



EDUCATION FACT SHEET - UGANDA

Country in Brief	<p>Population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 47,000,000 <p>National Languages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● English <p>Literacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 79% <p>Youth Literacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 90.9% (15 - 24 years) <p>Female Youth Literacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 69% <p>National Curriculum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Competency-based Curriculum <p>Years of Public School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 26 <p>Primary Language of Instruction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● English <p>High School Leaving Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Uganda National Examinations and Uganda Advanced Examinations <p>Date of Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● October and November
Academic Calendar	<p>Primary/Secondary: runs three Terms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Starting month: February, May and September ● Ending months: April, August and December. <p>Public Tertiary: runs for two Semesters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Starting month: mid-August and Early January. ● Ending month: December and Early May <p>Private Tertiary: runs for two Semesters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Starting month: mid-August and Early January. ● Ending month: December and Early May
Education Overview	<p>Education in Uganda is primarily administered in English. Across all levels of the education system, modules are taught and assessed in the English language. The government of Uganda places high importance on education, recognizing it as a fundamental human right. As part of this commitment, the government continually offers free primary education to all children. Education is delivered through government-funded institutions and private individuals or organizations.</p>
School System	<p>The education system in Uganda is structured as follows:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven years of primary education • Six years of secondary education (divided into four years of lower secondary and two years of upper secondary school) • Three to five years of post-secondary education
Language of Instruction	English
School Leaving Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Leaving Examinations (Primary Examinations) • Uganda Certificate of Education (Lower secondary examinations) • Uganda Advanced Certificate of Examinations. (Advanced secondary examinations)
Available Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manafwa High School Mbale, mixed day and boarding (s1 to s6) • Kitante Hill Secondary School - Mixed day school • Seeta High School - Mixed boarding school (S1 to S6) • St Mary's Secondary School Kitende • Maryhill High School - Boarding girls' School in Mbarara (S.1 toS.6) • Trinity College Nabbingo- Boarding girls' School. (S.1 to S.6) • St. Mary's College Kisubi - All boy's boarding school • Mount Saint Mary's College Namagunga - All-girl boarding school (S1 to S6)
Tertiary and University System	<p>Until 1988, Makerere University held the exclusive authority to confer degrees in Uganda. However, subsequent years witnessed a significant expansion in the number of higher education institutions in the country. Presently, Uganda is home to more than 50 accredited universities, encompassing both public and private institutions, along with nearly 200 institutions authorized to grant post-secondary certificates and diplomas. Amidst stagnant government funding for higher education, the private sector has experienced substantial growth. At the time of this publication, the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) website listed 46 accredited private universities.</p> <p>Higher education institutions in Uganda are categorized into three main groups: universities, other degree-awarding institutions (ODAs), and other tertiary institutions (OTIs). Accredited universities are endowed with the authority to confer certificates, diplomas, and both undergraduate and post-graduate degrees. ODAs are authorized to grant certificates and diplomas and specific undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, while OTIs are authorized to award certificates and diplomas.</p> <p>In Uganda, other tertiary institutions (OTIs) encompass a variety of colleges specializing in fields such as business, teacher training, health sciences and nursing, technical subjects, and more. All three categories, including universities, other degree-awarding institutions (ODAs), and OTIs, consist of public and private institutions. Despite the more significant number of private universities compared to public ones in Uganda (with only eight public universities as of 2019/20), public universities, which also admit fee-paying students, enroll the majority of students.</p>

	<p>Accreditation and Quality Assurance</p> <p>Uganda's National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), established in 2001, plays a crucial role in regulating the country's tertiary education sector to ensure that all higher education institutions in Uganda provide high-quality education. The NCHE oversees the accreditation and quality assurance of all higher education institutions and programs, including academic and professional ones. It sets nationwide admission standards, collects and disseminates information about the Ugandan higher education system, and advises the government on relevant education policies.</p> <p>Every academic and professional program at higher education institutions, whether public or private, must receive accreditation from the NCHE before it can be offered to students. Following the initial accreditation, the NCHE conducts program reviews every five years to ensure they meet at least the minimum quality standards. If the program meets these standards, the NCHE accredits it for five years. However, suppose the NCHE does not review and reaccredit a program within the stipulated five-year period. In that case, the program automatically loses its accreditation, and the institution must cease offering it to students.</p>
<p>Issues with the Education System</p>	<p>Uganda's education system confronts notable challenges, with a significant portion of children receiving low-quality education or, in some cases, no education. This situation leaves many young individuals ill-prepared to assume leadership roles in Uganda's future. For decades, economic disparities within Ugandan families have been pivotal in determining their children's educational outcomes and life prospects. The education system has struggled to evolve into a more interactive and practical model that allows learners to gain valuable hands-on experience, hindering the holistic development of students.</p>
<p>Academic Calendar</p>	<p>The academic year in Uganda typically runs from February to November. It is divided into three terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Term: February to May ● Second Term: June to August ● Third Term: September to November <p>This academic calendar is followed in most primary and secondary schools in Uganda. However, it's important to note that some universities and tertiary institutions may have different academic schedules.</p>
<p>SAT Test Centers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Heritage Intl Sch ● International School Of Uganda
<p>ACT Test Centers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EducationUSA center ● International School Of Uganda
<p>IELTS/TOEFL</p>	<p>ITTS Kampala (c/o ICT Centre Makerere University Business School)</p>
<p>Best Time for Admissions Officers to Visit</p>	<p>Early October</p>

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Sources:

- National Council for Higher Education
- Teach for Uganda
- WENR, British Council in Uganda
- National Curriculum Center.