

Education system

# Tanzania

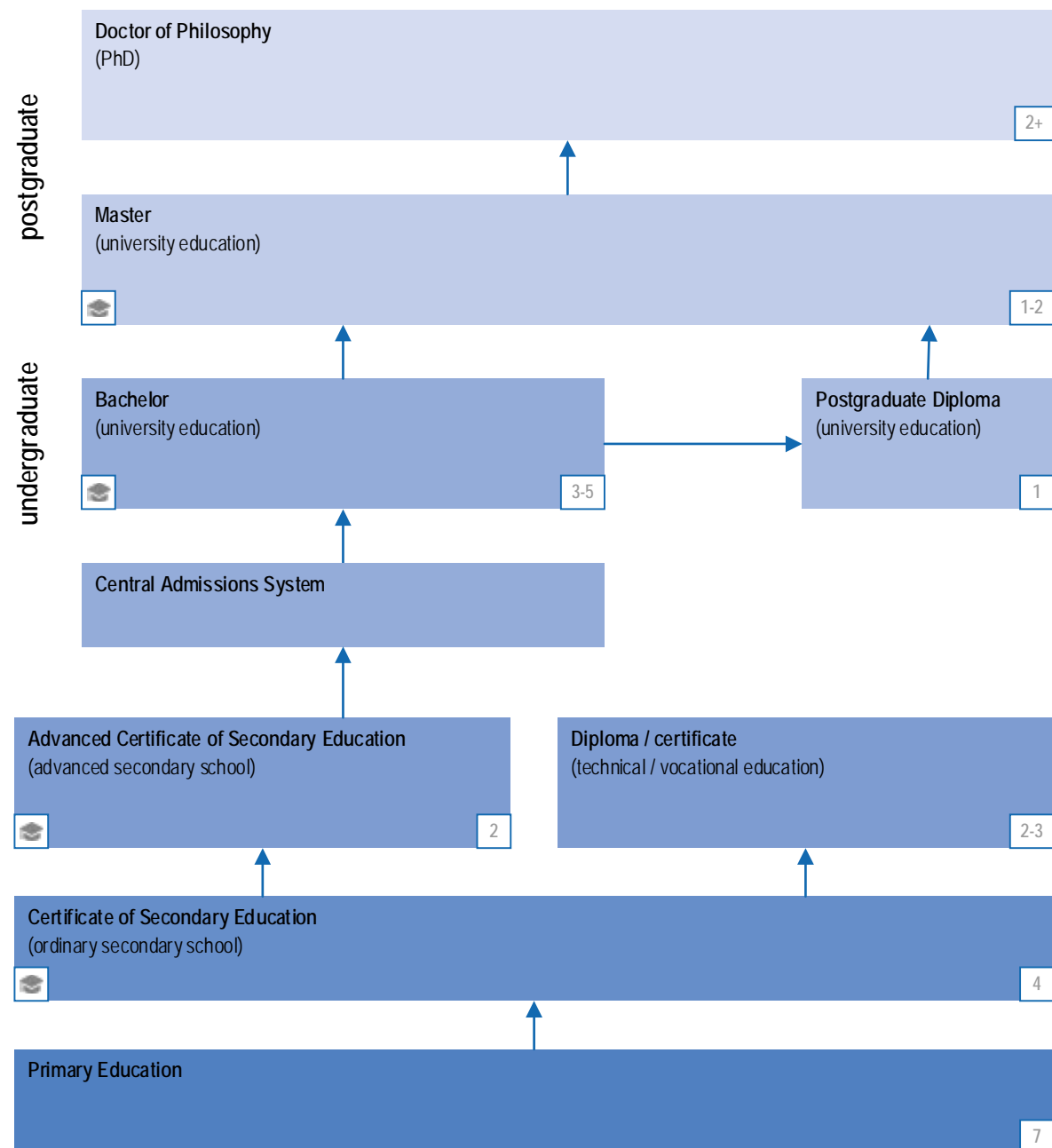
The Tanzanian education system described and compared with the Dutch system

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



Except where expressly stated otherwise and with the exception of images and illustrations, this publication is subject to the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial 3.0 Unported (CC BY-NC 3.0) Licence. For more information about the reuse of this publication please visit <https://www.nuffic.nl/en/home/copyright>.

## Education system Tanzania



 Education level

 Duration of education

 Click here to view a sample of the diploma

## Evaluation chart

The left side of the chart below lists the foreign degree, followed by the Dutch equivalent on the right along with the corresponding reference levels in the Dutch and European qualifications frameworks.

Degree or qualification	Dutch equivalent and NLQF level	EQF level
<a href="#">Certificate of Secondary Education</a> (an A, B or C in at least 5 subjects)	VMBO-T diploma 2	2
<a href="#">Certificate of Secondary Education</a> (an A, B or C in at least 6 examination subjects plus the <a href="#">Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education</a> with a principal pass for at least 1 subject	HAVO diploma 4	4
Certificate of Secondary Education (A, B or C in at least 5 examination subjects plus the <a href="#">Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education</a> with a principal pass for at least 2 subjects and a subsidiary pass for at least 1 subject	At least HAVO diploma 4	4
<a href="#">Bachelor's degree</a> (3 years)	HBO bachelor's degree or 2 years of WO 6	6
<a href="#">Bachelor's degree</a> (4 years)	HBO or WO bachelor's degree 6	6
<a href="#">Master's degree</a> (1 year)	HBO master's degree or WO bachelor's degree 7/6	7/6
<a href="#">Master's degree</a> (2 years)	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 Qualifications Framework. EQF = European Qualifications 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 the 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

**Tanzania gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1961. In 1964, the Republic of Tanganyika joined with the People's Republic of Zanzibar and Pemba to form the United Republic of Tanzania. The United Republic currently has over 45 million inhabitants.**

The education system is based around a 2-7-4-2-3+ structure. In other words: 2 years of pre-primary school, 7 years of primary school, 4 years of ordinary secondary school (ordinary level), 2 years of advanced secondary school (advanced level) and at least 3 years of higher education.

The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training has general responsibility for the education system. Amongst other aspects, the Ministry is charged with quality assurance, research, monitoring and evaluation of primary and secondary education. In addition to the Ministry, various other parties are involved in the governance and monitoring of education services, such as the Prime Minister's Office, the Regional Administration and Local Government, various NGOs and individuals coordinated by the central government. The Ministry is also responsible for higher education at universities. Public universities are semi-autonomous and have the freedom to determine – amongst other aspects – their own curricula. They are also authorised to award academic degrees. Although the vice-president of the university is appointed by the institution itself, the president is appointed by the President of Tanzania. All universities, both public and private, operate under the supervision of the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU). The National Council for Technical Education (NACTE) is responsible for all technical and vocationally oriented secondary and higher education offered at non-university institutions.

Compulsory education in Tanzania starts at the age of 7 and ends at age 14. The language of instruction for primary education is Kiswahili. However, the language of instruction for both secondary and higher education is English.

The academic year runs from September to July.

## ■ Primary and secondary education

Primary education is compulsory for children aged 7 to 14. Secondary education is divided into an ordinary secondary school level and an advanced secondary school level. The ordinary secondary school level is intended for the 14-17 age group, while the advanced secondary school level is intended for the 18-20 age group.

Primary education lasts 7 years and ends with the Primary School Leaving Examination. However, this examination does not lead to a certificate. Pupils are admitted to secondary education or vocational training centres on the basis of their results.

Secondary education comprises both an ordinary level and an advanced level. The ordinary level comprises forms 1 through 4, while the advanced level comprises forms 5 and 6. By the end of these levels, pupils take examinations for the *Certificate of Secondary Education* and *Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education*, respectively. Pupils to have achieved a satisfactory result for the *Certificate of Secondary Education* may then attempt to obtain an *Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education*.

Secondary schools specialise in agriculture, commerce, home economics and technology. Pupils in forms 1-4 (ordinary level) study civics, English, Kiswahili, history, geography, physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics. Pupils in forms 5 and 6 (advanced level) specialise in commerce, arts and social sciences or natural sciences. They also take general studies. Pupils to have obtained an *Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education* are eligible for admission to a higher education institution.

Examinations for the *Certificate of Secondary Education* and *Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education* are administered nationally. In order to obtain the *Certificate of Secondary Education*, students must take examinations in at least 7 subjects. Examination results are expressed in letters, whereby the letters A through D represent a passing grade.

---

**In terms of level, the *Certificate of Secondary Education* is comparable in the Netherlands to a *VMBO-T (theoretische leerweg) diploma*, providing at least 5 subjects have been graded with an A, B or C.**

---

In order to obtain an *Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education*, pupils are generally required to study 3 subjects. Examination results are expressed in letters, whereby the letters A through E represent a passing grade (principal pass), S represents a subsidiary pass (insufficient for a pass at ACSE level, but adequate for a pass at CSE level) and F represents a fail.

---

In terms of level, the *Certificate of Secondary Education* with an A, B or C for at least 6 examination subjects plus an *Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education* with a principal pass for at least 1 subject is comparable in the Netherlands to a *HAVO diploma*.

---

---

In terms of level, the *Certificate of Secondary Education* with an A, B or C for at least 5 examination subjects plus an *Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education* with a principal pass for at least 2 subjects and a subsidiary pass for at least 1 subject is comparable to at least a *HAVO diploma* in the Netherlands.

---

In addition to the option of transferring to advanced secondary education, pupils at ordinary secondary school level may also continue studying within secondary vocational education. In Tanzania, secondary vocational education is offered at various vocational training centres. These institutions offer study programmes in various technical and vocational fields, for instance programmes for students who want to become carpenters, electricians or plumbers. These programmes generally conclude after 2 or 3 years with traditional examinations that lead to various diplomas or certificates.



## ■ Admission to higher education

In order to be admitted to both public and private universities, prospective students must register via the Tanzania Commission for Universities' Central Admissions System. Students seeking to enrol in study programmes offered by the other private higher education institutions may apply directly to the relevant institution.

In order to be admitted to a university bachelor's programme, prospective students must have a *Certificate of Secondary Education* with at least 5 passes, plus an *Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education* with principal passes in at least 2 subjects and a subsidiary pass in 1 subject. More stringent requirements may apply, depending on the chosen specialisation.

## ■ Higher education

Higher education is offered at 28 universities, 19 university colleges and various training colleges and institutes.

The higher education system is divided into non-university level and university level studies.

The number of non-university level institutions (technical, vocational and professional schools) has increased significantly over the past few years. These institutions are overseen by the responsible ministries. They are authorised to issue various qualifications, ranging from certificates, diplomas and advanced diplomas to postgraduate diplomas. These qualifications offer access to bachelor's and master's programmes, depending on their level.

Universities and university colleges offer both academic and higher professional education. These institutions offer degree programmes and non-degree programmes, leading to an academic degree or other qualification. These comprise the bachelor's, master's and doctorate degree; the non-degree qualifications comprise certificates and diplomas. The universities are authorised to independently award academic degrees.

The structure of the higher education system is divided into an undergraduate and postgraduate phase. Undergraduate education leads to attainment of a bachelor's degree. Postgraduate education leads to attainment of a master's degree or doctorate degree, or postgraduate diploma.

## ■ University and higher professional education

Tanzania's first higher education institution was established in 1961, in the form of a University of London-affiliated college. The institution initially consisted of a single law faculty. In 1963, the college became part of the University of East Africa, along with the Makerere University College in Uganda and Nairobi University College in Kenya. At the time, the Tanzanian institution went by the name University College Dar es Salaam. Following the closure of the University of East Africa in 1970, University College Dar es Salaam became an independent national university under the name University of Dar es Salaam.

### **Bachelor**

Most bachelor's programmes have a duration of 3 years. Programmes in the disciplines of pharmacy, nursing, veterinary science and engineering have a duration of 4 years. The medicine programmes have a duration of 5 years.

---

In terms of level, a *Bachelor* degree following a nominal 3-year study programme is comparable in the Netherlands to an HBO bachelor's degree or 2 years of university education (WO), depending on the content and type of study.

---

---

In terms of level, a *Bachelor* degree following a nominal 4-year programme is comparable in the Netherlands to an HBO or WO bachelor's degree, depending on the content and type of study.

---

### **Master**

The nominal duration of a master's degree programme is 1 or 2 years. To gain entry to a master's degree programme, students must hold a bachelor's degree. In most cases, these study programmes continue the specialisation of the bachelor's degree obtained previously. In principle, master's programmes conclude with a thesis.

---

In terms of level, a *Master* degree following a nominal 1-year study programme is comparable in the Netherlands to an HBO master's degree or WO bachelor's degree, depending on the content and type of study.

---

---

**In terms of level, a *Master* degree following a nominal 2-year programme is comparable in the Netherlands to a WO master's degree.**

---

**Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**

Following successful completion of a master's programme, candidates are eligible to pursue the title of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). In order to qualify for a doctorate, candidates must have completed at least 2 years of study and research following attainment of their master's degree, and written a dissertation.

**Postgraduate Diploma**

Postgraduate diploma programmes continue at the level of completed bachelor's programmes, leading to a higher level of education. The nominal duration of these programmes is 9 to 12 months. The programmes do not conclude with a thesis.

## Assessment systems

Examination results for the Certificate of Secondary Education are expressed in letters, whereby the letters A through D represent a passing grade. Examination results for the Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education are also expressed in letters, whereby the letters A through E represent a passing grade (principal pass), S represents a subsidiary pass and F represents a fail.

Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE)	Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education (ACSE)	Description	Definition
A	A	<i>Excellent</i>	Excellent
B	B	<i>Very Good</i>	Very good
C	C	<i>Good</i>	Good
D	D	<i>Satisfactory</i>	More than satisfactory
	E	<i>Poor</i>	Satisfactory
F	F	<i>Fail</i>	Unsatisfactory
	S	<i>Subsidiary Pass</i>	Insufficient for a pass at ACSE level, but adequate for a pass at CSE level.

Higher education bachelor's degrees also specify a class.

Letter	Description	Classification
A	<i>Excellent</i>	First Class
B+	<i>Very Good</i>	Upper Second Class
B	<i>Good</i>	Lower Second Class
C	<i>Satisfactory</i>	Pass
D	<i>Fail</i>	
E	<i>Fail</i>	

## ■ Qualification frameworks

In 2009, the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training and the Tanzania Commission for Universities initiated the establishment of an overarching national qualifications framework, the Tanzania Qualifications Framework (TzQF). The framework is yet to be implemented at the time of writing. The definitive proposal for this TzQF is featured on the following website: [www.idea-](http://www.idea-phd.net/files/81113/5773/7871/TCU_NQF_Final_Report_March_2010.pdf)

[phd.net/files/81113/5773/7871/TCU\\_NQF\\_Final\\_Report\\_March\\_2010.pdf](http://www.idea-phd.net/files/81113/5773/7871/TCU_NQF_Final_Report_March_2010.pdf)

Qualifications for the technical and vocationally oriented education system are currently not linked to the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Qualifications Framework applied by the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE), the body responsible for technical and vocationally oriented education at non-university institutions. These qualifications are referred to as the National Technical Awards (NTA). Each NTA qualification includes a detailed description of the required competencies.

For further information on the TVET Qualifications Framework, see the website of the National Council for Technical Education

(NACTE): [www.nacte.go.tz/?id=2&page=cat&source=Qualification%20Framework](http://www.nacte.go.tz/?id=2&page=cat&source=Qualification%20Framework)

## ■ Quality assurance and accreditation

In accordance with the provisions of Act No. 7 (2005), the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) is responsible for the registration and monitoring of institutions and the accreditation and quality assurance of study programmes and qualifications at both public and private universities.

You can consult the TCU website to find out whether a specific Tanzanian university or study programme has been accredited:

[www.tcu.go.tz](http://www.tcu.go.tz)

Other secondary and higher education institutions are under the supervision of the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE). For an overview of all accredited and registered institutions, see the NACTE website: [www.nacte.go.tz/index.php](http://www.nacte.go.tz/index.php)

## ■ International treaties

Tanzania has no international education agreements with other countries.

## ■ Addresses

[www.moe.go.tz](http://www.moe.go.tz)

Website of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training.

[www.tcu.go.tz/?view=featured](http://www.tcu.go.tz/?view=featured)

Website of the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU).

[www.nacte.go.tz/index.php](http://www.nacte.go.tz/index.php)

Website of the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE).

[www.veta.go.tz/index.php/en](http://www.veta.go.tz/index.php/en)

Website of the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA).

[www.s-bb.nl](http://www.s-bb.nl)

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

## ■ Composition of file

Participation in secondary education requires a Certificate of Secondary Education and an Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education.

Pupils to have completed a higher education programme will be presented with a diploma, generally accompanied by an overview of the relevant subjects and study and examination results.

## ■ List of higher education institutions

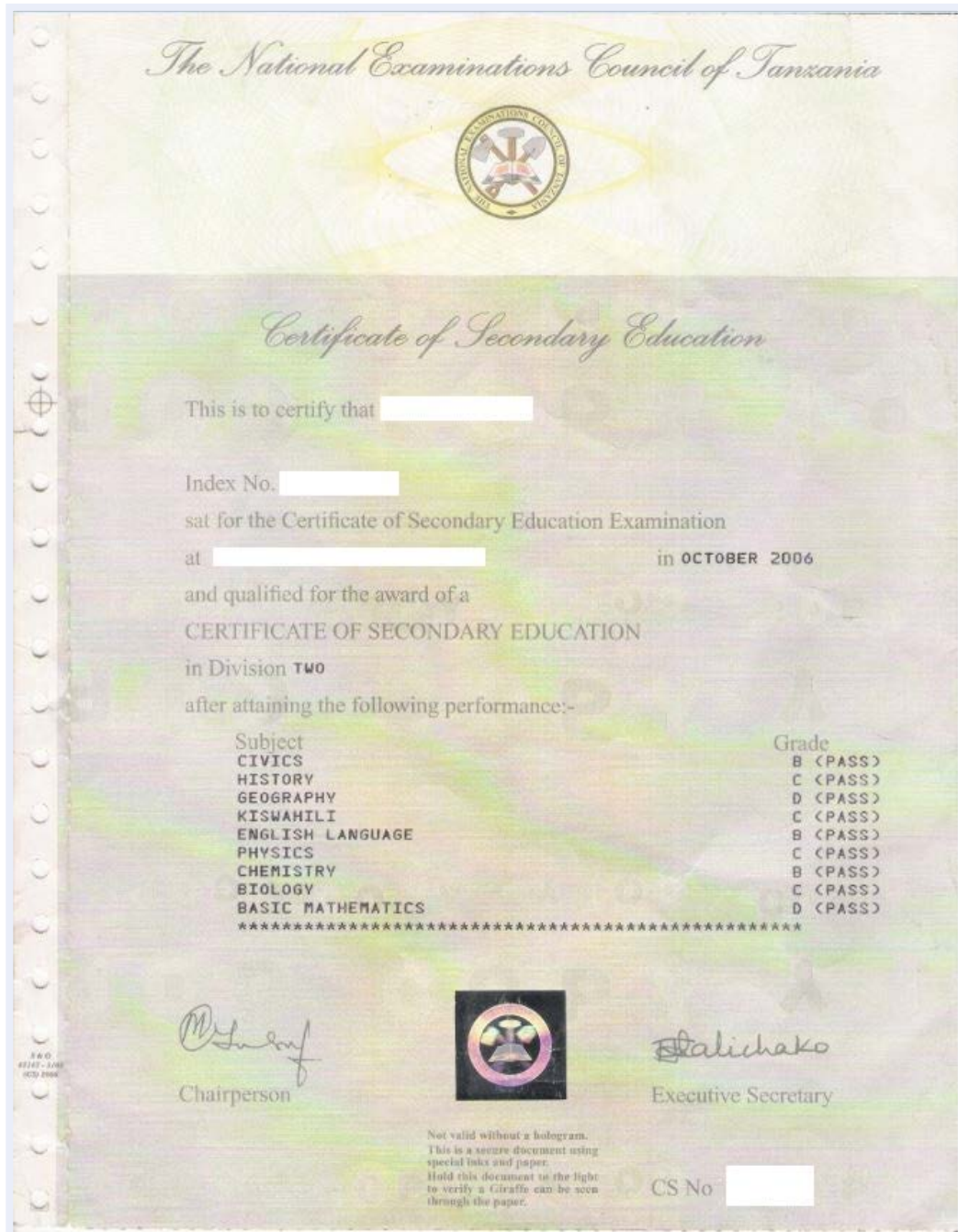
[www.tcu.go.tz](http://www.tcu.go.tz)

Website of the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) featuring an overview of accredited universities and study programmes.

[www.nacte.go.tz/index.php](http://www.nacte.go.tz/index.php)

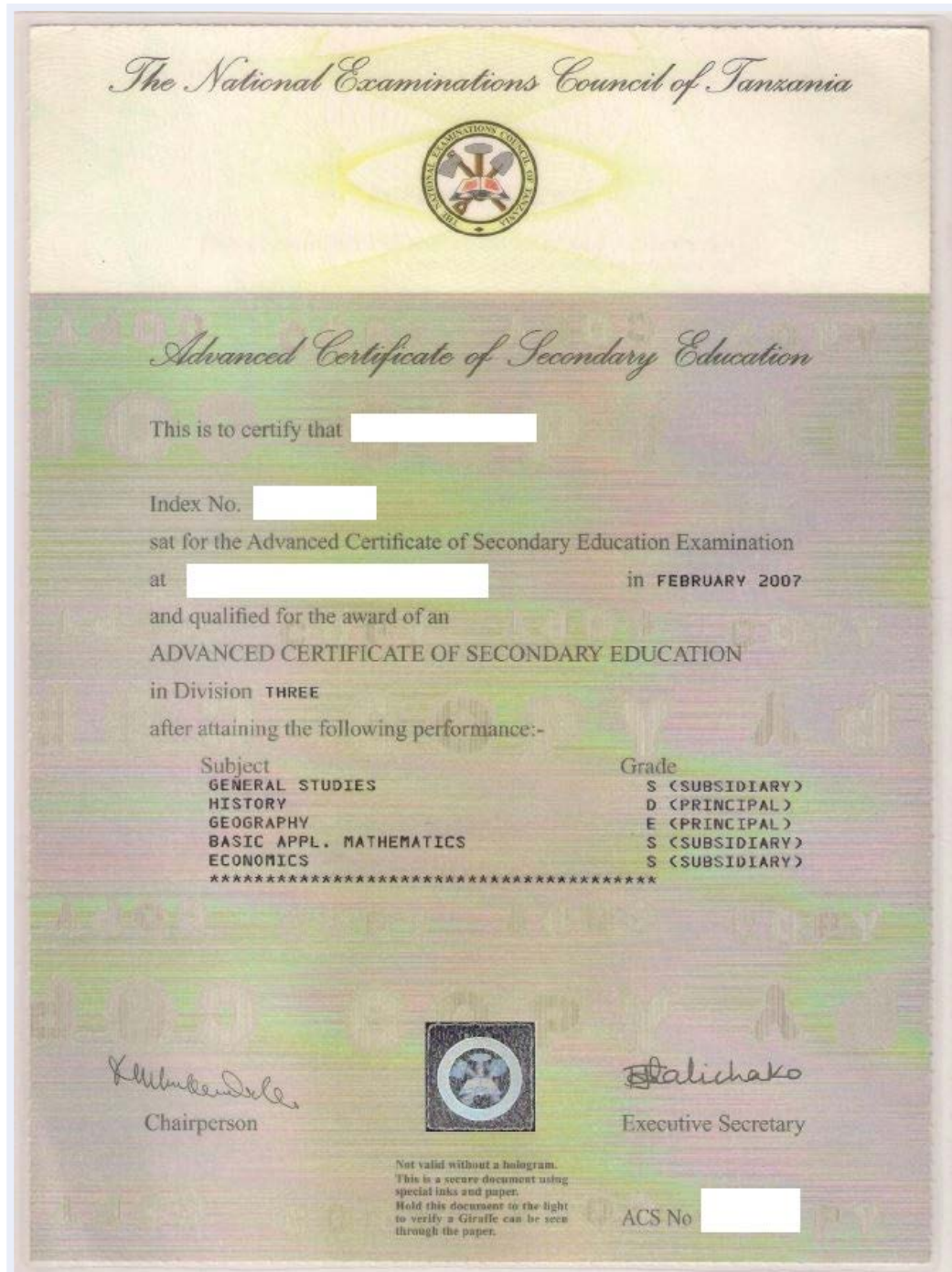
Website of the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE), featuring an overview of accredited and registered secondary and higher professional education institutions.

■ Certificate of Secondary Education



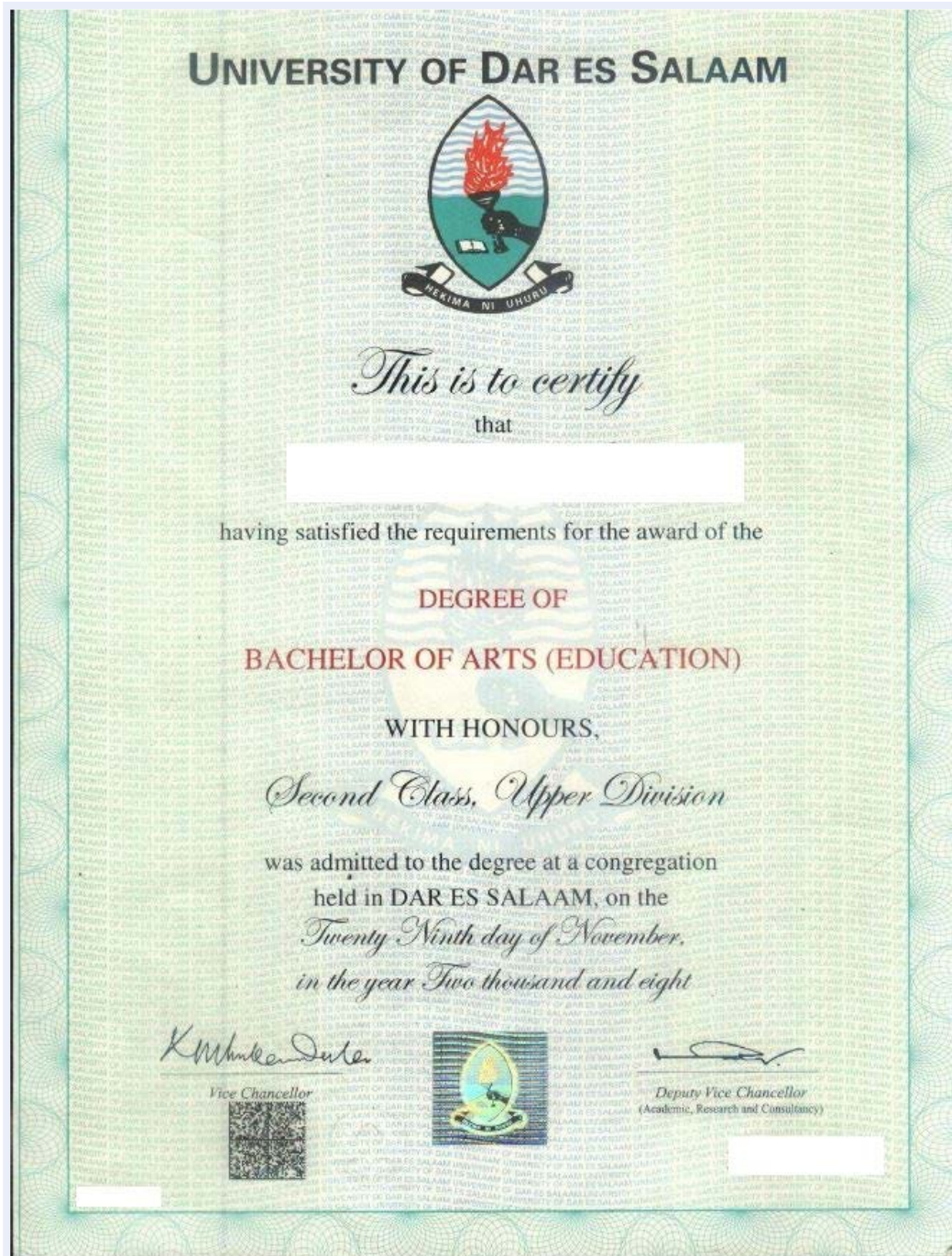


■ **Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education**






Bachelor - diploma



## Bachelor – transcript (page 1)

UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM					
Phone : +255-22-2410077				P.O.Box : 35091	
Fax : +255-22-2410078				DAR ES SALAAM	
E-mail : dvc-arc@admin.udsm.ac.tz				TANZANIA	
Website : http://www.udsm.ac.tz					
TRANSCRIPT OF EXAMINATIONS RESULTS					
Surname:		First Name:		Middle Names:	
Sex:	Country of Citizenship:	Permanent Address:			
FEMALE	TANZANIA				
Registration No:	Date of Birth:	Admitted: 2005/2006	Completed: 29-11-2008		
College or Campus :		Faculty or Institute :			
MAIN CAMPUS		ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES			
Name of Programme : BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH EDUCATION					
Admitted on the basis of : Direct					
Overall G.P.A : 4.2			Degree Class : UPPER SECOND WITH HONOURS		
EXAMINATIONS RESULTS					
FIRST YEAR EXAMINATIONS RESULTS: 2005/06					
Course Code	Course Title	Units	Grade	Points	GPA
CL 106	Communication Skills for Arts and Social Sciences	3.0	A	15	
CT 107	Social Science Methods	3.0	B	9	
CT 200	Principles of Curriculum Development and Teaching	3.0	A	15	
DS 101	Development Perspectives I	2.0	B	6	
DS 102	Development Perspectives II	2.0	B+	8	
EF 100	Principles of Education	3.0	A	15	
EP 101	Introduction to Educational Psychology	3.0	B	9	
GE 140	Introduction to Physical Geography	3.0	B+	12	
GE 141	Climatology	3.0	B	9	
GE 142	Spatial Organisation	3.0	B+	12	
HI 101	Basic Concepts and Perspectives in Historical Scholarship	3.0	B	9	
HI 102	Survey of World History to Ca. 1500 A.D	3.0	B+	12	
HI 103	Capitalism and Imperialism in World History	3.0	B+	12	
HI 104	Themes in African History	3.0	B+	12	
		Sub-total	40	155	3.8
SECOND YEAR EXAMINATIONS RESULTS: 2006/07					
Course Code	Course Title	Units	Grade	Points	GPA
AS 217	Introduction to Computer Skills	0.0	B	0	
BM 100	Principles of Management and Administration	3.0	B+	12	
CT 201	Education Media and Technology	3.0	B+	12	
DS 213	Planning, Public Policy and Development	3.0	B+	12	
EA 300	Management of Education and School Administration	3.0	B+	12	
EP 300	Educational Measurement and Evaluation	3.0	B+	12	
EP 306	Counselling and Special Needs Education	3.0	A	15	
GE 144	Surveying and Mapping Science	3.0	B+	12	
GE 145	Environmental Education	3.0	B+	12	
GE 247	Population Studies	3.0	A	15	
HI 260	Philosophies and Methodologies of History	3.0	B+	12	
HI 261	History of Tanzania	3.0	B+	12	
HI 262	History of East Africa	3.0	B+	12	
Page 1/2					



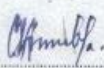
## Bachelor – transcript (page 2)

SECOND YEAR EXAMINATIONS RESULTS: 2006/07, CONTINUE					
Course Code	Course Title	Units	Grade	Points	GPA
HR 201	Human Resources Management	3.0	A	15	
SO 279	Introduction to Community Development	3.0	A	15	
		Sub-total		42	4.2

THIRD YEAR EXAMINATIONS RESULTS : 2007/08					
Course Code	Course Title	Units	Grade	Points	GPA
AS 102	Introduction to Social Science Research Methods	3.0	A	15	
AY 304	Basics in Archaeology	3.0	B+	12	
CT 202	Teaching Practice	3.0	A	15	
GE 240	Soil Resources	3.0	A	15	
GE 241	Biogeography	3.0	B+	12	
GE 244	Quantitative Methods in Geography	3.0	A	15	
GE 245	Remote Sensing	3.0	A	15	
GE 250	Environmental Education and Conservation	3.0	A	15	
GE 349	Contemporary Geography of Africa	3.0	A	15	
HI 263	History of Central Africa	3.0	B	9	
HI 360	Economic History of Tanzania: Theory	3.0	B+	12	
HI 361	History of West Africa	3.0	A	15	
HI 364	Industrialization and the Rise of the Working Class in Britain	3.0	B+	12	
HI 368	Oral Histories in Tanzania: Theory	3.0	B+	12	
HR 200	Organizational Behaviour	3.0	B+	12	
PL 111	Introduction to Critical Thinking and Argumentation	3.0	A	15	
		Sub-total		48	4.5


24<sup>th</sup> 04. 2009

For Deputy Vice Chancellor  
 Academic, Research and Consultancy
 Date
OFFICIAL SEAL

\*\*\*\*\* END OF TRANSCRIPT \*\*\*\*\*

1. The transcript will be valid only if it bears the University Seal.

2. Key for Course Units: ONE UNIT IS EQUIVALENT TO 15 CONTACT HOURS. POINTS = GRADE MULTIPLIED BY NUMBER OF UNITS.

3. Key to the Grades and other Symbols for University Examinations: SEE THE TABLE BELOW

Grade	A	B+	B	C	D	E
Marks	70 - 100%	60 - 69%	50 - 59%	40 - 49%	34 - 39%	0 - 34%
Grade Points	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	0.0
Remarks	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Marginal Fail	Absolute Fail

4. Key to Classification of Awards : SEE THE TABLE BELOW

Degree		Diploma		Certificate	
Overall G.P.A.	Class	Overall G.P.A.	Class	Overall G.P.A.	Class
4.4 - 5.0	FIRST	4.0 - 5.0	DISTINCTION	4.0 - 5.0	DISTINCTION
3.5 - 4.3	UPPER SECOND	3.0 - 3.9	CREDIT	3.0 - 3.9	CREDIT
2.7 - 3.4	LOWER SECOND	2.0 - 2.9	PASS	2.0 - 2.9	PASS
2.0 - 2.6	PASS				

Page 2/2



## Master – transcript

**THE UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM**  
**ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN HIGHER DEGREES**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (ARC)  
 University of Dar-es-salaam  
 P.O. Box 35091  
 Dar-es-salaam

SURNAME	FIRST NAMES	BIRTH DATE	MARITAL STATUS	SEX	CITIZEN OF	REG. NO.
			Single	Female	Tanzania	
<b>HOME ADDRESS</b>			<b>NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN</b>			
<b>DEGREE COURSE</b>			<b>DATE OF ENTRY</b>			
MASTER OF ARTS (EDUCATION)			27 <sup>th</sup> September, 2005			

**EXAMINATION RESULTS**

**Master of Arts (Education) Examinations, 2005-2007**

FE 600 Research Methods in Education	B
EA 601 Policy Planning and Administration	B
EF 601 Comparative Education	B+
CT 600 Curriculum and Teaching	B+
EA 603 Educational Planning and Financing	B+
PE 602 Economics and Marketing of Sports	B+
FE 699 Dissertation	A

**CERTIFIED AS A TRUE COPY  
OF THE ORIGINAL**

*[Signature]*  
 Deputy Vice-Chancellor (ARC)  
 University of Dar-es-salaam  
 P.O. Box 35091  
 Dar-es-Salaam

**REMARKS: PASS** and awarded **Master of Arts (Education) Degree** of the University of Dar es Salaam

**KEY TO UNIVERSITY GRADE:**  
**A: EXCELLENT, B+: VERY GOOD, B: GOOD**

*The official Transcript of the University bears the Seal and Stamp of the University*

## ■ Qualification Tanzania

### Certificate of Secondary Education

- general secondary education diploma
- grants access to advanced secondary school level in Tanzania

**This qualification is comparable to a VMBO-T diploma in the Netherlands, providing a final result of A, B or C has been obtained for at least 5 subjects.**

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

## ■ Qualification Tanzania

### Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education

- general secondary education diploma
- grants access to all higher education programmes in Tanzania

**This qualification is comparable to at least a HAVO diploma in the Netherlands, providing the Certificate of Secondary Education is graded with an A, B or C for at least 5 examination subjects and the Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education is graded with a principal pass for at least 2 subjects and a subsidiary pass for at least 1 subject.**

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

## ■ Qualification Tanzania

### **Bachelor's degree (3 years)**

- first cycle higher education diploma
- grants access to master's programmes in Tanzania

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

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



## ■ Qualification Tanzania

### **Bachelor degree (4 years)**

- first cycle higher education diploma
- grants access to master's programmes in Tanzania

**This qualification is comparable to an HBO or WO bachelor's degree in the Netherlands, depending on the content and type of study.**

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

## ■ Qualification Tanzania

### **Master's degree (1 year)**

- second cycle higher education diploma
- grants access to PhD programmes in Tanzania

**This qualification is comparable to an HBO master's degree or WO bachelor's degree in the Netherlands, depending on the content and type of study.**

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

## ■ Qualification Tanzania

### **Master's degree** (2 years)

- second cycle higher education diploma
- grants access to PhD programmes in Tanzania

**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.*