

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL record suggests that the area now known as the DRC was populated at least 10 000 years ago, and probably earlier, by stone-age pygmy groupings who were forced into the remoter forest areas with the steady incursion of Bantu speakers from present-day Nigeria. By the 7th century AD, these iron-age Bantu communities were well established across large parts of the heavily wooded Congo basin that in turn is dominated by one of the world's longest and most inaccessible rivers.

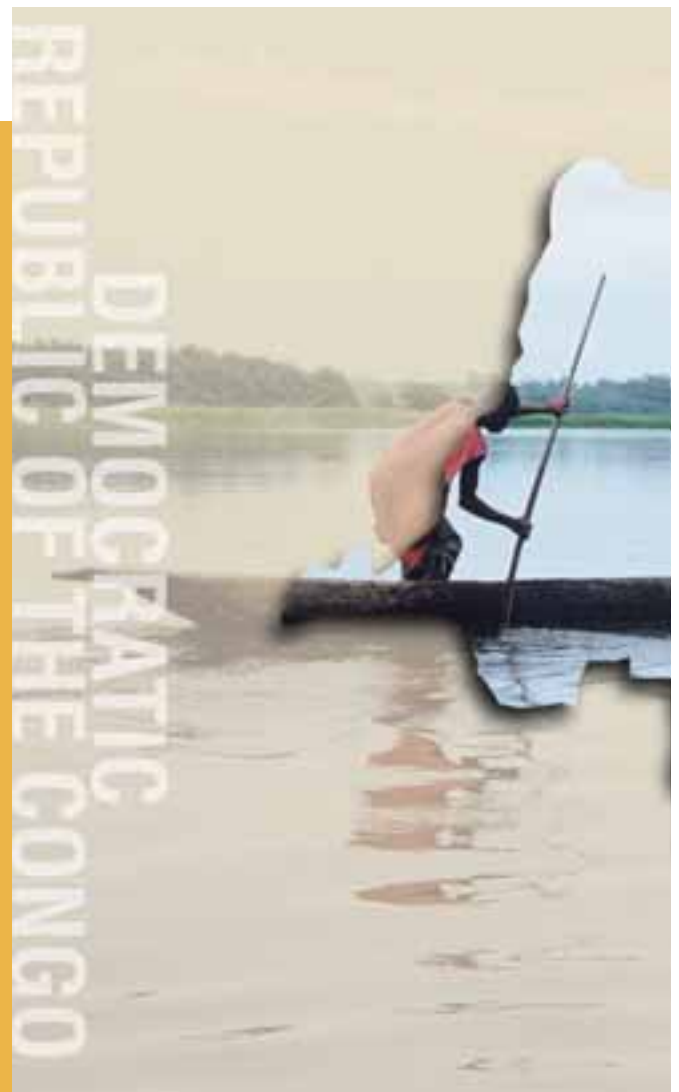
The first significant polity to arise in the western coastal regions of central Africa was the Kingdom of Kongo,⁷ which existed from the 14th to the early 18th centuries. Only towards the end of the 19th century did European imperialists make serious incursions into the hitherto impenetrable interior. The aggressive journeys of British explorer Henry Morton Stanley in the 1870s and 1880s marked the start of over a century of instability and brutality in the Congo region.

King Leopold II of Belgium had sponsored some of Stanley's latter explorations. At the Berlin Conference in 1885 (where the colonial powers arbitrarily divided Africa between them) the king formally acquired the entire Congo territory. Leopold, however, had been exploiting the so-called Congo Free State since the late 1870s. The extraction of rubber from the colony caused particular hardship: a common practice was the amputation of limbs as the penalty for failure to achieve the rubber collecting quotas. By the time the Congo Free State was disbanded in 1908, it is estimated that around 10 million indigenous people had died as a direct consequence of exploitation, starvation and disease. Under the administration of the Belgium Congo, conditions improved, but Belgium proved to be a weak and neglectful colonial power, a reality that finally found a bloody consequence in the independence upheavals of 1960.

Spurred by the nationalism sweeping West Africa at the time, the Congolese joined the clamour for independence from colonial rule. Rioting and unrest persuaded the Belgians to grant independence on 30 June 1960 and then to leave the vast country to its own devices. Chaos ensued. The first Soviet-leaning prime minister was murdered, to be replaced by a pro-Western politician; the copper-rich Katanga province attempted to secede; European colonists were hunted down and murdered; and finally it took tens of thousands of troops from the United Nations, and from Belgium, Britain and America, to restore a semblance of control.

But unrest continued to plague the country until in 1965 the commander in chief of the national army, Mobutu Sese Seko, seized control, renamed the country Zaire, and declared himself president for five years. In fact, he remained in power until 1997, but under increasing pressure from his own people. In 1991, for example, thousands of unpaid soldiers looted the capital city, Kinshasa.

The realities of the Rwandan genocide of 1994 did not take long to spill over into eastern Zaire, giving rise to a final alignment of forces into those for and those against the Mobutu dictatorship. Rwanda and Uganda were heavily involved. When the anti-Mobutu forces advanced upon Kinshasa, the president sued for peace, failed, and hurriedly left the country. In spite of a name change (the DRC since 1997) and several changes in leadership, and numerous truces and the intervention of peacekeepers, the chaos in large parts of the country continues. It is against this tumultuous background that the progress of tertiary education, which only began in 1954 in the DRC, must be viewed.



KEY COUNTRY CONTEXT STATISTICS

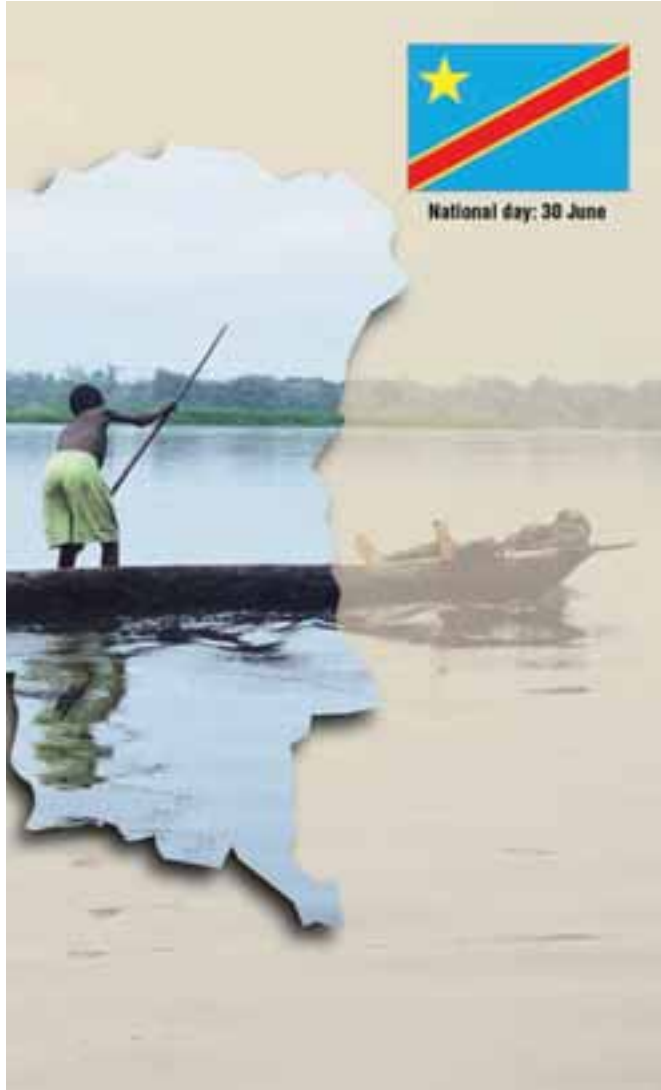
Population:	61.532 million (2006 est.)
GDP:	US\$300 (2007 est.) per capita
Human Development Index (HDI):	0.411
Unemployment levels:	NA
Key economic sectors:	Agriculture and Forestry, Services, Mining, Manufacturing
Principal Exports:	Diamonds, Crude Oil, Cobalt, Copper.
HIV and Aids prevalence:	4.2% (2003 ext.)
Gross Primary Enrolment Ratio:	61 (2002)
Gross Secondary Enrolment Ratio:	22 (2002)
Gross Tertiary Enrolment Ratio:	1 (1999)

Source: Country context data was obtained from a variety of sources: (CIA, 2008; SADC, 2008; UNAIDS, 2008; UNDP, 2008; UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2006)

⁷ The Kingdom of Kongo is briefly described in the entry on Angola, see page 3.



National day: 30 June



POLICY CONTEXT

The education system in the DRC is governed by the law 25/95 of 17 November 1995 amending the School Act No. 008/90 of September 6 1990 and on the reorganisation of the education system. This law stipulates the right to education ensuring equal access to education and vocational training. Public education is free. Basic education is compulsory. The right to establish private schools is subject to the approval of the State (Ministere de l'enseignement Primaire et Secondaire Charge de l'Alphabetisation, 2002).

Pacte de Modernisation de l'Enseignement Supérieur et Universitaire (PADEM) is the Ministry of Higher Education and Universities' reform agenda that started in 2003. The objectives of PADEM are to:

1. Reform and modernise the system of higher university and education;
2. Upgrade professional and teaching careers; and
3. Make the university a true centre of excellence (Table Ronde de l'Education en République Démocratique du Congo, 2004)

HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
No information available	

LIST OF STATUTORY BODIES IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
No information available	

FUNDING DATA	
Public Expenditure on Education as a % of Gross National Income (GNI)	4.6%
% Education budget allocated to higher education	No data
Loan/Grant scheme in place	No data

Source: SARUA (2008) – 'Towards a Common Future: Higher Education in the SADC Region'

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	
KEY INDICATORS	INDICATORS FOR THE DRC
R&D Intensity [The ratio of Gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)]	0.4% (2004)
ISI Output (Number of papers published in the 7500+ journals of the ISI Web of Science)	1990-1995: 264 1996-2001: 173 2002-2007: 242

Source: SARUA (2008) – CREST report

LIST OF PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	
UNIVERSITIES IN DRC	WEBSITE
National Pedagogy University	No website found
University of Goma	www.unigom.fr.nf
University of Kinshasa	www.unikin.cd
University of Kisangani	No website found
University of Lubumbashi	www.unilu.ac.cd

NATIONAL LEVEL OVERVIEW

Schooling in the DRC runs over 12 years. Primary education is compulsory and lasts for six years (learners aged 6-12), leading to the Certificat d'Etudes primaires (CEP). This allows access to secondary education (International Association of Universities [IAU] World Higher Education Database, 2005; World Bank Ed Stats, 2007). Secondary education (in either general or technical education) lasts for five to six years (depending on the cycle). The long cycle (general and technical education) lasts for six years from the age of 12 and only students who have passed the end of primary education may enrol. Those who complete the long cycle in a technical field and pass the Diplôme d'Etat are eligible for admission to higher education. The short cycle (technical/vocational training) lasts for up to five years in areas such as trade and crafts at the end of which a 'Brevet' is awarded (International Association of Universities [IAU] World Higher Education Database, 2005; World Bank Ed Stats, 2007).

There are 5 publicly funded universities in the DRC.

TYPE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION	NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS
Publicly funded universities	5
Publicly funded polytechnics or specialised colleges	147
Privately funded, accredited universities or colleges	227
Other Institutions	2
TOTAL	381

Source: DRC MoHE questionnaire response

DRC

NATIONAL PEDAGOGY UNIVERSITY

THIS UNIVERSITY is a new addition to the Democratic Republic of Congo's list of tertiary educational institutions. It was established in Kinshasa in February 2005 in accordance with the commitments of the now defunct National Pedagogy Institute. The new National Pedagogy University (NPU) also inherited its financial and property holdings from the earlier organisation.

The mission assigned to the NPU by the national DRC government can be summarised in three key objectives that cover the basic functions of a university: namely teaching, research and outreach.

- To provide specialised training for teachers and trainers in the country's many pedagogical and technical institutes, including the NPU itself. In this regard, it should encourage the birth of new ideas and the development of professional skills, so as to enhance the nobleness of the pedagogical profession as well as the dignity of all practitioners.
- To plan the basic and applied scientific research that will impact on pedagogical issues that are specific to

the DRC, while at the same time taking into account the evolution of science, methods and technologies at the international level.

- To make the outcomes of NPU research accessible to the public by publishing and distributing information, particularly in textbook format that would be useful for teaching at the secondary and professional levels.

The NPU offers a range of specialist areas of study through its various faculties. At the heart of the institution lies the specialist teacher and training activities. A School of Practical Training provides special sections for pre-school education, as well as for primary and secondary education. The main faculties cover the sciences, humanities, economics, the social and political sciences, agronomy and veterinary medicine. A variety of diplomas and degrees, as well as postgraduate degrees, are offered at the NPU; and UNESCO has funded a chair that specialises in the sciences of education and the didactics of evaluation.

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UNIVERSITY OF GOMA

THIS UNIVERSITY is situated close to the northern shores of Lake Kivu and on the border with Rwanda. It is not surprising, then, that its genesis is intimately bound up with some of the worst fighting and social instability ever experienced in the eastern parts of the DRC.

The university in Goma started life in the early 1990s as the 'university centre' of North Kivu that was attached to the established University of Kisangani situated over 500 km to the northwest.⁸ The troubles had started with the Rwandan genocide and ensuing civil war. By 1998, the military situation in the eastern DRC, with frequent clashes between the anti-Mobutu rebels and government forces, was such that the satellite university centre lost contact with its parent institution in Kisangani. The result of this was that the centre became a de facto independent university run by the rebels who appointed the vice-chancellor but paid scant heed to its financial needs. In fact, between 1998 and 2003, the worst years of the civil war, the university survived on student fees alone, with no help coming from the central

DRC government or any other source. Only in 2005, several years after peace had more or less been restored to the DRC, was the University Centre of North Kivu officially transformed into the autonomous but centrally supported University of Goma.

In spite of the extraordinarily difficult circumstances of the first 15 years of its existence, the University of Goma has enjoyed remarkable growth. To begin with, in 1993, a single Faculty of Medicine and Social Science had been established. In 1996, two more faculties were added: one for Economics and one for Law. Then in 2004, further faculties were added for Agriculture, Education, Psychology and the Sciences. Student growth has been just as impressive, from 153 enrolments in 1994 to nearly 4 500 in 2008.

FACTS AND FIGURES AT A GLANCE⁹

University of Goma is a contact institution. In 2007, the university had 4,522 contact students enrolled, of whom 20 were students from other international, non-SADC countries.

TABLE 1 UNIVERSITY OF GOMA: SUMMARY OF ENROLMENT NUMBERS (ACTUAL DATA, 2007)

MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS (HEADCOUNT)	NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED PER LEVEL OF STUDY			
		UNDER-GRADUATE DEGREE/ DIPLOMA	POST-GRADUATE DEGREE/ DIPLOMA	MASTERS DEGREE	DOCTORAL DEGREE
Science, Engineering & Technology	186	186	0	0	0
Business, Management & Law	1,073	1,065	0	8	0
Humanities and Social Sciences	2,178	2,170	0	8	0
Health Sciences	1,085	1,069	0	16	0
TOTALS	4,522	4,490	0	32	0

Source: University of Goma questionnaire response

TABLE 2 UNIVERSITY OF GOMA: ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH STAFF (ACTUAL DATA, 2007)

MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	TOTAL NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)
Science, Engineering & Technology	24
Business, Management & Law	37
Humanities and Social Sciences	78
Health Sciences	50
TOTALS	189

Source: University of Goma questionnaire response

Contact Details: URL: www.unigom.fr.nf, Physical Address: Route Sake n° 4, Commune de Goma, Goma, Postal Address: P.O. Box 03, Gisenyi (Rwanda), Telephone: Not available

⁸ For more detail on the early history of the development of universities in the DRC see the entry for the University of Kinshasa on page 11.

⁹ All data presented in this section is headcount data.

UNIVERSITY OF KINSHASA

IN 1954, the Belgian colonial authorities founded the first university in the sprawling Congo territory, and two years later they established a second. The first university had its campus in Leopoldville (now Kinshasa) and was called Université Lovanium. The second university was the Université Nationale du Congo in Elizabethville (now Lubumbashi). A third institution, Université Libre du Congo, was established with Protestant-sourced funding in Stanleyville (now Kisangani) at the headwaters of the Congo River. In 1971, the Mobutu government of the newly named Zaire, decided to nationalise all three universities and pull them together into one institution – the University of Zaire – with its headquarters in Kinshasa. Ten years later, the government reversed its earlier decision and unbundled the University of Zaire into its three original components.

The name of the institution in the capital, the University of Kinshasa, therefore dates from 1981. By 2007, academic and research staff numbered 1 530, with 245 operating in science and technology fields and 285 in the health sciences.

Most staff members are male, with females comprising just over six percent of the total.

On the financial side, the university is chronically under-funded, with the government providing less than one percent of total requirements.

Nevertheless, collaboration takes place with higher education institutions from other parts of the world. Examples of such collaboration include a twinning of the university's training schools with similar institutions in Germany; an academic relief programme administered in Belgium; a forestry programme in the Faculty of Agronomy is offered in partnership with institutions in Canada; an experimental farm is run with help from institutions in China; and a laboratory renovation programme is under way in partnership with Indian institutions.

The university is also involved with outreach into various DRC communities, most specifically in terms of food security and the development of fish farming.

FACTS AND FIGURES AT A GLANCE¹⁰

The University of Kinshasa is a contact education institution. In 2006-7, it had 26,186 students. Most of the students (26,121) are DRC citizens with 65 students being from international, non-SADC countries.

TABLE 1 UNIVERSITY OF KINSHASA: SUMMARY OF ENROLMENT NUMBERS (ACTUAL DATA, 2006/7)

MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS (HEADCOUNT)	NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED PER LEVEL OF STUDY	
		UNDER-GRADUATE DEGREE/ DIPLOMA	POST-GRADUATE DEGREE/ DIPLOMA
Science, Engineering & Technology	3,025	2,501	524
Business, Management & Law	11,028	8,171	2,857
Humanities and Social Sciences	7,280	5,595	1,685
Health Sciences	3,994	3,892	102
Other	859	595	264
TOTALS	26,186	20,754	5,432

Source: University of Kinshasa questionnaire response

TABLE 2 UNIVERSITY OF KINSHASA: ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH STAFF (ACTUAL DATA, 2007)

MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	TOTAL NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)
Science, Engineering & Technology	245
Business, Management & Law	292
Humanities and Social Sciences	425
Health Sciences	285
Other	53
Other: Research institutions and others attached temporally to other institutions	230
TOTALS	1,530

Source: University of Kinshasa questionnaire response

Contact Details: URL: www.unikin.cd, Physical Address: Not available, Telephone: Not available

¹⁰ All data presented in this section is headcount data.

UNIVERSITY OF KISANGANI

THIS UNIVERSITY, situated in a city of more than 600 000 people, was founded by missionaries in 1963 as the Protestant Autonomous University of Congo. After nationalisation in 1971 and a process of amalgamation and subsequent unbundling,¹¹ the institution assumed its current name – the University of Kisangani – in 1981.

In 2007, there were 381 academic and research staff, most of them (215) active in the humanities and social sciences – but the recent history of the institution overshadows its current realities.

In 2000, the authoritative *Times Higher Education* reported that the university ‘has turned into a refugee camp following confrontations between Ugandan and Rwandan troops fighting for control of the mineral-rich city. While many have fled the campus, students and staff from the medical and pharmacy faculties have been helping Red Cross workers provide treatment to refugees. The university may have to be rebuilt after the conflict.’¹²

Currently, the university’s income is derived from student

fees (49 percent) and government subsidies (51 percent), but university management reports that the current income level is insufficient for effective operation. In addition, there is a serious need for infrastructure rehabilitation and additions, as well as for the acquisition of research literature. Although the university does not have a strategic plan to develop additional income sources, it is taking steps to increase academic fees to improve the daily operation of the institution.

The main challenges facing the university include serious weaknesses in the university’s information and communication technology (ICT) capabilities; and then the lack of qualified staff, of financial means, of premises and equipment, and of literature and laboratories. Clearly, the university’s physical infrastructure has not been rebuilt since the troubles. This is one reason why only 20% of the institutional focus of the University of Kisangani is reckoned for research.

FACTS AND FIGURES AT A GLANCE¹³

All students at the University of Kisangani are full-time, contact students, and all 6,058 students enrolled at the university are DRC nationals.

TABLE 1 UNIVERSITY OF KISANGANI: SUMMARY OF ENROLMENT NUMBERS (ACTUAL DATA, 2006/7) DATE NOT SPECIFIED)¹⁴

MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS (HEADCOUNT)	NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED PER LEVEL OF STUDY			
		UNDER-GRADUATE DEGREE / DIPLOMA	POST-GRADUATE DEGREE / DIPLOMA	MASTERS DEGREE	DOCTORAL DEGREE
Science, Engineering & Technology	304	110	25	0	2
Business, Management & Law	1,848	532	0	0	0
Humanities and Social Sciences	2,377	624	12	0	15
Health Sciences	1,529	325	0	0	0
TOTALS	6,058	1,591	37	0	17

Source: University of Kisangani questionnaire response

TABLE 2 UNIVERSITY OF KISANGANI: ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH STAFF (ACTUAL DATA, 2007)

MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	TOTAL NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)
Science, Engineering & Technology	71
Business, Management & Law	37
Humanities and Social Sciences	215
Health Sciences	43
Other (not specified)	15
TOTALS	381

Source: University of Kisangani questionnaire response

Contact Details: URL: No website found, Physical Address: Not available, Telephone: Not available

¹¹ For more detail on the early history of the three main universities in the DRC see the entry for the University of Kinshasa on page 11.

¹² *Times Higher Education*, 16 June 2000

¹³ All data presented in this section is headcount data.

¹⁴ Note that totals for student numbers do not tally. Verification was sought from the university, but not received at the time of writing this profile.

UNIVERSITY OF LUBUMBASHI

SITUATED IN the copper-rich Katanga province in the south of the DRC, this large university (second in size only to the University of Kinshasa) was originally established by the colonial authorities in the mid-1950s. After a process of nationalisation and amalgamation into a single national institution,¹⁵ the university emerged once more as autonomous and with its current name, the University of Lubumbashi, in 1981.

In response to the nearby mining activity, nearly 200 of the 769 academic and research staff employed at the university are active in the science, engineering and technology fields. There are active geology, engineering and information science departments. Other academic options for students include languages (Latin, French, and Congolese languages), linguistics, history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, and law. In total, there are 194 professors on the staff. However, research at the university hardly exists, with only 13 publications (including the publication of five books) appearing in 2007.

Nevertheless, it is hoped that new international contacts will help to improve the situation. Co-operative partnerships with institutions in Belgium, France, the USA, and South Africa have been established.

An example is the tripartite co-operation agreement between the University of Lubumbashi, the University of Liege in Belgium, and the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. The aim of the agreement is to reinforce scientific and academic co-operation between the three institutions by facilitating direct contacts through exchanges involving professors, researchers, technicians and students; by the setting up joint research activities; by jointly organising conferences and seminars; by information and equipment exchanges; and by sustained fundraising in each institution to support the exchange programmes.

The research activities listed for the Tripartite programme are ambitious. They include: mining and metallurgy, as well as HIV/Aids and blood transfusions. These activities should improve the weak research base at University of Lubumbashi.

FACTS AND FIGURES AT A GLANCE¹⁶

The University of Lubumbashi is a contact institution. In 2007 the university had a total enrolment of 20,898 students. The majority of students are DRC nationals (99.9%) with ten SADC nationals and ten students from other international, non-SADC, countries.

TABLE 1 UNIVERSITY OF LUBUMBASHI: SUMMARY OF ENROLMENT NUMBERS (ACTUAL DATA, 2007)¹⁷

MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS (HEADCOUNT)	NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED PER LEVEL OF STUDY			
		UNDER-GRADUATE DEGREE/ DIPLOMA	POST-GRADUATE DEGREE/ DIPLOMA	MASTERS DEGREE	DOCTORAL DEGREE
Science, Engineering & Technology	2,972	1,972 ¹⁸	0	17	11
Business, Management & Law	5,892	3,892	0	8	9
Humanities and Social Sciences	6,623	2,440	0	30	34
Health Sciences	6,411	5,594	0	49	14
TOTALS	21,898	13,898	0	104	68

Source: University of Lubumbashi questionnaire response

TABLE 2 UNIVERSITY OF LUBUMBASHI: ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH STAFF (ACTUAL DATA, 2007)

MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	TOTAL NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)
Science, Engineering & Technology	184
Business, Management & Law	80
Humanities and Social Sciences	288
Health Sciences	217
TOTALS	769

Source: University of Lubumbashi questionnaire response

Contact Details: URL: www.unilu.ac.cd, Physical Address: Not available, Telephone: Not available

¹⁵ For more detail on this process see the entry for the University of Kinshasa on page 11.

¹⁶ All data presented in this section is headcount data.

¹⁷ Total numbers of students by faculty do not tally accurately in all instances.

¹⁸ These numbers are for the first and second cycle.

