

ANGLOPHONE WEST AFRICA:

CREDENTIALS, RECRUITMENT & RESOURCES

**GAMBIA
GHANA
LIBERIA
NIGERIA
SIERRA LEONE**

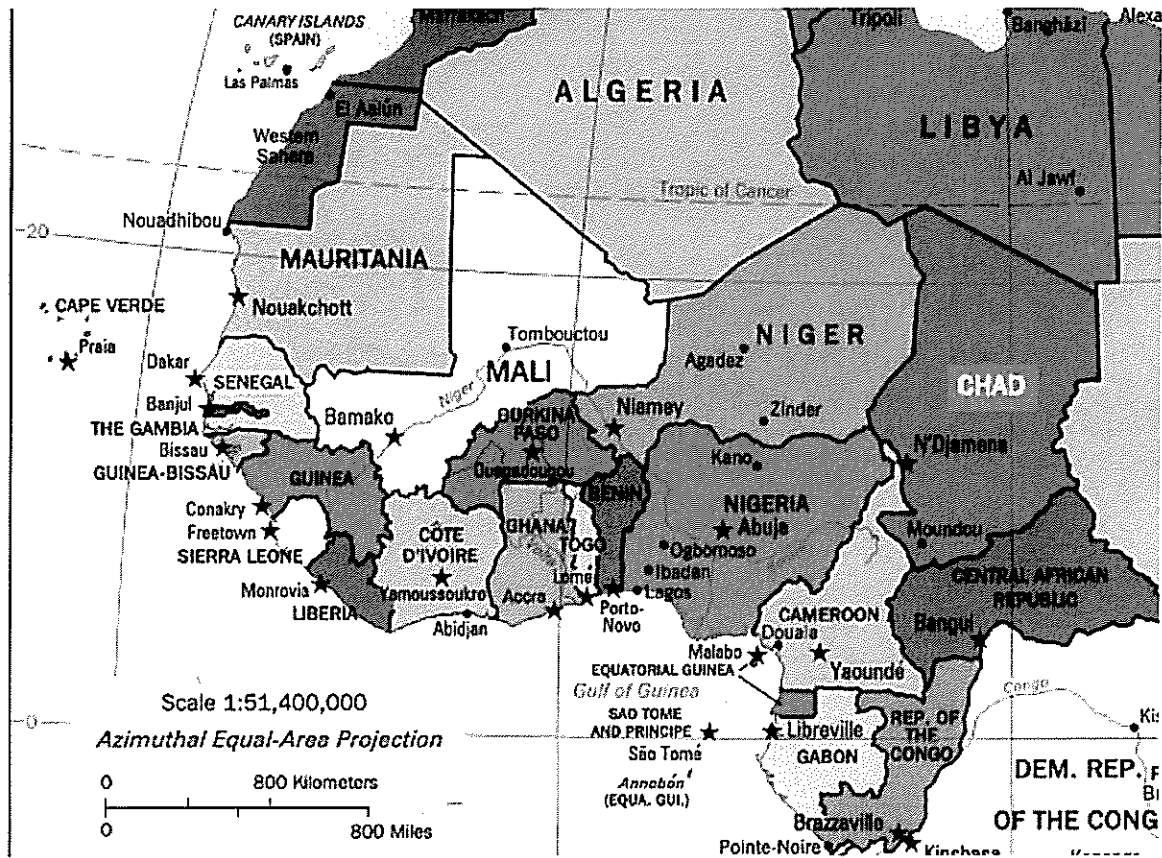
**NAFSA Conference
Washington, DC, May 2008**



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Anglophone West African Educational Systems

Introduction

The five countries comprising Anglophone West Africa – Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone – have much in common: English is their sole official language and language of instruction, and they all belong to the West African Examinations Council, WAEC.

Enrollments in the United States, 2006-07:

Country	Total Students	Undergrads	Graduates	Others	OPT	English	Scholars
Gambia	390	310	49	8	5	2	16
Ghana	3104	1371	1284	258	48	4	139
Liberia	345	257	66	8	5	2	7
Nigeria	6223	3569	1820	483	71	7	273
Sierra Leone	316	199	81	14	5	2	15
Totals	10378	5706	3300	771	134	17	450
		55%	32%	7%	1%	0%	4%

Source: IIE Open Doors, 2007

Because more than half of U.S. enrollments from these five countries are at the undergraduate level, this presentation focuses primarily on secondary school credentials for undergraduate admission, although higher education information is provided for the guidance of those concerned with transfer and graduate admissions.

Four of these countries are former British colonies that operated the O- and A-level system until the Senior Secondary School system was introduced, first in Nigeria (1989), followed by Ghana (1993) and later Gambia (1999) and Sierra Leone (2000). The last O- and A-levels in the region were administered in 1999, so it is increasingly rare for U.S. admissions offices to receive credentials from this "old system" of education.

Liberia, because of its long affiliation with the United States, followed an American educational pattern, but joined WAEC in 1974 and partially adopted the Anglophone West African system, known as the Senior High School Certificate Examinations. In both Liberia and Sierra Leone, phasing in of new educational systems was severely disrupted by civil wars between 1990-2003.

The West African Senior Secondary School System

The Senior Secondary School is a twelve-year, 6+3+3 system that conveniently parallels that of the United States, consisting of six years of primary school beginning at age 6 followed by three years of junior secondary school and then three years of senior secondary school. University bachelor degree programs are of four years' duration.

Anglophone West African ministries of education have established policies mandating and supporting nine years of basic education, through the completion of junior secondary school, equivalent to the American ninth grade, under the aegis of "free, compulsory, universal basic education," or F-CUBE. In many parts of the region, free and universal education is still an ideal. Only about one-third of students completing nine years of basic education go forward to senior secondary school, and only about one-third of senior secondary school graduates continue on to higher education in these countries.

The West African Examinations Council, WAEC, develops, administers, and grades the school leaving examination for each country. Students in Nigeria, Gambia, Ghana and Sierra Leone take the unified exam, WASSCE; until 2006, Ghana used a parallel exam, SSCE, which merged into the regional WASSCE. Liberia's exams remain separate.

A statement from the WAEC website reads:

"The West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) was introduced in 1998 as part of the educational reform programmes of the member countries and it is administered twice a year - in May/June and in November/December.

"One unique feature of the new examination is that it combines school-based continuous assessment results with the Council's own assessment on a ratio of 30:70. The standard of the examination is the same as the Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE) which until 1999 was run in Nigeria and the Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (SSSCE) still being taken in Ghana.

"The WASSCE is a terminal as well as a qualifying examination for admission into the universities and other tertiary institutions, and it is administered to school candidates in the third year of the Senior Secondary School educational programme. There is also a private candidates' version.

"As a result of the introduction of the WASSCE, the SC/GCE (Ordinary Level) and GCE (Advanced Level) examinations were phased out in all member countries in 1999. Accordingly admission into the universities in member countries will ultimately be based on passes in the WASSCE at the level of grade 6 or better in five subjects, including English Language. Some Universities may also offer a University Entrance Examination in addition to a preliminary one-year course before the usual three-year degree programme for the WASSCE candidates. Thus the first-degree programme will take four years."

Admission Recommendations

- **Verify all documents at source!** In Ghana and Nigeria, WAEC results can be verified online; instructions appear in country sections below.
- **Be flexible, but ensure that the student takes responsibility** throughout the application process. Demand high standards and you'll get them: a variety of essays, e-mail correspondence, credible documentation, etc.
- **Require a standardized test.** More competitive applicants should be able to take SAT/GRE, especially in Nigeria and Ghana where these tests are readily available.
- **Look for evidence of English proficiency before demanding TOEFL.** Although English is the sole official language and the sole language of instruction in all five countries, standards vary widely, and each student's case must be considered individually. Blanket requirements or waivers by country are not advisable.

The EducationUSA Network: Look for our Logo

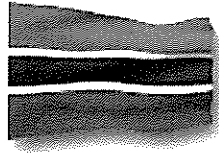


Professional Educational Advisors are working for you and your students in the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in each of the subregion's five countries (and in a total of 38 countries in Africa). EducationUSA Advising Centers provide comprehensive, current, unbiased, and accurate guidance on all accredited institutions of higher education in the United States. Serious students seek out our "no shortcuts" advising programs. Refer your applicants to the nearest EducationUSA Advising Center by putting our logo and a link to www.educationUSA.state.gov on your admissions website and instructing students to contact us for assistance throughout the admission process. We also offer Pre-Departure Orientation programs in June and July each year.

Students who use Educational Advising services are more likely to select suitable schools, complete their applications, plan their finances, represent themselves honestly, qualify for visas, attend pre-departure orientation, succeed in university, and return home.

Educational Advisors are "guidance counselors to the nation" in countries where schools lack guidance programs. We are your source of information about educational systems, credentials, documentation, verification, interpretation, whether for entire systems or individual students.

Refer all of your international applicants to the nearest EducationUSA advising center to ensure that they go through the application process properly, and don't hesitate to e-mail the advisor with your questions – we want to work with you!



THE GAMBIA

Area:	11,300 sq.km (4,400 sq.mi.), twice the size of Delaware
Population:	1.7 million
Tertiary Age:	146,500
Literate:	40%
HIV/AIDS:	1% of adult population
Life Expectancy:	55 years
Nationality:	Gambian
Capital:	Banjul
GDP Per Capita:	\$800-\$1,900 (purchasing power parity)

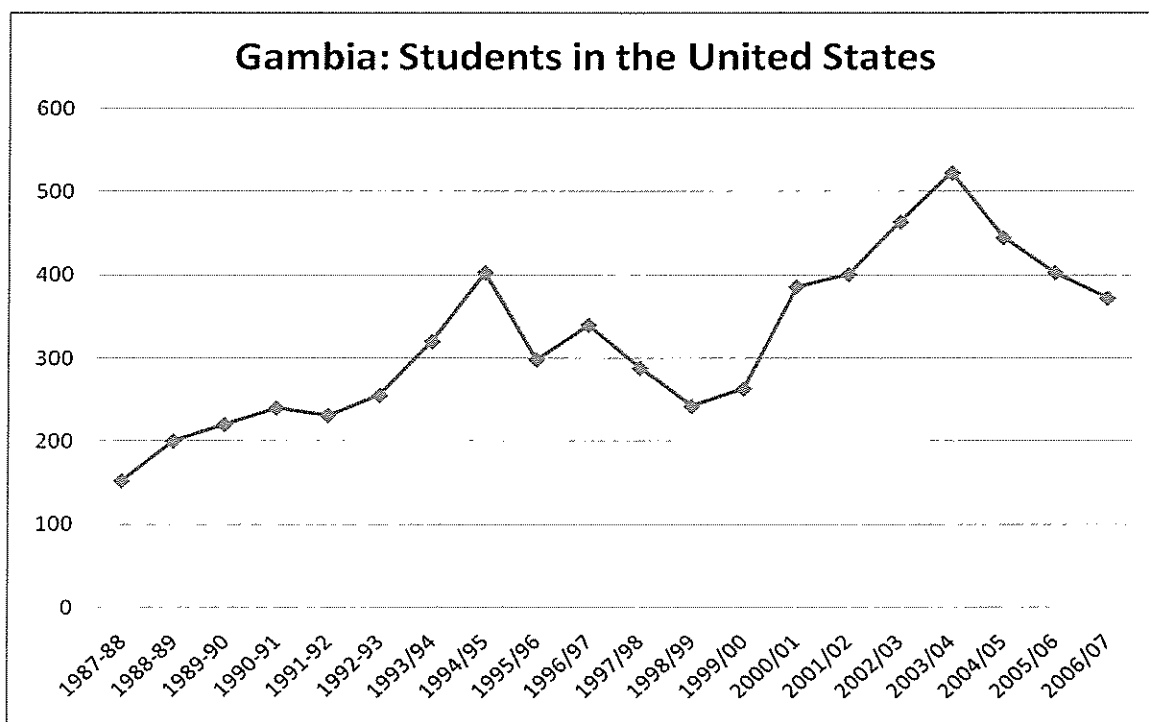
Gambian Students in the U.S.	372	Per 100,000 tertiary population:	254 (#2 in Africa)
1-year change:	-8%		
4-year change:	-20%		
Student (F) visas issued 2007:	94 (1-yr decrease: 7%)		

Educational Advisor: Mohamadou Papa Njie NjieMM@state.gov

Consisting of the 470-km basin of the Gambia River with 20 km of land on each bank, The Gambia is the smallest country on the African continent. The population is 99% African and 90% Muslim; only half the country's residents are Gambian nationals. A British colony until independence in 1965, Gambia is English-speaking. Its combined gross enrollment ratio for primary, secondary and tertiary education is 50, average for Sub-Saharan Africa but well below the world average of 68 and the U.S. level of 93. Its per capita GDP is also average for Sub-Saharan Africa yet far below the world average of \$9,500 or the U.S. \$41,890.

Gambia is such a small country that it did not launch a higher education system until 1999. The University of The Gambia is only beginning to produce graduates. For this reason, demand for undergraduate education in the United States and elsewhere is strong, and virtually all graduate applicants will have completed their undergraduate education outside of The Gambia.

Gambian students in the U.S. are enrolled in more than 154 accredited institutions of higher education in 35 states. Rust College in Mississippi and Navarro College in Texas together enroll 19% of all the Gambians in the United States. 83% of all Gambians in the U.S. are undergraduates, and almost half of these are enrolled in two-year institutions.



Secondary School / Admission to Undergraduate Study

In order to be considered the equivalent of high school graduates and eligible for university admission, students must complete three years of senior secondary school and take the WASSCE, obtaining grades of C6 (“credit”) or better in at least five subjects, including English, a science or math subject, and a humanities or social science subject. Grades of D7 and E8 are bare passes that do not earn credit and cannot be counted towards qualifications for higher education.

WASSCE Grading System:

A1	75-100%	Excellent
B2	70-74%	Very Good
B3	65-69%	Good
C4	60-64%	Credit
C5	55-59%	Credit
C6	50-54%	Credit
D7	45-49%	Pass
E8	40-44%	Pass
F9	0-39%	Fail

Verification of WASSCE:

The Registrar
 West African Examinations Council
 11 Marina Parade
 Banjul, The Gambia
 Tel: (220) 4 22 88 14; (220) 4 22 83 40
 Fax: (220) 4 22 92 38

For verification of school transcripts, contact school principals at addresses listed on school documents or through the Educational Advisor.

Documents required for local university admission: WASSCE certificate, school transcript and testimonial.

University / Admission to Graduate Study

The University of The Gambia, founded in 1999, awards the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and medical and nursing degrees in eight departments or schools and 23 majors. The Bachelor's degree is normally awarded after four years of study, except in cases where students are admitted with credit awarded from non-degree post-secondary institutions.

University Grading System:

Excellent	=	90-100 (A+); 80-89 (A); 70-79 (A-)
Good	=	67-69 (B+); 64-66 (B); 60-63 (B-)
Satisfactory	=	57-59 (C+); 54-56 (C); 50-53 (C-)
Marginal Pass	=	40-49 (D)
Fail	=	0-39 (F)

Graduate applicants should submit their Degree Certificate, transcripts of examination results, testimonials, and recommendations.

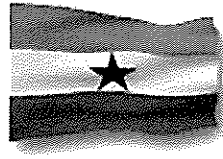
To verify documents, contact:

The Registrar
University of The Gambia
Administration Building
P.O. Box 3530
Serrekunda
The Gambia
Tel: (220) 4 39 32 91; (220) 4372213; 4395062; 4395065; Fax: (220) 4 39 50 64
e-mail: unigambia@qanet.gm
web: <http://www.unigambia.gm>

Standardized Testing

The TOEFL is offered as an Internet-based test on a regular basis, the SAT four times a year, the GRE once. The nearest GMAT test center is in Senegal.

Educational Advisor: Mohamadou Papa Njie, NjieMM@state.gov
Tel: (220)392856
Fax: (220)392475
<http://banjul.usembassy.gov>



GHANA

Area:	238,300 sq.km (92,000 sq.mi.), the same size as Oregon
Population:	22.4 million
Tertiary Age:	2,397,700
Literate:	58%
HIV/AIDS:	3% of adult population
Life Expectancy:	59 years
Nationality:	Ghanaian
Capital:	Accra
GDP Per Capita:	\$1,400-\$2,480 (purchasing power parity)

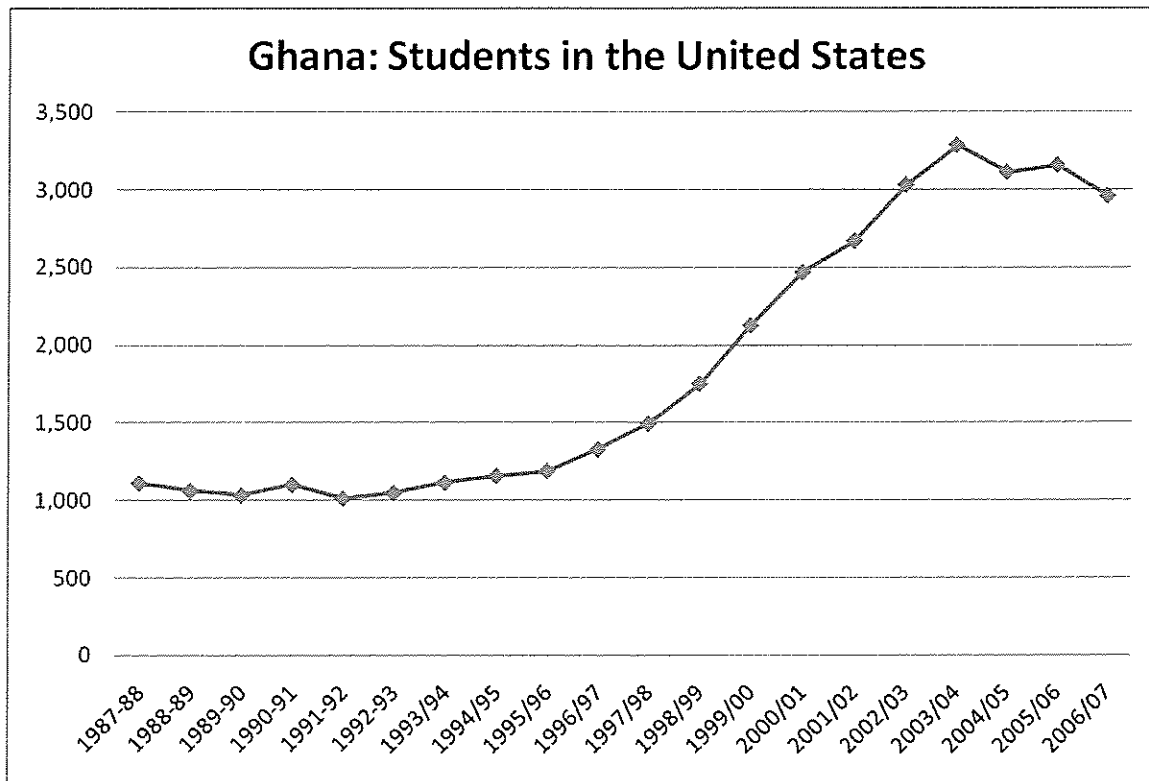
Ghanaian Students in the U.S. 2,961 Per 100,000 tertiary population: 123 (6th in Africa)
1-year change: -6%
4-year change: -2%
Undergraduates: 46%
Student (F) visas issued 2007: 842 (*1-yr increase: 23%*)

Educational Advisors:	Bernice Affotey (Accra)	<u>AffoteyB@state.gov</u>
	Ben Fiebor (Accra)	<u>FieborB@state.gov</u>
	Marilyn Owusu (Kumasi)	<u>Mdrowus@yahoo.com</u>

Ghana, as the first African country to attain independence (1957) after the colonial period, is also known for the independent and adventurous spirit of its people. No strangers to traveling abroad for higher education, today's students draw on an international education heritage that started when the first Ghanaians earned doctoral degrees in Europe in the 1740s.

With 2,961 students officially enrolled in regionally accredited institutions, Ghana stands third in Africa, behind Kenya and Nigeria, in the number of students in the United States. Ghanaians are enrolled in some 600 institutions in 50 states. States enrolling more than one hundred Ghanaians include New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maryland, Illinois, Virginia, Texas, and Michigan. Compared to other African countries, Ghana has a higher proportion of graduate students in the United States, constituting 43% of the total. 19% of the undergraduates attend two-year colleges, the lowest rate in the region. Ghanaian students have made their mark on U.S. education and are known for their sophistication in the admissions process: students who used EducationUSA Advising services are awarded \$5 million in new financial assistance each year.

Students who use the Accra and Kumasi educational advising services of the U.S. Embassy enjoy a relatively high rate of visa issuance, while those who resort to other means to gain admission are more likely to be disappointed.



Secondary School / Admission to Undergraduate Study

Over 500 public schools operate the curriculum that leads to the West African Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination, or WASSCE, graduating 120,000 students a year in a system that has quadrupled the number of graduates over the last dozen years. Private secondary education, in contrast, is tiny: a handful of institutions graduate fewer than 300 students a year in the A-level and IB systems. Because admission to SSS is by competitive examination, the leading schools attract the best students in the country and are highly competitive. Most schools are boarding schools, an experience that makes students more resourceful, tolerant and resilient, and more aware of the society in which they live.

Subjects taken in the senior secondary school are classified as either Cores or Electives. The Core subjects, taken by all students, are: English Language, Mathematics, Integrated Science, and Social Studies. Each student also takes three or four Electives, carrying the same subjects throughout the three years of SSS. Fifty elective subjects are offered, classified into six categories: general arts, general sciences, agriculture, technical, business, and vocational (visual arts and home economics). Although the general arts and sciences groups are more academic in orientation, successful graduates from all groups are eligible to enter university because of the foundation of their Core subjects.

The academic year is divided into three terms of 13-14 weeks each, with 'terminal reports' (report cards) issued at the end of each term. The final term exam counts as 70% of the grade for each subject, while class work counts as the other 30%. Schools may issue letter or percentage grades and will enter a grade interpretation on the transcript. The cutoff point for the grade of 'A' can range from 70% in some schools to 80% in others, but either way, exams are designed so that only a small portion of students get A's. Rank in class appears on terminal reports, but not on

transcripts. In the final year, SS3 (twelfth grade), no grades appear on the transcript for the third term, because the WASSCE exam grade is considered the term grade.

SSCE Grading System	WASSCE Grading System	Points
Credit Grades		
A	A1	1
B	B2	2
C	B3	3
D	C4, C5, C6	4
Pass Grades: not acceptable for tertiary admission		
E	D7, E8	Pass – no credit
Failing Grade		
F	F9	FAIL

The grading system on the WASSCE is stringent: A's constitute less than three percent of all grades, and 40% of students fail any given subject.

The *aggregate* is calculated by adding up the points for the student's grades in Core English, Math and Science, plus the three best Elective subjects. This a student with six A1's would score the best possible aggregate of 6, while a student with six C's would get aggregate 24.

The Ministry of Education sets the standard for high school equivalency and eligibility for higher education at aggregate 24, or a C average. Public universities now cut off admission at aggregate 20, while other tertiary institutions require a minimum aggregate of 24. Students who do not make aggregate 24 or better have to take remedial SSCE/WASSCE exams, as private candidates, in late fall, in order to better their results. American admissions officers should always that they do not offer admission to unqualified graduates whose aggregates are below aggregate 24.

The vast majority of Ghanaian students apply to U.S. undergraduate institutions during the mandated year off between secondary school graduation and university entrance; very few apply during their final year of SSS.

A complete Ghanaian application must include both the transcript and SSCE results. Transcripts present the temptation of forgery (in all regions of the world), and are hard to verify; when in doubt, ask your student to send you copies of his/her terminal reports, which are hand written and much more difficult to forge. Do not hesitate to telephone the school or e-mail the educationUSA advisors if you have questions. Unfortunately, e-mail contact with Ghanaian schools is not common.

WASSCE results can and should always be verified. To verify results, instruct the applicant to buy a WAEC access card or scratch card (cost is less than \$3) and e-mail you the card's serial number and PIN. You can then go to <http://ghana.waecdirect.org>, enter the student's information including the index number and details of when and where the exam was taken, and instantly access the student's results. Each card can be used only three times, so make sure you enter the information correctly and only once. The results of all students, for all SSCE/WASSCE exams given since 1993, are available through the WAECDirect system, and the cards are available at every post office: don't accept excuses under any circumstances.

University / Admission to Graduate Study

The National Council on Tertiary Education defines 'tertiary' as all accredited degree or diploma (sub-degree) awarding institutions. Tertiary institutions include the nine public universities, 21 private universities, ten public polytechnics, teacher training colleges, and other non-degree, college-level institutions. A complete list of accredited institutions recognized by the National Accreditation Board can be found at www.nab.gov.gh. Total enrollment in universities and polytechnics now exceeds 100,000, with a further 26,000 in nursing and teacher training colleges.

Public universities:

University of Ghana: www.ug.edu.gh (includes Atomic campus)

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology: www.knust.edu.gh

University of Cape Coast: www.ucc.edu.gh or www.uccghana.net

University of Education, Winneba: www.uew.edu.gh

University for Development Studies: www.uds.edu.gh

University of Mines and Technology: www.umat.edu.gh

Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration: www.gimpa.edu.gh

Ghana Telecom University College: www.gtuc.edu.gh

The Higher National Diploma (HND) offered by the polytechnics is a three-year, college-level program in a wide range of applied fields mainly in technology and business. Teacher training colleges are also of three years' duration. The competence of individual students from these systems varies widely; transfer credit should be determined cautiously.

University grading systems:

A = 80-100% (in some institutions, 70 or 75% and above)

B = 70-80%

C = 60-70%

D = 50-60%

E = 40-50%

F = 0-39% [Fail]

Transcript formats in tertiary institutions vary widely, even within a single institution, from department to department and from year to year. Verification is essential.

Standardized Testing

The SAT is offered on all six test dates in four locations in two cities. The TOEFL, GRE and GMAT are administered daily in the computer-based test center. Thus testing is universally accessible, and the majority of students can be expected to perform creditably on tests, as appropriate.

Educational Advisors:

Bernice Affotey (Accra)

AffoteyB@state.gov

Ben Fiebor (Accra)

FieborB@state.gov

Tel. 233-21-741000 ext. 1116 and 1531

Marilyn Owusu (Kumasi)

Mdrowus@yahoo.com

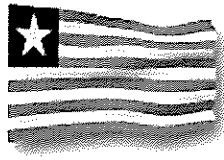
Tel. 233-24-436-9027

<http://ghana.usembassy.gov>

Regional Educational Advising Coordinator for Africa:

Nancy Keteku

Keteku@africaonline.com.gh



LIBERIA

Area:	111,400 sq.km (43,000 sq.mi.), slightly larger than Tennessee
Population:	3.3 million
Tertiary Age:	352,800
Literate:	58%
HIV/AIDS:	6% of adult population
Life Expectancy:	41 years
Nationality:	Liberian
Capital:	Monrovia
GDP Per Capita:	\$500 (purchasing power parity)

Liberian Students in the U.S.	336	Per 100,000 tertiary population:	95 (#9 in Africa)
1-year change:	-8%		
4-year change:	-37%		
Undergraduates:	77%		
Student (F) Visas issued 2007:	51	<i>(1-yr increase 21%)</i>	

Educational Advisors:	Binta Massaquoi	<u>MassaquoiBB@state.gov</u>
	Franklyn Johnson	<u>JohnsonFD@state.gov</u>

Liberia, founded by freed slaves repatriated from the United States in 1822, is modern Africa's oldest republic, having declared its independence in 1847. Close ties with the United States resulted in an educational system, as well as certain aspects of the country's culture and language, derived from American models. The country is rich in agricultural and mineral resources, but its long civil war starting in 1989 has greatly hampered economic development. The government established after 2003 has held the peace, and reconstruction is beginning.

As a result of fifteen years of war, education was interrupted for virtually all students; millions were displaced, losing academic documentation, and institutions were destroyed, making documentation and verification unreliable at best. The Liberian Commission for Higher Education is working closely with the Association of Liberian Universities (ALU), whose membership is made up of the six top Universities in Liberia, to update and define the criteria to accredit tertiary education programs. ALU institutions have invested extensive resources into rebuilding their campus, recruiting professors and meeting the demand for education the best they can with the resources available to them. They readily admit there is a long way to go to be competitive with the world, but each Institution is actively contributing to the efforts to raise the bar.

The United States Embassy in Monrovia remained open throughout the war, although student advising and visa services were often disrupted for weeks at a time.

Admissions officers receive applications from Liberians in Liberia, from Liberians resident in the United States, and from Liberians resident in other countries, particularly within West Africa. Each group presents its own set of challenges.

- Where documentation cannot be reliably verified at source, admissions officers may require fresh credentials, such as TOEFL or other standardized tests.
- Liberian applicants resident in North America or Europe can take CLEP, community college courses, online courses, on-campus placement tests, etc. to establish or refresh their credentials.
- Liberian applicants claiming refugee status in other West African countries are normally expected to return home to Liberia and establish ties before they can be eligible for non-immigrant U.S. student visas. It is extremely difficult for nationals of any country to obtain student visas in any other country.
- Liberian applicants resident in Liberia should be required to have their academic documents verified by the Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy.

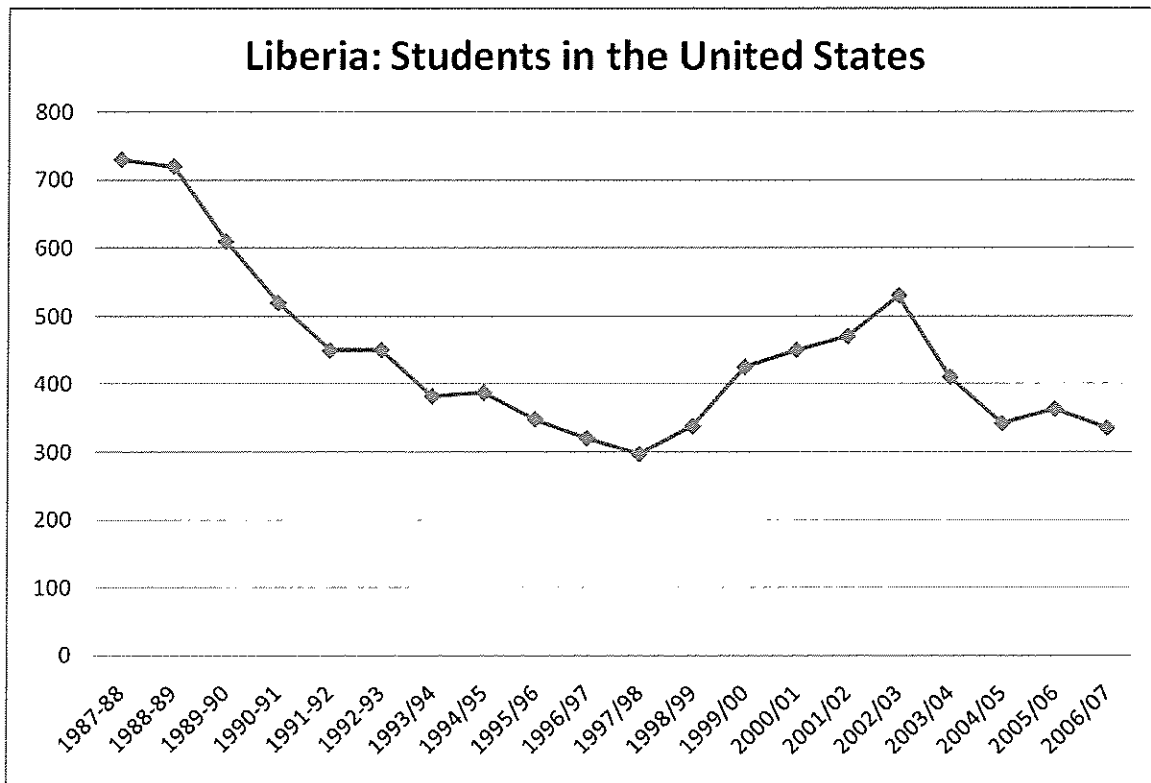
Liberian students in the U.S. are enrolled in more than 122 regionally accredited institutions in 37 states; the most popular institutions are community colleges in Maryland (Montgomery, Prince George's, and Howard), East Tennessee State University, and UMass Boston. Seventy-seven percent of Liberians are undergraduates; half of these are enrolled in two-year institutions. One assumes that the majority of Liberia's graduate students earned their undergraduate degrees in the United States, because very few graduate applicants use the Educational Advising Center in Monrovia.

A major issue in Liberian education is the accreditation. The Government of Liberia uses the term 'accreditation' to refer both to the legal licensing or permit for the institution, as well as for determining the quality of educational programs. At present, the Government of Liberia financially supports and provides permanent licenses or accreditation to the University of Liberia and Cuttington University. To date no institution has programmatic accreditation. The Government of Liberia through their Commissioner of Higher Education does certify that the six members of the Association of Liberian Universities (listed below) represent the best of tertiary education at the present time.

While the standards for programmatic accreditation are being determined, suspected diploma mills and the corruption of other higher education authorities threaten to damage the system as a whole. See www.osac.state.or.us/oda/diploma_mill.html for extensive discussion.

Standardized Testing

The TOEFL and SAT are available as paper-based tests at Stella Maris Polytechnic. Fewer than ten students register for any scheduled exam. The nearest test center for the GRE and GMAT is in Ghana. We anticipate setting up an Internet-based TOEFL center at the U.S. Embassy by 2009.



Secondary School / Admission to Undergraduate Study

Liberian students take the Junior High School Certificate Examination at the end of the ninth grade, and the Senior High School Certificate Examination at the end of twelfth grade, both administered by WAEC. University officials estimate that 4,000-5,000 high school seniors take the exams each year, from about three hundred high schools.

Because of the change to a new system in order to have a similar grading system with other West African countries, there was a change made also to the WAEC certificate. The Senior High School Certificate was changed to the West African Examination Council Senior School Certificate, which has been in use since 1996. The grading system in high schools is on a scale of 0-100%, where 70% is the minimum passing grade.

For U.S. undergraduate admission, Liberian applicants should submit their High School Diploma accompanied by the transcript showing passing grades above 70% in all subjects, plus their WAEC certificates.

WAEC changed its grading system in 1996-7. Under the old system, students were eligible for the school certificate if they obtained minimum passing grades of 50% in each subject offered in the WAEC National Examination and a minimum of 70% in each school grade. The combined grades of both the school and National examination of each subject must be 60%.

Under the new system, a descending scale of 1 to 9 is used on the WAEC certificate. Only grades 1 to 8 are shown on the certificate, where 1 is excellent, 2 very good, 3 good, 4, 5, and 6 credit, 7 and 8 pass, and 9 fail. A student must pass in the six best subjects of his or her choice. WAEC then classifies each student's composite results as Division 1, Division 2, Division 3, or Fail.

Local universities do not have full confidence in school transcripts or WAEC examinations, so they administer entrance exams as part of their admission process. Applicants are exempted from entrance exams if they have passed their WAEC exams in Division 1 or 2, but such students are very rare.

Verification of Documents:

Hon. Sylvester Saingbaye
Assistant Minister for Instruction
Ministry of Education
Republic of Liberia
Monrovia, Liberia
Cell Phone: + 37747-523658

Mr. Thomas K. Gaie
Head of National Office
WAEC Liberia
Cell: + 06554264
Email: waecliberia@yahoo.com
Email: TomGae2000@yahoo.com
Box 2883
Monrovia

Dr. Michael Slawon
Director General
National Commission on Higher Education
Ministry of Education
Republic of Liberia
Cell Phone: 06-660-067
Email: dr.slawon@yahoo.com
Email: comhighereducation@yahoo.com

University / Admission to Graduate Study

Bachelor's degree programs are four years in duration. Associate degrees are also offered. The grading system at universities is:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = 0-59% fail

Liberia has six functioning institutions of higher education. Enrollment figures were provided by university officials in May 2008, and reflect enormous pent-up demand.

University of Liberia

PO Box 9020, Capital Hill
Monrovia
Ms. Florence S. Blyden
Dean of Admissions, Records and Registration
Cell: + 37747-57406

Founded in 1851, the university awards bachelor's degrees in arts, sciences, laws, and medicine. It is the only public institution of higher education in the country. Over fifteen thousand students are enrolled, seven thousand of them majoring in business.

Cuttington University

PO Box 10-0277, Suacoco
Monrovia
Mobile: 06-425-559

Fax 231-22-6059

Web <http://www.cuttington.org>

Mr. Gengaly M. Kamara

Email: curegistraroffice@yahoo.com

Office of Registrar and Dean of Admission

Dating back to 1889, CU is administered by the Protestant Episcopal Church, offering Bachelor's degrees to 1900 students in six colleges. Cuttington also has a city campus offering graduate programs to 300 students in business, health, and education; it is the only functioning graduate school in the country.

African Methodist Episcopal University (AMEU)

PO Box 3340, Camp Johnson Rd

Monrovia

Mr. George T. Wilson III

Dean of Admissions, Records and Registration

Cell: + 06-547-180

Founded in 1995, this private institution has built a reliable reputation, offering Bachelor's degrees in social sciences, humanities, business and theology and enrolling over 3,000 students.

United Methodist University

Monrovia

Mr. Jessie Cooper

Dean of Admissions, Records, and Registration

Email: umiversity@yahoo.com

Tel: 077-702-7208

African Methodist Episcopal Zion University

P. O Box 9063, Camp Johnson Rd

Monrovia

Mr. R. Kofa Kloh

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Stella Maris Polytechnic

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A Catholic institution, Stella Maris enrolls over 1,000 students in five colleges; ninety percent of its faculty have master's degrees. They are national leaders in technology and ICT.

Educational Advisors:

Binta Massaquoi

Franklyn Johnson

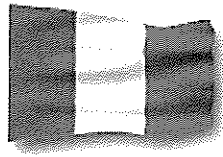
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NIGERIA

Area: 923,800 sq.km (357,000 sq.mi.), twice the size of California
Population: 138 million
Tertiary Age: 14,555,200
Literate: 69%
HIV/AIDS: 5% of adult population
Life Expectancy: 48 years
Nationality: Nigerian
Capital: Abuja
GDP Per Capita: \$1,100-\$2,200 (purchasing power parity)

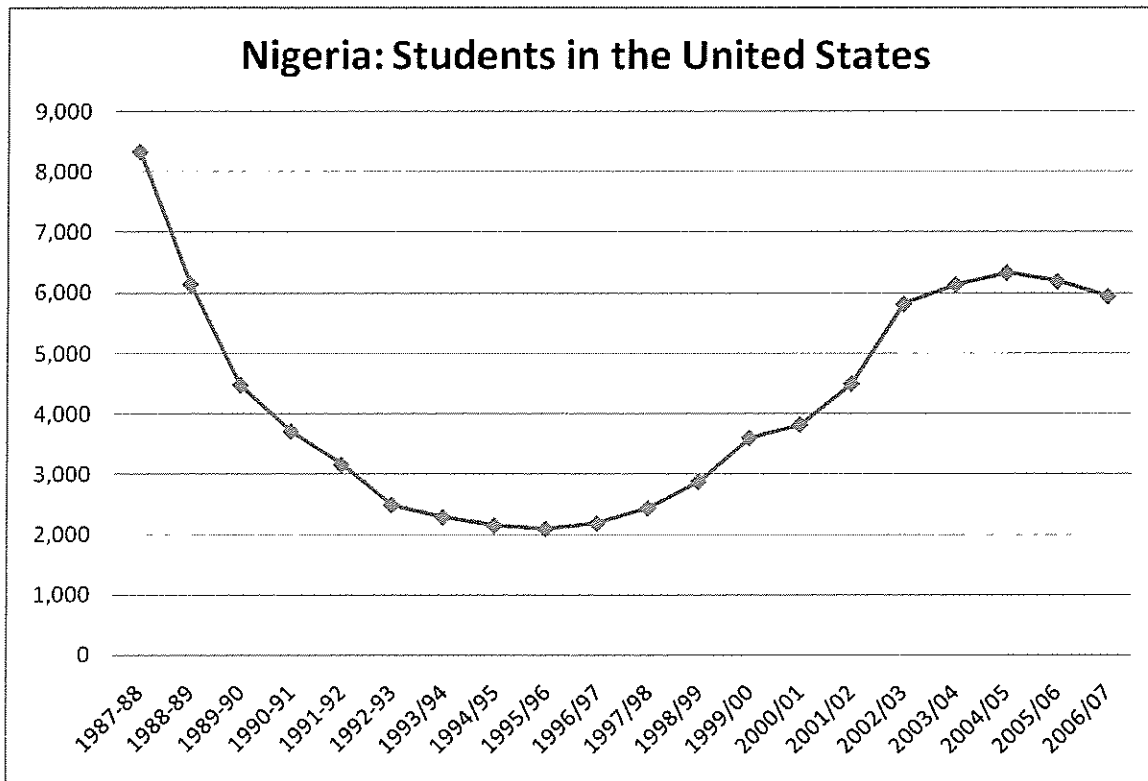
Nigerian Students in the U.S. 5,943 **Per 100,000 tertiary population:** 41 (*19th in Africa*)
1-year change: -4%
4-year change: +2%
Undergraduates: 60%
Student (F) visas issued 2007: 2,351 (*1-yr increase:37%*)

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Nigeria, Africa’s powerhouse in every sense of the word, is a major presence in international education, recording steady annual increases in U.S. enrollments. As the most populous nation in Africa and one of the most America-friendly, Nigeria represents a huge market for U.S. education.

Nigerian students are enrolled in over 714 regionally accredited institutions in the United States, and in every state except for Alaska. Of the 60% of Nigerians in the U.S. who are undergraduates, 17% attend two-year institutions, concentrated in Texas and Maryland. Texas is the overwhelming favorite, with over 800 Nigerians, followed by more than 200 students each in seven other states: New York, Maryland, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Georgia, and Oklahoma.

Detailed profiles of the Nigerian educational system have been compiled by the presenters and are available on the AACRAO EDGE system and at the U.S. Embassy’s website, http://nigeria.usembassy.gov/nigeria_education.html.



Secondary School / Admission to Undergraduate Study

Nigeria's large population sets the pace for the WAEC system, with hundreds of thousands of high school seniors taking the WASSCE each year. In senior secondary school, all students are required to take six core subjects: English language, a Nigerian language, mathematics, a science subject, a humanities/social science subject, and agriculture or a vocational subject, in addition to two or three elective subjects. To obtain the WASSCE certificate, students must pass a minimum of seven subjects (the maximum allowed is nine).

WASSCE Grading System:

A1	75-100%	5.00	Excellent
B2	70-74%	4.00	Very Good
B3	65-69%	3.00	Good
C4	60-64%	2.75	Credit
C5	55-59%	2.50	Credit
C6	50-54%	2.00	Credit
D7	45-49%	1.50	Pass
E8	40-44%	1.00	Pass
F9	0-39%	<1.0	Fail

In addition to WAEC, there is a second recognized examining body, the National Examination Council, or NECO, which was established by government in 2000 and follows the same secondary school examination and grading system as WAEC. There is some controversy in Nigerian higher education circles about the acceptability of NECO qualifications.

Verification: Online verification of WAEC and NECO exam results is strongly advised for all applicants. Students must purchase a scratchcard (widely available in Nigeria; students resident

outside Nigeria should ask family or friends to purchase it for them; cost is less than \$3 and covers five verifications of a single exam session) and email the PIN and serial number to the admissions office.

Verification websites: www.waecdirect.org
www.neconigeria.org

University / Admission to Graduate Study

To enter university, students must obtain credit grades of C6 or better in five subjects, one of which must be English, and pass the University Matriculation Examination (UME) conducted by the Joint Admissions Matriculation Board (JAMB), in English Language and any three subjects related to their desired major, with a minimum score of 200 (out of 400).

Over one million students are enrolled in higher education in Nigeria. In addition to 36 public universities, the higher education sector also includes two dozen polytechnics and institutions of technology, and numerous colleges of education, nursing colleges, and professional institutions. Private institutions of higher education were authorized beginning in 1993, and their number is rapidly increasing.

Detailed information about Nigeria's tertiary education system can be found at www.nuc.edu.ng, the National Universities Commission, which provides detailed information on 92 accredited university-level institutions.

University degrees are classified according to the British system:

1 st class	70-100%
2 nd class, upper division	60-69%
2 nd class, lower division	50-59%
3 rd class/pass	40-49%

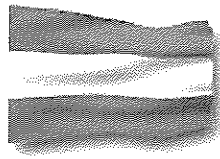
Standardized Testing

The two computer-based test centers in Lagos and Abuja offer the GRE, GMAT, and TOEFL daily. The SAT is offered on all six test dates at eleven centers in nine cities. For the SAT, online registration is not accepted, and passports are the only acceptable form of identification.

Educational Advisors

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SIERRA LEONE

Area:	71,700 sq.km (27,700 sq.mi.), similar to South Carolina
Population:	6.3 million
Tertiary Age:	536,200
Literate:	35%
HIV/AIDS:	7% of adult population
Life Expectancy:	42 years
Nationality:	Sierra Leonean
Capital:	Freetown
GDP Per Capita:	\$800 (purchasing power parity)

Sierra Leonean Students in the U.S. 299 **Per 100,000 tertiary population:** 56
(17th in Africa)

1-year change:	+1%
4-year change:	-12%
Undergraduates:	67%
Student (F) visas issued 2007:	40 (1-yr increase: 0)

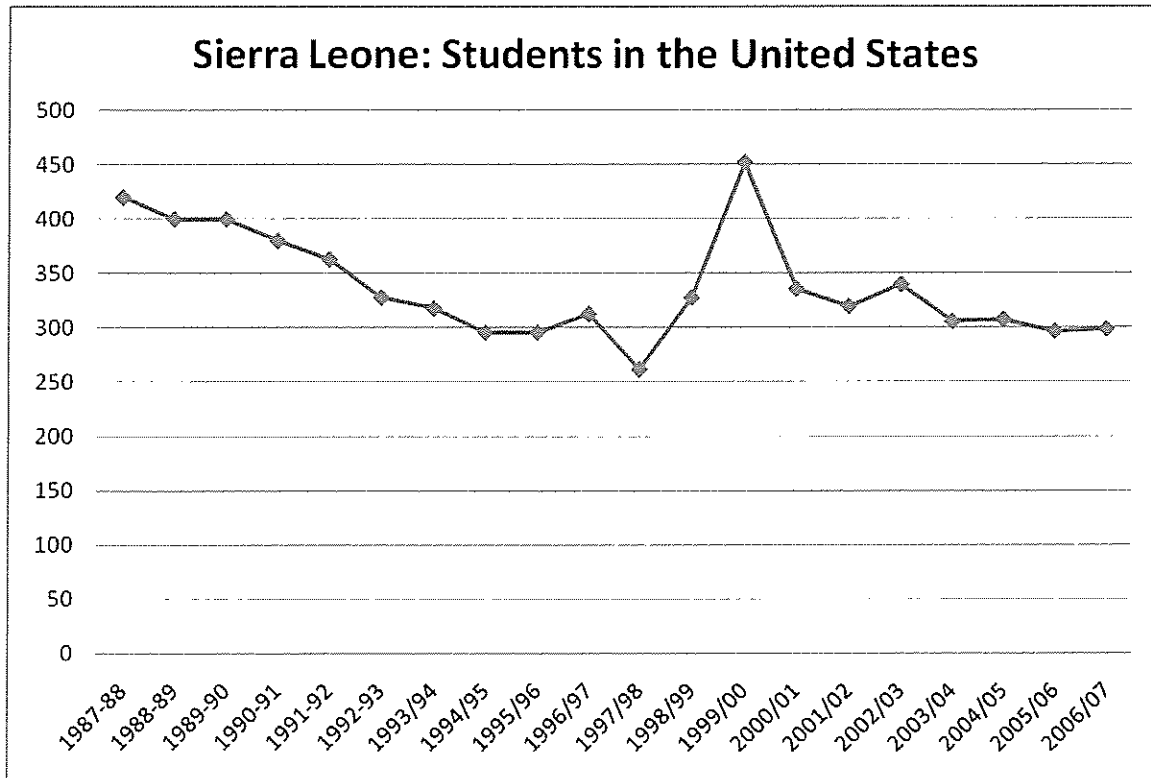
Educational Advisor: **Avril Rowe** **RoweAA@state.gov**

Sierra Leone, having held onto peace since the end of its ten-year civil war in 2002, is gradually restoring civil society and reconstructing its economy. It is one of the poorest countries in the world and ranks at the very bottom of the United Nations Human Development Index; the only countries ranking lower are those that could not be measured for the index, including Liberia.

Despite its challenging circumstances, Sierra Leone produces more than its share of quality students, thanks to a tradition of formal education going back to the country's founding almost two hundred years ago, when Fourah Bay College (1827) earned Freetown the name 'The Athens of Africa.'

Although Sierra Leone's primary ties to the United Kingdom make the United States a secondary destination for students, the U.S. is increasingly popular.

Sierra Leonean students are enrolled in 125 regionally accredited institutions of higher education in 34 states, with over a third attending institutions in the DC-Maryland-Virginia area. Of the 67% of Sierra Leoneans who are undergraduates, slightly over half are enrolled in two-year colleges, of which Prince George's and Montgomery colleges comprise seven out of every ten students.



Secondary School / Admission to Undergraduate Study

Sierra Leone's entrance into the WAEC Senior Secondary School system was delayed by the war in the 1990s, but was finally implemented in 2000 and is now the standard structure, replacing the old O-levels and A-levels. A small number of private schools offer the British A-levels. Students take the WASSCE at the end of the twelfth grade. The grading system is a descending 1-9 scale as in Nigeria, Ghana and Gambia:

A1	75-100%	Excellent
B2	70-74%	Very Good
B3	65-69%	Good
C4	60-64%	Credit
C5	55-59%	Credit
C6	50-54%	Credit
D7	45-49%	Pass
E8	40-44%	Pass
F9	0-39%	Fail

To be considered a high school graduate, eligible for higher education, students must complete three years of Senior secondary School and obtain grades of C6 ("credit") or better in at least five subjects, including English, a science or math subject, and a humanities or social science subject. Grades of D7 and E8 are bare passes that do not earn credit and cannot be counted towards qualifications for higher education.

To verify WASSCE results, contact:
 Mrs. Rugiatu Koroma
 WAEC, Tower Hill, Freetown

Tel. 232-22-223581. Fax: None
Email: None

University / Admission to Graduate Study

University education in Sierra Leone dates back to the founding of the Christian Institute in 1814, which evolved into the famous Fourah Bay College in 1827, later affiliated with Durham University and awarding its first degrees in 1879, the first modern university institution in black Africa.

Today's University of Sierra Leone (USL) is composed of four constituent campuses: Fourah Bay College (degrees in arts, sciences, law, engineering), College of Medicine and Allied Sciences, and the Institute of Public Administration and Management (IPAM). Njala University offers primarily agriculture, expanding into environmental and health fields, education and community development, and includes Milton Margai College of Education.

Total university enrollment in 2008 was over 13,000 students and continues to expand rapidly.

In addition to the public universities, there are four teachers' colleges and fifteen technical and vocational institutes, all classified at the tertiary level, which enroll 10,000 students. There are also small professional schools for nursing, hotel and tourism, and library science, some of which are government-recognized.

Bachelor's degrees are of four years' duration. Students who have completed teacher training or other diploma programs may transfer into the second year of degree programs, completing in three years.

Grading systems and contact information:

Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone

Grading System: A-F, where A signifies excellent, B very good, C average, D/E/F Fail

Mr. Sorie Ngidi Dumbuya, Registrar

Tel. 232-22-223258, Fax: 232-22-224260

Njala University, Bo campus

Grading System: 0-5, where 5 signifies excellent, 4 very good, 3 average, 2/1/0 Fail

Mr. Kabia, Deputy Registrar

Tel: 232-22-229454. Fax: None. Email: nuclib@sierratel.sl

College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS)

Grading System: 70% and above is Excellent, 69%-65% is Credit, 64%-50% is Pass

Mr. Maurice Williams, Registrar

Tel: 232-22-240884. Fax: 232-22-240432

Institute of Public Administration and Management (IPAM)

Grading System: 70% above is Excellent, 70%-50% is Credit, 49%-40% is Pass

Mr. Edward NGandi, Registrar

Tel: 232-22-224801. Fax: 232-22-224904

232-22-229083 (Personal). Email: etngandi@yahoo.com

Milton Margai College of Education and Technology

Grading System: A-F, where A signifies excellent, B very good, C average, D/E/F Fail
Mr. John Hallowell, Registrar
Tel: 232-76-626-830

Standardized Testing

The TOEFL and GRE are administered twice yearly in Sierra Leone, as paper-based tests. The SAT is administered three times a year. The nearest GMAT test center is in Ghana.

Educational Advisor

Avril Rowe

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<http://freetown.usembassy.gov/>

Resources

Print

African Higher Education: An International Sourcebook. Damtew Teferra and Philip G. Altbach, eds. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2003.

Guide to Higher Education in Africa. Association of African Universities and International Association of Universities. London, Palgrave Macmillan, 4th edition, 2007.

Testing Freedom: A History of the West African Examinations Council, 1952-1979. Mary Dillard, unpublished doctoral dissertation, UCLA, 2001 (Contact at Sarah Lawrence College, NY).

Web

Regional:

www.iie.org: IIE Open Doors, 2007

<http://hdr.undp.org>: United Nations Human Development Reports

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>: CIA World Factbook

www.uis.unesco.org: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, includes enrollment figures for each country, more current than the World Bank's.

www.travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/statistics: State Department visa statistics reports

www.bc.edu/inhea: International Network for Higher Education in Africa: comprehensive list of country profiles and publications, people and conferences

www.allafrica.com/education: Best source of news on Africa

<http://www.wes.org/ewenr/ResearchAfrica.htm>: World Education Services' newsletter; contains comprehensive list of Websites on African education and research.

<http://www.wes.org/ewenr/05jan/africa.htm>. Can search by country for relevant higher education information.

<http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/index.html>: online source of profiles found in *Guide to Higher Education in Africa*, but without university profiles

<http://www.unesco.org/education/partners/mined/africa.htm>: directory of ministries of education

Note also that Wikipedia contains numerous articles on African universities and educational systems.

Gambia

www.edugambia.gm: Government's expectations for education

www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/gm.rtf: UNESCO profile

www.unigambia.gm: University of The Gambia

http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Country_Specific/Gambia.html: resources

Ghana

www.ghanawaec.org: West African Examinations Council, Ghana office

<http://ghana.waecdirect.org>: Online verification of WAEC results, using serial no. and PIN from scratchcard provided by student.

www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/gh.rtf: UNESCO profile

<http://www.moess.gov.gh/ncte.htm>: Ministry of Education, Science and Sports: National Council for Tertiary Education.

www.nab.gov.gh: National Accrediting Board. Lists accredited tertiary institutions, with contact information.

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/education/>

<http://www.wes.org/ewenr/00march/practical.htm> "Education in Ghana"

Liberia

www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/lr.rtf: UNESCO profile

http://www.embassyofliberia.org/news/item_a.html National Commission on Higher Education information on recognition of higher education institutions. Still valid, although it has been superceded by later developments.

http://www.apanews.net/apa.php?page=show_article_eng&id_article=50554: Liberian government orders closure of substandard schools, Dec 2007.

<http://www.cuttington.org/>: Cuttington University

Nigeria

www.waecnigeria.org: West African Examinations Council, Nigeria office

www.nuc.edu.ng: National Universities Commission, with links to and information on over 90 accredited Nigerian universities.

www.waecdirect.org: Online verification of WAEC results, using serial no. and PIN from scratchcard provided by student.

www.neconigeria.org: Online verification of NECO results, using numbers from scratchcard provided by student.

www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ng.rtf: UNESCO profile

<http://www.jambng.com/>: Universities' Joint Admission Board

http://nigeria.usembassy.gov/nigeria_education.html: The U.S. Embassy's comprehensive profile of Nigerian education

<http://www.wes.org/ewenr/04sept/Feature.htm>

<http://www.wes.org/ewenr/04sept/Practical.htm>: World Education Services' reports on Nigeria

<http://www.fme.gov.ng>: Federal Ministry of Education website includes information on polytechnic consolidation, federal colleges of education, and polytechnics awarding degrees (by affiliation with universities).

Sierra Leone

www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/sl.rtf: UNESCO profile

<http://fbcusl.8k.com/>: Fourah Bay College

<http://www.nu-online.com/>: Njala University

http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/soe/cihe/inhea/profiles/Sierra_Leone.htm: INHEA Higher Education Profiles, Center of International Higher Education of Boston College

http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Country_Specific/S_Leone.html: University of Pennsylvania, African Studies Center

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5475.htm>: US Department of State profile

<http://www.sierra-leone.org/links-schools.html>: List of official/unofficial schools.