

EDUCATION IN BONAIRE

An overview of the education institutions and facilities in Bonaire is here presented. Be aware that besides the regular education system in Bonaire and available training institutes, the population of Bonaire can rely on the education facilities on the other islands of the Netherlands Antilles and Holland. It is well known that because of our Dutch education system a lot of people follow Distance Education in Holland (through the mail-system). There is no information available of how many and where exactly, which institutions they're studying, the Educational System does not keep a track of Distance Learning Facilities.

The European system is predominant in most schools. Many of the graduates go on to institutions of higher learning in the Netherlands U.S., Canada, and Europe.

6.1 Day School

A day school is an educational institution where students are taught daily and in the daytime. Examples of day schools are: day-care centres, primary schools, LBO/MAVO, MBO/HAVO. However, the distinction between fulltime day education and other courses after advanced education is not always totally clear. On the level of MBO full time day education and part time/evening courses are also provided.

The percentage of children between 5-14 years of age attending a day school in Bonaire also called the school participation rate is almost 100% (99.1%) The participation rate declines steadily until the age of 17, and subsequently drops very rapidly. At the age of 18, the participation rate is 45.7%. At the age of 19, the level subsequently drops almost 12%, and reaches 34.1% .For the age group 15-19 as a whole; the participation rate is 69.3% (1992: 61.0%).

For the age group 20-24, the participation rate is only 2.5%. At this low figure, it must be taken into account that a number of students from this age group have to pursue their further studies outside the island territory due to the lack of institutions for higher education after secondary level.

The figures in table 10. regard only full time regular education. That is, the regular education program in which pupils/students take a fixed amount of lessons at a day school or institution during one week, for a complete academic year.

The system provides an opportunity for children and young people to progress from kindergarten (4 up to 6 years old) and primary school (6 up to 12 years old), to higher levels of education.

21. Day-school attending population by type of education, Bonaire in %

	1992	2001
Day-care centre/play school	10.0	11.2
Kindergarten	13.6	14.1
Primary school	22.5	47.0
LBO/MAVO	2.9	23.4
MBO/HAVO		4.3
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Fourth Population Census, 2001

22. Overview schools

Day school/ Education (fulltime)	Other training/education courses (evening course/part-time)
Pre-schooler, Primary, Special and Secondary Education: BAVO, MAVO, HAVO, BVO, AGO	Training-centre for teacher or pre-schooler teacher. APEBON
School of Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - evening- MAVO - other evening/part-time education and courses - Written education (distance learning and courses through the Internet.

For the population of 15 years of age and older who do not attend any school and do not receive any training or take any course, more than one out of every five respondents, 21.3% has primary school training or less. This percentage increases with age.

23. Population with primary education or less by age, 2001 Bonaire*-in %

15-24	4.5	
25-34	6.4	
35-44	12.0	
45-54	26.2	
55-64	41.2	
65+	63.9	
Total 15+	21.3	

*) population not attending a school or not receiving training or taking a course

Source: Fourth Population Census, 2001

24. High School Leaving Certificates (full-time education)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Junior High School (MAVO)	44	44	46	41	27
Senior High School (HAVO)	23	25	26	25	26

Vocational Education Leaving Certificates

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Elementary Technical (LTO)	34	25	52	17	
LADVO/ALBO/AMVB	29	25	32	32	
BVO					55

At present there are no official plans under way to build new facilities for vocational training.

6.2 Public Schools

The Department of Education and Culture (island level) is the one responsible for the management of the Public Schools. The students are taught daily and in the daytime. Public Schools don't charge any contribution from the parents. The government of the island territory of Bonaire provide the schools with the necessary materials, school, building maintenance etc.

In Bonaire there is three Public Schools (elementary) these are:

1. Watapana School
Kaya Lourdes 18
Tel. 717-6380
2. Kolegio Reina Beatrix (pre-schooler)
Kaya Aguila 2
Tel. 717-8607
Fax. 717-5707
3. Kolegio Reina Beatrix
Kaya Aguila 2
Tel. 717-8607
Fax. 717-5707

6.3 Roman-Catholic Schools

Roman-Catholic day schools in Bonaire are schools where the students are taught at least once a week, the principles of the bible. Besides the religious teaching in classes, by the schoolteacher they also have the priest coming in and give lectures etc. The Roman-Catholic Board is the one responsible for the schools.

A contribution is charge by the school board. Once a year the parents of the students have to make a contribution of ca. Naf. 20,-

1. Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador (pre-schooler and elementary)
Kaya Avelino j Cecilia z/n
tel. 717-8628
2. Kolegio Luis Bertran
Kaya botote 6
tel. 717-6203/717-4438
3. Kolegio San Bernardo
Kaya Maria Hellmund Boom 1
tel. 717-3955

6.4 Comprehensive School

In the comprehensive school of Bonaire, named the Scholengemeenschap Bonaire(SGB), students can follow the daytime/ fulltime education on different level. Hereby follows an overview of the school divisions, profile, fees etc.

A. Senior and Junior High School = HAVO/MAVO (HAVO 5 study-years and MAVO 4 study years)

Course Profile HAVO/ MAVO	Registration fees: Naf 60,- Book fund :
1 st year is general education	Naf. 550,- 450,-
2 nd year is general education	Naf. 405,- 385,-
3 rd year profile preparation	Naf. 365,-
4 th year Subject according to profile	Naf. 550,-
5 th year exam according to profile	Naf. 500,-

Students can choose subjects according to their profile.
Subject given in the Senior and Junior High School are:

- Culture and Community
 - Economy and Community
 - Nature and Technique
 - Nature and Health Care
 - Physics
 - Economy
 - Care and Welfare
 - Technique (construction, metal and electro)
-

In the comprehensive School they have a department for Vocational Education. There is different level and students can choose different study-directions. Underneath follows a description of the possibilities by the vocational department.

Directions/Levels:

- Secondary Vocational Education (Cadre Training) = Secundair Beroeps Onderwijs (SBO/MBO)
- Directed Education on labour market = Arbeidsmarkt Gericht Onderwijs (AGO)
- Basic Vocational Education = Lager Beroeps Onderwijs (MAVO/LBO)
- Theoretic Cadre Education = Theoretisch Kadergerichte Leerweg (TKL)
- Practical Cadre Education= Praktisch Kadergerichte Leerweg (PKL)
- Basic Practical Cadre Education= Praktisch Basisgerichte Leerweg (PBL)

Subjects:

- Administration (level I, II and III)
- Consumer Technique
- Care and Welfare
- Construction
- Electro
- Mechanic
- Motor Vehicle, automobile

Registration Fees

Registration Fees in general is between Naf. 30,- and 60,- depends on how many siblings in school. MBO has a different registration fee.

MBO

MBO has a registration Fees: Naf. 150,-

Book Fund: Naf. 845,-

TKL

Book Fund: Naf. 535,-

PKL

Book Fund: Naf. 395,-

PBL:

Book Fund: Naf. 400,-

MAVO/LBO

Book Fund: Naf. 500,-

LBO

Book Fund: Naf. 415,-

LBO-P

Book Fund: Naf. 400,- and Naf. 430,-

AGO

No fees for book fund

Information about the comprehensive school can be obtained at the administration of the School located at:

Scholengemeenschap Bonaire

Kaya Frater Odulfinus z/n

Tel. 717-8120

Fax. 717-4428 or 717-8771

4.5 Saint James, School of Medicine

Saint James, School of Medicine was approved by the Federal Government of the Netherlands Antilles in 1999. The school became functional in the year 2000 as a combined project between the island government of Bonaire and a consortium of highly experienced Medical Educators and physicians from multiple universities and colleges in the United States.

Cost of the M.D. Program

A \$100 non-refundable application fee is required to determine the eligibility of the applicant.

The actual cost of the M.D. program, inclusive of all charges, is US \$7 (seventy-two hundred) per 16-week semester long M.D. Program. A scholarship of US \$2,000 (two thousand) per semester is offered to the applicants who are residents of the USA and Canada, reducing their cost to US \$52,000 + (fifty-two thousand+) for the entire program.

The cost of the science semesters 1-4, taking scholarship into consideration, becomes \$4,200 (four thousand two hundred) and cost of the clinical clerkship semesters 5-10 becomes US \$6,000 + (six thousand +).

Applicant are required to deposit US \$1000 (one-thousand) to reserve the seat. The amount is credited to the first semester tuition.

On-line applications is possible. A full description of profile can be obtained on their Web-site: www.stjamesmed.com

6.6 Other Training Institutions

Training Institutes on the island is:

6.6.1 Fundashon Formashon pa Mañan

FORMA, is a very small but properly administered foundation. It works with modest operating charges (ANG 80.000/p.a. + salaries of 2 employees). It organizes a wide variety of training and courses. FORMA has also an agreement with FEFFIK in Curacao, allowing locals asking for a very technical training to be enrolled in the sessions organized in Curacao. The foundation keeps record of all training sessions (participants, success rates) and publishes a comprehensive annual report of its activities. Its office and training premises are modest but neat and well maintained.

Vocational training, evening courses provided:

- Basic Knowledge Bookkeeping
- Practical Diploma Bookkeeping
- English Conversation Lesson

- Dutch Conversation Lesson for Non-Dutch speakers
- Electrical Engineering
- Teaching people how to read and write (Alphabetises)
- Cadre Training FESBO
- Train the Trainers SVJ
- Basic Training Security Guard
- Public Transport

Projects:

- Schooling and Work
- Alphabetises Selibon
- Rehabilitation youthful prisoners

In the evening hours student can follow Secondary Education
- 3rd and 4th year of MAVO

Table 24 gives us an overview of FORMA courses, period, fees and who's financing the projects.

25. Forma courses

Course	Period	Fees	Financier
Basics Bookkeeping	9 months	650,-	FORMA/Self-supporting
Practical Bookkeeping Diploma	12 months	950,-	FORMA/Self-supporting
English Conversation Lessons	3 months	200,-	FORMA/Self-supporting
Dutch for Non-Speakers	3 months	200,-	FORMA/Self-supporting
Electrical Engineering	6 months	650,-	FORMA/Self-supporting
Literacy/Alphabetize	12 months	n.a.	FORMA/Self-supporting
Cadre Training FESBO	2 months	25,-	Stichting Vormingscentrum voor Jeugdwezijn
Train the Trainers SVJ	1 month	25,-	Stichting Vormingscentrum voor Jeugdwezijn
Basic Training Security Guard	3 months	550,-	n.a.
Public Transport training			Island Territory of Bonaire
Projects			
Schooling and Work	9 months	n.a.	Task Force N.A.
Alphabetize	18 months	n.a.	Selibon N.V.
Rehabilitation Youthful Prisoners	6 months	n.a.	Stichting Jena
Evening Secondary Educ.MAVO	12 months	200,-	Island Territory of Bonaire

6.6.2 Rayvah Technical Institute

Rayvah Training Institute. This institute has been dormant for quite some time now, but its expertise and area of concentration are in adult education, vocational training, bookkeeping and computer. According to the manager, soon they will start again with adult education including Internet facilities. Restoration of the Training Institute is taking place. CKB has signed a freelance contract for services to be provided by Rayvah to the micro and small business entrepreneurs.

More information can be obtained at:
Rayvah Training Institute
Kaya Grandi 32 Unit 4 Atlantis
Tel. 717-2389

6.6.3 Linkels & van Wilgen

Offers a variety of training and courses, the year programme depends on what the enterprises/market asked for. For the first half of 2003 the following courses are provided:

- Supervisor training, 7 session
Price: Naf. 695,-
- Balance sheet, interpretation, 6 session/ 2,5 hours
Price: Naf. 725,-
- Middle Management, 2 modules
of 24 sessions
Price: Naf. 2205,-
- Sales & Marketing
7 sessions
Price: 725,-

Office is located at:
Kaya J.E. Nicolaas 10
Tel. 717-8711
Fax.717-8712
Email: info@kinkels.com
www.linkels.com

6.6.4 Centrum Klein Bedrijf

Starters and non-experienced entrepreneurs will receive classroom training. They will require basic business knowledge and techniques. The training and advice will be driven by high quality control; in order to create willingness among the MSEs to pay for the services rendered by the CKB. In order to be effective, classroom training will be given in small groups of entrepreneurs in subjects such as financial, marketing and organizational management. Training will always be based on a consistent and simple business planning methodology and terminology customized to the local needs.

Business trainers and business advisers, including the manager of the CKB, who are qualified in teaching, will provide classroom training. The SESNA advisors will give training and assistance to the CKB management, business advisor(s) and trainers. They will develop a package of computerized business planning tools and standard products, such as accounting and planning systems for specific types of micro/small businesses, in collaboration with the manager and selected business advisors and -trainers of the CKB. The intention of providing training services is to equip entrepreneurs of micro and small businesses with certain basic tools and knowledge so as to become more successful and professional in their business. The selection of training topics will be based upon feedback received from the MSEs. This will lead to a better knowledge and awareness of the MSEs needs.

Examples of classroom trainings are:

- Business planning - how to choose an insurance package / how to invest in information systems/ how to develop a business idea into an operational plan.
- Business administration - how to set up a basic administration system.
- Financial management- how to approach a bank/ how to select a bookkeeper etc.
- Organization management - how to hire personnel/ contracts with vendors and costumers etc.
- Accounting systems for specific types of MSEs.
- Marketing/ Customer service.
- Business correspondence.
- Fiscal advice- filling out of tax forms.

Training fees Naf. 160 per course.

More information can be obtained at:

Centrum Klein Bedrijf
Kaya Gobernador Debrot 67 unit 203
Tel. 717-2812/717-2095
Fax. 717-2541
E-mail at: ckb@telbo.net

RECCOMENDATIONS: The group in charge of screening and to propose possible upgrading in this area was of the opinion that based upon the population size and that the Bonaire economy is mostly tourism driven, that the present educational system can be considered acceptable. The only recommendation from the group was to conduct periodical educational business assessment studies based upon the private sector need, which will give a clear indication on the type of labour force needed.