

## Benin - Education system

### INSTITUTION TYPES & CREDENTIALS

#### Types of higher education institutions:

Université (University)

Ecole (School)

Institut (Institute)

#### School leaving and higher education credentials:

Baccalauréat de l'Enseignement secondaire

Baccalauréat de l'Enseignement secondaire technique

Certificat d'Aptitude au Professorat de l'Enseignement secondaire

Diplôme d'Etudes techniques supérieures

Brevet d'Aptitude au Professorat de l'Enseignement moyen

Diplôme d'Etudes universitaires générales

Diplôme universitaire d'Etudes littéraires

Diplôme universitaire d'Etudes scientifiques

Diplôme universitaire de Technologie

Licence

Diplôme

Diplôme d'Ingénieur agronome

Doctorat en Médecine

Ingénieur

Diplôme d'Etudes supérieures spécialisées

Diplôme d'Etudes approfondies

Maîtrise

### STRUCTURE OF EDUCATION SYSTEM

#### Pre-higher education:

Duration of compulsory education:

Age of entry: 6

Age of exit: 12

**Structure of school system:**

*Primary*

Type of school providing this education: Primary School

Length of program in years: 6

Age level from: 6 to: 12

Certificate/diploma awarded: Certificat d'Etudes primaires

*First Cycle Secondary*

Type of school providing this education: Etablissement d'Enseignement secondaire général

Length of program in years: 4

Age level from: 12 to: 16

Certificate/diploma awarded: Brevet d'Etudes du premier Cycle (BEPC)

*Technical Secondary*

Type of school providing this education: Ecole technique (Premier cycle)

Length of program in years: 3

Age level from: 12 to: 15

Certificate/diploma awarded: Certificat d'Aptitude professionnelle

*Second Cycle Secondary*

Type of school providing this education: Lycée

Length of program in years: 3

Age level from: 16 to: 19

Certificate/diploma awarded: Baccalauréat de l'Enseignement secondaire

*Technical*

Type of school providing this education: Lycée technique

Length of program in years: 3

Age level from: 15 to: 18

Certificate/diploma awarded: Baccalauréat de l'Enseignement secondaire technique; Diplôme de Technicien industriel (DTI)

**School education:**

Primary education lasts for six years divided into Cours d'Initiation, Cours préparatoire, Cours élémentaire 1ère and 2ème années and Cours moyen 1ère and 2ème années, leading to the Certificat d'Etudes primaires. Secondary education lasts for seven years, divided into two cycles: General First Cycle, which lasts for four years and leads to the Brevet d'Etudes du premier Cycle and Second Cycle, which lasts for three years. At the end of the second cycle, pupils obtain the Baccalauréat. In technical secondary education, the first cycle leads to the Certificat d'Aptitude professionnelle (CAP) after three years and the second cycle to the Baccalauréat technique or Diplôme de Technicien industriel after three years. Agricultural education leads to the Brevet d'Etudes agricoles tropicales at the end of the second cycle.

**Higher education:**

Higher education is provided by two State universities - including one created in 2001- which group all the institutions of higher education. The universities are responsible to the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research. Institutions of higher education are autonomous as far as management is concerned. The contents of the curricula are prepared by the administrative heads and teaching staff of the institutions.

**Main laws/decrees governing higher education:**

Decree: Décret n° 93-111 Year: 1993

Concerns: Organization of Ministry of Education and state educational policy

Decree: Loi n° 75-30 Year: 1975

Concerns: Document cadre de Politique éducative

**Academic year:**

Classes from: Oct to: Jul

**Languages of instruction:** French

**Stages of studies:****University level studies:****University level first stage:** Premier Cycle:

The first phase of studies lasts for two years and leads to the Diplôme universitaire d'Etudes littéraires (DUEL), the Diplôme universitaire d'Etudes scientifiques (DUES) and the Diplôme d'Etudes universitaires générales (DEUG) in Law and Economics. The DUEL comprises specialized work in Foreign Languages, Philosophy, Linguistics, History and/or Geography. The first year of the DUES offers two main options: Pure Science and Biological Science and Geology. The second year is more specialized. In Agronomy, the Diplôme d'Ingénieur agronome is awarded after six years' study. The Diplôme d'Etudes techniques supérieures is conferred by the Collège Polytechnique Universitaire at the end of a three-year course. The qualification of Ingénieur de Conception is awarded four or five years after the Baccalauréat.

**University level second stage:** Deuxième Cycle:

Students who hold the DUES, DUEL or DEUG may continue their studies for a further one year to obtain the Licence or two years to obtain the Maîtrise.

**University level third stage:** Troisième Cycle:

A year beyond the Maîtrise leads to the DEA in Management and Arts and Humanities or to the DESS in Demography and Natural Resources. In Medicine, the Doctorat de Médecine is awarded after seven years of university study.

**Teacher education:****Training of pre-primary and primary/basic school teachers**

Primary school teachers must hold the Brevet d'Etudes du premier Cycle and sit for an entrance examination. They train at one of the three Ecoles normales intégrées (ENI). The course lasts for three years and leads to the award of the Certificat élémentaire d'Aptitude professionnelle/Certificat d'Aptitude pédagogique (CEAP/CAP). Initial teacher training programmes have been stopped lately at ENIs because of lack of funds.

**Training of secondary school teachers**

First cycle secondary school teachers are also trained at the Ecoles normales intégrées (ENI). They follow a three-year course leading to the Certificat élémentaire d'Aptitude professionnelle/Certificat d'Aptitude pédagogique (CEAP/CAP). Initial teacher training programmes have been stopped lately at ENIs because of lack of funds. Those who train as second-cycle teachers follow a three-year course at the Ecole normale supérieure (ENS) in Porto Novo. The first two years are spent at university where students complete the DUEL or the DUES. First-cycle secondary school teachers follow a three-year course on their return to the ENS leading to the Brevet d'Aptitude au Professorat de l'Enseignement moyen (BAPEM) and are called Professeurs adjoints. Second cycle secondary school teachers returning to the ENS complete a three-year course leading to the award of the Certificat d'Aptitude au Professorat de l'Enseignement secondaire (CAPES) and are called Professeurs certifiés. The Institut national pour la Formation et la Recherche en Education (INFRE) offers distance courses for teachers wanting to obtain credentials in primary education such as the Certificat d'Aptitude pédagogique.

## NATIONAL BODIES

**Administration & co-ordination:**

**Responsible authorities:**

Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche scientifique (Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research)

Head: Kémoko Osséni Bagnan, Minister

P.O. Box 348

Cotonou

Benin

Tel: +229 300 681/ 301 991

Fax: +229 308 925

EMail: [mesrs@intnet.bj](mailto:mesrs@intnet.bj); [sgm@recherche.gouv.bj](mailto:sgm@recherche.gouv.bj)

WWW: <http://www.recherche.gouv.bj/>

## ADMISSIONS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

### Admission to non university higher education studies

Name of secondary school credential required: Baccalauréat de l'Enseignement secondaire technique

Alternatives to credentials:

Diplôme de Technicien industriel

Other admission requirements:

In professional schools, portfolio and recruitment test in addition to the Baccalauréat.

### Admission to university-level studies

Name of secondary school credential required: Baccalauréat de l'Enseignement secondaire

Entrance exams required: Competitive examination in some cases (professional schools)

Other admission requirements: In professional schools, portfolio.

### Foreign students admission

Admission requirements: Students should hold a Secondary School Leaving Certificate (Baccalauréat) or its equivalent. For vocational education, the students' files are studied. They may have to sit for an examination.

Language requirements: Good knowledge of French is indispensable.

### Application procedures:

Apply to individual institution for entry to: university

Apply to:

Direction des Affaires académiques, Rectorat de l'Université nationale du Bénin

BP 526

Cotonou

Benin

Tel: +229 36-00-74

Fax: +229 36-00-28

### Recognition of studies & qualifications:

Studies pursued in foreign countries (bodies dealing with recognition of foreign credentials):

Direction de l'Enseignement supérieur, Commission nationale d'Etude des Equivalences de Diplômes (CNEED)

Head: Marc-Abel Ayedoun, Director

Administrative officer: Constant Houndenou, Permanent Secretary  
02BP1211  
Cotonou  
Benin  
Tel: +229 30-89-24  
Fax: +229 30-89-25  
EMail: [mayedoun@hotmail.com](mailto:mayedoun@hotmail.com)

**Services provided & students dealt with:** Examination of degrees awarded abroad in order to give them an equivalence in the Benin system. Search for information.

### **Multilateral agreements concerning recognition of foreign studies**

**Name of agreement:** Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in the African States

**Year of signature:** 1981

### **References to further information on foreign student admissions and recognition of studies**

**Title:** Guide d'information et d'orientation pour s'inscrire à l'Université nationale du Bénin

**Publisher:** Université nationale du Bénin

## **STUDENT LIFE**

### **Main student services at national level**

Centre national des Oeuvres universitaires (CENOU)

B.P. 526  
Cotonou  
Benin  
Tel: +229 36-00-74  
Fax: +229 30-00-28

**Category of services provided:** Social and welfare services

Service des Etudes et de l'Orientation universitaire (SEOU)

B.P. 526  
Campus universitaire d'Abomey-Calavi  
Cotonou  
Benin  
Tel: +229 36-00-74  
Fax: +229 36-00-28 +229 30-00-96

**Category of services provided:** Academic and career counselling services

### **Student expenses and financial aid**

**Student costs:**

**Home students tuition fees:** Minimum: 6500 (CFA Franc-O)

## GRADING SYSTEM

### **Usual grading system in secondary school**

Full Description: 14-20; 12-13; 10-11; 9; 0-8. For the Baccalauréat: passable, assez bien, bien, très bien

### **Main grading system used by higher education institutions**

Full Description: 0-20

Highest on scale: 20

Pass/fail level: 10/12

Lowest on scale: 0

## NOTES ON HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Data for academic year: 2002-2003

Source: IBE website, 2003 (except for governing bodies, updated 2005)

Note on Higher Education Institutions: Also Ecole régionale supérieure de la Magistrature