



ST. LUCIA

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Key Challenges

- Absence of post-secondary/higher education policy guidelines/legislation
- Retraining/Retooling of teachers to build competencies in light of emerging trends in technology integration in the teaching and learning process
- Poor literacy rates throughout education system
- Increasing demands for safety nets for learners (scholarships/bursaries etc.)

Opportunities

- Education Enhancement Programme through ICT
- Upgrading of Sir Arthur Lewis Community College to a university college
- Literacy survey to obtain baseline data
- Increase awareness and acceptance of ODL
- Local network capacities

Status of Open and Distance Education in St. Lucia

Policies

To date there is no policy in place for Distance Education in St. Lucia.

There is a TVET and National Accreditation Unit, established in 2006, within the Ministry of Education which is responsible for setting standards, evaluating and recognising the programmes and the performance of educational and professional training institutions in St. Lucia. It ensures that programmes offered meet set standards in terms of delivery and quality of programmes offered.

Access

The growing need for persons to access further education has resulted in the emergence of a number of bodies institutions offering programmes. Those institutions operate in the absence of legislation that would protect students in the event that there is a premature end to the institution's existence.

At present, there is no recourse for students when local institutions which offer Distance Learning Programmes have to discontinue their services.

The following distance learning programs are in place in St. Lucia:

Open Campus (UWI)	Various certificates and degree programme
University of Sheffield	Master's and Doctoral Degrees in Education
University of Leicester	Master's Degree in Education
Mount Saint Vincent University	Bachelor's Degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management

Presently, there are no restrictions on individuals wishing to register for programmes offered by institutions overseas. Persons wishing to pursue Distance Learning Programmes are being advised that they should first seek information from the relevant authorities to verify the credibility of institutions offering distance learning programmes, the integrity of such programmes and the quality and validity of assessment.

TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2012-2015

1. Formulating and implementing Post Secondary/Higher Education Legislation and Policy.
2. An Information System for managing the Education Sector.
3. Establishing quality assurance systems and related professional development of personnel at all educational levels.
4. Improving modalities of delivery of instruction by building capacity at the community college to develop/deliver courses/materials for on-line delivery at various levels and developing competencies of teachers and other education officials (principals, curriculum specialists, Education officers, lecturers, etc.) to use ICT in the teaching and learning process.
5. Developing classification Plan/Career path for teachers.