

Lao People's Democratic Republic

STRUCTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Description:

Higher education is provided by three universities: the National University of Laos which is made up of several faculties, ten higher education institutions located in Vientiane were merged and reorganized into faculties of this multi-campus University; Souphanouvong University; and Champasack University. There are also higher technical institutes and teacher training colleges. In the future, the teacher training colleges will be transformed into Regional Colleges. Higher education institutions are managed by the government. The universities are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education.

Stages of studies:

University level first stage: Bachelor's Degree

The University offers a five to seven-year course leading to a Bachelor's Degree. Students must spend one year at the School of Foundation Studies followed by specialized studies of four to six years. In Engineering, Teacher Training, Building and Construction and Agriculture, courses at the University last for three to four years. In Dentistry, Medicine and Pharmacy, courses last for five to six years. Practical training is an important element. Each student must undergo a period of eight to ten weeks of practical training in an approved establishment, depending on the course of study. A practical training period is only considered as successfully completed after submission of a practical report, a log book and a training Certificate issued by the company or employer. Students who perform satisfactorily in the final examination obtain the Bachelor's Degree of the University. A degree with Honours will be conferred to students who have not less than an A grade in the final year project; not less than a B grade in each of the examinable subjects in the third and fourth years of study. The University also offers a three- to four-year course leading to a higher technical level.

University level second stage: Master's Degree

The University offers a 2- to 4-year course leading to a Master's Degree. At present, it is only available in Medical Sciences; Economics; Forestry; Engineering; Education; Administration.

Distance higher education:

Bilateral cooperation: Lao-France; Lao-Belgium.

ADMISSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Admission to non university higher education studies:

Name of secondary school credential required: Upper Secondary School Diploma

Minimum score/requirement: 5/10 for each subject

For entry to: Higher technical schools; teacher training colleges, private colleges

Alternatives to credentials: Quota selection with criteria.

Admission requirements: Non-quota students must sit for a National Entrance Examination.

Other requirements: Lower secondary education for access to vocational education.

Admission to university-level studies:

Name of secondary school credential required: Upper Secondary School Diploma

Minimum score/requirement: 5/10 for each subject

For entry to: University

Alternatives to credentials: Special examination at national level for non-quota selection.

Admission requirements: For access to some institutions, there is a national Entrance examination.

Other requirements: In addition, minimum requirements for admission to degree courses are at least five pass grades in Mathematics and Physics or Chemistry; Lao Literature; Geography or History.

Foreign students admission:

Definition of foreign student: Students who do not have Lao nationality.

Quotas: There are quotas at the national level.

Admission requirements: Students must hold a High School Certificate or equivalent.

Entry regulations: Entry is subject to bilateral agreements

Health requirements: Medical certificate.

Language requirements: French, English and Laotian

RECOGNITION OF STUDIES

Quality assurance system:

All programmes offered in universities are officially recognized and accredited by the Ministry of Education. Credit transfers are subject to direct agreement between institutes.

Bodies dealing with recognition:

Kaxouangsuksathikan (Ministry of Education)

PO Box 67

Lanexang Vientiane Avenue

Vientiane

Tel: + 856(21) 216 004

Fax: + 856(21) 216 000

EEmail: phonephet12@hotmail.com

Services provided and students dealt with: To accredit higher education institutions and their programmes, both public and private, ensuring that they meet the requisite standards in terms of curriculum and level of productivity; to confer recognition of foreign degrees especially of students who study abroad or hold foreign degrees; to select the secondary graduate students who can continue their study in higher education institutions after an entrance exam.

Special provisions for recognition:

Recognition for university level studies: University level studies are recognised by the Ministry of Education.

For exercising a profession: Under MOU between institutions and the industrial sector.

NATIONAL BODIES

Kaxouangsuksathikan (Ministry of Education)

Minister: Mangnormek Somkot

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Lanexang Vientiane Avenue

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Tel: + 856(21) 216 004

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