

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE AUTHORITY (NAQAA)

KANIFING INSTITUTIONAL LAYOUT



MINIMUM REQUIREMENT FOR ADMISSION TO TERTIARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE GAMBIA

The National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Authority (NAQAA), the regulatory body of all tertiary and higher education institutions is herein restating the acceptable minimum entry requirements for admission to the various post-secondary programmes as agreed by stakeholders.

A. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO FIRST DEGREE PROGRAMMES

1. West Africa Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE)

The general requirements for admission of WASSCE Candidates to first degree programmes are:

- i. **WASSCE Candidates:** Credits (A1 – C6) in five (5) subjects including English Language and Mathematics, plus three (3) relevant elective subjects specifically for science related areas.
- ii. **Five Credits including English Language with at least a Pass in Mathematics,** plus three(s) relevant subjects for the Arts and social science related areas.

2. General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Level Candidates

Passes in three (3) subjects (at least, one of the passes should be Grade D or better). Also the applicant must have had credit passes (Grade 6) in five GCE Ordinary Level subjects including English Language, Mathematics and a relevant Science subject (for science students) and an Arts/Commerce Subject (for non-science students).

3. Admission of Higher National Diploma (HND) Candidates to First Degree programmes

Applicants must have graduated with a good HND certificate (i.e. at least 2nd class lower division). In addition, the applicant must have acquired a 2 year-post HND qualification relevant working experience. Institutions under mentorship will follow their mentor institutions' practice with regards to entry levels for HND applicants.

Other Diploma qualification from elsewhere assessed to be equivalent to HND may be similarly considered.

4. Mature Students' Entry

Mature students entry avenues to tertiary and higher education provide opportunities for people who could not do so earlier in their lives to further their education at the tertiary level after 5 years of work in the labour market. The following conditions are the minimum requisite to gain admission as a mature student:

- i. The applicant must be at least 30 years old, and show proof of age with birth certificate or any legitimate documentary proof of date of birth which is at least 30 years old at the time application;

- ii. For admission into chartered institutions, applicants must pass Mature Students' Entrance Examination conducted by the institution (Aptitude Test in English Language, Mathematics and any other relevant subject.)

- iii. In the case of non-chartered institutions, the examination will be moderated and the marked scripts, vetted by their Mentor Institution. In lieu of such Examinations, the applicant should show proof of credit passes in English Language and Mathematics in WASSCE or any other nationally recognized standard of high school level examination for qualification from countries outside WAEC's aegis.

B. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

1. Science and Technology Programmes

- i. WASSCE Candidates: Passes (A1 – D7) in five (5) subjects comprising three(3) core subjects, English Language, Science and Mathematics, plus two (2) elective subjects.

- ii. GCSE O'Level/IGCSE or equivalent Candidates: Passes (A-D) in five subjects comprising three (3) core subjects including English Language, Mathematics plus two (2) relevant elective subjects.

2. Arts, Business and Humanities Programmes

- i. WASSCE Candidates: Passes (A1-D7) in five subjects comprising three core subjects, including English Language, Mathematics, plus two (2) relevant elective subjects.
- ii. GCSE O'Level/IGCSE or equivalent Candidates: Passes (A-D) in five subjects comprising three (3) core subjects including English Language, Mathematics plus two (2) relevant elective subjects.

C. DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS RELATED STUDIES CANDIDATES

Four (4) WASSCE passes (A1 – D7) including English Language and Mathematics. Plus the Business related studies qualification could be used as entry qualification for relevant Higher National Diploma Programmes.

Diploma in Business Related Studies qualification can be used for admission into Bachelor's in Business Administration programmes only.

D. PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER TERTIARY QUALIFICATIONS

All professional certificate and any other qualifications beyond the specified above must be referred to the Relevant Authority for the establishment of their equivalencies, to determine their eligibility for admission to tertiary education institutions, universities and colleges.

E. ACCESS COURSES FOR ADMISSION TO SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PROGRAMMES

The relevant Authorities will organize access courses for WASSCE holders who could not obtain the grades required for direct entry into tertiary and higher education institutions, to foster their enrollment into Higher National Diploma Science and Engineering Programmes.

F. FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS

All foreign qualifications should be referred to the relevant authorities for determination of equivalence and eligibility for admission to tertiary and higher education institutions in The Gambia. It should be noted that the American SAT, TOEFL or British IELTS etc., cannot be in themselves be acceptable as entry qualification into Gambian tertiary and higher educational institutions.

Note: Pursuant to the approved minimum entry requirements:

- i. All public and private accredited tertiary and higher education institutions are required in their advertisement for applications for admission to indicate the approved minimum admission requirement guide to prospective applicants.
- ii. When in doubt, prospective applicants are advised to check with the relevant authorities whether the institution they intend to apply to and the programme they intend to pursue are duly accredited.
- iii. Any person, who disregards the admission policy and the advice herein, does so at their own risk.