

# Laos

## National Higher Education Equity Policy

### Governance

- The Lao Ministry of Education and Sports, with a Department of Higher Education is responsible for defining national policies in higher education.

### Higher Education Policy Documents

What are the current official documents defining the national higher education strategy / policies?

- Education Sector Development Plan (2016-2020), which sets out the Higher Education strategy for the county.

### Equity Policy Documents

What broad and specific equity objectives do the policy documents identify?

- As part of the strategy to address labor market demands and the objectives set out in the National Socio-Economic Development Plan, the Education Sector Development Plan states that it will “support equitable access to higher education.” (Education Sector Development Plan, p. 67)
- “Review and implement policies on expansion of higher education access for excellent students, those who are disadvantaged, particularly girls, ethnic and the poor by providing scholarships, and create a study loans system.” (Education Sector Development Plan, p. 67)

Which equity target groups are identified in the policy documents?

- Low-income students
- Gender groups
- Ethnic groups
- Students with disability

Does the country have concrete targets for the participation of specific equity groups?

- No

Laos does not have a standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

Are there specific anti-discrimination provisions?

- No

What specific interventions and/or instruments of equity promotion are included in the official strategy and policy documents (monetary and non-monetary)?

#### ***Monetary Policy Instruments***

- Scholarships for girls based on low-income and/or ethnicity (ADB)

#### ***Non-Monetary Policy Instruments***

- There is a quota system (20% of enrolments) for girls leaving upper secondary education (ADB)

#### **Financial Resources**

What financial resources does the country devote to equity promotion measures?

- Not available

#### **Quality Assurance**

The quality assurance criteria do not take equity elements into consideration.

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- The Department of Higher Education is responsible for monitoring the impact of equity promotion measures.

#### **Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency**

Laos does not have an agency dedicated to equity promotion in higher education?

## Sources

The Lao Ministry of Education and Sports <http://www.moe.gov.la/index.php/lang-en>

“Education Sector Development Plan 2016–2020.” Government of Lao PDR, MOES. 2016. Vientiane, <https://www.globalpartnership.org/download/file/fid/63755%20>

“Five Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan VIII (2016–2020).” Government of Lao PDR, Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI). 2016. Vientiane.

“Sector Assessment (Summary): Education (Higher Education),” Second Strengthening Higher Education Project (RRP LAO 48127) Asian Development Bank <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/48127-002-ssa.pdf>