

Peru

Demographics for Peru

Population:	27,925,628 (July 2005 est.)
GDP (by PPP method):	US\$155.3 billion
Currency (inc code):	Nuevo Sol (PEN)
Language(s):	Spanish (official), Quechua (official), Aymara, Amazonian languages
Internet country code:	.pe

There are four levels of education in Peru: initial (pre-school), primary, secondary and higher education.

Initial (pre-school)

Approximately 53 percent of children between three and five attend pre-school education; this is one of the highest levels of coverage in Latin America. The purpose of initial education is to develop a child's intellectual, emotional and physical abilities prior to the subsequent stages of formal education and, in the widest sense, in preparation for life in general. Pre-school education is provided in nursery schools and through non-school programs aimed at poor children in rural and marginal urban areas.

Primary education consists of six grades (six years' duration) and accounts for the majority of state educational effort. Primary education covers 93 percent of children between six and 11 years of age.

Secondary education lasts five years and is organized in two cycles: the first applies to all pupils and lasts two years, while the second, lasting three years, is diversified with arts, sciences and technical options. It is provided under two systems: for adolescents and adults.

Secondary education covers approximately 70 percent of children between 12 and 16 nationally, but falls to 53 and 48 percent in rural areas and the poorest homes respectively.

Around 3 and 22 percent of those between 15 and 24 and those over 40, respectively, are illiterate.

Private schools are financed in the following ways, depending on the promoting organization:

- Private self-financed lay schools; (the majority of Peru's private schools. Fees are their principal source of funds).
- Co-operatively managed private schools.
- Schools run by the Catholic Church.
- Schools run by other religions.

Higher education

Higher education is provided by further education institutes, universities and post-graduate colleges. Many further education establishments offer short courses in addition to their regular ones. Of these programs, 68 percent take place in Metropolitan Lima and 52 percent of students are women.

Peru has 78 universities catering for more than 500,000 students (in 1980 there were 35 universities).

As far as postgraduate studies are concerned, more than 60 percent are provided by state universities and Master's degree courses account for 73 percent. Between 1990 and 2004 the number of postgraduate courses has increased by an annual average of 13.9 percent, whilst undergraduate courses have increased by 4.5 percent annually.

Most of these Master's degree courses are in business administration and education; the latter are available from 16 state and 17 private universities. The most popular are Master in Higher Education (offered by 21 universities), education management and administration (13 universities) and educational sciences majoring in some management or educational specialty (ten universities). One university in four offers Doctorates. Most operate in Lima and 60 percent are organized by state universities.

The quality of undergraduates and postgraduates from the vast majority of universities is recognized to be broadly unsatisfactory. This is attributable to the fact that Peru has no system of accreditation.

University statistics

- Number of universities: 78.
- Number of state universities: 33.
- Number of private universities: 45.

The University Nacional Federico Villareal has the highest number of professional programs with 50.

Most frequently offered professional programs in Peruvian universities:

- Accounting: 50.
- Business management: 54.

The University Nacional Mayor de San Marcos is the state university with the most students in Peru (25,201).

The University de San Martin de Porres is the private university with the most students in Peru (31,740).

Structure of business and management education

Peru offers a range of possibilities in the area of business education. There are state universities, renowned private business schools, as well as foreign universities providing candidates with the possibility of pursuing part-time and full-time MBA programs. The part-time model seems to be the most popular one among executives, since it allows them to continue working while pursuing their degree, as well as the possibility of requesting financial aid from their employers.

The five most important business schools in Peru (Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru, Universidad Esan, Universidad del Pacifico, Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola and Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas) offer a range of Master's programs, including a variety of MBAs (many of them in partnership with overseas business schools) and specialist Master's in areas such as finance and law. They all offer executive programs and it is possible to study either full-time or part-time to achieve an internationally recognized qualification.

Only one of the five, the Universidad Esan, offers post-graduate awards up to PhD level, in association with ESADE in Spain.

Many of the top business schools in the country are accredited by CLADEA, the Latin American Council of Management Schools and by the British Association of MBAs (AMBA). A couple of them also have accreditation with AACSB, EFMD and other bodies.

Other important business schools and universities offering Master's degrees in Business:

- Universidad Ricardo Palma, Universidad de Piura, Universidad de Lima.

Most important issues facing business schools in the country

The number of institutions offering Master's degree programs in the last ten years has increased from 26 to 42. During the same period, the total number of Master's degree programs offered has almost doubled from 263 to 495.

The higher education market dynamics at the graduate course level have been determined by two critical factors. The first one, the economic modernization process, that has resulted in a significant reduction of executive positions both in the commercial as well as in the financial fields of the Peruvian economy; compelling many of these executives to look for a higher level of qualification by attending a Graduate Program in order to obtain an MBA.

The second factor that can explain the increased demand for graduate courses is related to the administrative demands of the Peruvian universities with regards to their faculty members. For several Graduate School Directors, this is the most important factor that is currently shaping the dynamics of the graduate course market in Peru.

In the private universities in Lima, over 80 percent of the faculty members hold a Master's degree. These professors are interested in having a Master's degree or a PhD because that allows them to be paid a better salary.

Estimations suggest that out of the 11,884 university professors in the state universities, around 40 percent have completed graduate studies (but do not hold a Master's degree) and that only 14 percent hold a Master's degree.

Every year, Peruvian universities offer graduate courses in 460 fields of specialization, which account for 7,611 vacancies per year.

Peru provides a great number of Master's degree programs, almost all of them being Master's Degrees in Business Administration (MBA).

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