

When the FPU Grant Does Not Meet the Cost of Living

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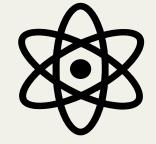


Motivation



Am I better off financially compared to my predecessors?

— PhD student / human being



Factors

PhD students salary now and then \rightarrow FPU

Evolution of goods and services \rightarrow CPI







Key concepts

FPU grant
Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Necessary concepts

FPU grants

The FPU grants are awarded by the Spanish government to students for a period of four years to conduct research and pursue a PhD.







CPI

The Consumer Price Index measures the average change over time in the prices paid by consumers for a basket of goods and services.







FPU GRANTS



The eligibility criteria remain almost constant, these grants are highly competitive, with only the top students based on academic performance qualifying for them.

Consumer Price Index

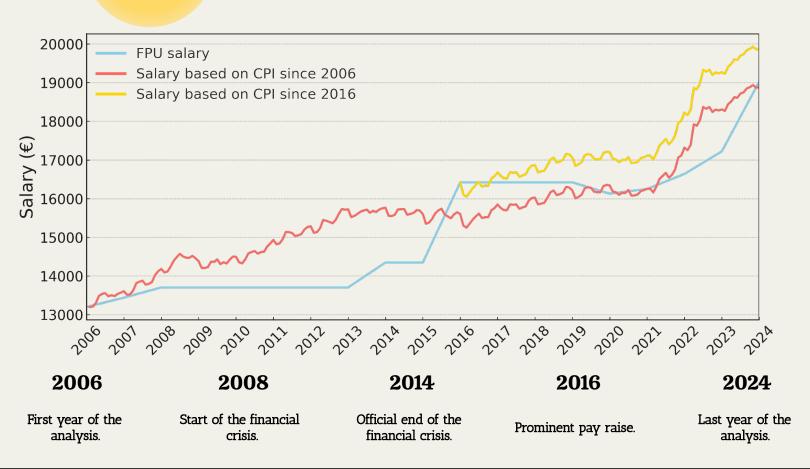


The CPI tracks changes in categories like food, energy, transportation, and housing.



Results

Salary evolution





Conclusions

Am I better off financially compared to my predecessors?

Conclusions

Grantees are now treated as employees rather than scholarship holders.

There has been no significant salary difference between being a grant holder in 2006 and being a contract staff in 2024. The economic standard of living is still that of a precarious trainee.

There is a loss of purchasing power for doctoral students.



Thank you

Questions are welcome!