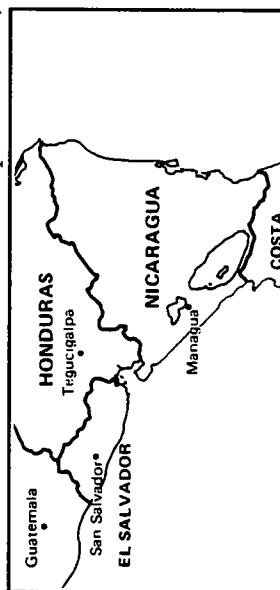


Nicaragua

The largest country in Central America, Nicaragua is predominantly rural and has a population estimated at 3,690,000. The literacy rate is about 66 percent. Although education is compulsory between ages 6-13, most children do not finish primary school. Spanish is the language of instruction. All public and private schools are under the jurisdiction of the *Ministerio de Educación*. University programs are administered by the *Consejo Nacional de Educación Superior/CNES* (The National Council for Higher Education). Turmoil caused by civil war has disrupted

the country for many years. When the *Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional* won power in 1979,



they restructured the education system, striving to make education accessible to all by establishing vocational/technical streams at secondary level, skills training for adults, aiming for nine years of basic education by 1995 and nearly universal literacy by 2000. Higher education is offered at four universities; the oldest, *Universidad Autónoma de Nicaragua*, dates from a 17th-century seminary. Non-university higher education also is offered at one *centro*, five *institutos*, and five *escuelas*.

Credential Name	Entrance Requirement	Length of Program	Type of Program	Gives Access to
Level: Ciclo Diversificado (Upper Secondary Diversified Cycle) Following 6 years of primary and 3 years of lower secondary education				

Bachillerato

Diploma de Conclusión de Estudios del Ciclo Básico

2-3 years

academic/technical

further study

Maestro de Educación Primaria

Diploma de Conclusión de Estudios del Ciclo Básico

3 years

teacher training

employment as primary school teacher/further study

Level: Educación Superior (Higher Education)

Non-university

Técnico en (specialization)

Bachillerato

2.5 years

technical

further study in related fields

University

Técnico en (specialization)

Bachillerato

2.5 years

technical

further study

Licenciatura/

Título Profesional

Profesor de Educación Media

Bachillerato

4-7 years

professional

further study

Ingeniero

Bachillerato

Bachillerato

4 years

teacher training

further study

Cirujano Dentista

Bachillerato

5 years

professional

further study

Arquitecto

Bachillerato

5 years

professional

further study

Doctor en Derecho

Bachillerato

5-6 years

professional

further study

Doctor en Medicina

Bachillerato

6 years

professional

further study

Maestría

Bachillerato

7 years

professional

further study

Licenciatura/Título Profesional

2 years + thesis

academic

further study

(No doctoral programs are available)