



EDUCATION FACT SHEET - BURKINA FASO

In Brief	<p>Population: 23,251,485 (2023 est) Size: 274,220 km²</p> <p>National Languages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● French (Official, administrative) ● More ● Dioula <p>Literacy: 46% Youth Literacy: 58.3 % Female Youth Literacy: 53.4 %</p> <p>National Curriculum: Yes Years of Public School: 13 Years Primary School (fundamental): 6 years</p> <p>Secondary Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lower secondary education four years ● Upper secondary education three years <p>Primary Language of Instruction: French</p> <p>High School Leaving Exams: Yes Date of Exams: June</p>
Academic Calendar	<p>Primary/Secondary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Starting month: October ● Ending month: May <p>Public Tertiary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Starting month: September ● Ending month: June <p>Private Tertiary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Depends on the school
Education Overview	<p>Education System: Burkina Faso follows a formal education system that includes primary, secondary, and tertiary levels.</p>

	<p>Primary education is compulsory, and efforts have been made to increase access to education, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p>Primary and Secondary Education: The primary education cycle typically lasts for six years, followed by seven years of secondary education. The quality of education and access to schools vary significantly, with rural areas facing more challenges in terms of infrastructure and qualified teachers.</p> <p>Language of Instruction: French is the official and primary language of school instruction. However, many students in rural areas may need help to speak French as their first language, leading to language barriers in learning.</p> <p>Tertiary Education: Burkina Faso has several public and private universities offering various degree programs. However, access to tertiary education remains limited, and enrollment rates at this level are relatively low.</p>
<p>School System</p>	<p>Early Childhood Education (ECE): Early Childhood Education is the first level of the national school system and focuses on the education of children between the ages of 3 and 6 years. ECE aims to provide a foundation for future learning by fostering cognitive, social, and emotional development.</p> <p>Primary Education: Primary education is the next level in the school system and is compulsory for all children. It typically lasts for six years, starting at the age of 6. The primary education curriculum covers subjects like mathematics, languages (with an emphasis on French), science, social studies, and arts.</p> <p>Secondary Education: Secondary education follows primary education and consists of two cycles. The first cycle lasts four years, and the second lasts three years. The overall duration of secondary education is seven years. The curriculum in the secondary process is more specialized and includes subjects such as mathematics, sciences, literature, and foreign languages.</p> <p>Vocational and Technical Education: Burkina Faso also offers vocational and technical education as an alternative pathway for students seeking practical skills and vocational training. These programs aim to prepare students for the job market and can be undertaken at various institutions.</p> <p>Tertiary Education: Tertiary education includes universities and higher education institutions. Burkina Faso has several public and private universities offering multiple degree programs. Tertiary education typically requires completing the secondary education cycle and successful entrance exams.</p>

	<p>Non-Formal Education: In addition to formal education, Burkina Faso has implemented non-formal education programs to address the educational needs of adults and out-of-school youth. Non-formal education aims to provide basic literacy and numeracy skills to individuals who may have missed out on formal schooling.</p>
<p>Language of Instruction</p>	<p>French</p>
<p>School Leaving Exams</p>	<p>Yes, the Baccalauréat</p>
<p>Available Schools</p>	<p>Public Schools: Public schools are government-funded and are the most common type of schools in Burkina Faso. They offer education at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. Primary and secondary education in public schools is typically tuition-free, making it more accessible to a larger portion of the population.</p> <p>Private Schools: Private schools are also present in Burkina Faso and provide primary, secondary, and tertiary education. These schools are funded through tuition fees paid by students or their families. Private schools may offer different educational approaches and curricula compared to public schools.</p> <p>Religious Schools: Some schools in Burkina Faso are affiliated with religious institutions, such as churches or mosques. These religious schools often incorporate religious teachings along with the regular curriculum.</p> <p>Vocational and Technical Schools: Vocational and technical schools offer specialized training in various vocational fields and technical skills. These schools prepare students for specific careers and professions, such as mechanics, agriculture, nursing, and other technical professions.</p> <p>International Schools: In major cities, international schools may cater to expatriate communities or families seeking an internationally recognized education. These schools often follow international curricula and may offer instruction in multiple languages.</p> <p>Koranic Schools: Koranic schools, also known as Madrasas, focus on teaching the Quran and Islamic studies. While these schools primarily focus on religious education, some may also provide basic literacy and numeracy skills.</p> <p>Community Schools: In rural areas and underserved communities, community schools may be established to educate children who might not have access to formal schools. Local communities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) often support these schools.</p>

<p>Tertiary and University System</p>	<p>Universities: Burkina Faso has several public universities that offer a wide range of degree programs in various fields of study. These universities provide undergraduate and postgraduate education, including bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. The country's main public universities are in major cities like Ouagadougou, Bobo-Dioulasso, and Koudougou.</p> <p>Independent Ownership: Private universities in Burkina Faso are owned and operated by private organizations, religious institutions, or individuals. They are not financially supported by the government and rely on tuition fees, donations, and other funding sources to sustain their operations.</p> <p>Institutes: Besides universities, Burkina Faso has various specialized institutes that offer technical and professional education. These institutes focus on specific disciplines such as agriculture, health sciences, teacher training, and other technical fields.</p> <p>Research and Innovation: Universities and higher education institutions in Burkina Faso are also centers for research and innovation. They contribute to knowledge production and address societal challenges through research projects and collaborations.</p> <p>Duration of Programs: Bachelor's degree programs typically last three to four years, while master's programs last one to two years. Doctoral programs' duration varies based on the field of study and the research requirements.</p> <p>Languages of Instruction: French is the primary language of instruction in most tertiary institutions in Burkina Faso. However, there are efforts to promote education in local languages in some specialized programs.</p> <p>Quality and Accreditation: The quality and accreditation of higher education institutions in Burkina Faso are overseen by the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Innovation. Accreditation ensures that institutions meet certain standards and offer recognized qualifications.</p>
<p>Issues with the Education System</p>	<p>Limited Access to Education: Many children, particularly those in rural areas, face barriers to accessing education. Distance to schools, lack of proper infrastructure, and poverty contribute to low enrollment and high dropout rates.</p> <p>Shortage of Qualified Teachers: There needs to be more well-trained and qualified teachers, particularly in remote and disadvantaged areas. The need for skilled educators impacts the quality of instruction and student learning experiences.</p>

	<p>Gender Disparities: Gender disparities persist in education, with girls facing greater challenges in accessing and completing education, particularly in rural regions. Social and cultural norms, early marriages, and limited opportunities for girls contribute to these disparities.</p> <p>Limited Access to Education: Many children, particularly those in rural areas, face barriers to accessing education. Distance to schools, lack of proper infrastructure, and poverty contribute to low enrollment and high dropout rates.</p> <p>Security Concerns: In recent years, Burkina Faso has faced security challenges due to terrorism and violence, particularly in certain regions. These security issues disrupt the education system and force the closure of schools in affected areas.</p>
Academic Calendar	The academic year generally follows a calendar from September to June, with three main terms or semesters.
SAT Test Centers	International School of Ouagadougou
ACT Test Centers	International School of Ouagadougou
IELTS/TOEFL	International School of Ouagadougou, Universite Aube Nouvelle
Best time for Admissions Officers to Visit	The best time for admission officers to visit Burkina Faso would typically be during the academic year when schools and universities are in session
HALI Contacts	

Sources:

- <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/burkina-faso-population/>
- [https://www.worlddata.info/africa/burkina-faso/index.php#:~:text=The%20land%20has%20a%20total,%25\)%20resides%20within%20rural%20regions.](https://www.worlddata.info/africa/burkina-faso/index.php#:~:text=The%20land%20has%20a%20total,%25)%20resides%20within%20rural%20regions.)
- <https://knoema.com/atlas/Burkina-Faso/topics/Education/Literacy/Adult-literacy-rate#:~:text=In%202021%2C%20adult%20literacy%20rate,average%20annual%20rate%20of%2022.27%25.>