



EDUCATION FACT SHEET - UGANDA

<p>In Brief</p>	<p>SUMMARY</p> <p>Uganda Population: 39,570,125 Uganda Size: 241,038 sq km/93,065 sq mi</p> <p>National Curriculum: Yes</p> <p>Literacy: 78.4% Youth Literacy: 83.7% Female Youth Literacy: 81.7%</p> <p>Years of Public School: 13 Primary: 7 Secondary: 6</p> <p>Language of Instruction: English</p> <p>High School Leaving Exams: Yes Date of Exams: October-early December</p>
<p>Education Overview</p>	<p>British-Based System Uganda's education system is likened to the British Education system since the 1960's whereby, primary level takes seven years following which students have a wide range of options for both public and private education institutions based on their aptitude, ambitions and resources. High school is six years while university takes three to five years, depending on the course of one's choice.</p> <p>Universal Free Primary and Secondary School In 1997, the Ugandan government introduced free universal primary education to improve enrollment and attainment in primary schools. This program is being implemented in government schools and since then, enrollment has increased by 6 million from 2 million in 1986.</p> <p>In 2007, the government abolished tuition fees in public secondary schools to increase access. However, only students who have scored 28 points or higher on the national primary exam can be admitted to this universal secondary education program. The government also awards about 4,000 university scholarships each year and sponsors thousands of other students in other tertiary institutions.</p> <p>• Education Expenditure 5.3% of GDP, 28th globally</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil/Teacher Ratio, Primary School 30:1 at primary level, 35:1 in upper primary • Pupil/Teacher Ratio, Secondary School 1:30 (2009) • Languages English (official), Kiswahili (official); many indigenous languages. However, with the introduction of thematic curriculum for lower primary level, different regions teach children in the common indigenous language.
<p>School System</p>	<p>National Curriculum Uganda has a thematic curriculum for lower primary, specific curricula for upper primary and secondary school. The national curriculum emphasizes sixteen years of schooling, three in Early Childhood programs (kindergarten), seven in primary school and six in secondary school. The language of instruction used is English throughout, though the main local language is used also in lower primary because of the thematic curriculum which emphasizes it.</p> <p>Cost of Schools Despite the introduction of free universal primary education in government schools and free universal secondary education in 2007, parents still must buy uniforms and scholastic materials, contribute food and even pay development fees. Most of these government-aided schools are poor facilities with inadequate teachers though the population is high. Private schools are mushrooming in the country and many parents are enrolling their children in these schools because they are well equipped and performing well academically, however much they are very expensive.</p> <p>National Exams The Ugandan system is exam-based. After primary seven, pupils take primary leaving exams (PLE) that determine the kind of secondary school where they will enroll. Lower secondary school students sit for the Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) exams in senior four to transition to Advanced level where students also do the Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE).</p> <p>Performance on the national exams determines much of a students' future. In the case of students aspiring to Ugandan universities, the UACE dictates both the university to which a student is admitted, the course, government sponsorship and students' government loan. However, students are also free to apply to any university of their choice depending on their resources and points they have attained in UACE.</p> <p>Not surprisingly, in view of the school system's hierarchical structure, most top scorers on the national school leaving exams in all levels come from the old strong government schools and elite private schools. All national exams are done from the months of October through November for all levels. Pupils in primary seven take four subjects: Maths, English, Science and Social studies. Students senior four commonly take exams in eight subjects, most of which they have studied for four years. Their aggregate mark is based on five compulsory subjects: English, Math, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.</p> <p>A-levels Those in Advanced level take three principal subjects of their choice plus two subsidiary subjects from three: there is a mandatory general , math (if not taking principal math) or computer science (if taking principal math).</p> <p>Grading System</p>

	<p>The system has each script passing through a panel of 10 checkers to ensure added scrutiny to eliminate marking mistakes.</p> <p>A is the top grade in each principal subject and equates to 6 points. Followed by B - 5 ,C-4, D-3 ,E-2 ,0-1, F-0. Then there are two subsidiary subjects which are graded on a D-1 to F scale with D-2, C-3, C-4, C-5, C-6, C-7, P-8 and F where D-1 to C-6 equates to one point and C-7 to F is zero. For instance, if a students has A,B,B, in principal subjects and C-4 and C-6 in subsidiary subjects, then the total is 18 points</p> <p>All exams are set and marked by one examination board and the Education sector is under the Ministry of Education and Sports.</p>
Issues with the Education System	<p>Too Few Resources, Too Many Students</p> <p>Uganda has inadequate budgetary resources to meet current and emerging priorities, along with capacity gaps in education. Teaching methods are old- fashioned and books are not only inadequate but also poorly used. Social and cultural practices affect the attitudes and perceptions of education, thus affecting performance of the sector. Mushrooming poor-quality universities are more business-oriented than academic-centered, leading to an increase of low-quality students lacking both skills and motivation.</p>
Academic Calendar	<p>The Ministry of Education and Sports releases an annual academic calendar for primary schools, colleges and high school. It is mainly limited to the institutions that follow the national curriculum. Government/public schools, whether primary or secondary, have three terms: 1) First term: January to mid-May; 2) Second term; June to August; 3) Third term: September to December. National exams are administered from October to early December.</p> <p>It is worth noting that students have only two long holidays between terms which consist of three weeks in Term 1 and December, and a short holiday break in August. Schools also determine their visitation days especially for students each term but priority can also be given under special considerations. Final national results are released in January and February though those joining university take almost a full year before applying in August for admission.</p>
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ACT Test Center	International School of Uganda
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Sources:

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