

# Tanzania

## INSTITUTION TYPES

### **Types of higher education institutions:**

University

University College

Vocational/technical training institute

College

## CREENTIALS

### **School leaving and higher education credentials:**

Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education

Diploma

Advanced Diploma

Bachelor's Degree

Postgraduate Diploma

Master's Degree

Doctor of Philosophy

## STRUCTURE OF EDUCATION SYSTEM

### **Pre-higher education:**

*Duration of compulsory education:*

Age of entry: 7

Age of exit: 14

*Structure of school system:*

*Basic*

Type of school providing this education: Primary School

Length of programme in years: 7

Age level from: 7 to: 13

*Lower Secondary*

Type of school providing this education: Secondary School

Length of programme in years: 4

Age level from: 14 to: 17

Certificate/diploma awarded: Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE)

*Upper Secondary*

Type of school providing this education: Secondary School

Length of programme in years: 2

Age level from: 18 to: 20

Certificate/diploma awarded: Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education (ACSE)

### **School education:**

Primary education lasts seven years which are concluded by the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE). There is no academic certificate for this examination. However the results of the PSLE are used for selecting primary school leavers for admission into secondary education. Secondary education is a two tier system Lower (or Ordinary Level) and Upper Secondary (Advanced Level). The Lower Secondary includes Forms 1 - 4 and the Upper one comprises Form 5 and 6. The Lower and Upper tiers culminate into the national Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (CSEE) and Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education (ACSEE) respectively. Finalists of the Lower Secondary Education who pass the CSEE and qualify for admission into the upper Secondary education are selected to proceed with studies in the fields of Commerce, Arts and Social Sciences and Physical Sciences while finalists of the Upper Secondary who pass the ACSEE and obtain principal passes or subsidiary level passes will find admission into tertiary or higher learning institutions. Further more some finalists in the two tiers may join Teachers Training Colleges for Certificate or Diploma courses respectively.

The National School Curriculum entails the subject biases of Agriculture, Commerce, Home Economics, and Technical Education together with the traditional subjects of Civics, English, Kiswahili, History, Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics for Lower Secondary Education on one hand while the Upper Secondary Education includes the subjects of General Studies together with subject combinations in the fields of Languages, Arts and Social Sciences and Physical Sciences. Subject combinations include three principal subjects and general studies as compulsory for all combinations.

### **Higher education:**

Since 12 February 2008, the Department of Higher Education and the Department of Technical Education were moved to the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT). Higher education is provided by universities, university colleges and several training colleges and institutes. All public universities are under the supervision of the MoEVT. The public universities are semi autonomous and manage their own affairs under the Vice Chancellor, who is appointed in accordance to the Charter establishing a particular university or university college. The President of Tanzania appoints the Chancellor for public universities. Their running costs are subsidised by the government. Private universities are also established under charters and are privately funded. The government supports private universities by sponsoring some students in accredited private medical universities for MD courses and through the Higher Education Students Loans Board (HESLB) Act No.7 of 2004 for other course programmes. Universities and all higher learning institutions in Tanzania are eligible for material or financial assistance from the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA Act No. 8 of 2001). Other higher learning institutions are supervised by the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE) Act No.9

of 1997 and other relevant Ministries. All universities are supervised by the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) Universities Act No.7 of 2005.

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

*Decree:* Universities Act No. 7 Year: 2005

*Concerns:* Higher education beneficiaries and providers in Tanzania

*Decree:* Education Act No. 25 Year: 1978

*Concerns:* Education system

**Academic year:**

*Classes from:* September *to:* July

**Language(s) of instruction:**

English

**Stages of studies:**

*Non-university level:*

In the last decade, the number of technical, vocational, and professional schools has increased substantially. They are the responsibility of the relevant Government Ministry under which they fall. The schools which award Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas and Postgraduate Diplomas are categorized according to the type of programmes offered.

*University level studies:*

*University level first stage: Undergraduate level*

The first phase leads to a Bachelor's Degree. It usually lasts for three years, except in Pharmacy, Nursing, Veterinary Science and Engineering, which take four years while Medicine takes five years. At the Open University courses generally last for six years.

*University level second stage: Graduate level*

A further one to two years' study leads to a Master's Degree. Postgraduate Diplomas require a Bachelor's Degree for admission and, generally, one year of study.

*University level third stage: Postgraduate level*

A minimum of a further three years' original research and submission of a thesis lead to a PhD.

*Other types of studies:*

*Training of pre-primary and primary/basic school teachers*

The Grade C Certificate entitles the holders to teach in the first two grades of primary education. The Grade B Certificate is obtained by promotion or by successfully completing a four year course at a teacher training college after grade 7. The Grade A Certificate is obtained on successful completion of a two year course for students who have passed the CSEE "O" levels at Division II level and entitles the holder to teach in all seven grades of primary education.

*Training of secondary school teachers*

A two year Diploma of Education at a Teacher Training College after passing the ACSE is required to teach at lower secondary level. Teachers for upper secondary level should hold a Bachelor of

Education or a Postgraduate Diploma in Education. Opportunities for in service training have increased with the creation of village based teacher training programmes.

*Non-traditional studies:*

*Distance higher education*

Distance education is offered by the Open University of Tanzania which was established in 1993 in Dar es Salaam with regional centres in all regions in Tanzania. It provides courses in Law, Science, Arts, and Education leading to Bachelors, Masters and PhD degrees. Distance teacher training programmes for untrained teachers have been developed as well.

*Lifelong higher education*

There are over 300 institutions offering specialist training at post-Form IV (or Form VI) level, leading to Certificates or Diplomas at semi-professional level in a wide variety of disciplines.

## **NATIONAL BODIES**

**Responsible authorities:**

**Ministry of Education and Vocational Training - MoEVT**

Minister: Jumanne Abdallah Maghembe

P. O. Box 9121

Dar es Salaam

Tel: +255(22) 212 0403

Fax: +255(22) 211 3271

EEmail: [psmoevt@moe.go.tz](mailto:psmoevt@moe.go.tz)

WWW: <http://www.moe.go.tz/>

*Role of national body:* The Ministry consists of eight departments: Office of the Chief Education Officer, Basic Education, Secondary Education, Teacher Education, Inspectors of Schools, Policy and Planning, Administration and Personnel, Vocational Training, Higher Education.

**Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology**

Minister: Peter Mahmoud Msolla

Jamhuri Street, Plot No. 1168/19, P.O Box 2645

Dar es Salaam

Tel: +255(22) 211 1254-7

Fax: +255(22) 211 2533

EEmail: [katibumkuu@mst.go.tz](mailto:katibumkuu@mst.go.tz)

WWW: <http://www.mst.go.tz>

*Role of national body:* The roles of the Ministry are policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation, regulatory and legal matters pertaining to communication, ICT, science, technology and innovation.

**Tanzania Commission for Universities - TCU (Kamisheni ya Vyuho Vikuu)**

Posta House, 8th Floor,  
Ohio St./Ghana Avenue,  
P. O Box 6562  
Dar es Salaam  
Tel: +255(22) 212 5657  
Fax: +255(22) 212 7158  
EMail: info@tcu.or.tz  
WWW: <http://www.tcu.or.tz/>

### **Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals in Tanzania**

University of Dar es Salaam  
PO Box 33091  
Dar es Salaam  
Tel: +255(22) 241 0700  
Fax: +255(22) 241 0078  
EMail: vc@admin.udsm.ac.tz

*Role of national body:* To foster cooperation between the universities and colleges by advising university councils and other organs, including government, on policy matters of common interest to the member institutions.

### **National Examinations Council of Tanzania - NECTA (Baraza la Mitihani la Tanzania)**

Executive Secretary: J.L. Ndalichako  
P.O. BOX 2624  
Dar es Salam  
Tel: +255(22) 270 0493  
Fax: +255(22) 277 5966  
EMail: esnecta@necta.go.tz  
WWW: <http://www.necta.go.tz/>

*Role of national body:* NECTA, established by the Parliamentary Act No. 21 of 1973, is the agency responsible for the administration of all National Examinations in Tanzania. It also awards official diploma in Primary, Secondary and Post Secondary Education excluding Universities.

## **ADMISSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **Admission to non university higher education studies:**

*Name of secondary school credential required:* Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education

*For entry to:* Diplomas and Higher Diplomas at postsecondary,vocational/technical/professional schools

*Alternatives to credentials:* Certificate of Secondary Education (11 years of primary and secondary school study) for Full Technician Certificate and Nurse Grade A Diploma.

### **Admission to university-level studies:**

*Name of secondary school credential required:* Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education

*Minimum score/requirement:* 2 credit passes in certificate of Secondary Education Examination or passes in 5 approved subjects in Certificate of Secondary Education

*For entry to:* University studies

*Alternatives to credentials:* Mature Age Entry Examination Scheme.

**Foreign students admission:**

*Admission requirements:* Foreign students should have qualifications equivalent to the Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education (plus 2 credit passes in Certificate of Secondary Education) or the East African General Certificate of Education (GCE) with 2 Advanced (“A”) levels and 5 Ordinary (“O”) levels.

*Language requirements:* Students must be fluent in English.

**Application procedures:**

*Apply to:* **Ministry of Education and Vocational Training - MoEVT**

P. O. Box 9121

Dar es Salaam

Tel: +255(22) 212 0403

Fax: +255(22) 211 3271

E-Mail: [psmoevt@moe.go.tz](mailto:psmoevt@moe.go.tz)

WWW: <http://www.moe.go.tz/>

## **RECOGNITION OF STUDIES**

**Quality assurance system:**

From 1996, following the establishment of the Tanzania Commission for Universities, TCU, the recognition, registration, accreditation and general quality management structure, monitoring and assurance system for all public and private higher education institutions, their programmes, courses, students, staff and awards is the responsibility of the Commission. The institutional accreditation procedure is organized around three levels of certification: first level: Certificate of Provisional Registration (CPR); second level: Certificate of Full Registration (CFR); third level: Certification of Accreditation (CoA).

It also determines equivalence of academic credentials.

**Bodies Dealing with Recognition:**

**Tanzania Commission for Universities - TCU (Kamisheni ya Vyuo Vikuu)**

Chairman: T. S. A. Mbwette

Executive Secretary: Mayunga Nkunya

Posta House, 8th Floor,

Ohio St./Ghana Avenue,

P. O Box 6562

Dar es Salaam

Tel: +255(22) 212 5657

Fax: +255(22) 212 7158

E-Mail: [info@tcu.or.tz](mailto:info@tcu.or.tz)

WWW: <http://www.tcu.or.tz/>

*Role of national body:* The Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) is mandated to recognize and accredit the country's university institutions and their programmes; to approve relevant examinations regulations and determine the equivalence and hence recognize awards given by higher education institutions inside and outside Tanzania.

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

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

*Year of signature:* 1983

## **STUDENT LIFE**

### **Special student travel fares:**

By road: No

By rail: Yes

By air: Yes

Available to foreign students: Yes

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

Home students tuition fees: Minimum: 1,000,000 (Tanzanian Shilling)

Maximum: 1,800,000 (Tanzanian Shilling)

Foreign students tuition fees: Minimum: 5,000 (US Dollar)

*Bodies providing information on student financial aid:*

### **Higher Education Students' Loans Board**

Chairman: Nimrod Mkono

Executive Director: George R.W. Nyatega

P.O.Box 76068

Dar-es-salaam

Tel: +255(22) 266 9936-8

Fax: +255(22) 266 9039

E-Mail: [info@hedlb.go.tz](mailto:info@hedlb.go.tz)

WWW: <http://www.heslb.go.tz/>

## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND EXCHANGES**

**Principal national bodies responsible for dealing with international cooperation and exchanges in higher education:**

**Ministry of Education and Vocational Training - MoEVT**

P. O. Box 9121

Dar es Salaam

Tel: + 255(22) 212 0403

Fax: + 255(22) 211 3271

EEmail: [psmoevt@moe.go.tz](mailto:psmoevt@moe.go.tz)

WWW: <http://www.moe.go.tz/>

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

**Usual grading system in secondary school:**

*Full description:* A-E principal passes; S subsidiary pass; F fail

*Highest on scale:* A

*Pass/fail level:* S

*Lowest on scale:* F

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

*Full description:* Degrees are classified: 1st class Honours; 2nd class Honours (upper); 2nd class Honours (lower); pass

## **NOTES ON HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM**

*Data for academic year:* 2009-2010

*Source:* IAU from data from the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Vocational Education, Tanzania, 2009