

UPC Fact Sheet

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About the University. Université Protestante au Congo has been a pioneer in Congolese higher education since 1959. It has remained independent, survived chaotic political regions, wars and civil strife, and produced a highly qualified Congolese leadership and faculty who hold doctoral degrees from Europe and the United States.

Approximately 5379 students (half are women) currently are enrolled, almost evenly divided between those studying in the School of Business and Economics and School of Law. Another 300 study in the School of Theology. In October 2006, a new School of Medicine welcomed 200 students.

The student population is diverse and, although founded by various Protestant denominations, the university invites and welcomes students from any of the world's major religions – half the current enrollment is Roman Catholic.

Admission standards exceed those of the national admissions tests and include rigorous university-administered entrance exams. Admission also requires character references.

Administration. The UPC is led by Dr. NGOY, Boliya, an alumnus who later earned his Ph.D. in church history from the University of Strasbourg, in France. The Board of Trustees is made up of Congolese chosen for special reasons. The five founding denominations: American Baptist, British Baptist,

Presbyterians USA, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and United Methodist Churches each name a member. The president of the Eglise du Christ au Congo, the national body that groups some 62 Protestant communities totaling 8 million people, is a member. Other members are selected at large upon action of the board. The student body president and a faculty representative are also members. The President and the General Academic Secretary (equivalent to academic dean in the U.S.), have voice and vote. The Board meets annually, usually in late July to coincide with the closing exercises of the academic year.

Faculty. Some 180 full-time and part-time Congolese faculty members teach and serve as role models to the diverse student population. Professors are graduates of European or American universities. Department heads hold doctoral degrees. The university is eager to welcome academically qualified faculty from other countries..

Financial Support. UPC receives no financial support from the government of Congo. Thirty percent of its students receive scholarships from overseas.

The campus consists of well-kept grounds and regularly maintained modern structures, built for the most part by European governments and Protestant churches. Through the efforts of its European

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fundraising group (the European Liaison Bureau, ELB), the Federal Republic of Germany has constructed one classroom building; another is under way. A classroom for the medical school will be added in 2007. The government of Sweden has built and furnished a \$600,000 modern library.

Individual Americans and various religious congregations have provided additional financial support and scholarships. The North American Liaison Board (NALB), the U.S. fundraising arm of the university, is presently raising nearly \$1 million in medical and scientific equipment for the new medical school.

An American volunteer, Dean Cornwell, is seeking more financial support from local sources, including international businesses, Embassies, and the Congolese community. The pro bono public relations effort by Mr. Cornwell will continue for one year, after which UPC will recruit and pay a Congolese professional to continue this effort.

UPC CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

. . . education that builds a nation

School of Business and Economics

. . . building a prosperous Congo

Dr. Ushengwo Ilasshi, a graduate of Université Libre de Bruxelles, heads the School of Business and Economics. Dr. Jerome Oveneke, a graduate of the University of Liege, heads the school's Business

Administration program. In addition to the usual courses in a business program, the faculty has developed classes in Banking, Finance and Insurance that no other university in Congo is offering.

Microbanking Program. Directed to providing banking services in small towns and rural areas where no other banks exist. Banque Academic d'Allemagne has sent to UPC and pays for one of its own professors, Dr. Youssouf Congo, a citizen of Burkina Faso, to support this program.

Entrepreneurship Program. Students are learning to build their own businesses in the new Congo. The Women's Business Association has developed a Sustainable Business Plan Competition, which in partnership with American supporters, will confer as a prize a start-up loan of up to \$1000 for the first competition. Efforts are under way to increase the size of the loan fund and the prizes as well as to invite international jurors and prestige to the contest.

School of Medicine

. . . building a healthy Congo

Dr. Samuel Mampunza heads this new school, which launched a preparatory year in 2006 with 200 students. Following one year of intensive English, physics, chemistry and biology, students will begin their medical training.

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All medical students will undergo their internships and residencies at hospitals in Congo's Rural Health Zones. Scholarship-supported students will sign contracts further obligating them to work at least two years in a rural hospital or clinic upon graduation. Degrees will not be conferred until the obligation has been met.

UPC SUPPORT CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

. . . education that builds a nation

English classes. French is the language of instruction, but a strong English program increases the breadth of study. The library contains a significant percentage of books in that language.

Computer skills. Dr. David Kutangila leads a dynamic program in the use of the computer and the Internet.

Both the English and computer programs are receiving increased emphasis in order to support instruction at the new School of Medicine.

UPC History. The university is a church-related institution without sectarian emphasis. Despite its name, UPC is open to students of all faiths. It receives, nonetheless, strong support from the Church of Christ of Congo. UPC was founded in 1959, one year before Congo's independence, as a theological seminary in Lubumbashi. Five protestant denominations, American Baptist, British Baptist, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian USA, and United Methodist, provided missionaries as its first teachers and staff. Over the years, other denominations also have supported the university. UPC's history includes several names and locations until it opened its own campus in 1963. In 1971 Congolese universities were nationalized, with theological schools being separated from the other disciplines. Under pressure from foreign governments, the Mobutu government withdrew control and the present UPC emerged.

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