

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Argentina



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

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In 1948, NAFSA pioneered the concept of providing professional services for postsecondary exchange students. Early efforts to enhance living and learning environments for exchange students have blossomed into today's active association of accomplished professionals whose numbers continue to grow worldwide.

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Instructions for Using the *Online Guide to Educational Systems Around the World*

Susan Whipple, Editor

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These documents are updates to those in the 1999 publication *A Guide to Educational Systems Around the World* (which was an update to *The Handbook on the Placement of Foreign Graduate Students*, published in 1990 and colloquially known as the "Graduate Handbook.")

It is important to note that these documents do not replace either of the earlier publications, which should be used for credentials issued prior to 1999, the period those publications cover.

Readers familiar with the original version of *A Guide to Educational Systems Around the World* will note that these updates use the same format:

1. Each of these publications provides lists of credentials and other data that can be used both for undergraduate and graduate admissions.
2. "Advice for admissions officers" is intentionally not provided. We have attempted to avoid all types of subjective interpretation, relying instead on objective data. Users of these updates should use the information provided in conjunction with other resources to determine their own placement recommendations and possibility of transfer credit. Questions about credentials can be posted on the Admission and Credential Evaluation discussion forum on the Recruitment, Admissions, and Preparation Knowledge Community Web site:
http://www.nafsa.org/knowledge_community_network.sec/recruitment_admissions/admissions_and_credential/forums.

Please note that these updates should be supplemented by additional written materials that describe complete foreign educational systems, including data on specific institutions, and by professional training in the theory and practice of credential evaluation. Many of these resources are available from NAFSA, either as printed publications or on-line. The need for institution support for budgetary resources and training for undergraduate and graduate admissions personnel remains important, regardless of the increased availability of resources on the Web.

These publications were compiled by many authors using a standardized template and style. Although minor variations among entries do occur, the basic guidelines are explained as follows:

Educational Ladder

1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2
1 - 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
A B B

The year or half-year at which a credential is awarded is the point at which the corresponding credential letter is placed. In the example above, credential A is awarded after the 9th year of education. Note that the corresponding letter is placed directly below the number 9.

All *normal* possibilities of the total number of years of education that a credential might require are indicated on the ladder. This occurs for credential B, in which the credential can be awarded after either 12 or 13 total years of education. An explanation is provided in the description of the credential whenever a letter appears on the ladder more than once. There are a few cases when this multiple-listing style was not used; in these cases, there are explanatory comments.

An arrow (→) is used after a credential letter in cases where no maximum length of study for a particular program is specified, or where the study time is open-ended. For example, a doctor of philosophy degree program may require a minimum of three years of enrollment. The corresponding credential letter with an arrow will appear under the minimum number of total years of education required to earn the Ph.D.

Explanations About Documents

Credentials are divided into two categories: secondary and postsecondary. The decision to include the credential under one or the other category is not a subjective one—a credential is determined to be either secondary or postsecondary according to its designation by the country of origin, regardless of how individual institutions might perceive the level (and recommend transfer credit).

Numerical endnotes, placed directly after the complete list of credentials, are used when a lengthy explanation about a credential is necessary.

Foreign Terms and Words

Foreign terms are used whenever possible, and are translated literally, in most cases. Literal translations are used to avoid subjectivity. We have attempted to be consistent with translations across languages, though readers may notice some differences between countries because of preferences indicated by the submitters. Credential evaluators and admissions personnel should always rely on official foreign language documents, using translations only as guides.

Grading Information

Only the most common grading scales used in each country are listed. Evaluators understand that variations in grading are common and that one should always consult the grading information that may be provided on official transcripts. Rather than making grade equivalency statements, the submitter(s) of the update provided information regarding grading practices within the countries.

ARGENTINA

YEARS OF EDUCATION →

0	1 → 3	4 → 6	7 → 9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
A	B	C D E				F	H	H	H	H	I	K	N	O	P	P	
						G				I	J	L	O	P	R	R	
										L	K	M M	P	Q			
											L	N	Q	R			
											M	O	R				
											O	Q					
											Q						

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Preschool / Pre-K / Kindergarten

- A *Educación Inicial* (Early Education) comprises *primer ciclo: educación materna* (first cycle: maternal education), ages zero to two, and *segundo ciclo: educación inicial / jardín de infantes* (second cycle: initial education / kindergarten). Institution may be public or private; final year is required and constitutes the first of ten years of compulsory education.

Primary-Secondary

- B *Primer Ciclo de la Educación General Básica / EGB* (First Cycle of Basic General Education) comprises grades one through three.
- C *Segundo Ciclo de la Educación General Básica / EGB* (Second Cycle of Basic General Education) comprises grades four through six beyond Credential **B**.
- D *Educación Primaria* (Primary Education) comprised grades one through seven; phased out in 2000.
- E *Tercer Ciclo de la Educación General Básica / EGB* (Third Cycle of Basic General Education) comprises grades seven through nine beyond Credential **C** and completes the ten years of compulsory education.
- F *Bachillerato* (Secondary Education), leading to *título de bachiller* (title of secondary graduate), comprised grades eight through twelve beyond Credential **D**; phased out in 2000; prepared students to seek higher education.
- G *Educación Polimodal* [Polymodal (Diversified) Education], leading to *título de bachiller* (title of secondary graduate) / *Certificado de Educación Polimodal* (Certificate of Polymodal Education) in various streams or tracks, comprises grades ten through twelve beyond Credential **E**; prepares students to seek higher education. At the same level are such vocational titles as *Técnico Medio* (Secondary Technician), *Perito* (Expert), and *Auxiliar* (Assistant). Note: In pre-2000 system, *Perito* (Expert) could occasionally require an additional year of study at grade 13 level.

Undergraduate:

- H** *Educación terciaria* (tertiary education) requires one to four years beyond Credentials **F** and **G** and is offered at both public and private *instituciones terciarias no universitarias* (non-university tertiary institutions). These include *Escuelas* (Schools), *Escuelas Superiores* (Higher Schools), *Escuelas Normales* (Normal Schools), *Escuelas Normales Superiores* (Higher Normal Schools), *Institutos* (Institutes), *Institutos Superiores* (Higher Institutes), *Institutos Tecnológicos Universitarios* (University Technological Institutes), *Institutos Superiores Tecnológicos* (Higher Technological Institutes), *Institutos Superiores Pedagógicos* (Higher Pedagogic Institutes) and similarly-named institutions. Curricula vary widely. Available fields include *administración* (administration), *agricultura* (agriculture), *bancos y finanzas* (banking and finance), *computación* (computer), *contaduría* (accounting), *enfermería* (nursing), *fuerzas armadas y de seguridad* (safety and armed forces), *ingeniería* (engineering), *multimedia* (multimedia), *profesorado* (teacher training), *prótesis dental* (dental prosthesis), *relaciones públicas* (public relations), *traducción* (translation), *turismo* (tourism), and among many others; culminating in qualifications called *títulos intermedios* (intermediate titles), such as *analista* (analyst), *bachiller universitario* (university bachelor's), *enfermero* (nurse), *enfermero auxiliar* (nurse's aide), *especialista* (specialist), *maestro* (teacher), *maestro nacional* (national teacher), *profesor* (teacher), *perito* (expert), *profesor nacional* (national teacher), *técnico* (technician), and *técnico superior* (higher technician), among many others. Admission requires Credentials **F** and **G**. Conferred tertiary qualifications may be terminal (not leading to further education), but some terciario students transfer into university undergraduate degree programs with advanced placement. Universities may allow graduates of certain tertiary programs -- most commonly in nursing and teaching -- to enter graduate degree programs.
- I** *Licenciatura* (licentiate), leading to the *título de licenciado en...* (title of licentiate in...) plus *carrera* (field of study), requires 4-5 years, usually 5, beyond Credentials **F** and **G**.
- J** *Título de...* (title of...), such as *Título de Contador Público* (Title of Public Accountant), *Título de Actuario* (Title of Actuary), *Título de Arquitecto* (Title of Architect), *Farmacéutico* (Pharmacist), *Traductor Público* (Public Translator), usually requires 5 years beyond Credentials **F** and **G**.
- K** *Título de Ingeniero en...* (title of Engineer in...), such as *de alimentos* (food), *civil* (civil), *electricista* (electrical), *electrónico* (electronic), *en informática* (computer), *industrial* (industrial), *mecánico* (mechanical), and *químico* (chemical), requires 5-6 years (mostly 6 at University of Buenos Aires) beyond Credentials **F** and **G**.
- L** *Título de abogado* (title of lawyer), requires 4-6 years (6 at UBA) beyond Credentials **F** and **G**.
- M** *Título de veterinario* (title of veterinarian) / *título de médico veterinario* (title of veterinary physician), requires 5-6½ years (6½ at UBA) beyond Credentials **F** and **G**.
- N** *Título de médico* (title of physician), requires 6-7 years (6-7 at UBA) beyond Credentials **F** and **G**.

Graduate:

- O** *Especialización* (specialization) requires 1-3 years beyond credentials **I-M**.
- P** *Título de médico especialista* (title of physician - specialist) requires 1-3 years beyond Credential **N**.
- Q** *Maestría* (master's degree) / *título de magister* (title of master) usually requires 1-3 years, usually 2, beyond Credentials **I-N**.
- R** *Doctorado* (doctorate) requires at least 3 years beyond Credentials **I-N**.

GRADE SCALES:

The secondary grade scale is based on 1 to 10 points with 6 as the minimum passing grade. Suggested grade conversion scale:

10	<i>Sobresaliente</i> / Outstanding	=	A
8-9	<i>Muy bueno</i> / Very good	=	A
7	<i>Bueno</i> / Good	=	B
6	<i>Aprobado</i> / Passed	=	C
1-5	<i>Reprobado</i> / Failed	=	F

The tertiary grade scale is based on 0 to 10 with 4 as the minimum passing grade. Suggested grade conversion scale:

10	<i>Sobresaliente</i> / Outstanding	=	A
8-9	<i>Distinguido</i> / Distinguished	=	A
6-7	<i>Bueno</i> / Good	=	B
4-5	<i>Aprobado</i> / Passed	=	C
2-3	<i>Insuficiente</i> / Insufficient	=	F
0-1	<i>Reprobado</i> / Failed	=	F

ACADEMIC YEAR:

In the Southern Hemisphere, the academic year follows the calendar year.

PRINCIPAL ENTITY FOR POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION:

Ministerio de Educación, Ciencia, y Tecnología de la Nación (National Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology): <http://www.me.gov.ar>

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Published

Feagles, Shelley M., editor. *A Guide to Educational Systems Around the World*. Washington, DC: NAFSA, 1999.

Guía del estudiante (Student Guide), published annually by the Dirección de Orientación al Estudiante (Directorate for Student Guidance), Secretaría de Asuntos Académicos de la Universidad de Buenos Aires / EUDEBA (Secretariat of Academic Affairs of University of Buenos Aires). Note: This is the single most comprehensive publication in regards to Argentine public and private tertiary institutions and universities, with addresses, degrees, and duration of programs; also included are UBA undergraduate degree plans. Limited information is given at <http://www.uba.ar/academicos/doe/guia/index.php>

Paver, William J., editor. *Handbook on the Placement of Foreign Graduate Students*, NAFSA, 1990.

Reisberg, Liz A. *Argentina: A Study of the Educational System of Argentina and a Guide to the Academic Placement of Students in Educational Institutions of the United States*. Washington,

DC: American Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers and NAFSA: Association of International Educators, 1993.

On-line

AACRAO EDGE (Electronic Database for Global Education): Argentina, 2008 (requires subscription): aacraoedge.aacrao.org

Fulbright Argentina 50: <http://www.fulbright.edu.ar/esp/index.asp>

Latin American Network Information Center / LANIC: <http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/argentina/>

Portal educativo del Estado argentino (Educational Portal to Argentine State):
<http://www.educar.ar>

Sistemas Educativos Nacionales (National Educational Systems); Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos (Organization of Inter-American States):
<http://www.oei.es/quipu/argentina/index.html>

UNESCO World Higher Education Database: <http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/>

Universidad de Buenos Aires (University of Buenos Aires): <http://www.uba.ar/homepage.php>

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