

The Kenyan education system described and compared with the Dutch system

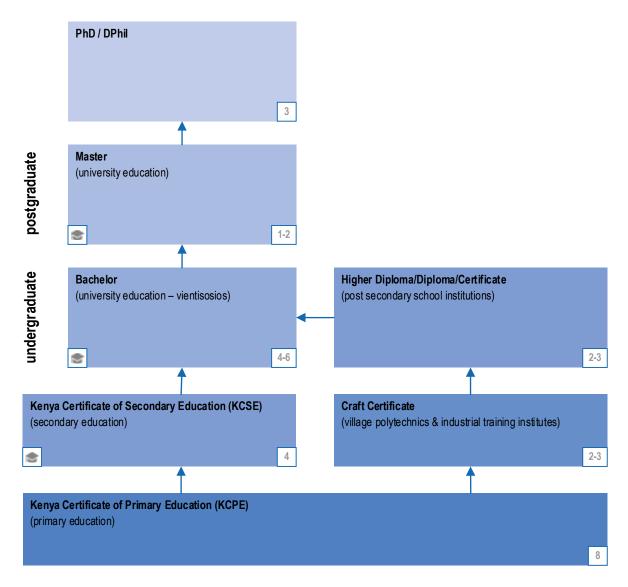


This document provides information about the education system of . It also includes the Dutch comparison of qualifications obtained in .



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Education system Kenya



- L0 Education level
- 0 Duration of education
- Click here to view a sample of the diploma

Evaluation chart

In the following chart, the left part lists foreign qualifications. The right part lists the Dutch comparisons with corresponding levels in the Netherlands and European qualification frameworks.

Degree or qualification	Dutch equivalent and NLQF level		EQF level
Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (fewer than 6 subjects with A, B or C)	VMBO-T diploma	2	2
Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (at least 6 subjects with A, B or C)	HAVO diploma	4	4
Certificates/diplomas (technical training institutes and institutes of technology)	MBO diploma (qualification levels 2, 3 or 4)	2-4	2-4
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	HBO bachelor's degree or 2 years of WO	6	6
Bachelor's degree (5 years)	WO bachelor's degree	6	6
Bachelor's degree (6 years)	4 years of WO	6	6
Master's degree1-2 years	HBO or WO master's degree	7	7

NB

- The information provided in the table is a general recommendation from which no rights may be derived.
- NLQF = Dutch qualification framework EQF = European qualification framework.
- The evaluation of a foreign qualification in terms of the EQF/NLQF does not necessarily mean that all of the learning outcomes associated with these levels have been achieved.
- Information on Dutch equivalent qualifications is available in the Netherlands Education System. See: http://www.nuffic.nl/en/library/education-system-netherlands.pdf
- The information regarding international study programmes at VMBO and MBO level is issued by SBB, the foundation for Co-operation on Vocational Education, Training and the Labour Market.

Introduction

The Republic of Kenya lies along the equator on the east coast of Africa. It borders Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia to the north, Uganda to the west, and Tanzania to the south. Kenya is divided into 47 counties following the enactment of the new constitution. The capital of Kenya is Nairobi. The country covers an area of around 582,000 square kilometres. It has a population of at least 41 million people. Kenya's two official languages are English and Kiswahili.

Since gaining independence from Great Britain in 1963, Kenya has been a parliamentary democracy and a presidential republic with a multi-party system. The government's powers are divided into the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. The Executive is headed by the president, who is democratically elected for a 5-year term. The current president is Mwai Kibaki. The president is assisted in his work by a vice-president and a cabinet. Legislative powers lie with the National Assembly. The National Assembly, together with the president, constitutes the parliament. Currently Kenya has a Coalition Government which has shared powers between the president and the Prime minister.

Political responsibility for the education system lays with two ministries namely Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology. The Ministries' remit includes the distribution of learning materials and the implementation of educational policies. The Ministries are responsible for various educational sectors, such as Early Childhood Development and Pre-Primary Education, Primary Education, Special Needs Education, Secondary Education and Teacher Education and University Education.

The language of education is English. All primary education is compulsory.

Kenya's school year runs from January to December. There are holidays of 3 to 4 weeks in April and August for both primary and secondary education. The longest holiday takes place during December/January. The academic year for Universities runs from September to June.

Primary and secondary education

In 1985 the 7-4-2-3 system was replaced with the current 8-4-4 educational system, based on the American educational system. This system consists of 8 years of primary school, 4 years of secondary school and 4 years of higher education. The curriculum focuses on mathematics, English and various vocational subjects. That includes a broad range of subjects aimed both at pupils who will complete only their primary education and then enter the labour market, and those pupils who plan to continue on to higher education.

Children also attend 1 or 2 years of pre-primary school before starting primary school. This is usually between the ages of 3 and 6.

Primary education

The first phase of the 8-4-4 educational system is primary education. Primary education is free and compulsory in Kenya. Secondary education is also free, but not compulsory.

Primary education lasts 8 years in Kenya (standards 1 to 8). Pupils are usually 6 years old when they start school, and 14 when they complete their primary education. The curriculum is made up of languages, mathematics, history, geography, science, crafts and religious studies. Primary education has been free and compulsory in Kenya since 2003. At the end of their eighth year, pupils take exams for the award of the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE). Exams are held in five subjects: Kiswahili, English, mathematics, science and agriculture, and social studies.

General secondary education

Most pupils are 14 years old when they start secondary education. Kenya has more than 3,500 secondary schools, with some 700,000 pupils. Less than 50 per cent of primary school pupils continue on to secondary education. Secondary education in Kenya is focused both on those pupils who plan to enter the labour market afterwards and those who plan to continue on to higher education. Secondary education ordinarily takes 4 years. The curriculum is made up of subjects divided into five groups:

- Group 1: English, mathematics and Kiswahili;
- Group 2: biology, physics, chemistry, physical education and biological sciences;
- Group 3: history and government, geography, Christianity, Islam, social studies and ethics, and Hindu Islamic Education;
- Group 4: home science, art and design, agriculture, woodwork, metalwork, construction, power mechanics, electricity, drawing and design, and aviation technology;
- Group 5: French, German, Arabic, music, commerce, economics, typing and office practice.

The subjects in group 1 are compulsory for all pupils. They must also choose at least two subjects from group 2, and can choose freely from the other groups. The subjects offered will depend on individual schools and what they can offer in terms of learning resources and teachers. At the end of the fourth year, pupils take exams for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE). These national exams are administered by the National Examinations Council.

In terms of level, the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) with an A, B or C in at least six subjects is comparable to a *HAVO* diploma in the Netherlands.

In terms of level, the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) with an A, B or C in fewer than six subjects is comparable to a VMBO-T (theoretische leerweg) diploma in the Netherlands.

Vocational secondary education

Following completion of primary education and the award of the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE), pupils have the option of following a vocationally oriented study programme as part of the artisan and trade programmes at youth polytechnics. These programmes lead to a variety of diplomas and certificates, among which a Craft Certificate.

The level of these vocationally oriented artisan and trade study programmes is comparable to *VMBO* study programmes. The level of each diploma will need to be assessed individually and will depend on the duration and specialization of the programme.

Postsecondary education

Post-secondary technical study programmes are delivered by various technical training institutes and institutes of technology. The admission requirement is generally a KCSE with a C- average. The study programmes offered by technical training institutes and institutes of technology vary in duration. Post-secondary study programmes also lead to a variety of certificates and diplomas.

In terms of level, the certificates and diplomas obtained at technical training institutes and institutes of technology are comparable to an *MBO* diploma (qualification levels 2, 3 or 4), depending on the duration and specialization of the programme.

Certain institutes can also deliver the national apprenticeship programme, which is comparable to the 'old' Dutch apprenticeship system and the current learning track in vocational education (*BBL* or *beroepsbegeleidende leerweg*). The level of each study programme must be assessed individually and will depend on its duration and specialization.

Admission to higher education

Admission to higher education at Kenya's public universities is managed by the Joint Admissions Board (JAB). The JAB is an umbrella body for admissions, with representatives from all public universities as well as the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology and the Commission for Higher Education (CHE). To be accepted onto a bachelor's programme, students are required to have achieved the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) with a C+ average. Admission to programmes leading to certificates and diplomas at polytechnics requires a D+ or C-average, respectively.

Higher education

Higher education in Kenya has a binary structure, with universities being either public or private. There are a total of seven public universities; these are independent and subsidised by the government.

Degree granting institutions in Kenya can be categorized as:

(a)	Public universities	-	7
(b)	Public University Constituent Colleges	-	24
(c)	Public University Campuses	-	3
(d)	Chartered Private Universities	-	14
(e)	Chartered Private University Colleges	-	5
(f)	Universities with Letter of Interim Authority(LIA)	-	11
(g)	Registered Private Universities	-	2

Total 66

Apart from public universities which are established through Acts of Parliament, private universities are established through the process of accreditation by CHE. The CHE website has an overview of all of these universities and affiliates. See under **Addresses**.

There are national polytechnics which offer higher professional education. They offer study programmes leading to a certificate, diploma and higher national diploma. Two polytechnics have been elevated to university status and have been offering degree programmes related to their diplomas. The diploma qualifications obtained from these polytechnics have been used for admission into related degree programmes in universities.

University education

University education in Kenya consists of three levels: bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programmes. Universities also offer Diplomas and Certificates.

Bachelor's degree

Bachelor's degree programmes usually consist of major and minor subjects. Depending on the discipline chosen, a bachelor's programme can take 4 to 6 years. Bachelor's programmes often end with a research project. Arts, basic science, commerce, law and Bachelor of Education programmes usually take 4 years. Engineering, architecture, veterinary science and medicine programmes take 5 and 6 years respectively. Bachelor's programmes can lead to a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree, but there are also degrees which specifically name the discipline, such as the Bachelor of Business Management. As well as preparing students for employment, bachelor's degrees in Kenya offer access to master's programmes.

In terms of level, the bachelor's degree following a nominally 4-year programme is comparable to an *HBO* bachelor's degree or 2 years of *WO* in the Netherlands, depending on the content and specialization.

In terms of level, the bachelor's degree following a nominally 5-year programme in architecture or veterinary science is comparable to a WO bachelor's degree in the Netherlands.

In terms of level, the bachelor's degree following a nominally 6-year programme is comparable to 4 years of *WO* in the Netherlands.

Master's degree

Master's degree programmes in Kenya usually take 1 or 2 years. The first year mainly consists of lectures, with the second year spent doing research. In principle, master's programmes conclude with a final paper. In most cases, admission to a master's programme requires a minimum of an upper second class bachelor's degree. Applicants with a bachelor's qualification below upper second class may be required to do a postgraduate diploma in the related field before being admitted into the master's programme. Most master's programmes confer a Master of Science or Master of Arts degree. But there are also degrees which include the name of the discipline, such as the Master of Environmental Studies. In principle, master's degrees in Kenya enable students to pursue a doctorate.

In terms of level, the master's degree is comparable to an *HBO* or *WO* master's degree in the Netherlands, depending on the specialization and duration of the programme.

PhD

A doctorate is awarded following a period of at least 3 years of research conducted during the doctoral programme. The titles awarded following successful completion of the doctoral programme are PhD and DPhil. A master's degree is mandatory in order to pursue a Doctorate degree.

Higher professional education

Higher professional education is offered by the national polytechnics. These polytechnics do not offer programmes that confer a bachelor's or master's degree; instead, they confer a certificate, diploma or higher diploma. Depending on the diploma achieved, one can then move on to enrol in a university's bachelor's programme.

Assessment systems

Secondary education Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education

Letter grade	Numerical grade	Description
A	12	Distinction
A-	11	Very Good
B+	10	Credit
В	9	Good
B-	8	
C+	7	Average
С	6	
C-	5	
D+	4	Fair
D	3	
D-	2	
Е	1	Poor

Higher education Bachelor's degrees

Numerical grade	Letter grade	Description	Classification
70-100	А	Excellent	First Class Honours
60-69	В	Good	Second Class Honours (Upper Division)
50-59	С	Satisfactory	Second Class Honours (Lower Division)
40-49	D	Pass	Pass
0-39	E	Fail	Fail

Master's and Doctorate degrees

These are graded as Pass or Fail with corresponding letter grades.

Qualification frameworks

Kenya is in the process of establishing a National Qualification Framework (NQF), a process which is being spearheaded by CHE. The discussions are at national level as well as at the East African Community committee stage.

Quality assurance and accreditation

Kenya's higher education sector has no official ranking system. The accreditation of programmes offered within higher education is overseen by the Commission for Higher Education (CHE). One of the CHE's core responsibilities is to monitor the quality of the education offered at both public and private institutions. A list of accredited programmes in Kenya can be downloaded from the CHE's website. See under **Addresses**.

International treaties

Kenya has no international education agreements with other countries.

Addresses

www.che.or.ke/index.html

Website of the Commission for Higher Education (CHE) with a list of recognized universities and accredited programmes.

www.education.go.ke/Home.aspx?department=1

Website of the Ministry of Education with information on primary education, secondary education, and adult education.

www.scienceandtechnology.go.ke/

Website of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science & Technology, with information on higher education in Kenya.

www.jab.uonbi.ac.ke/index.html

Website of the Joint Admissions Board, the umbrella body for admission to higher education in Kenya.

www.knec.ac.ke/main/index.php

Website of the Kenya National Examinations Council, the examining body for the KCSE.

www.s-bb.nl

Website of SBB, the foundation for Co-operation on Vocational Education, Training and the Labour Market.

Composition of file

The Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) certificate is required for secondary education.

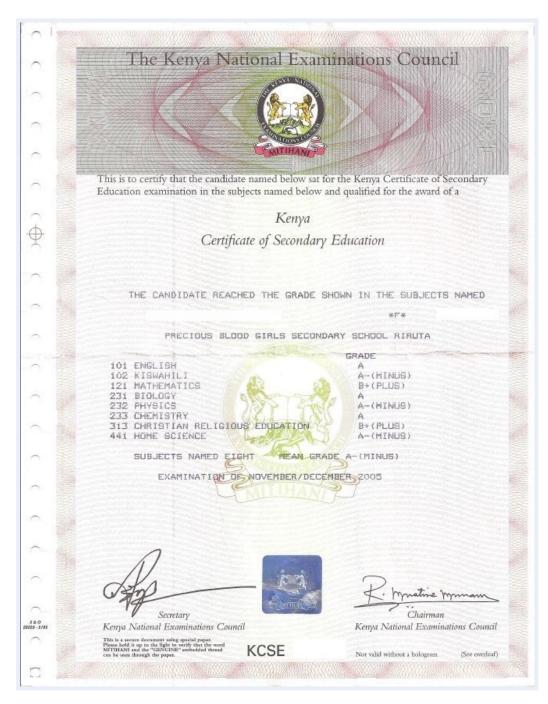
For tertiary education, all higher education diplomas obtained must be submitted together with transcripts and attached lists of marks.

List of higher education institutions

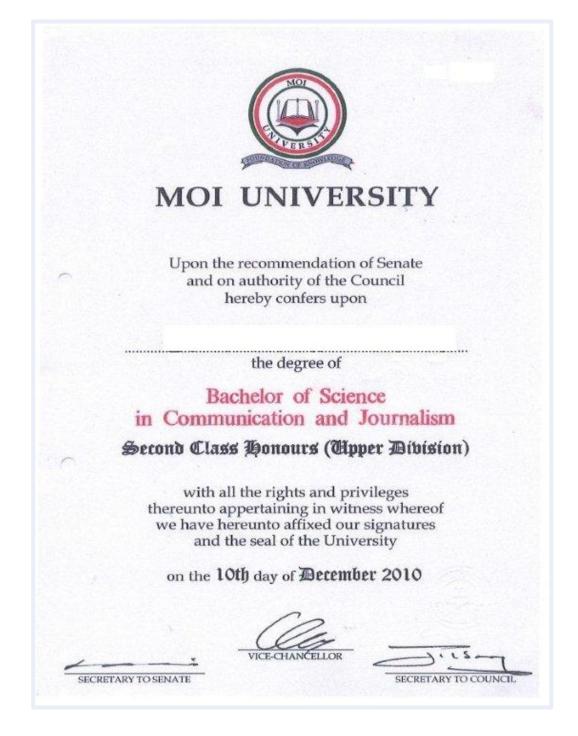
www.che.or.ke/index.html

Website of the *Commission for Higher Education* (CHE) with a list of recognized universities and accredited programmes.

Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)



Bachelor of Science - diploma



Bachelor of Science - Transcript (page 1)



MOI UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE DEAN

UNDER-GRADUATE PROVISIONAL TRANSCRIPT

053-20-43620 053-20-43153 (053) 43153 (053) 35047 Fax: Telex:

P.O. Box 3900 Eldoret KENYA

STUDENT'S NAME:

REG.NO.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATION &

JOURNALISM

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2007/2008

YEAR OF STUDY: 2

COURSE	COURSE TITLE	UNITS	RESULTS (%)	GRADE
CMM 200	INTERPERSONAL/ INTERGROUP COMMUNICATION	3	56	C
CMM 201	INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION	3	67	В
CMM 203	MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	3	61	В
CMM 204	VISUAL, AUDIAL-VISUAL & NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION	3	70	A
CMM 205	INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC RELATIONS	3	75	A
CMM 206	FUNCTIONAL WRITING	3	66	В
CMM 207	COMMUNICATING IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	3	44	D
CMM 208	LEADERSHIP AND PROBLEM SOLVING	3	67	В
CMM 210	SURVEY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS	3	73	Α
CMM 211	PUBLIC SPEAKING	3	54	C
CMM 212	ORGANISATIONAL BEHAVIOUR I	3	50	C
CMM 220	INTRODUCTION TO CINEMA & TELEVISION	3	61	В
IRD 200	STATE SOCIETY AND DEVELOPMENT	3	67	В
CMM 213	NEWS WRITING	3	59	C
CMM 215	ENGLISH FOR JOURNALIST	3	58	C
CMM 216 E	INTRODUCTION TO ADVERTISING	3	71	A
KIS 218	KISWAHIKLI FOR JOURNALISM	3	69	В

RECOMMENDATION: PASS - PROCEED TO THE 3RD YEAR OF STUDY TOTAL NUMBER OF COURSES TAKEN: 17

TOTAL NUMBER OF UNITS: 51

KEY TO GRADING SYSTEM

70% AND ABOVE - A (Excellent) 50% - 59%

BELOW 39%

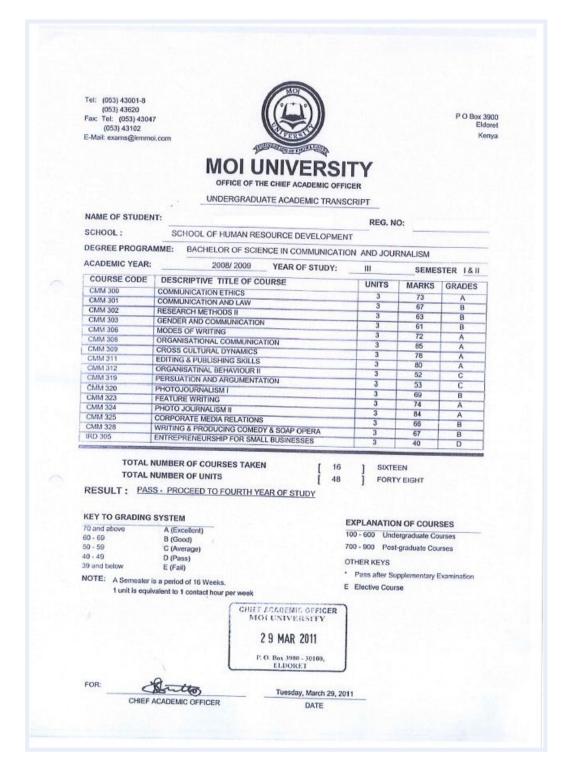
- C (Average)

- B (Good) 60% - 69% 40% - 49%

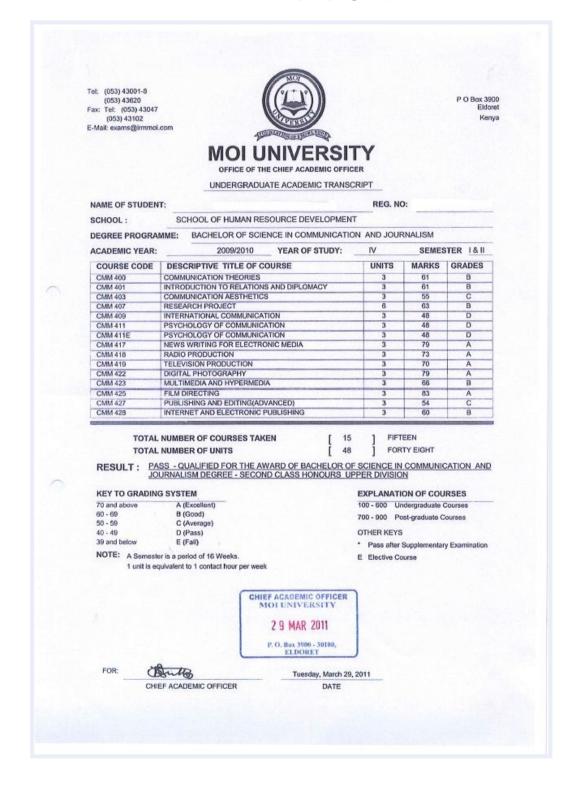
2104,00 DATE

D (Pass)

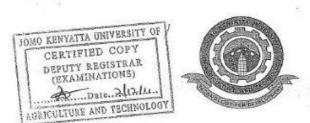
Bachelor of Science - Transcript (page 2)



Bachelor of Science - Transcript (page 3)



Master of Science - diploma



Certificate Number/

JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY , OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

This is to certify that

having satisfied all the requirements for the award of the degree of

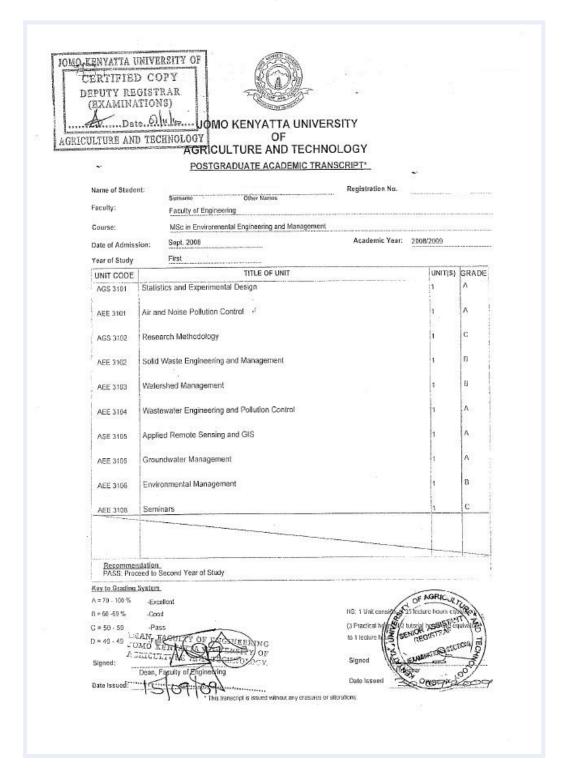
MASTER OF SCIENCE (ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT)

was admitted to the degree at a congregation held at this University on Friday the Twenty Ninth of July in the year Two Thousand and Eleven

M. Lenga Vice Chancellor

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs)

Master of Science - Transcript



Qualification Kenya

Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (at least 6 subjects with A, B or C)

- general secondary school diploma
- grants acces in Kenya to all higher education programmes

This qualification is comparable to a HAVO diploma in the Netherlands.

NB: This information is a general recommendation from which no rights may be derived.



I Qualification Kenya

Bachelor

- first cycle higher education diploma
- grants access in Kenya to master's programmes
- has a nominal duration of 4 years

This qualification is comparable to an HBO bachelor's degree or to 2 years of university education (WO), depending on the specialization and content of the programme.

NB: This information is a general recommendation from which no rights may be derived.



Qualification Kenya

Master

- · second cycle higher education diploma
- grants access in Kenya to PhD programmes
- has a nominal duration of 1-2 years

This qualification is comparable to an HBO or WO master's degree in the Netherlands, depending on the specialization and duration of the programme.

NB: This information is a general recommendation from which no rights may be derived.

