

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Armenia



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Alice Tang
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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

December 2008

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

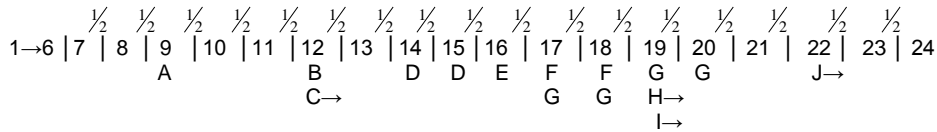
Foreign terms are used whenever possible, and are translated literally, in most cases. Literal translations are used to avoid subjectivity. We have attempted to be consistent with translations across languages, though readers may notice some differences between countries because of preferences indicated 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.

ARMENIA

YEARS OF EDUCATION →



CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A ՎԿԱՅԱԿԱՆ ՀԻՄՆԱԿԱՆ ԸՆԴՀԱՆՈՒՐ ԿՐԹՈՒԹՅԱՆ [Vkayakan himnakan yndhanur krtutyany] (Certificate of Basic General Education): represents completion of 9 years of primary and lower secondary education (basic education was extended to 9 years in 2001)
- B ԱՏԵՍՏՍ ՄԻՋՆԱԿԱՐԳ (ԼՐԻՎ) ԸՆԴՀԱՆՈՒՐ ԿՐԹՈՒԹՅԱՆ [Atestat mijnakarg (Iriv) yndhanur krtutyany] (Certificate of (Complete) Secondary General Education): represents completion of academic secondary education; leads to postsecondary education (complete secondary education was extended to 12 years in 2006)¹
- C ԴԻՊԼՈՄ [Diplom] (Diploma) from an upper secondary vocational school or technical school: based on credential **A** or **B**; programs are 1 to 3 years in length depending on the specialization and the previous qualification. Gives access to employment and additional vocational training.

Please note the following changes in the educational structure for primary and secondary education in Armenia:

Prior to 2001 (10 years of school): Primary/Secondary (8 + 2)

2001-06 (11 years of school): Primary/Secondary (9 + 2)

2006-Present (12 years of school): Primary/Secondary (9 + 3)

Postsecondary

- D ԴԻՊԼՈՄ կրտսեր մասնագետ /ԴԻՊԼՈՄ կրտսեր ճարտարագետի [Diplom krtser masnaget/Diplom krtser chartarageti] (Diploma of Junior Specialist/Diploma of Junior Engineer): requires credential **B** for admission; programs are 2 to 3 years in length depending on the specialization
- E ԴԻՊԼՈՄ ԲԱԿԱԼԱՎՐԻ ԱՍՏԻՃԱՆ [Diplom bakalavri astichan] (Diploma of Bachelor degree): requires credential **B** for admission; represents 4 years of study at universities, institutions, academies or conservatories
- F ԴԻՊԼՈՄ մասնագետի [Diplom masnageti] (Diploma of Specialist degree): requires credential **B** for admission; represents 5 to 6 years of study at universities, institutions, academies or conservatories²

¹ The total number of years completed should be indicated on the certificate.

² The Specialist diploma has been phased out although it is still offered in some professional fields such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, law and architecture; the diploma also indicates the professional title. Foreign students are awarded a Master's degree; despite the title, this qualification still represents a first university degree.

- G** ԴԻՊԼՈՄ ՄԱԳԻՍՏՐՈՍԻ ԱՍՏԻՃԱՆ [*Diplom magistroi astichan*] (Diploma of Master degree): requires credential **E** or **F** for admission; 1 to 2 years of study at universities, institutions, academies or conservatories
- H** Researcher qualification: requires credential **F** or **G** for admission; 2 years of study at universities, institutions, academies, conservatories or the National Academy of Sciences³
- I** գիտությունների թեկնածուի [*gitutyunneri teknatsu*] (Candidate of Science): requires credential **F** or **G** for admission; 2 to 3 years of study at universities, institutions, academies, conservatories or the National Academy of Sciences⁴
- J** գիտությունների դոկտորի [*gitutyunneri doctor*] (Doctor of Science): requires credential **I** for admission; a purely research-based qualification requiring a minimum of 3 years study at the National Academy of Sciences and defense of a dissertation

GRADING SCALES

Secondary

0-20 system	Armenian	Transliteration	Translation
18-20	գերազանց	<i>Gerazants</i>	Excellent
13-17	լավ	<i>Lav</i>	Good
8-12	բավարար	<i>Bavarar</i>	Satisfactory
	ստուգված	<i>Stugvats</i>	Passed
0-7	անբավարար	<i>Anbavarar</i>	Failed

Postsecondary

2-5 system	0-10 system	0-20 system	Armenian	Transliteration	Translation
5	9-10	18-20	գերազանց	<i>Gerazants</i>	Excellent
4	7-8	13-17	լավ	<i>Lav</i>	Good
3	5-6	8-12	բավարար	<i>Bavarar</i>	Satisfactory
			ստուգված	<i>Stugvats</i>	Passed
2	0-4	0-7	անբավարար	<i>Anbavarar</i>	Failed

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia: www.edu.am

³ May be incorporated into a Candidate of Sciences program (credential I); programs include coursework although a thesis is not required.

⁴ Programs include coursework, supervised research and defense of a thesis based on independent research. The Candidate of Science diploma is issued in Armenian, Russian and English. The English portion lists the credential as “Doctor of Sciences”. This is distinct from credential J.

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Printed

Chernichovski, Alvira and Bon Agapin. "Armenia." *International Education Research Foundation: The New Country Index*. Volume I. Berkeley, CA: Ten Speed Press, 2004.

Online

Electronic Database for Global Education (EDGE) by American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO). Online database: <http://aacraoedge.aacrao.org> (accessible by subscription)

ENIC-NARIC network: www.enic-naric.net

International Comparisons by the National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom (UK NARIC): www.naric.org.uk (accessible by subscription)

Ministry of Education and Science: www.edu.am.

National Information Centre for Academic Recognition and Mobility (NICARM) in Armenia: www.armenic.am.

National Tempus Office in Armenia: www.tempus.am.

World Higher Education Database by International Association of Universities. Online database: <http://www.whed-online.com> (accessible by subscription)

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