

Education in Bangladesh today

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Education in Bangladesh is under the auspices of the Ministry of Education (MOE).

The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, directly under the MOE, is responsible for secondary and higher secondary education.

The subdistricts are responsible for primary education.

The Directorate of Technical Education is responsible for vocational education.

Islamic schools are under supervision of the Madrasah Education Board, an autonomous institution established in 1982. Education spending accounts for 1.5 percent of the total gross national product.

Primary/secondary education

The pattern of education consists of five years of primary, three years of junior secondary, two years of secondary and two years of higher-secondary education.

The academic year in primary/secondary schools begins in January and ends in December.

Primary education

In 1992, primary education became compulsory. Students begin primary school at age six. The language of instruction is Bangla. Primary education comprises grades one through five.

The curriculum is standard throughout the country and includes Bangla, arithmetic, social studies and science. In third grade, physical education, arts and crafts, music, religion and English language are introduced.

Promotion from grade two onward is based on internal examinations given at the end of the year. There are no public examinations given at the end of grade five.

Secondary education

Secondary education is divided into three stages: junior secondary, secondary and higher secondary. The four di-

Degree programs

Degree	Entry Requirements	Length
Bangladesh Agricultural University		
Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Honours)	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Science in Animal Husbandry (Honours)	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics (Honours)	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Science in Fisheries (Honours)	HSC	4 years
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	HSC	4 years
Master of Science (Agricultural Economics)	4-year Bachelor's degree	1 year
Master of Science (Animal Husbandry)	4-year Bachelor's degree	1 year
Master of Science in Veterinary Medicine	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	1 year
Master of Science (Agriculture Extension Education)	4-year Bachelor's degree	1 year
Master of Science (Agricultural Engineering)	4-year Bachelor's degree	1 year
Master of Science (Fisheries)	4-year Bachelor's degree	1 year
Master of Science (Agricultural Statistics)	4-year Bachelor's degree	2 years
Doctor of Philosophy	Bachelor's degree	3 years
Bangladesh Asian University		
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Arts (Pass)	HSC	2.5 years
Master of Arts	4-year Bachelor's degree	1 year
Bachelor of Business Administration	HSC	4 years
Bangladesh Open University		
Bachelor of Education	2-year Bachelor's degree	2 years
Bachelor of Agricultural Education	2-year Bachelor's degree	2 years
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology		
Bachelor of Science (Engineering)	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Architecture	HSC	5 years
Master of Architecture	Bachelor of Architecture	1.5 years
Master of Engineering or Master of Science (Engineering)	Bachelor of Engineering	1.5 years
Master of Urban and Regional Planning	4-year Bachelor's degree	2 years
Master of Philosophy	Master's degree	2 years
Doctor of Philosophy	Master's degree	2 years
University of Chittagong		
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)	HSC	3 years
Bachelor of Science (Honours)	HSC	3 years
Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours)	HSC	3 years
Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours)	HSC	3 years
Bachelor of Laws (Honours)	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	HSC	5 years
Master of Arts	3-year Bachelor's degree	1 year
Master of Social Science	3-year Bachelor's degree	1 year
Master of Fine Arts	3-year Bachelor of Fine Arts	1 year
Master of Commerce	3-year Bachelor of Commerce	1 year
Master of Science	3-year Bachelor of Science	1 year
Master of Business Administration	3-year Bachelor of Business Administration	1 year
Master of Philosophy	Master's degree	2 years
Doctor of Philosophy	Master's degree	2 years
University of Dhaka		
Bachelor of Commerce (Pass)/Bachelor of Arts (Pass)/		
Bachelor of Science (Pass)/Bachelor of Home Economics (Pass)	HSC	2 years
Bachelor of Science in Technology (Textiles)	Diploma in Textiles	2 years
Bachelor of Science in Technology (Leather Technology)	Diploma in Leather Technology	2 years
Bachelor of Nursing Science (Pass)	HSC	3 years
Bachelor of Nursing Science (Post-Basic)	Diploma in Nursing	2 years
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)/Bachelor of Science (Honours)/		
Bachelor of Commerce (Honours)	HSC	3 years
Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours)	HSC	3 years

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visional Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education set the curricula and administers examinations for the secondary and higher secondary stages.

Instruction for the junior secondary stage takes place at junior secondary schools. The language of instruction is Bangla.

The curriculum up to grade eight is uniform and consists of Bangla, English, mathematics, general science and social and religious studies. Internal examinations are held each year.

Students must pass the prescribed number of marks to be promoted to the next year. Instruction at the secondary level takes place at high schools. In grades nine and 10, students enter either the science or humanities stream. In both streams, students must take compulsory courses in Bangla, English, mathematics and geography.

Students who choose the science stream take courses in science. Those who choose the humanities stream take courses in history, economics and civics. In addition, all students must take two elective subjects.

Upon completion of the program, students take examinations to earn the Secondary School Certificate (SSC). After completing this stage, students may continue into an academic higher secondary program or enter vocational programs in agriculture, engineering technology or commerce at polytechnics or technical/vocational institutes.

The higher secondary level of education consists of grades 11 and 12, and instruction takes place at intermediate colleges. Bangla is the language of instruction. English is taught as a compulsory subject.

Students study in a specific stream and may choose from science, humanities, commerce, home economics, agriculture or music. The Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) is awarded by examination following grade 12 and qualifies students for university education.

Secondary technical/vocational education

The Technical Education Board is responsible for secondary technical programs. It designs curricula, conducts examinations and awards all certificates

Degree programs

(continued from previous page)

Degree	Entry Requirements	Length
University of Dhaka (continued)		
Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours)	HSC	3 years
Bachelor of Science in Home Economics (Honours)	HSC	3 years
Bachelor of Homeopathic Medicine	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Laws (Honours)	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Fine Arts	SSC	5 years
Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	HSC	5 years
Bachelor of Dental Surgery	HSC	5 years
Bachelor of Unani Medicine/Ayurvedic Medicine	HSC	5 years
Bachelor of Education	2-year Bachelor's degree	1 year
Bachelor of Laws	2-year Bachelor's degree	2 years
Master of Library Science	Diploma in Library Science	1 year
Master of Arts/Master of Commerce/Master of Science	2-year Bachelor's degree/	
	3-year Bachelor's degree	2 years/1 year
Master of Arts in Education	Bachelor of Education	1 year
Master of Philosophy	Master's degree	2 years
Master of Statistics	3-year Bachelor's degree	1 year
Master of Business Administration	Bachelor's degree	2 years
Master of Fine Arts	Bachelor of Fine Arts	2 years
Master of Science in Orthotics	Bachelor's degree	3.5 years
Master of Social Sciences	3-year Bachelor's degree/	
	2-year Bachelor's degree	1 year/2 years
Master of Laws	Bachelor of Laws	2 years
Master of Science (Ophthalmology or Cardiology)	Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery	3 years
Doctor of Philosophy	Master's degree	2 years
Doctor of Laws	Master of Laws	3 years
Doctor of Literature/Doctor of Science	Doctor of Philosophy	3 years
Independent University, Bangladesh		
Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours)	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Science (Honours)	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Science/Social Science	HSC	4 years
International University of Business Agriculture and Technology		
Bachelor of Business Administration	HSC	5 years
Master of Business Administration	Bachelor's degree	2.5 years
Bachelor of Computer Science	HSC	5 years
Bachelor of Science in Engineering	HSC	5 years
Bachelor of Arts in Economics	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Science in Agriculture	HSC	5 years
Bachelor of Science in Nursing	HSC	4 years
Associate Degree in Nursing	HSC	2 years
Islamic University		
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)	HSC	3 years
Bachelor of Business Studies (Honours)	HSC	3 years
Bachelor of Laws (Honours)	HSC	3 years
Master of Arts/Master of Social Sciences/		
Master of Business Studies	3-year Bachelor's degree	1 year
Master of Laws	Bachelor of Laws (Honours)	1 year
Master of Philosophy	Master's degree	being formulated
Doctor of Philosophy	Master's degree	being formulated
Jahangirnagar University		
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)/Bachelor of Social Science (Honours)/		
Bachelor of Science (Honours)	HSC	3 years
Master of Arts/Master of Science/Master of Social Science	3-year Bachelor's degree	1 year
Master of Philosophy	Master's degree	2 years
Doctor of Philosophy	Master's degree	3 years
Khulna University		
Bachelor of Architecture	HSC	5 years
Bachelor of Science in Engineering	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Science (Honours)	HSC	4 years

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and diplomas.

Students who complete grade eight may take two-year vocational courses at vocational-technical institutes.

Polytechnics, commercial training institutes and agriculture training institutes offer two- and three-year certificate and diploma programs. Admission requires the SSC.

Three-year diploma programs are offered in the fields of civil technology, mechanical technology, electrical technology, power technology, electronics technology, architectural technology, chemical and food technology, ceramic technology, surveying, marine engineering technology and agriculture.

Two-year certificate programs are offered in secretarial sciences. Two-year diploma programs are offered in printing technology and commerce.

Students who complete the Diploma in Technology may enter bachelor of engineering programs.

University education

Before 1947, all colleges in Bangladesh were affiliated with the University of Calcutta in India. From 1947 on, the colleges have been affiliated with the University of Dhaka.

There are three types of universities in Bangladesh: general, special and open.

General universities have defined territorial jurisdictions, and all colleges that come within the territory are automatically under the control of the university.

Universities in Bangladesh are both teaching and affiliating institutions.

Affiliating institutions are not teaching institutions. Instruction is conducted at colleges; however, universities design the syllabuses and conduct the examinations.

The academic year runs from September through August.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) was established in 1973 by presidential order.

The UGC's primary responsibility is coordinating academic programs, promoting research activities, acting as a liaison between the universities and the government, and allocating funds and

Degree programs (continued from previous page)		
Degree	Entry Requirements	Length
Khulna University (continued)		
Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Business Administration	HSC	4 years
National University		
Bachelor of Arts (Pass)/Bachelor of Science (Pass)/		
Bachelor of Social Science (Pass)/Bachelor of Commerce (Pass)	HSC	2 years
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)/Bachelor of Science (Honours)/		
Bachelor of Commerce (Honours)	HSC	3 years
Bachelor of Education	2-year Bachelor's degree	1 year
Bachelor of Laws	2-year Bachelor's degree	2 years
Master of Arts/Master of Science/Master of Social Sciences/		
Master of Commerce	2-year Bachelor's degree/	
	3-year Bachelor's degree	2 years/1 year
Master of Philosophy	Master's degree	2 years
Doctor of Philosophy	Master's degree	3 years
North South University		
Bachelor of Business Administration	HSC	4 years
Master of Business Administration	Bachelor's degree	2 years
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Science in Economics	HSC	4 years
Master of Arts/Science in Economics	Bachelor's degree	1 year
Bachelor of Arts in English	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Arts/Science in Environmental Studies	HSC	4 years
Shahjalal University of Science and Technology		
Bachelor of Science (Honours)	HSC	3 years
Bachelor of Social Science (Honours)	HSC	3 years
University of Rajshahi		
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)/Bachelor of Science (Honours)/		
Bachelor of Commerce (Honours)/		
Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours)	HSC	3 years
Bachelor of Laws (Honours)	HSC	4 years
Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	HSC	5 years
Bachelor of Laws	2-year Bachelor's degree	2 years
Master of Laws	Bachelor of Laws (Honours)/	
	Bachelor of Laws	1 year/2 years
Master of Arts/Master of Commerce/Master of Science/		
Master of Social Sciences	2-year Bachelor's degree/	
	3-year Bachelor's degree	2 years/1 year
Master of Philosophy	Master's degree	2 years
Doctor of Philosophy	Master's degree	3 years
University of Science and Technology, Chittagong		
Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	HSC	5 years
Bachelor of Pharmacy	HSC	3 years
Bachelor of Business Administration	HSC	4 years

grants to universities.

The commission is also responsible for assessing the needs of individual universities and advising the government on future developments in higher education.

In 1986, the four engineering colleges (Rajshahi, Chittagong, Khulna and Dhaka) were changed to the Bangladesh Institutes of Technologies (BITs). The BITs are autonomous and award their own degrees. They operate outside the UGC system and have a council of in-

stitutes with a "minister-in-charge" of education in the government of Bangladesh.

Each BIT has separate boards of governors and academic councils.

In 1992, the government authorized the establishment of private universities in Bangladesh. Private universities were permitted to operate in response to the growing demand for higher education and the lack of space at public universities.

Currently 16 private universities have

opened. They are modeled after higher education in the United States: bachelor's degree programs are four-years long, they use a credit hour system and follow the U.S. academic calendar.

English is the medium of instruction in all but two private universities: Darul Ihsan University and Islamic University of Chittagong, which are funded by Muslim sources.

Admission

Admission to a university requires the HSC or its equivalent. There are admission tests required for medical colleges, the BITs and university departments.

Bachelor's degrees

General universities offer courses in arts, social sciences, sciences and commerce.

There are two different bachelor's degrees: a two-year pass degree and a three-year honours degree.

Pass degrees consist of three subjects studied over two years. Honours degrees require two subsidiary subjects and one principal subject studied over three years.

With a few exceptions, pass degrees are taught at colleges and honours degrees are taught at universities.

There are three-year bachelor's degrees in pharmacy and religious studies.

Bachelor's degrees in agriculture, engineering, dentistry, law, nursing and veterinary medicine are four years long. Those in architecture and medicine are five years.

Second bachelor's degrees

Holders of the two-year pass degree may continue into a second bachelor's degree program.

The bachelor of laws is two years and the bachelor of education is one year.

Master's degrees

Master of arts (MA), science (MSc) and commerce (MCom) degrees are awarded at general universities.

The length of the program is two years after a pass degree or one year after an honours degree.

Master's degrees in engineering, architecture, agriculture and urban and regional planning require a relevant four-year first degree.

The length of these programs is 1.5 years.

Research degrees

The master of philosophy (MPhil) is two years after the MA or the MSc. Doctoral programs require a minimum of two years after the MSc in engineering, MPhil or the MSc in agriculture.

Teacher education

Primary teachers are trained at primary training institutes. The program is one year and requires the SSC for admission for women and the HSC for men.

The National Academy for Primary Education is responsible for conducting examinations at the conclusion of the one-year course.

Upon successful completion of the examination, primary teachers are awarded a certificate in education.

Vocational teacher training is offered at the Vocational Teacher Training Institute. The institute offers two-year programs. The Technical Teacher's Training College offers short-term, 4-week training courses.

Physical education teachers are trained at physical education colleges. The colleges offer a one-year junior diploma in physical education and a one-year bachelor of physical education.

Admission to the junior diploma program requires the HSC, and the bachelor of physical education requires a two-year bachelor's degree.

Technical teacher training is offered at the Technical Teacher's Training College. The college offers a one-year diploma in technical education and a two-year bachelor of education (technology).

The diploma in technical education requires a diploma in technology for admission and the bachelor of education (technology) requires the diploma in technical education.

Secondary teachers must complete a two-year bachelor's degree, followed by a one-year bachelor's degree. There are also master's degrees and doctoral programs in education.

Recognized private institutions established between 1992-1996

- ◆ Comilla University
- ◆ Asian University of Bangladesh
- ◆ University of Asia Pacific
- ◆ Queens University
- ◆ People's University of Bangladesh
- ◆ North South University
- ◆ Independent University of Bangladesh
- ◆ Central Women's University
- ◆ Gono University
- ◆ International University of Business, Agriculture and Technology
- ◆ University of Science and Technology
- ◆ Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology
- ◆ East West University
- ◆ Darul Ihsan University
- ◆ Islamic University of Chittagong
- ◆ AMA International University

Recognized public institutions

- ◆ Bangladesh Institute of Technology, Gazipur
- ◆ Bangladesh Institute of Technology, Rajshahi
- ◆ Bangladesh Institute of Technology, Khulna
- ◆ Bangladesh Institute of Technology, Chittagong
- ◆ College of Textile Technology (Under MOE)
- ◆ College of Leather Technology (Under MOE)
- ◆ Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (founded by the Organization of Islamic Countries)