The education system of Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands described and compared with the Dutch system
This document provides information about the education system of Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands. It also includes the Dutch comparison of qualifications obtained in Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands.
Education system Curacao, St. Maarten and the BES islands

- **Bachelor of Law - LLB** (university education)
- **Bachelor of Science** (university education)
- **Bachelor / Bachelor of (Applied) Science** (university education)
- **SBO** (secondary vocational education)
- **HAVO** (Subject cluster curriculum)
- **VWO** (Basic curriculum)
- **VWO** (Subject cluster curriculum)
- **HAVO** (Basic curriculum)
- **VSBO tkl** (theoretical advanced vocational track)
- **Funderend Onderwijs – F.O.** (primary and secondary education)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education level</th>
<th>Duration of education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 qualifications frameworks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree or qualification</th>
<th>Dutch equivalent and NLQF level</th>
<th>EQF level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VSBO-tkl/MAVO diploma *</td>
<td>VMBO-T diploma</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAVO-diploma *</td>
<td>HAVO diploma</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VWO-diploma *</td>
<td>VWO diploma</td>
<td>4+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate of Secondary Education (CXC-examen) with at least 5 subjects at the level of general and with the marks 1, 2 of 3 (St. Martin, Caribbean Examination Council)</td>
<td>approximately HAVO diploma</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBO-diploma (level 4) of management training</td>
<td>MBO diploma (qualification level 4)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate of Arts (in Business / in General Liberal Arts) (University of St. Martin)</td>
<td>MBO diploma (qualification level 2 or 3)</td>
<td>2/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts in Education (University of St. Martin)</td>
<td>HBO bachelor’s degree (LOBO)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Science (University of the Netherlands Antilles)</td>
<td>WO bachelor’s degree**</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Applied Science (University of the Netherlands Antilles)</td>
<td>HBO bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor (University of the Netherlands Antilles)</td>
<td>HBO bachelor’s degree in engineering</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Education (University of the Netherlands Antilles)</td>
<td>HBO bachelor’s degree (LOVO)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Law (Universiteit van de Nederlandse Antillen)</td>
<td>WO bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* automatic recognition

** The evaluation of this degree has been changed compared to version 1, February 2011.
### Education system Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Equivalent</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Akte van Bekwaamheid tot volledig bevoegd onderwijzer (Akademia Pedagógico Kòrsou)</td>
<td>HBO bachelor’s degree (LOBO)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>NB: The information provided in the table is a general recommendation from which no rights may be derived.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical Assistant, Operatie-assistant certificate (Instituto pa Formashon den Enfermaria)</td>
<td>3 years of HBO</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>NLQF = Netherlands Qualifications Framework. EQF = European Qualifications Framework.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Law Meester in de Rechten (University of the Netherlands Antilles)</td>
<td>WO master’s degree</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The information regarding international study programmes at VMBO and MBO level are provided by SBB, the foundation for Co-operation on Vocational Education, Training and the Labour Market.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

The Netherlands Antilles ceased to exist on October 10, 2010. The archipelago, consisting of the five islands of Bonaire, Curaçao, St. Maarten, St. Eustatius and Saba, has acquired a new administrative structure within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius, also known as the BES-islands, have become special municipalities of the Netherlands. They are now part of the Dutch government structure, but have been assigned a separate Caribbean status. Curaçao and St. Maarten have acquired the status of autonomous countries within the Kingdom, comparable to the status that was granted to Aruba in 1986.

Aruba, Curaçao, St. Maarten and the Netherlands (including the BES islands) now form the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The intermediate layer of government and States of the Netherlands Antilles no longer exists. Curaçao and St. Maarten are now responsible for their own state administration and legislation. The BES islands are now a public body, or special municipality, of the Netherlands and as such fall directly under Dutch rule. The BES islands, like all Dutch municipalities, now have a mayor, alderman and council. On these islands, Dutch legislation will gradually be introduced where desirable or necessary, in such sectors as law enforcement, taxation and health and education. New developments concerning state administration are discussed in the Koninkrijksconferentie (Kingdom-wide conference), which is organised once a year. The BES islands are controlled by a local government: the Governor, the Executive Council and the Island Council. Members are elected for a period of 4 years.

The population of Curaçao consists of 149,679 inhabitants (2011), St. Maarten has 39,000 inhabitants (2010) and the BES islands have a total of 22,000 inhabitants (2012). The main economic source is tourism and offshore financial services.

The Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands (1954) formulates the state affairs of the member countries of the Kingdom Relations, including independence in their own affairs. Education belongs to this category. In the past, agreements were made on ministerial level between the former Netherlands Antilles, Aruba and the Netherlands concerning the recognition of diplomas of secondary and vocation education. Automatic recognition of general secondary education is still in force. Secondary vocational education in the former Netherlands Antilles will gradually be adjusted in view of automatic recognition by the Netherlands. Other diplomas from the former Netherlands Antilles are treated as foreign certificates by the Netherlands.
Prior to the statutory reforms in 2010, the Minister of Education of the Netherlands Antilles was responsible for matters concerning education. The educational structure of the Netherlands Antilles was established in 2002 in the *Landsverordeningen* (State Ordinances): for students from 4 to 12 years in the Nursery and Primary Education Ordinance, for pupils aged 12 to about 18 years in the Secondary Education Ordinance. In 2002, *Funderend Onderwijs (F.O.)* was introduced, a continuing learning pathway for pupils aged 4 to 15. In 2008, the Ordinance which regulates secondary vocational education, was introduced. Legislation to launch a Higher Education Ordinance is being developed in order to replace the University Ordinance of the Netherlands Antilles (LUNA), which dates from 1979.

The effects of the constitutional reforms on the legal status of education in the former Netherlands Antilles have not (yet) been determined. It is expected that legislation in the field of education on Curaçao and St. Maarten will become further removed from the Dutch government because of their own administrative structure. The BES islands on the other hand, being special municipalities, now fall under the auspices of a Dutch minister who is responsible for education.

The education system of the former Netherlands Antilles has largely been derived from the Dutch system. Education is largely funded by the government. On the islands, both public and private (mainly Catholic) education are offered.

Three official languages are spoken in former Netherlands Antilles: Dutch, Papiamento and English.

In primary education, Papiamento and Dutch (Bonaire) respectively English and Dutch (St Eustatius and Saba) are the languages of instruction. In practice, English is the most important language of instruction and Dutch is an elective.

In secondary education, Dutch is the language of instruction and examination on Bonaire and St Eustatius. Papiamento is an elective on Bonaire. English is the language of instruction on Saba, as pupils complete secondary school with the (English) CXC-examination. Dutch can be chosen as elective and exam.

For all three islands, the language of instruction and examination in secondary vocational education (MBO) is Dutch. For level 1 and 2, authorities can decide to select English (St Eustatius and Saba) or Papiamento (Bonaire) as instruction and examination language.

Education is compulsory for the age group of 4 to 18 year olds. The academic year runs from early August to late June.
Primary and secondary education

The differentiation within general secondary education according to duration and degree of difficulty is similar to that in the Netherlands. Automatic recognition applies in this context, with the exception of English-language programmes.

There are both public and private secondary schools. Public senior general secondary education (HAVO / pre-university education (VWO) schools on Curaçao are: the Maria Immaculata Lyceum, the Peter Stuyvesant College and the Raduphus College. Private schools are the Vespucci College, the Omega College and the Abel Tasman College.

Period prior to 2002

Primary education
Primary education included non-compulsory nursery education and the 6-year primary education (age category 6 to 12 years). After leaving primary school, pupils were able to attend secondary education that was divided into general and vocationally oriented education.

Secondary education
General education was split into the nominal 4-year junior general secondary education (MAVO) (including the basic curriculum), the 5-year senior general secondary education (HAVO) (2 years of basic curriculum plus 3 years of second stage) and the 6-year pre-university education (VWO) (2 years of basic curriculum plus 4 years of second stage). In 2003 junior general secondary education (MAVO) ceased to exist as a separate type of school and was merged into preparatory secondary vocational education (VSBO) (theoretical advanced vocational track).

In terms of level, the VBSO-tkl / MAVO diploma is comparable to a VMBO-T (theoretische leerweg) diploma in the Netherlands.

Pupils who pass the final examination for junior general secondary education (MAVO) can move on to the fourth year of the nominal 5-year senior general secondary education (HAVO). After completing the basic curriculum, pupils can also move on directly from primary school to the first class of senior general secondary education (HAVO) or pre-university education (VWO).
Pre-university education (VWO) is the most advanced programme at the level of general secondary education. The final examination for pre-university education (VWO) covers seven subjects and the final examination for senior general secondary education (HAVO) covers six subjects.

In terms of level, the HAVO diploma is comparable to a HAVO diploma in the Netherlands.

In terms of level, the VWO diploma is comparable to a VWO diploma in the Netherlands.

The Netherlands Antilles have their own national examination for general secondary education. MAVO, HAVO and VWO diplomas obtained in the Netherlands Antilles are automatically recognised in the Netherlands.

On the island of St. Martin, general secondary education is taught in both Dutch (HAVO and VWO) and English. The English-language schools (St. Dominic, St. Maarten Academy) prepare pupils for the Caribbean Examination Council examination. The Milton Peters College is a Dutch-language combined school. The island of Saba offers the same type of English-language general education.

The Caribbean Examination Council examination (CXC-examen) is taken at various levels (general, technical and basic) and is completed with the Secondary Education Certificate.

In terms of level, the CXC-examen with at least five subjects at general level and with the marks 1, 2 or 3 (whereby 1 is the highest) is approximately comparable to a HAVO diploma in the Netherlands.
Curaçao also has private English-language secondary schools: The International School of Curaçao and The Curaçao American Preparatory School. Both are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in the United States. Diplomas obtained at both of these schools are therefore treated in the Netherlands as an American diploma.

Bonaire has one combined school for secondary education, Liseo Boneriano (before: Scholengemeenschap Bonaire, SGB), whilst St. Eustatius has a school for vocational training and junior general secondary education (MAVO) and a senior general secondary education school (Gwendolyn van Putten School). Saba has an English-language school for vocational training (Saba Comprehensive School).

**Vocational education**

Vocational education in the former Netherlands Antilles consisted of pre-vocational education (BVO) and secondary vocational education (MBO).

**Pre-vocational education**

Pre-vocational education (BVO), which ceased to exist in 2003, was created through the integration of lower vocational technical training (LTO) and economics, tourism and administrative education (ETAO). BVO has a basic curriculum lasting 2 years, followed by a second stage lasting a further 2 years. BVO has three levels: BVO-A level, which is practice-oriented; BVO-B with a somewhat greater degree of complexity, followed by a further 2 years of education to achieve BVO-D level, as well as a transfer version that leads on to the secondary vocational education (MBO) programmes. The BVO-D is equivalent to the MAVO diploma.

**Secondary vocational education**

Secondary vocational education (MBO) lasts between 1 and 4 years. The admission requirement is the BVO-D, the LTS diploma or the MAVO diploma. There are two different types: the continuing studies version and the practical version. In the case of the former, the curriculum is more general. The last phase of MBO is a practical year, with a compulsory work placement lasting between 3 months and 1 year.

Secondary vocational education is provided by both public and private schools. An MBO diploma (transfer version) obtained through management training grants admission to higher education.
Period after 2002

Primary and secondary education
Nursery and primary education plus the basic curriculum for secondary education have been merged to become Funderend Onderwijs (F.O., primary and secondary education). This will be a continuous learning pathway for children aged 4 to 12, divided into two cycles, each lasting 4 years. The implementation of the first cycle (children aged 4 to 8) was officially commenced during the 2002 / 2003 academic year.

Senior general secondary education (HAVO) and pre-university education (VWO) start with a 2-year period with a basic curriculum, followed by a year in preparation for the subject cluster stage. The structure of the second stage is similar to that in the Netherlands with its four subject clusters, on the understanding that Papiamento is also a compulsory subject within the common part in addition to English and Dutch. General natural sciences and general social sciences are included in the common part. The subject cluster structure was introduced in 2002 (with three subject clusters) and was changed to the Dutch model in 2007.

On Bonaire, the private UNI-college has been set up and offers senior general secondary education (HAVO) and pre-university education (VWO). Since 2006, the public SGB has offered pre-university education (VWO) in addition to preparatory secondary vocational education (VSBO) and senior general secondary education (HAVO). On St. Eustatius, the Gwendolyne van Putten School offers preparatory secondary vocational education (VSBO) and senior general secondary education (HAVO). On Saba, preparatory secondary vocational education is offered by a VSBO-school. There are no schools offering senior general secondary education (HAVO) on Saba.

Preparatory secondary vocational education
Preparatory secondary vocational education (VSBO) has replaced pre-vocational education (BVO) and junior general secondary education (MAVO). Until Primary and Secondary Education has been fully introduced, education at the VSBO schools consists of a 2-year basic curriculum and a 2-year period of learning tracks in three sectors: Technology, Health and Personal Care and Welfare, and Economics. The learning tracks are: the theoretical advanced vocational track (TKL), the practical advanced vocational track (PKL) and the practical basic vocational track (PBL). Central examinations are taken for all subjects in all learning tracks. The aim of VSBO teaching is to achieve a smooth transition to secondary vocational education (SBO). Progression to senior general secondary education (HAVO) is, however, also possible in a number of cases. VSBO was introduced in the third year, therefore after the second year of the basic curriculum, in the 2002 / 2003 academic year.
Secondary vocational education

Secondary vocational education (SBO) has a broader structure than senior secondary vocational education (MBO). It also extends to programmes for which a preparatory secondary vocational education diploma (VSBO diploma) is not necessarily required.

There are two SBO learning tracks: learning through practical experience (werkend leren, WL) and practical experience through learning (lerend werken, LW) and four qualification levels (assistant, professional, skilled worker and middle manager). SBO was introduced during the 2004-2005 academic year. The programmes last between 1 and 4 years.

In terms of level, the SBO diploma (level 4) obtained through management training is comparable to an MBO diploma at qualification level 4 in the Netherlands.

In the case of the VSBO-tkl, HAVO, VWO and various SBO programmes, students have the option to take national examinations in the former Netherlands Antilles, similar to the state examinations in the Netherlands.

University of St Martin

The University of St. Martin on St. Martin – not to be confused with the non-accredited St. Martinus University on Curaçao – offers English programmes, both at Associate’s and bachelor’s level in cooperation with universities at other Caribbean islands. The 2-year secondary vocational education (MBO) programmes are completed with the degree of Associate of Arts. Students who have obtained the Associate of Arts degree are admitted to the bachelor’s degree programmes on offer at the university. The admission requirement for the Associate of Arts programmes is a VSBO-tkl diploma or the American General Educational Development diploma (GED-diploma).

In terms of level, the Associate of Arts issued by the University of St. Martin is comparable in the Netherlands to an MBO diploma at qualification level 2 or 3, depending on the specialization.
Upon obtaining the Associate Degree students may transfer to a 3- or 4-year bachelor’s programme which is jointly offered with the St. Vincent University of Canada or a bachelor’s programme offered in cooperation with the University of the Virgin Islands. These are usually part-time programmes for those already working.

Information on the bachelor’s programmes is available under Higher Education.

The College of the Dutch Caribbean (CDC)
The CDC is located in Curaçao and offers secondary vocational education in Dutch on SBO level 3 (duration 2 years) and level 4 (duration 3 years). From a number of these programmes there is also a part-time variant. The SBO 3 diploma offers the possibility to continue with a SBO 4 study programme. With the SBO 4 diploma it is possible to continue with higher professional education or with a bachelor’s study at the University of the Dutch Caribbean.

Other institutions offering programmes at SBO / MBO level which are approved by the Minister of Education of Curaçao are OTC (Opleiding & Trainingen Curaçao N.V.), New Horizons/IPEA (Instituto pa Ensenansa pa Adulto) and Feffik (Fundashon pa edukashon di Fishi i Kapasitashon).

Admission to higher education

The HAVO diploma, VWO diploma and SBO-4 diploma generally grant the holder access to higher education. The admission route depends on the programme the student wants to follow.

Higher education

On Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES-islands mainly higher professional education is offered. The Universiteit van de Nederlandse Antillen (UNA) and the University of St. Martin (USM) are recognised institutions (partially recognised in the case of the USM) and are subsidised by the government. The University of the Dutch Caribbean is a government-recognised institution that is not funded by the government.

Off-shore universities are also located within the island empire, namely the University of St. Eustatius School of Medicine (USESOM), American University of the Caribbean (AUC), St. James School of Medicine, St. Martin University, Xavier University School of Medicine (XUSOM) and the Saba University School of Medicine (SUSOM), which are not recognised by the Antillean government.

For the university last mentioned, the SUSOM, the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO), has positively assessed the study programme Master Doctor of Medicine in 2013.
Universiteit van de Nederlandse Antillen

This university, recognised by law, is situated on Curaçao and offers both higher professional and academic education. From September 2012, 23 out of the total of 26 programmes offered, have gone through the assessment procedures of the NVAO and for most of the programmes, the outcome of the assessment is positive.

Teaching takes place in Dutch, with the exception of a number of English programmes, i.e. all the programmes offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Techno MBA offered by the Faculty of Technical Sciences and the second and first grade teacher programme 'English' offered by the General Faculty.
The UNA has five faculties:

- The General Faculty offers training for a qualification to teach at the second level in Dutch, English, Papiamento and Spanish, and the teacher training for Funderend Onderwijs (LOFO). The admission requirement is the HAVO diploma, an SBO / MBO diploma at level 4, or VWO diploma. The nominal duration of the programmes is 4 years. These programmes are completed with the degree of Bachelor of Education.

  The faculty also offers a 2-year training programme for a qualification to teach Papiamento. On Bonaire, this faculty offers teacher-training for primary and secondary education.

  In addition, the General Faculty also offers professional master’s programmes, i.e. teacher-training for a qualification to teach Dutch, English, Spanish and Papiamento at senior secondary education level. The admission requirement is at least the degree Bachelor of Education, or the qualification to teach these languages at primary and secondary level, or an equivalent diploma in one of the mentioned languages with teaching experience. The nominal duration of the teacher-training programme is 2 years. These programmes lead to the degree of professional Master of Education with first grade qualification to teach the language for which one had already a second grade qualification.

  Since September 2012, the professional master’s programme Special Educational Needs is offered, with a nominal duration of 2 years.

In terms of level, the **Bachelor of Education** is comparable to an HBO bachelor’s degree in education in the Netherlands, teacher-training for secondary education.
• The Faculty of Law provides the academic programme law. The admission requirement is the VWO diploma. The nominal duration of the bachelor’s degree programme is 3 years and that of the master’s degree programme is 1 year. The degrees Bachelor of Law and Master of Law respectively (with effect from the 2004 / 2005 academic year) are awarded at the end of the programme. Before the introduction of the bachelor's-master's degree structure, the degree conferred was that of Meester in de Rechten.

In terms of level, the Bachelor of Law is comparable to a WO bachelor’s degree in the Netherlands.

In terms of level, the Master of Law / Meester in de Rechten is comparable to a WO master’s degree in the Netherlands.

• The Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences offers both higher professional and academic education. The admission requirement for the higher professional programmes is an SBO/MBO level 4 diploma, HAVO or VWO. The nominal duration is 4 years, and the programmes are completed with the degree Bachelor of Applied Science in the field of study. The nominal duration of the academic programmes Accountancy & Controlling and Business & Economics is 3 years and are completed with the degree Bachelor of Science. The admission requirement is a VWO-diploma or an equivalent diploma. The master’s programme in Accountancy has a nominal duration of 2 years and is completed with a master's degree. In September 2012 the new academic master’s degree programme Business Management started.

In terms of level, the Bachelor of Applied Science is comparable to an HBO bachelor's degree in the Netherlands.

In terms of level, the Bachelor of Science is comparable to a WO bachelor’s degree in the Netherlands.
• The Faculty of Technical Sciences offers professional bachelor’s programmes in the field of civil engineering, engineering, industrial technology & communication technology, and electrical systems. The admission requirement is a HAVO diploma with physics and mathematics B, an MTS diploma with a higher professional education continuing studies package. The nominal duration of these programmes is 4 years. The programmes are completed with the degree of Bachelor in the field of study.

• The Faculty also offers a professional master’s programme; Techno MBA for professionals working in the technical world with a Master of Science or Bachelor of Science background. The program is completed with an MBA-degree.

In terms of level, the Bachelor is comparable to an HBO bachelor’s degree in engineering in the Netherlands.

• The Faculty of Society and Behavioural Sciences, started in 2008, offers the Bachelor and Master Social Work. This new faculty was opened in 2008. The admission requirement for the Bachelor Social Work is SBO/MBO diploma level 4. The nominal duration is 4 years. The nominal duration for the Master Social Work is 2 years, and the admission requirement is the Bachelor Social Work, or in a related field of study (for instance Maatschappelijk Werk, Cultureel Werk) with at least 3 years of working experience.

University of St. Martin (USM)
The 4-year primary school teacher-training offered by the University of St. Martin is recognised by the Antillean government. The starting level is that of the HAVO diploma. The programme is completed with a Bachelor of Arts in Education.

In terms of level, the Bachelor of Arts in Education is comparable in the Netherlands to an HBO bachelor’s degree in education, teacher-training for primary education.
University of the Dutch Caribbean (UDC)

The University of the Dutch Caribbean (previously Zeelandia Opleidingen Groep) is situated on Curaçao. The UDC is recognized by the Minister of Education of Curacao.

The institution offers bachelor’s degree programmes in higher professional education. The minimal admission requirement is a MBO/SBO niveau-4 diploma. The nominal duration of the programmes is 4 years. Teaching takes place in Dutch, yet the international programmes are taught in English. The UDC offers these programmes on both a full-time and part-time basis. The programmes are completed with a Bachelor Getuigschrift recognized by the Minister of Education of Curacao.

The UDC offers the following programmes: Business Economics (Bedrijfseconomie, BE), Commerce (Commerciële Economie, CE), higher education in law (hoger juridische opleiding, HJO), Tourism and Recreation (Hoger Toeristisch & Recreatief onderwijs, HTRO) and International Business & Management Studies (Bank- en Verzekeringsmanagement, IBMS). In addition to this, it offers a 2-year programme in banking and insurance management that leads to an Associate Degree. In 2012, the NVAO positively assessed the quality of the new, nominal 4-year HBO-bachelor’s programme Business Administration (full time and parttime).

In terms of level, the bachelor’s programmes offered by UDC are comparable in the Netherlands to an HBO bachelor’s degree.

Akademia Pedagógiko Kòrsou

The Akademia offered higher professionally oriented teacher-training for primary education. The admission requirement used to the HAVO diploma, the nursery teacher A-certificaat, the MTS diploma and the MAVO diploma. The programme had a nominal duration of 4 years. As of August 2010, the programme is offered within the UNA under the name LOFO (Lerarenopleiding voor het Funderend Onderwijs, Teacher-Training for Primary and Secondary Education. The same year, the Akademia merged with the UNA.

In terms of level, the Akte van bekwaamheid volledig bevoegd onderwijzer is comparable in the Netherlands to an HBO bachelor’s degree in education, teacher-training for primary education.
Stichting HOGMA

Through a ministerial decision by the Minister of Education, Culture, Youth- and Sport in 1998, the HOGMA foundation was appointed to offer hogere opleidingen voor gedrag en maatschappij (tertiary programmes in behaviour and society). The admission requirement was the SBO / MBO diploma (level 4) or the HAVO diploma. The nominal duration of the evening programme was 4 years. The Diploma Hoger Beroepsonderwijs, Sociaal Agogische Beroepen is awarded.

In 2008, in close consultation with the UNA (the University of the Netherlands Antilles), HOGMA decided to stop the intake of new students, as the island was considered too small for two education institutes offering more or less the same education programmes. Therefore, from 2008 the UNA is the only provider of tertiary programmes in behaviour and society.

The programmes have been phased out at HOGMA, and the last students received their diploma in 2013.

Instituto pa Formashon den Enfermeria (Stichting IFE)

This institution programmes in the field of care and welfare at both secondary and higher professional level. Additionally, the institute offers a 3-year Surgical Assistant training programme. The admission requirement is the HAVO diploma. At the end of the programme, students obtain the professional qualification of Operatie-Assistent.

In terms of level, the Operatie-Assistent certificate awarded by Stichting IFE is comparable to 3 years of higher professional education (HBO) in the Netherlands.

A ministerial disposal has been granted to a number of IFE’s programmes: Dokterassistent (in 2009), HBO-Verpleegkundige (in 2012) and Spoedeisende Hulp Verpleegkundige (in 2012). This disposal means that the programmes are recognised in Curaçao.
Curaçao Institute for Social and Economic Studies (CURISES/ Intercontinental University of the Caribbean (ICUC))

Formerly part of the Universiteit van de Nederlandse Antillen (UNA), the Curaçao Institute for Social and Economic Studies (CURISES) became an independent institute in 2009. The Intercontinental University of the Caribbean (ICUC), founded by CURISES as its brand name, has established partnerships with recognised Dutch and American universities. The following professional business programmes at bachelor's level offered by CURISES are state-recognised: Business Administration in General Management/International Business/International Hospitality and Tourism Management and Accountancy. The master’s programme Executive Master of Finance and Control is offered in cooperation with the Dutch Vrije Universiteit (VU) and is accredited by the Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders (Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatie Organisatie, NVAO).

Grading systems

The grades run from 1 (very poor) to 10 (excellent).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numerical grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ten</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Nine</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Eight</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Seven</td>
<td>Better than a pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Six</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Five</td>
<td>Almost a pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Four</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Three</td>
<td>Very unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Two</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>One</td>
<td>Very poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Qualification frameworks

Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands have not (yet) established a national qualifications framework, nor have national qualifications been referenced to an overarching framework.

Quality assurance and accreditation

A quality assurance system for education in the former Netherlands Antilles has been set out in a policy plan. The government guarantees the quality of education by means of sound educational legislation in combination with an effective supervisory authority (inspectorate), external quality assurance via central examinations and tests (examination agency) and the accreditation of higher education. The Universiteit van de Nederlandse Antillen (UNA) anticipates that all of its programmes will have been accredited by the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) in future.

International treaties

The former Netherlands Antilles are a co-signatory of the Regional Convention on the recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees in higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean (1974).

Composition of file

A layout for certificates of subsidised general secondary education has been adopted at a national level. No separate list of marks is issued; the marks for the final examination are stated on the certificate. A separate list of marks is issued in the case of higher education certificates.
Addresses

Curaçao
Ministry of Education and Culture
APNA building, Schouwburgweg 24-26
telephone: +599 9 4343700 or 5-999-4343711.
fax: 0599-9-4624471 or 5999-4652267
website: www.curacao-gov.an

Expertise Centre for Tests and Examinations
Telefoon: +5999-4343711

St. Martin
Ministry of Education
Windward Division
Books Tower, Harbour View
telephone: +599-5437631 or 599-5422363 or 599-5423296
fax: +599 524884 + 5995423191

St. Eustatius
Ministry of Education
Windward Islands Division
Telephone: +599 318 2665

Bonaire
Ministry of Education and Culture
APNA plaza, Kaya Internashonal z/n
Telephone 717-8510
Fax 717-5266

www.cxc.org
Website of the Caribbean Examinations Council.

www.s-bb.nl
Website of SBB, the foundation for Co-operation on Vocational Education, Training and the Labour Market.
List of higher education institutions

- Universiteit van de Nederlandse Antillen (UNA)  
  www.una.net
- University of St. Martin (USM)  
  www.usmonline.net
- University of the Dutch Caribbean (UDC)  
  www.udc.an
- Instituto pa Formashon den Enfermeria (Stichting IFE)  
  http://ife-curacao.com
- The Inter-Continental University for the Caribbean  
  www.icuc-university.org
HAVO-diploma
Certificate of Secondary Education (CXC-Exam)

This is to certify that

Day of Birth

obtained the result(s) shown in the following 2 subject(s) in the year 2006 JANUARY

SUBJECT

MATHMATICS

SOCIAL STUDIES

PROFICIENCY GRADE PROFILE

GENERAL FOUR COMPUTATION (C), COMPREHENSION (D), REASONING (E)

GENERAL THREE KNOWLEDGE (C), INTERPRETATION (C), APPLICATION (D)

........................

THE COUNCIL WAS ESTABLISHED BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES IN 1975 AND IS RECOGNISED AS THE EXAMINING BODY FOR THE AREA.

Double Subject - A weighting equivalent to two subjects is granted for certain integrated examinations which are equivalent to separate examinations in two subjects on which examinands are to total level of preparation in excess of that for two subjects.
Certificate of Secondary Education (CXC- Exam) – official transcript

[Image of a Certificate of Secondary Education (CXC- Exam) – official transcript]
Certificate of Secondary Education (CXC- Exam) – information (page 1)

EXTRACT FROM THE CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL’S WEBSITE

CXC’s Examinations

CXC provides examinations and certification at the secondary and post-secondary levels. The Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examination is offered for students at the end of the Secondary Education Cycle. The Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE) is offered for post-secondary candidates who require certification and advanced standing.

How CXC assesses its examinations

Performance of students is assessed in a terminal examination as well as through a School Based Assessment (SBA). The internal assessment (SBA) enables the teacher to provide opportunity for students to acquire skills and attitudes through activities done during the course of study. The teacher assessment of the students contributes to the final grade awarded.

CXC Grading Schemes

CXC uses a six-point grading scheme to report on the performance of candidates in the CSEC examinations. The six overall grades, I, II, III, IV, V, VI indicate the candidates overall performance in the particular subject, while the profile grades, A, B, C, D, E, F are used to indicate strengths and/or weaknesses in the specific skills tested.

The CAPE examinations uses seven overall grades: I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII in reporting candidate’s overall results along with the profile grades, A, B, C, D, E, F and G.

Recognition of CXC examinations and certification

CXC examinations and certification are accepted regionally and internationally.

Entry to tertiary institutions

Regional Universities, tertiary institutions and external educational institutions in the US and UK have accepted CSEC and CAPE certification for matriculation and entry level programmes, based on the institution’s requirements for a particular course of study.

CSEC

The University of the West Indies, University of Guyana, community colleges, teachers’ colleges and other tertiary institutions in the region and overseas, have accepted Grades 1 - III at the General and Technical Proficiency, in the CSEC examinations, for matriculation and entry level programmes.

CAPE (THE CARIBBEAN ADVANCED PROFICIENCY EXAMINATIONS)

The Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE) are designed to provide certification of the academic, vocational and technical achievement of students in the Caribbean who, having completed a minimum of five years of secondary education, wish to further their studies. The examinations address the skills and knowledge acquired by students under a flexible and articulated system where subjects are organised in 1-Unit or 2-Unit courses with each unit containing three modules. Subjects examined under CAPE may be studied concurrently or singly, or may be combined with subjects examined by other examination boards or institutions.
Certificate of Secondary Education (CXC- Exam) – information (page 2)

A CAPE Certificate is awarded after a student has successfully completed one year of study in the CAPE programme and has obtained at least 10 credits, which is equivalent to one unit. A CAPE Diploma is awarded after a student has successfully completed at least six units and has obtained at least 60 credits.

Core Subjects

Caribbean Studies, Communication Studies, Functional French, Functional Spanish, Information Technology, and Statistical Analysis, are known as Core subjects. These are subjects that educators across the region agree are fundamental for providing the knowledge, skills and attitudes that people need for study at the tertiary level and the world of work.

The University of the West Indies and University of Guyana will accept Six CAPE Units for normal matriculation.

The UK National Academic Recognition Information Centre (UK NARIC), the only body which advises universities on entry qualifications has also recommended six CAPE Units for general entry requirements to British higher education institutions.

CAPE Grading

The following are the official interpretations to be applied to the CAPE grades.

One (I) – represents an excellent performance.

Two (II) - represents a very good standard of performance

Three (III) - represents a good standard of performance

Four (IV) - represents a satisfactory standard of performance

Five (V) - represents an acceptable level of performance

Six (VI) - represents weak performance

Seven (VII) - represents unsatisfactory performance
**SBO-diploma**

---

**DIPLOMA**

SECUNDAIR BEROEPSONDERWIJS

Kwalificatie: Administrateur
Niveau: vier

De ondergetekenden verklaren dat

geboren

aan het Frater Aurelio SBO

het examen, afgewerkt volgens de voorschriften gegeven bij en krachtens artikel 32 van de Landsverordening voortgezet onderwijs (P.B. 1979, no. 29), met goed gevolg heeft afgelegd, conform op de bijbehorende cijfertijst aangegeven deelkwalificaties.

Plaats: Willemstad, Curacao
Datum: 25 juni 2008

De voorzitter van de examencommissie: J. S. Zimmerman-Luyando
De secretaris van de examencommissie: R. V. Lanceot

Handtekening van de geslaagde: [Signature]

Registratienr: [Redacted]
Id.nrs: [Redacted]
## SBO-diploma – transcript

### CIJFERLIJST

**SECUNDAIR BEROEPSONDERWIJS**

**Kwalificatie:** Administrateur

**Niveau:** vier

**Afgelast door:** te Curaçao

**Geboren:**

**Id. nummer:** 1986

**Opleidingsinstituut:** Frater Aurelio SBO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deelkwalificaties</th>
<th>In cijfers</th>
<th>In letters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zakelijke communicatie Nederlands 4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>zeven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zakelijke communicatie Engels 4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>zeven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zakelijke communicatie Pariaments 2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>acht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedrijfsoorientatie 4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>zeven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maatschappelijk-culturele deelkwalificatie 3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>acht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT-gebruik 3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>acht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedrijfs/economisch beheer 4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>zeven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financieel administratief beheer 4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>zeven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerciële beroepsvoerder 3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>acht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administratieve verkoopopdracht 3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>negen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inkopen/belasting 3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>zes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtouren en crediteuren beheer 4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>negen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscaal administratief beheer 4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>zeven</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**STAGE**

VOLDOENDE

**UITSLAG**

GESLAAGD

**Plaats:** Willemstad, Curaçao

**Datum:** 25 juni 2008

De voorzitter van de examencommissie:  

De secretaris van de examencommissie:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cijfers</th>
<th>Betekenis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>uitmuntend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>zeer goed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>goed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>matig voldoende</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>voldoende</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cijfers</th>
<th>Betekenis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>bijna voldoende</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>voldoende</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>voldoende</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>slecht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>zeer slecht</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (UNA)

UNIVERSITY OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES
Faculty of Social Sciences and Economics

The Examination Board certifies that

_________________________

born: ____________________ in ____________________

has passed the final examination of the Bachelor of Science program and has acquired the degree of

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Majoring in International Business

Curacao, June 15, 2007

[Signature]
Chairman Examination Board

Grades: ____________________
Bachelor of Science in Accounting (UNA)
Faculteit der Technische Wetenschappen
Faculty of Engineering

De Faculteitsraad, bedoeld in artikel 29 Landsverordening
Universiteit Nederlandse Antillen, verklaart dat

geboren te
met goed gevolg heeft afgelegd het examen in de afdeling

Bouwkunde en Civiele Techniek

ter verkrijging van de graad van
Bachelor in de Technische Wetenschappen
Bachelor of Science

Curaçao, 8 december 2000

Examinator

Deze van de Faculteit

Universiteit van de Nederlandse Antillen

University of the Netherlands Antilles
Bachelor of Science (UNA)

University of the Netherlands Antilles
Faculty of Engineering

The Dean certifies that, according to article 31 of the National Ordinance of the University of the Netherlands Antilles, National Gazette (P.B.) 1985, no. 43, as most recently amended by National Gazette (P.B.) 2001, no. 74,

has fulfilled the requirements and is hereby conferred the degree of

Bachelor of Science

majoring in Building Design Engineering

Curaçao, December 14, 2001

Examinee

Dean of the Faculty
Akte van bekwaamheid, onderwijzer

NEDERLANDSE ANTILLEN

AKTE VAN BEKWAAMHEID

De examencommissie belast met het afnemen van het eindexamen voor

VOLLEDIG BEVOEGD ONDERWIJZER

Verklaart dat: .......
geboren: .......
in het jaar: 2004
het eindexamen in bewaring in het landbouw eindexamen Opleiding Onderwijzers (PB 1986, no. 157), met goed gevolg heeft afgelegd.

Plaats: Willemstad
Datum: 23 juni 2004

Geexamineerde:

Voorzitter examencommissie:

Secretaris examencommissie:
Onderwijzersopleiding - transcript (Akademia Pedagógiko Kòrsou)

Bij het examen ter verkrijging van de akte van bekwaamheid als volledig bevoegd onderwijzer, als bedoeld in het Landsbesluit Eindexamens Opleiding Onderwijzers (PB 1986, no. 137).

heeft ................................................
geboren te ........................................ de ..........................................
voor het theorie-examen de volgende punten behaald:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vak</th>
<th>Punten examenvakken</th>
<th>Punten overige vakken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nederlands</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papiaments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engels</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rekenen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schrijven</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opvoedkunde, Onderwijkskunde/Didactiek en Psychologie</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennis van het culturele en maatschappelijke leven</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aardrijkskunde/Geschiedenis</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natuurkunde/Biologie</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muziek</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tekenen en handvaardigheid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lichamelijke Oefening</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Uitslag van het theorie-examen:

Geslaagd!

De voorzitter van de Commisie van gecontroleerden:

[Signature]

Willemsstad, Juni 2003

De directeur:

[Signature]
Associate Degree (University of St. Martin)
Qualification Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands

HAVO-diploma

- secondary education diploma
- usually grants access to higher education programmes in Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands

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.
Qualification Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands

VWO-diploma

- secondary education diploma
- grants access to all higher education programmes in Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands

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

NB: This information is a general recommendation from which no rights may be derived.
Qualification Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands

SBO-diploma (level 4)

- secondary vocational education diploma
- usually grants access to higher education programmes in Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands

This qualification is comparable to an MBO diploma at qualification level 4 in the Netherlands.

NB: This information is a general recommendation from which no rights may be derived.
Qualification Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands

Bachelor of Applied Science
(Universiteit van de Nederlandse Antillen)

- first cycle higher education diploma
- grants access to master’s programmes in Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands
- has a nominal duration of 3 to 4 years

This qualification is comparable to an HBO bachelor’s degree in the Netherlands.

NB: This information is a general recommendation from which no rights may be derived.
Qualification Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands

Bachelor of Law
(Universiteit van de Nederlandse Antillen)

- first cycle higher education diploma
- grants access to master’s programmes in Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands
- has a nominal duration of 3 years

This qualification is comparable to a WO bachelor’s degree in the Netherlands.

NB: This information is a general recommendation from which no rights may be derived.
Qualification Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands

Master of Law – Meester in de Rechten

- second cycle higher education diploma
- grants access to PhD programmes in Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands
- has a nominal duration of 1 year

This qualification is comparable to a WO master’s degree in the Netherlands.

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