



Senegal Fast Facts

Population:

10,852,147 (July 2004 est.)

Capital:

Dakar

Currency:

Communaute Financiere Africaine franc (XOF); note - responsible authority is the Central Bank of the West African States

Religion(s):

Muslim 94%, indigenous beliefs 1%, Christian 5% (mostly Roman Catholic)

Language(s):

French (official), Wolof, Pulaar, Jola, Mandinka

Major Events:

Independence Day, April 4 (1960)

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Senegal at a Glance...

For many, Senegal is considered the gateway to West Africa. Studying there can provide you with the unparalleled opportunity to engage Africa in its modern challenges as well as its complex history.

The cosmopolitan capital of Dakar is one of Senegal's most fascinating places. Dakar, a modern city with a rich historical legacy, is the central focus for much of what occurs in the country, whether it is politics, culture, economics, or education. The capital is home to the University of Dakar, which has one of the most famous research institutes for African studies. Farther north along Senegal's 350 miles of spectacular coastline lies the historic city of Saint-Louis, renowned for its rich colonial heritage and architecture, a reminder of Senegal's three centuries as a French colony. In St. Louis are the National Ethnographic Museum and the Université Gaston Berger de St. Louis.

Students choosing to study in Senegal will find a wide variety of opportunities there. Many students choose to study French, since it is Senegal's official language. Senegal is a logical place for African studies as it is an influential nation on the continent and particularly in West Africa. Many students also take advantage of some of the excellent programs in sustainable development studies.

For those interested in business and economics, Senegal is a fascinating place to observe an economy in the midst of transition. In 1994, Senegal began an ambitious reform program with help from the international donor community. The years since then have seen genuine growth of the GDP and a decrease in inflation.



Some of the major sectors of the economy include agricultural and fish processing, phosphate mining, fertilizer production, petroleum refining, and construction materials. However, Senegal is also making strides to introduce information technology jobs through infrastructure such as the realization of full Internet connectivity in 1996. Senegal's bold economic reform policies and willingness to work toward a brighter future can both inspire and educate students.

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IIE Passport is the study abroad search engine. Find study abroad programs in Senegal, language programs and a **WHOLE** lot more!

Senegal also offers a rich cultural and artistic heritage. The world renowned singer, songwriter, and composer Youssou N'Dour mixes traditional Senegalese m'balax with many other influences including Cuban samba, hip hop, jazz and more. He is a powerful cultural icon, for not only is he one of the most celebrated African musicians in history, but he is also actively involved in pressing social issues in Africa today. Another popular Senegalese musician is Baaba Maal, who sings in his native tongue and fosters modern-day appreciation of the more traditional Senegalese folk music.

Senegal also provides valuable opportunities for those interested in biology and other related fields. With over 550 animal species, Senegal is one of the most biologically diverse countries in the Sahel, which is the semi-arid region south of the Sahara desert. The country provides a haven for migrating birds, especially waterfowl who stop at the Parc National aux Oiseaux du Djoudj each winter when returning from Europe. This area has become one of the world's major bird reserves.

Experience the vibrant world of Senegal and capitalize on the unique challenges and diverse opportunities that this fascinating country offers you.



Online Resources

Senegal Embassy:

<http://senegal.embassyhomepage.com/>

Sunugaal.com – The home of Senegal online:

<http://www.earth2000.com/>

Senegal Online:

<http://www.senegal-online.com/anglais/>

MapZones.com: Senegal:

<http://www.mapzones.com/world/africa/senegal/>

Lonely Planet:

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com>

CIA Factbook:

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook>