

Definitions of status of Higher Education Systems

Each country is categorized in one of the following groups:

- **Closed due to COVID-19:**
Government-mandated closures of higher education institutions (HEI) affecting most or all of the student population.
- **Academic break:**
HEI across the country are on scheduled academic breaks for most or all the student population. All instructional activities are suspended during this period.
- **Fully open:**
HEI are open and deliver classes exclusively face-to-face for most or all of the student population.
- **Partially open:** HEI are:
 - a) open in certain regions and closed in others; and/or
 - b) open for some grades, levels, or age groups and closed for others; and/or
 - c) open with reduced in-person class time, combined with distance learning (hybrid approach).

Hybrid Learning

Hybrid learning is understood as incorporating any possible learning technique to best teach the content, no matter if it is online or offline combined with face-2-face instruction.

Duration of HEI closures

The duration of HEI is expressed as the number of weeks estimated by the number of days for which the status of HEI was either 'Closed due to COVID-19' or 'Partially open' divided by 7, noting that the status of the HEI at the end of the week is extended through the weekend.

Impacted student population

There are two methodologies that UNESCO have developed depending on how student under partial closures are estimated.

1. Unadjusted number of students affected

The learners impacted are the ones in countries categorized 'Closed due to COVID19'. The reported numbers of learners impacted, as featured on the right hand side of the [UNESCO map on the status of schools](#) will take the same approach¹ for HEI and will not account for learners where HEI are closed due to scheduled academic breaks, nor for those where HEI are partially closed (by region or grade/level) or when class time has been reduced.

2. Adjusted number of affected students

However, as there are millions of students living in countries where HEI are only open for some students, and which have been completely deprived from in-person teaching, a more accurate estimate on the number of impacted learners is proposed. The estimates are based on the research of UNESCO by considering those the proportion of students not attending in-person schooling at all in countries with the status "partially open".

¹ For more details, please refer to the methodological note of UNESCO map of school closures due to COVID19 available at: www.unesco.org

The table below summarizes the alternative definition of partial HEI closures taking into account geographical coverages, grades/levels, distance learning modalities.

Partially open...	Definition	Examples
Hybrid	HEI are opened and operating under a combined strategy of in-person and remote learning for the delivery of classes.	Hybrid (all levels/all regions)
By courses/programmes	HEI are opened for in-person instruction for some courses or programmes only.	Face-to-face for clinical courses in medicine (all regions)
By courses/hybrid	HEI are opened for in-person instruction for some courses or programmes only; other HEI are applying a hybrid approach for the delivery of classes.	Medicine face-to-face; Engineering hybrid; Social sciences distance (all regions)
By regions	HEI are opened for in-person instruction in some regions.	Face-to-face (region A); HEI closed (region B)
By regions/hybrid	HEI are open for in-person instruction in some regions; and others use hybrid learning; it can be the case that some HEI are closed.	Face-to-face (all programmes; region A) Hybrid (all levels region B) HEI closed (region C)
By regions/programmes	HEI are open for in-person instruction in some regions; and other regions are open for some programmes only; it can be the case that some HEI are closed.	Face-to-face (all programmes; region A) HEI closed (region B)
By regions/ by programmes/hybrid	HEI are open for in-person instruction for some programmes, in some regions, or where HEI in part of the country are applying a hybrid approach.	Face-to-face (region A) Hybrid all programmes (region B)

In this case the estimate of students affected is taking into account **the modality of delivery and the coverage of the closure by region/area** and/or programme in each country.

Delivery mode brings two categories:

- a. **Not affected students:** includes the students under **face-to-face and hybrid learning delivery**. Hybrid learning modality are considered as 'not impacted' as they have some regular in-person contact with their peers and teachers, and are able to benefit from the social services the HEI provide.
- b. **Affected students:** those students who are fully on **remote learning modality or HEI completely closed** in the region and/or grade of the HEI they attend.

Geographical/grade coverage is estimated based on the qualitative information collected by UNESCO on programmes/regions closed based on latest enrolment data.

Thus, estimating the number of students affected needs to combine the geographical/grade coverage with the modality of delivery to yield precise estimates on the total students affected as described in the table below.

Partially open...	Impacted number of students
Hybrid	Zero
By programmes	Only students in the programmes/levels that are closed , based on latest enrolment estimates
	If HEI are open only for students undertaking examinations, then 80% of the student population is considered as impacted
By programmes/hybrid	If some programmes do in person and others do hybrid learning, there then students are not impacted (Zero)
	If some programmes are open using a hybrid approach, then students are undertaking distance learning are the ones impacted
By regions	The percentage of the population in regions where HEI are closed
	When no information is available then assume 50% of the student population based on latest enrolment estimates is impacted
By regions/hybrid	If HEI are open in some regions, and others do hybrid learning, then students are not impacted (Zero)
	If some regions do hybrid, and others are undertaking distance learning, then only the ones undertaking distance learning are considered as impacted, and the percentage of the population in regions where HEI are closed
By regions/programmes	The percentage of the population in regions/programmes where HEI are closed
	When no information is available then assume 50% of the student population based on latest enrolment estimates is impacted
By regions/ by programmes/hybrid	The percentage of the population in regions/programmes where HEI are closed
	When no information is available then assume 50% of the student population based on latest enrolment estimates is impacted