

Liberia

National Higher Education Equity Policy

Governance

The National Commission on 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?

- National Strategic Plan: Higher Education Strategic Plan for Liberia (2012)
- Revised National Policy on Higher Education in Liberia 2015-29 (June 29, 2015);
- “Getting to Best” Education Sector Plan 2017-2021 (approved by the government in November 2017) [states that improving equity and efficiency is one of three main priorities for tertiary education)

Equity Policy Documents

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

- The national policy document does not mention equity, but the Strategic Plan (2012) does: “Goal 4: Promote equitable access to quality programs”. This Goal includes:
 - Develop a national student aid program (i.e. scholarships, financial aid, and loans).
 - Take responsibility of adjacent communities, those that supply students to the university, and specific curricula of feeder institutions.
 - Ensure equitable access to higher education for the vulnerable population (e.g., disabled, females, mentally challenged, visually challenged, physically challenged, and economically disadvantaged).
 - Discuss and establish transfer and articulation agreements between institutions. v. Collaborate with the general education and TVET programs to provide counseling and academic guidance for students and school personnel.
 - Establish standards for monitoring instruction and equity in knowledge acquisition. Equitable access to diverse programs, e.g., engineering and

other science related courses. vii. Strengthen linkage between higher education and secondary education to ensure instructional programs provide marketable skills.

From the World Bank SABER evaluation: “There are no effective initiatives to increase equitable access to tertiary education. [...] Liberia has no financial cost-sharing mechanisms in place to help students to pay for their tertiary education nor does it provide any incentives to encourage tertiary education institutions to meet the country’s equity goals despite the country’s substantial gender and economic inequalities (Ministry of Education 2016a, p.39)” (p9)

Which equity target groups are identified in the policy documents?

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

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

- No

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

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

- A national student aid program is under constructions, aiming at putting in place scholarships, grants and student loans to help low-income students and girls.

Non-Monetary Policy Instruments

- Liberia has not established non-monetary instruments to promote equity in higher education yet.

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 National Commission on Higher Education is responsible for monitoring the impact of equity promotion measures.

Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency

Liberia does not have an agency dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

Sources:

Higher Education Strategic Plan, 2012, National Commission on Higher Education
<http://ncheliberia.org/sites/default/files/Higher%20Education%20Strategic%20Plan%20for%20%20Liberia%20.pdf>

National Commission on Higher Education <http://ncheliberia.org/>

“Getting to Best” Education Sector Plan 2017-2021

SABER Country Report – Tertiary Education Liberia, World Bank Group 2017
http://wbfiles.worldbank.org/documents/hdn/ed/saber/supporting_doc/CountryReports/TED/SABER_Tertiary_Liberia_CR2017.pdf