

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Australia



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

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About NAFSA

NAFSA: Association of International Educators promotes the exchange of students and scholars to and from the United States. The association sets standards of good practice and provides professional education and training that strengthen institutional programs and services related to international education and exchange. NAFSA provides a forum for discussion of issues and a network for sharing information as it seeks to increase awareness of and support for international education in higher education, in government, and in the community.

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.

AUSTRALIA

YEARS OF EDUCATION →

1→6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	13½	14	14½	15	15½	16	16½	17	17½	18	18½	19	20	21	22	23	24
				A		E	O	S	O	S	R	S	R	U	R	U	R	U	V	X	X	X		
				B		F			P		T	U	T	V		V		V						
				C		G			Q				V		W		W							
				D		H			T															
						I																		
						J																		
						K																		
						L																		
						M																		
						N																		

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

Secondary school is compulsory and is from Year 7 or 8 to Year 10. Senior secondary education covers Years 11 and 12. The relevant state or territory Senior Secondary Certificate of Education is awarded on successful completion of Year 12. Different names are used for the certificates in each state and territory.

- A ACT Year 10 School Certificate
- B School Certificate (NSW)
- C Northern Territory Year 10 Certificate or the Junior Secondary Studies Certificate (No longer issued)
- D Certificate of Lower Secondary Studies (CLSS) (Between 1986 and 1993 – Western Australia)
- E ACT Year 12 Certificate
- F Higher School Certificate (awarded in New South Wales)
- G Northern Territory Certificate of Education (NTCE)
- H Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)
- I South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE)
- J Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE) (awarded till 2009)
- K Qualifications Certificate (QC), Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE), Tasmanian Certificate of Educational Achievement (TCEA) (Three certificates awarded on completion of Year 12 in Tasmania from 2009)
- L Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)
- M Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)
- N Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)

Postsecondary

Postsecondary education is offered in 2 sectors – the higher education sector and the vocational education and training sector.

- O AQF Diploma: One or two year's full-time, offered in the higher education and vocational education and training sectors, admission requirements vary depending on field of study.
- P AQF Advanced Diploma: Two year's full-time, offered in the higher education and vocational education and training sectors, admission requirements vary depending on field of study.
- Q Associate Degree: Two year's full-time, higher education award, admission requirements vary though typically require a credential from **E** to **N**.

- R** Bachelor Degree: Three to six year's full-time, higher education award. There are several types of Bachelor Degrees including 3-year degrees, 4-year degrees, professional degrees, combined degrees and honours degrees. Admission is typically based on credentials **E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L** or **N** and a score, rank or index determined by the tertiary entrance system in a student's state or territory.
- S** Vocational Graduate Certificate (introduced in 2005): Length of study varies but typically six months full-time, vocational education and training sector award, admission usually based on credentials **O, P** or **R**.
- T** Vocational Graduate Diploma (introduced in 2005): Length of study varies depending on the pathway but typically one year full-time, vocational education and training sector award, admission usually based on credentials **O, P** or **R**.
- U** Graduate Certificate: Length of study varies but typically six months full-time, higher education award, admission based on credential **R**.
- V** Graduate Diploma: Length of study varies but typically one year full-time, higher education award, admission based on credential **R**.
- W** Master Degree: Higher education award, two years full-time after a 3-year Bachelor Degree or one year of full-time study after a Bachelor Honours Degree or 4-year (or longer) Bachelor Degree (credential **R**).
- X** Doctoral Degree: Higher education award, three to four years full-time, admission based on credential **W** or Bachelor Honours Degree (First or Second Class, Upper Division) (credential **R**).

GRADING SCALES

Secondary

Secondary grading scales vary in each state and territory. Typically, individual subject grades are awarded on a 5 point scale from A to E, as below:

Grade	Description
A	very high achievement
B	high achievement
C	satisfactory achievement
D	limited achievement
E	inadequate achievement

Postsecondary

For subject grades each institution uses variations of several main types of subject grades:

- descriptive grades – for example, High Distinction, Distinction, Credit, Pass
- letter grades – for example, A-E, where A is the highest mark
- numeric grades – for example, 7-1, where 7 is the highest mark.

The grading system is usually indicated on the transcript. A typical example is as follows:

Descriptive grade	Percentage – example 1	Percentage – example 2
High Distinction	85%-100%	80%-100%
Distinction	75%-84%	70%-79%
Credit	65%-74%	60%-69%
Pass	50%-64%	50%-59%

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

University institutions:

Australian Qualifications Framework Register - <http://www.aqf.edu.au/register.htm>

Vocational Education and Training institutions:

National Training Information Service - <http://www.ntis.gov.au/?rto/all>

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Print

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

On-line

Australia Country Education Profile Online - <http://www.aei.gov.au/AEI/CEP/Default.htm>

Australian Capital Territory Department of Education and Training -
<http://www.det.act.gov.au/>

Australian Council for Educational Research – <http://www.acer.edu.au>

Australian Curriculum Studies Association Inc. – <http://www.acsa.edu.au>

Australian Education International National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI-NOOSR) - <http://aei.gov.au/AEI/QualificationsRecognition/Default.htm>

Australian Education Office – <http://studyinaustralia.gov.au/SIA/en/WhyAustralia/AQF.htm>

Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations -
<http://www.deewr.gov.au>

Australian Qualifications Framework - <http://www.aqf.edu.au/>

Australia's Free Online Network for Educators – <http://www.edna.edu.au/edna/go>

Fulbright Australia - <http://www.fulbright.com.au>

IDP Education Australia – <http://www.students.idp.com/welcome.aspx>

Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) -
<http://www.mceetya.edu.au/mceetya/>

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) – <http://www.naia.org>

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Eligibility Center –
<https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/>

National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) – <http://www.njcaa.org>

New South Wales Department of Education and Training - <https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/>

Northern Territory Department of Education and Training - <http://www.det.nt.gov.au/>

Queensland Department of Education, Training and the Arts - <http://education.qld.gov.au/>

South Australia Department of Education and Children's Services -
<http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/>

Tasmanian Department of Education - <http://www.education.tas.gov.au/>

Universities Australia – <http://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/>

U.S. Educational Advising in Australia –<http://canberra.usembassy.gov/education/index.html>

Victoria Department of Education and Early Childhood Development -
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/>

Western Australia Department of Education and Training -
<http://www.det.wa.edu.au/education/>

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