classified according to the ISCED)	Total
Forestry	1
Hotel, restaurants and catering	3
Information and Communication Technologies not elsewhere classified	3
Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	4
Journalism and reporting	2
Language acquisition	2
Law	23
Literature and linguistics	1
Management and administration	128
Marketing and advertising	12
Mechanics and metal trades	19
Medical diagnostic and treatment technology	18
Medicine	269
Military and defence	1
Motor vehicles, ships and aircraft	16
Nursing and midwifery	5
Occupational health and safety	1
Physics	4
Political sciences and civics	48
Psychology	21
Religion and theology	8
Social work and counselling	11
Sociology and cultural studies	4
Software and applications development and analysis	33
Statistics	3
Teacher training with subject specialisation	7
Teacher training without subject specialisation	1
Therapy and rehabilitation	8
Transport services	8
Travel, tourism and leisure	1
Veterinary	1
Other	36
Total	**1,285**

Expenditure on Higher Education

Overview

The government invested approximately 2.70 billion MVR from 2019 to September 2023 in First Degree Scheme, Higher Education Loan Scheme and scholarships. The expenditure on Higher Education Loan Scheme was the highest among all categories, totaling approximately 1.49 billion MVR. However, in 2023, up to the end of September, the highest expenditure was on scholarships, followed by First Degree Scheme and Higher Education Loan Scheme. This marked a shift from previous years when Higher Education Loan Scheme consistently accounted for the highest expenditure. Overall, the government has significantly invested in the education sector, with a notable increase in First Degree Scheme and scholarship expenditures in 2023.

Expenditure on First Degree Scheme, Higher Education Loan Scheme and Scholarships

2019 - 2023

Figures are in MVR

2.70b
Total Expenditure

1.49b
Higher Education Loans

571m
Government Scholarships

640m
First Degree Scheme

- 21.01%
- 23.67%
- 55.32%

- First Degree Scheme
- Scholarships
- Higher Education Loan Scheme

Note: The 2023 data is current as of September 30, 2023. Item level annual breakdown is provided on page 36.
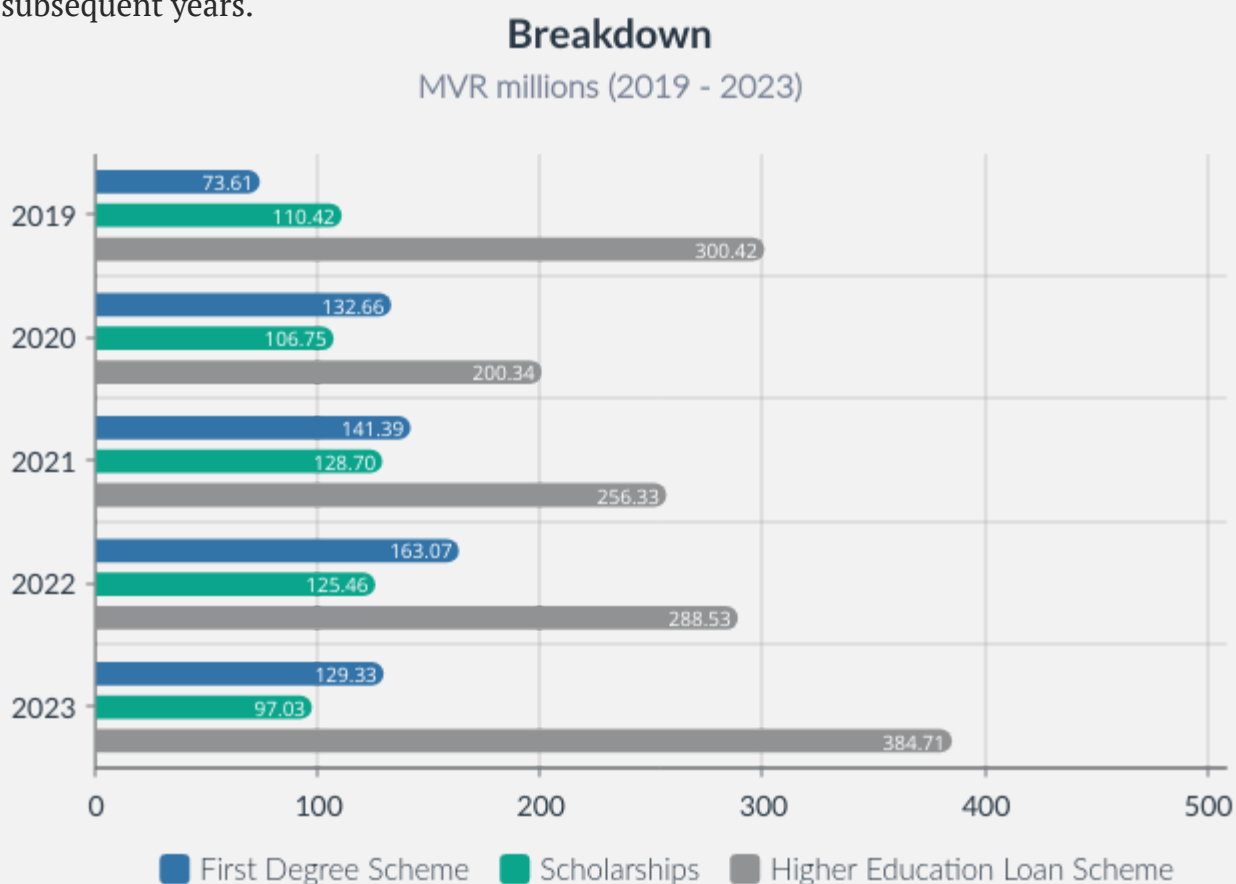
Expenditure on Higher Education

Annual Breakdown

From 2019 to 30 September 2023, the government demonstrated a steadfast commitment to higher education through various initiatives:

First Degree Scheme: The allocation stood at MVR 73.6 million in 2019 and grew significantly to MVR 163.1 million by the end of 2022.

Government Funded Scholarships: In 2019, the figure stood at MVR 110.4 million and saw a gradual rise, culminating in MVR 125.46 million by the end of 2022.

Higher Education Loan Scheme: This initiative received the highest support, with an impressive allocation of MVR 300.4 million in 2019 and robust funding in the subsequent years.

Breakdown
MVR millions (2019 - 2023)

Year	First Degree Scheme	Scholarships	Higher Education Loan Scheme
2019	73.61	110.42	300.42
2020	132.66	106.75	200.34
2021	141.39	128.70	256.33
2022	163.07	125.46	288.53
2023	129.33	97.03	384.71

Note: The 2023 data is current as of September 30, 2023.

Expenditure on Higher Education

Breakdown of annual expenditure on scholarships

Scholarship Expenditure

MVR millions (2019 - 2023)

— President's Award
— High Achievers' Scholarship
— Medical Doctors Specialisation Scholarship
— Professional Accountants Training Scholarship
— Other Scholarships
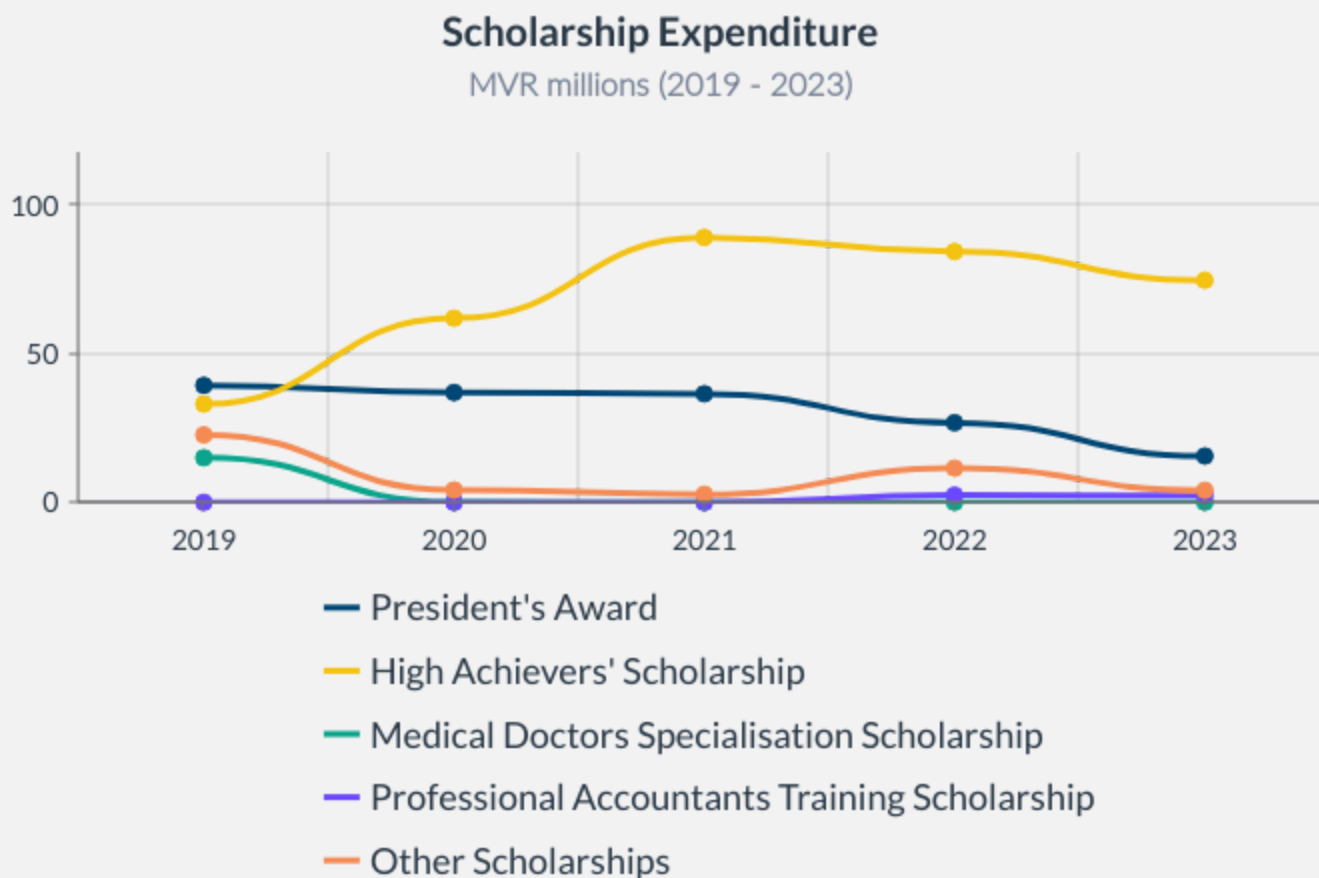
Breakdown	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
President's Award	39.45	37.06	36.64	26.86	15.64	**155.65**
High Achievers' Scholarship	33.16	62.11	89.35	84.61	74.90	**344.13**
Medical Doctors Specialisation Scholarship	15.06	3.32	0.00	0.02	0.04	**18.44**
Professional Accountants Training Scholarship	0.00	0.08	0.00	2.44	2.38	**4.9**
Other Scholarships	22.75	4.17	2.71	11.52	4.07	**45.22**
Covid Assistance	0.00	3.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	**3.32**
Total	**110.42**	**110.06**	**128.7**	**125.45**	**97.03**	**571.66**

Note: Figures for 2023 reflect data up to and including September 30, 2023

Government Sector's Training Needs Requirements 2021 - 2023

Overview

Training needs refer to the gap between the current competencies and skills of employees and the competencies and skills required to achieve optimal performance in the government across different fields. Identifying these needs is crucial for the development of targeted training programmes that enhance the workforce's knowledge, skills and abilities, ultimately contributing to the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the government sector.

In 2021, a comprehensive analysis was conducted by the government, which identified a total of 12,724 required trainings across different fields within the government sector of the Maldives. The table in this section provides a detailed breakdown of these training needs by field for MQA level five and above, as well as the total number of individuals that have completed the trainings. The number of required trainings at MQA level five and above was identified as 7,511.

The identification of training needs is a critical component in the strategic development of human capital. It ensures that the government workforce is equipped with the necessary competencies and skills to meet the challenges of today and the future.

7,511

Trainings required at MQA level five and above

56

Fields of study

19

Fields of study targets successfully met

- The total number of individuals completed the training process by the end of September 2023 is 9,275.
- The field with the highest number of required trainings completed is management and administration, with a total of 2,843 graduates.
- The necessary trainings for the fields of management and administration, education science, law, accounting and taxation, software and applications development and analysis, finance, banking and insurance, protection of persons and property, motor vehicles, ships and aircrafts, audio-visual techniques and media, production, marketing and advertising, electricity and energy, political sciences and civics, biochemistry, architecture and town planning, journalism and reporting, fashion, interior and industrial design, language acquisition, mechanics and metal trades and chemistry have been successfully concluded.

Government Sector's Training Needs Requirements 2021 - 2023

Training needs by field of study

Field of study (classified according to the ISCED)	Required	Trained
Accounting and taxation	112	601
Architecture and town planning	15	34
Audio-visual techniques and media production	57	93
Biochemistry	9	35
Biology	20	11
Building and civil engineering	62	21
Chemistry	3	4
Database and network design and administration	187	115
Dental studies	49	4
Earth sciences	34	6
Economics	45	6
Education science	125	1,008
Electricity and energy	24	41
Environmental protection technology	25	2
Environmental sciences	133	109
Fashion, interior and industrial design	1	23
Finance, banking and insurance	83	171
Food processing	14	2
Journalism and reporting	12	26
Language acquisition	13	17
Law	29	917
Literature and linguistics	12	7
Management and administration	898	2,843
Marketing and advertising	16	50
Mechanics and metal trades	3	16
Medical diagnostic and treatment technology	101	40
Medicine	255	160
Motor vehicles, ships and aircrafts	8	104
Nursing and midwifery	1,017	812

Government Sector's Training Needs Requirements 2021 - 2023

Training needs by field of study (cont.)

Field of study (classified according to the ISCED)	Required	Trained
Occupational health and safety	13	2
Pharmacy	19	8
Physics	3	2
Political sciences and civics	40	40
Protection of persons and property	6	122
Psychology	302	230
Social work and counselling	61	44
Sociology and cultural studies	31	15
Software and applications development and analysis	281	307
Sports	26	21
Statistics	40	22
Teacher training with subject specialisation	2,656	1,167
Therapy and rehabilitation	45	15
Transport services	11	2
Others	615	0
Total	**7,511**	**9,275**

Note: The 'other' category in this table includes the following areas: agriculture, care of the elderly and disabled adults, child care and youth services, electronics and automation, fisheries, history and archaeology, horticulture, library, information and archival studies, military and defence, personal skills and development, specialised law, veterinary and wholesale and retail sales.

Conclusion

The data presented highlights our achievements, acknowledges our challenges, and underscores opportunities for future growth. As we continue our pursuit of academic excellence, let these statistics guide our decisions and inspire our collective efforts to make higher education in the Maldives a model of success and progress. Together, we will continue to adapt, innovate and strive for an inclusive, high-quality higher education system that equips our students for a future of success.