

NAFSA 2012 Colloquium on Internationalizing Teacher Education

The Ethiopian Educational System

A secular and modern education system was thought to have been introduced by foreign diplomatic communities and missionaries in the early twentieth century. The formal education system has been changed several times since then. The current education system has four cycles (2 cycles of primary education and 2 cycles of secondary education) and three phases of higher education. Foreign nationals are not accepted into public schools in Ethiopia.

| Level of Schooling | Description | Number of Years | Core Subjects |
|--|---|---|---|
| Primary School | <p>Free to all, but not compulsory. Primary school has two cycles: the first-cycle includes grades 1-4 and the second cycle includes grades 5-8. Schools often combine the two cycles in a compound. Children enter primary school at various ages due to the agrarian nature of the economy. Instruction is given in the language of the local population. There are still thousands of students who are forced to learn in second languages owing to their minority status and lack of resources in their communities.</p> <p>At the end of the second cycle of primary education, all students are required to take the 8th Grade National Examination. The results from this exam, in addition to the availability of openings in the local school system, determine secondary school placement.</p> | <p>8 years in length; Age groups 7 to 14</p> | Mother tongue Amharic, English , science, society, arithmetic |
| General Secondary Education | Based on the 8 th Grade National Examination, students are placed on academic, vocational, agricultural, industrial sciences and home economic tracks. The core curriculum remains the same for all students. | <p>2 years in length; Age group 15 to 16 years old</p> | English, mathematics, physical and life sciences, social studies, national languages, and physical education. |
| <p>Preparatory Secondary Education:</p> <p>Technical & Vocational Education Training (TVET)</p> <p>or</p> <p>College Preparatory Education</p> | <p>Students sit for the 10th Grade Ethiopian General School Leaving Certificate Examination (EGSLCE) at the end of grade 10. Placement into Academic (preparatory school) and Vocational and Technical School is based on the results of this examination.</p> <p>After 12th grade, TVET students enter the workforce.</p> <p>At the end of 12th grade, students who plan to enter an institution of higher education must sit for the Ethiopian Higher Education Entrance Examination (EHEEE).</p> | <p>2 years in length; Academic Prep; Age group 17-18 years old</p> <p>3 years in length; Technical or Vocational; Age group 17-19 Technical School and Junior College</p> | <p>There are four major TVET educational intuitions and the studies vary according to the focus: agricultural colleges, teacher training colleges, engineering and technological institutes, health, and commercial institutions.</p> |

| Level of Schooling | Description | Number of Years | Core Subjects |
|--------------------|---|---|---|
| Higher Education | <p>Those who have successfully scored a minimum of 200 on a scale of 400 in English, mathematics, and any three other subjects, may attend university. The minimum score required varies from year to year and from one type of student to another</p> <p>There are currently 22 public universities, 12 colleges, 40+ private higher education institutions, and approximately 10 teacher training colleges.</p> | <p>University level first stage: 3-4 years' length; leading to Bachelor's degree</p> <p>University level second stage: 1-2 years' length; leading to Master's degree and specialization</p> <p>University level third stage: 3 to 5 years' length; leading to PhD</p> | Humanities, social studies, education and behavioral studies, business and economics, computational and informational sciences, life sciences, mathematics, medicine, legal studies, etc. |

References:

[Ethiopia: A Country Education Profile \(Fact Sheet\)](#)

[African Children's Educational Trust](#)

[Report on the Development of Education in Ethiopia to the UNESCO Forty-seventh session of the International Conference on Education](#)

[Ethiopian Ministry of Education Brookings Institution](#)

[Country Module: Ethiopia](#)

<http://www.moe.gov.et/English/Information/Pages/Genedu.aspx>

<http://www.moe.gov.et/English/Information/Pages/HEIadm.aspx>