

# **AGREEMENT**

BETWEEN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE, CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS  
OF FRENCH ENGINEERING SCHOOLS

FOR THE FRENCH PART

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AND

VICE-CHANCELLORS GHANA

FOR THE GHANAIAIAN PART

## **ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF STUDIES AND QUALIFICATIONS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE STUDIES IN THE PARTNER COUNTRY**

The University Presidents' Conference (CPU) and the Conference of Directors of French Engineering Schools (CDEFI) on the one hand,

And

The public universities of Ghana herein after called Universities of Ghana under the umbrella of Vice-Chancellors Ghana – (VCG) on the other hand,

Hereinafter known as the parties

Considering the French education code and Ghanaians mandated laws, in order to promote interchanges in the area of higher education between France and Ghana,

The parties have agreed on the following points:

## Chapter I : General Conditions

### Article 1 – Purpose of Agreement

This present agreement intends to promote mutual recognition of periods of studies, certificates – or of similar level – higher education qualifications issued by the competent authority of the two countries in order to facilitate studies in the partner country (as stipulated in article 2.2. of this arrangement).

### Article 2 – Scope

1. This agreement applies:

- To students holding qualifications previously acquired in the country of origin;
- To students who have undertaken periods of studies not constituting a full academic cycle in the country of origin leading to the award of a degree, but which should be attested to by an examination or a certificate from the competent authorities to show that they were successful periods; these periods of studies could be validated by the authorities of the receiving institution and lead to lectures of the same nature and same periods within the programmes of the receiving institution.

In either case, the competent academic authorities determine the course the student should study. Lectures and award of qualifications hereinabove mentioned are granted within a similar field of study or a similar field of professional training.

2. This agreement concerns:

- In France: all institutions under the CPU and the CDEFI
- In Ghana: all public universities under Vice Chancellors Ghana.

Refer to appendix 1 for a full list of French and Ghanaian institutions under the agreement.

Trainings in the health sector shall not be included in this agreement.

The agreement could lead to new trainings by means of subsequent agreements, in accordance with change of higher education systems of both countries.

3. The agreement does not apply to the professional recognition of qualifications in both countries. It neither applies to the award of a certificate from the receiving country nor civil effects associated with it. It does not take precedence over complementary admission conditions such as the hosting capacity or the mastery of the language.

It applies with due regard for the autonomous principle of French and Ghanaian institutions of higher education.

**Chapter II: Presentation of certificates, qualifications and titles and organization of higher education in both countries**

**Article 3**

Description of certificates, qualifications and titles as well as organization and structure of higher education in both countries is provided in **appendix 2** of this document.

**Chapter III: Access conditions to the higher education system of the partner country**

**Article 4: Access to higher education in France for Ghanaian certificate holders**

1. Access to first year of higher education

- A Ghanaian student holding a West African Senior Secondary School Certificate and is admitted to a public school in Ghana can apply for registration in first year of university education after his documents have been examined.
- A Ghanaian student holding the West African Senior Secondary School Certificate and is admitted to a public school in Ghana can apply for registration for first year of Technician Diploma Section (STS) or the Institut Universitaire de Technologie (Institute of Technology), in preparatory class for College (CPGE) or in an Engineering School that recruits student holding West African Senior Secondary School Certificate after his/her documents have been examined.

2. Access to Master's programme

- A student, holder of the Ghanaian Bachelor degree, can apply for a registration to the first year of master's in his field of education after review of his academic record.

3. Access to the engineering course in institutions authorized to issue the title of graduate engineer

The French Part recalls that the title of graduate engineer awarded by an institution authorized by the State after a periodic assessment by the "Commission des titres d'ingénieur" (Engineering Education Commission) (CTI), can only be obtained at the end of an engineering course, with a duration of at least four semesters, and the final year project of one semester can be pursued in a company or university located in Ghana.

- A student holder of a Ghanaian Bachelor degree may apply for admission to the most adapted year of the engineering course according to his academic record.

#### 4. Access to the PhD

- A student holder of a Research Master's Degree, and wrote a research thesis, may apply for a doctoral program.

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### **Article 5 - Access to higher education in Ghana for holders of a French degree**

#### *1. Access to first year of the course of study leading to the award of the Bachelor's degree*

- The holder of a "baccalauréat" can apply, after review of his record, for a registration in first year of a program leading to the award of a Bachelor's degree.

#### *2. Access to third year studies of the course of study leading to the award of a Bachelor degree*

- The holder of a Higher National Diploma in Technology (DUT) can apply for a registration of the course leading to the award of the Bachelor degree, after review of his academic record provided he satisfies any prescribed requirements by the host institution.
- The student having successfully pursued two years course of higher studies in CPGE can apply for a registration in third year of the course studies leading to the award of the Bachelor degree, after review of his academic record, provided he meets the prescribed standard by the host institution.

#### *3. Access to studies leading to a Master's Degree*

- The holder of a Bachelor degree can apply for registration of a Master's program after review of his academic record.

#### 4. Access to doctoral studies

- A French student holding a diploma conferring the grade of Master has the possibility to register for a doctoral program in Ghana, within his field of education.

## ***Chapter IV: Recognition of studies periods with no award***

### **Article 6 – Validation of period studies**

1. Prior to the request of the concerned students, the study periods that do not lead to the award of a degree but validated by an institution of higher education in one of the two countries can be taken into consideration, especially on the basis of the credit systems in the other country.

The French part recalls that no diploma is issued at the end of schooling in Preparatory Classes in Colleges (CPGE).

However, the student who has successfully pursued two years of graduate studies in CPGE gets 120 European credits ECTS validated by the institution in which he is pursuing his studies and is considered as being able to enroll in third year Bachelor degree in France

2. The competent authority for the recognition of study periods is the institution of higher education within which the applicant wishes to continue his studies.

## ***Chapter V: Degrees in partnership***

### **Article 7**

Combined degrees and dual diplomas may be awarded in international partnership, for the French part, pursuant to Decree N° 2005-450 of the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2005 relating to the award of degrees in international partnership and under Order of the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2005 relating to the international collaboration thesis, repeated in the 2013-756 decree of 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

The Order of 7<sup>th</sup> of August, 2006, is applicable in the particular case of the doctoral training for the French part.

## ***Chapter VI: Terms and Conditions***

**Article 8:** Both Parties undertake to inform each other of the operations and changes in their systems of higher education.

**Article 9:** This Convention shall enter into force upon signature, for a term of four years, renewable by tacit agreement. It may be amended by agreement of both Parties.

The Parties shall provide the opportunity to denounce the agreement at any time; this denunciation becomes effective after a period of six months after notification to the other Party.

This document is produced in six originals, three in French and three in English, all texts being equally authentic.

Accra, on 9<sup>th</sup> of June, 2015



Jean-Loup SALZMANN

President of University Presidents  
Conference (CPU)



François CANSELL

President of Conference of Directors of  
French Engineering Schools (CDEFI)










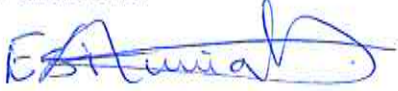


Prof. William OTOO ELLIS

President of  
Vice-Chancellors Ghana (VCG)

**Appendix 1**

**A) List of Ghanaian universities under the arrangement scope**

<http://www.ghanauniversities.org/>

<p>University of Ghana, Legon Prof. Ernest ARYEETAY Vice-Chancellor</p> 	<p>Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology Prof. William OTOO ELLIS Vice-Chancellor</p> 
<p>University of Cape Coast Prof. Domwini KUUPOLE Vice-Chancellor</p> 	<p>University of Education, Winneba Prof. Akwasi ASABRE-AMEYAW Vice-Chancellor</p> 
<p>University for Development Studies, Tamale Prof. Haruna YAKUBU Vice-Chancellor</p> 	<p>University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa Prof. Jerry S.Y. KUMA Vice-Chancellor</p> 
<p>University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho Prof. Fred BINKA Vice-Chancellor</p> 	<p>University of Energy and Natural Resources, Sunyani Prof. Esi AWUAH Vice-Chancellor</p> 
<p>University of Professional Studies, Accra Prof. Joshua ALABI Vice-Chancellor</p> 	<p>Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration Prof. Franklyn MANU Rector</p> 

## B) List of French institutions under the arrangement scope

- Universities : visit the website :

<http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid20269/liste-des-universites.html>

Engineering schools authorized to issue the title of graduate engineer :

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The list of schools authorized to issue the title of graduate engineer is published annually in the « Journal Officiel de la République Française » (JORF). The latest publication in the « JORF » dates 7th of February, 2015, (text 7) Decree of 20th of January, 2015.



## **Appendix 2: Presentation of certificates, qualifications and titles and organization of higher studies in both countries**

### **A) In France**

#### **1. Certificates, qualifications and titles**

##### a. The term "certificate"

Are covered in this agreement certificates issued under the authority of the State, namely:

- The following national certificates: Baccalaureate (G.C.E Advanced Level Certificate (A Levels)); Higher National Diploma (HND); HND (2 years Technical Degree); University Diploma (1 or 2 years Diploma); HND (2 years Science Course); Bachelor's degree; Master's degree; M. Phil (Master of philosophy); Postgraduate Diploma; PhD.

National certificates are awarded by institutions authorized thereto by the Minister of Higher Education, after the National Council for Higher Education and Research (CNESER) has given its view;

- The title of Graduate Engineer is awarded by the institutions accredited by the State after consulting the Commission des titres d'ingénieurs (Engineering Education Commission) (CTI);

The Certificate of Successful Completion is the equivalent of a certificate.

##### b. The terms "qualifications" and "titles",

pursuant to Decree No. 2002-482 of 8 April 2002, sanction various levels of higher education common to all areas of training, regardless of the disciplines or specialties.

- Qualifications determine the main reference levels of the European area of higher education. They are four in number: the baccalaureate (G.C.E Advanced Level Certificate (A Levels)), the Bachelor's degree (corresponding to 180 European credits ECTS), the Master's degree (corresponding to 300 European credits ECTS) and the PhD.

The qualification, when it exists, is conferred by a certificate issued under the authority of the State.

Thus, pursuant to Decree No. 99-747 of 30 August 1999, as amended, the Master's degree is conferred by right holders of the following qualifications:

- \* National Master's degree,
- \* Master of philosophy (obtained from the year 1998-1999)
- \* Postgraduate Diploma (obtained from the year 1998-1999)
- \* The title of Graduate Engineer is awarded by an institution accredited by the State after evaluation by the Commission des titres d'ingénieurs (Engineering Education Commission) (CTI).

The master's degree is also granted automatically to holders of degrees issued by the state, a similar level, on a list drawn up following a periodic national assessment, by order of the Minister of Higher Education.

## **2. Organisation of higher education**

### a. Vocational training-based short Undergraduate Studies

- Vocational sections – (known in French as STS) - located in high schools, take candidates through an undergraduate 2-year training course and get them ready for the Higher National Diploma - HND (known in French as BTS) (120 European credits, ECTS- Refer to Decree n° 2007-540 of 11 April 2007 on the general regulations of the Higher National Diploma).

Access to these sections is open, through application, to holders of secondary school leaving certificate, Baccalaureate, or an equivalent recognized qualification.

- Polytechnics – (known in French as IUT) affiliated to universities, take candidates through an undergraduate 2-year training course and get them ready for the Higher National Diploma (also known in French as DUT).

Access to polytechnics is open, while opening a file, to holders of secondary school leaving certificate, Baccalaureate, or an equivalent recognized qualification.

The Higher National Diploma refers to a higher level of general and professional education. It grants a professional qualification in a specific area, at the end of a training program whose content has been developed in close collaboration with professionals in the sector concerned.

### b. Preparatory classes for Colleges (known in French as CPGE) as a specific route of access to long studies

Preparatory classes for Colleges (CPGE) are organised in two years. They are divided into 3 categories: economic and commercial preparatory classes, literary preparatory classes and scientific preparatory classes. They prepare candidates for the national tests granting access to engineering and trade schools, as well as training colleges (known in French as ENS).

Access to preparatory classes for Colleges is open, while opening a file, to holders of Baccalaureate or an equivalent recognized qualification.

Student who has successfully completed an undergraduate two-year education in CPGE gets 120 European credits (ECTS) validated by the institution where he pursues his studies (Refer to Decree N° 2007-692 of 3 May 2007 on the organisation and application of CPGE).

c. Long Graduate Studies:

- Access to Bachelor's degree

- Access to the first year of university studies is open to holders of Baccalaureate or an equivalent recognized qualification: certificate of qualification in law or entrance qualification for university.

In the French educational system arising from the construction of the European area of higher education, university studies qualify for the Bachelor's degree after 6 semesters (be it 180 European credits, ECTS).

They also qualify for the professional Bachelor's degree, after a 3-year training or one after the award of a HND (known in French as BTS, DUT) or a University Diploma (known in French as DEUG) (be it 180 European credits - ECTS). Two options are available to the student with a professional Bachelor's degree: employment or further education.

The Bachelor's and professional Bachelor's degrees refer to the Bachelor's degree.

In the French education system existing before the construction of the European area of higher education, the "University Diploma" - DEUG – was prepared through the first two years of university. While furthering his/her third year, the DEUG holder could get the Bachelor's degree.

- Access to Master's degree:

- Access to the first year of the Master's degree is open to Bachelor's degree holders.

In the French education system arising from the Process of La Sorbonne-Bologne, the national Master's degree is awarded at the end of 4 semesters after the Bachelor's degree (corresponding to 120 European credits, ECTS), be it five years after the Baccalaureate and a total of 300 European credits, ECTS. The national Master's degree refers to the Master's degree.

- • In the French education system existing before the Process of La Sorbonne-Bologne, the national "Master's degree" was awarded one year after the Bachelor's degree, be it four years of higher education after the Baccalaureate.

The "M.phil" (Known in French as DEA) and the "Postgraduate Diploma" (Known in French as DESS) were open to holders of a "Master's degree" or an equivalent qualification level, upon advice of Director of Academic Affairs. They were awarded one year after the Master's degree, be it five years after the Baccalaureate. The Mphil degree and Postgraduate Diploma awarded during the 1998-1999 academic year, both refer to the Master's degree (Refer to modified Decree N° 99-747 of 30 August 1999).

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During a transitional period, universities were authorized to award concomitantly degrees of "Master", "M.phil", and "Postgraduate Diploma".

- The title of "graduate engineer" is awarded after five years of graduate studies; it qualifies its holder for the Master's degree and 300 European credits, ECTS. The title of graduate engineer can only be awarded by institutions authorized by the state after a periodic assessment conducted by the Engineering Education Commission (Known in French as CTI) which is an academic and professional commission. Holders of graduate engineer title are fully qualified to practice the engineering profession, which is not a regulated profession in France.
- The training channels leading to the title of "graduate engineer" are selective and open at various levels such as: through entrance examination after two years of Preparatory classes for Colleges for the engineering degree; through application, interview and examination after the baccalaureate for training of 5 years in engineering schools years with an integrated "preparatory cycle".

#### - Access to Doctoral studies

Student desirous to register for PhD must hold a national Master's degree or other qualification conferring the master's degree, after a training establishing his/her aptitude for research, in accordance with the decree of 7<sup>th</sup> August 2006 on doctoral training.

If this requirement is not met, the institution Director may register in doctoral studies, students who have furthered equivalent level of studies abroad or benefiting from exemptions, notwithstanding and upon proposal of the Board of the Graduate school.

Registration must be renewed at the beginning of each academic year. Doctoral preparation is carried out, generally within three years and paves the way for the defence of a thesis.

The award of the national Doctorate refers to the title of Doctor.

## **B) In GHANA**

Higher education is offered in universities, university colleges, institutions of higher education polytechnics and other post-secondary institutions either private or public. Universities, university colleges, institutions of national importance and institutions of higher education offer a wide range of subjects including law, the humanities, natural sciences, economics/business administration and medicine.

In principle, these Institutions are of equal status with regard to accreditation. But each has its own strength and focus by means of qualification awarding powers. Common to all of them is that all programmes lead to the award of post-secondary diplomas, bachelors', masters' and or doctorate degrees as approved by the accreditation authority. Award of qualifications at this level is strictly by institutions empowered by the accreditation procedures to do so.

### **Access to tertiary education**

Access to tertiary education is mainly through the West Africa Senior School Certificate of Examination (WASSCE) conducted by The West African Examinations Council (WAEC). Students with credit passes in three Core subjects-(namely English, Mathematics and Integrated Science or Social Studies) plus three Elective subjects are eligible for access into higher education. **Other Diploma certificates e.g Higher National Diploma etc awarded by recognized institutions are also eligible for entry into two or three year top-up programmes leading to a bachelor's degree.**

### **1. Post-Secondary School certificates (Higher education Diploma)**

Post-secondary institutions offering higher education certificates -normally diplomas are of three year duration and offered in Colleges of Education, Nurses' Training College, Agricultural Institutes and Polytechnics. Students are prepared for professions/vocations in specified fields of work such as teaching, nursing, technology, and agriculture. Study programmes include internships and on the field practical training. Entry qualification is possession of credit passes in the West African Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (WASSCE).

**-Colleges of Education** train basic education teachers and are affiliated to the Institute of Education- University of Cape Coast (UCC) and University of Education, Winneba (UEW) for the award of their certificates. Entry requirements are credit passes in WASSCE and the final award is a Diploma in Basic Education. It may be an avenue for progression to a Bachelor's degree after years of professional practice.

**-Nurses' Training Colleges** are also of three year duration after which students are required to write the Diploma and Licensure certificate examinations without which they cannot practice professionally as nurses. Their academic qualifications are awarded by the Universities and Licensureship awarded by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of

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Ghana. Entry requirements are credit passes in WASSCE and the final award is a Diploma in Nursing (General Nursing/Midwifery). Progression with this certificate can be onto a Bachelor's degree in Nursing or Midwifery.

**-Agricultural Institutes** initially under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture are now affiliated to the Universities for the award of its diplomas. Entry to agricultural colleges/institutes is through possession of five credit passes in WASSCE including English and Mathematics and the final award is a Diploma in Agriculture (in specific field of agriculture). Progression with this certificate can be to a Higher National Diploma or a Bachelor's degree in related area.

-Education offered at the **Polytechnics** has a strong vocational and technical orientation. Programmes are of a three year duration leading to the award of a Higher National Diploma (HND) by the National Board for Professional and Technical Examination (NABPTEX). The HND enables development of skills which may be vocationally specific. At this level, holders may also transfer onto a top-up leading to a bachelor's degree. The top-up course must be at least of two year duration and after two year work experience in a related area prior to that. Polytechnics are also currently mandated to offer Bachelor degrees in Applied Sciences and Applied Arts.

## 2. Bachelor degrees

Bachelor degrees are normally awarded after completion of a 4 year programme of study in a recognized higher education institution. Entry requires credit passes in three Core and three elective subjects of the WASSCE. **Credit hours for bachelor programmes range between 120 -144 over a period of four years. On the average the first two years of study is used for generic courses and other two for specialization.**

A bachelor's degree grants access to a Postgraduate Diploma, Masters' degree or in some cases to higher professional degrees in specified professions. The bachelor's degree presents itself in the following structure:-

- a) General bachelors are awarded following completion of a 4 year programme of study in two equally weighted courses.
- b) Honors' bachelors' degree is of a 4 year duration of study with specialization in one subject.
- c) Professional bachelor's degree. The professional degree is vocationally –related and allows one to work in a particular profession. Professional programmes such as medicine, dentistry etc. require more than 4 years of study culminating in the award of one or two bachelor's degrees e.g , MB ChB, MBBS, B.Dent, D.Pharm, D.Architecture, D. Optometry, Juris Doctor etc. with a compulsory internship/ housemanship where applicable.

### 3. Postgraduate Diploma

Postgraduate Diploma is earned after a bachelor's degree and is more professionally-focused and specialized. These usually require one year of full-time or two years' of part-time study after completion of a first degree in a recognized higher education institution. **It is a 36 credit hour programme.** Progression routes include access to programmes leading to the award of Masters' degrees.

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### 4. Master's degree

Masters' degree can possibly be completed in one year but normally takes at least two years. Entry to a programme leading to a masters' degree typically requires a good bachelor degree with at least first class or second upper division. It is generally offered purely by taught courses or a mixture of taught courses and either a Thesis or Project work. **Master's courses range between 45 -72 credit hours depending on the area of study.** It presents itself in the following structure:-

- Taught Masters' degree – 1 year duration and made up of purely taught course and a long essay.
- Research Masters' degree- This is of two year duration or more and has the variation below.
  - a) 1 year taught plus 1 year Thesis work
  - b) 2 years taught course with a project work

Progression from this level may be to doctoral degree programmes.

### 5. Professional Masters' degree

Professional degrees are of masters' level that requires a fairly extensive education in a particular vocational programme area. This is normally awarded after completion of professional bachelors in specified fields. A professional master's degree offers the chance to apply existing knowledge at a higher level e .g. Master of Architecture (M.Arch).

### 6. Doctorate Degree

Doctorate degrees are terminal (3 tier) degrees in many fields. Admission to a doctoral programme typically requires a master's degree in a related field, sufficiently high grades, recommendations, a research proposal, and typically an interview with a prospective supervisor. Various models of doctorate degrees are available ranging from traditional researched doctorate to professional doctorate programmes which have substantial taught components.

-Academic doctorates. These are purely by research. For example PhD, D.Phil, D.Sc., etc. PhD. candidates undertaking research typically complete a thesis, or dissertation, consisting of original research representing a significant contribution to their field, and

ranging from a specified number of pages and defend their thesis as a final requirement. Those doing higher degrees (PhD) with thesis are required to have done the same or related programmes at the master's level.

- Professional doctorate

Professional doctorates are awarded in certain fields where scholarly research is closely aligned with a particular profession, such as law, medicine, psychology etc. Examples include MD or medical doctorate, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS), Doctor of Business Administration (DBA), Doctor of Education (EdD), Doctor of Engineering (EngD), Doctor of Medicine (MD, DO, DM).

### **Changes in Tertiary Education**

Ghana's tertiary system has seen some changes of recent times. Prominent among these are change from trimester to semester system, diversification of programmes from the major public universities, expansion of access through private participation, different mode of studies (regular/ sandwich/ ODL programmes) and quality assurance.

### **Accreditation and Evaluation**

All Tertiary institutions either private or public in Ghana are required to seek accreditation before operating as tertiary level institutions and or tertiary programmes. Institutions go through a self-study report, site visit by experts and programme assessment by panel of experts in required discipline. Arising out of this, a report with identified deficiencies and remedies is forwarded to the institution for comments. A committee and finally the Board decides on the grant or otherwise of accreditation. Accreditation exercises in the regulated professions are done in collaboration with the Professional Bodies/ Association e.g Medical Dental Council, Nurses' and Midwifery Council of Ghana and Pharmacy Council for Medical, nursing and pharmacy programmes respectively.

Accreditation may be granted an institution or programme for a term of 5 years or less dependent on the facilities and required standards attained. At the close of each accreditation period, an institution is required to seek re-accreditation for either the institution or its programmes.

Accreditation is campus specific hence not transferable. Branch campuses or additional locations require separate assessment for the grant of accreditation.

Only autonomous (Chartered) institutions have degree awarding powers. All others (university colleges, institution of higher education) are affiliated to autonomous institutions for mentoring and award of certificates.



**Post accreditation measures include**

- Monitoring for compliance to check consistency, due diligence and quality in all policy making, management and practice.
- Academic audits done within the first three years to observe how institutions comply with NAB directive. Involve institutional self-review verified by external review teams which make recommendations for improvement.
- Institutional audits; 5 yr cyclical review for autonomous institutions only.
- Quality monitoring- Following academic audit, the Board makes specific directive to institutions to check on rectification of deficiencies etc.
- Investigative visits- normally upon information received.

**Statistics on accredited institutions**

Public institutions	Private institutions

**Primary institutions that provide higher education in Ghana**

1. Accredited Universities, University colleges, institutes and colleges. (both private and public) With private institutions affiliated to autonomous institutions.
2. Polytechnics
3. Institutions of national importance- These are specialized institutions funded by the Government and in some cases empowered to award their own degrees e.g. Ghana Institute of Journalism (GIJ), Ghana Institute of Languages (GIL), National Film and Television Institute (NAFTI) etc.
4. Colleges of Education/ Nursing Training Institutions
5. Agricultural Institutes

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