

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Barbados



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Lindsey Soerens
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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.

BARBADOS

YEARS OF EDUCATION →

1→6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				A	A	C	C	I	J	J	L	N	P	P				
					B	E	D		K	K	N	O						
						F	F			L	O	P						
							G			M	P	R						
							H			N	Q							
										O								

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A Barbados Secondary School Certificate Part 1; awarded after 10 or 11 years of education
- B Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC): awarded by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC)
- C Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE): awarded by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC); requires credential **B** for admission; Certificate awarded following a one-year program and successful completion of one unit; Diploma awarded following a two-year program and successful completion of six units
- D General Certificate of Education, Advanced Level: awarded various examination boards, including the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate and the University of London; two-year program following credential **B**; see United Kingdom for grading information

Postsecondary

- E Certificate in various fields awarded by Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic: admission varies, but often credential **B** or equivalent is required for admission
- F Diploma in various fields awarded by Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic: admission varies, but often credential **B** or equivalent is required for admission
- G Associate degree awarded by Barbados Community College: two-year program requiring credential **B** or equivalent for admission
- H Certificate in teaching awarded by Erdiston College: two-year program requiring credential **B** or equivalent for admission
- I Registered Nursing Certificate awarded by Barbados Community College: three-year program requiring credential **B** or equivalent for admission
- J Bachelor's degree in Arts/Sciences/Applied Sciences: three-year program requiring credential **D** or equivalent for admission, or a four-year program requiring credential **B** or equivalent for admission
- K Bachelor of Education: three-year program requiring credential **D** or equivalent for admission, or a two-year program requiring credential **H** for admission

- L Master of Education: one-year program requiring credential **J** or equivalent for admission
- M Bachelor of Laws: three-year program requiring credential **D** or equivalent for admission
- N Master's degree in Arts/Sciences/Applied Sciences: one or two-year program requiring credential **J** for admission
- O Master of Philosophy: one or two-year program requiring credential **J** for admission
- P Doctor of Philosophy: one or two-year program requiring credential **N** for admission
- Q Master of Laws: one-year program requiring credential **M** or equivalent for admission
- R Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery: five-year program requiring credential **D** or equivalent for admission (First graduating class will be in 2013)

GRADING SCALES

Secondary

Caribbean Examinations Council (Secondary Education Certificate until 1998)

Grade	Description
I	Comprehensive working knowledge of the syllabus
II	Working knowledge of most aspects of the syllabus
III	Working knowledge of some aspects of the syllabus
IV	Limited knowledge of a few aspects of the syllabus
V	Insufficient evidence of which to base judgment

Caribbean Examinations Council (Secondary Education Certificate since 1998)

Grade	Description
I	Comprehensive grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills, and competencies required by the syllabus
II	Good grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills, and competencies required by the syllabus
III	Fairly good grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills, and competencies required by the syllabus
IV	Moderate grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills, and competencies required by the syllabus
V	Limited grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills, and competencies required by the syllabus
VI	Very limited grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills, and competencies required by the syllabus

Caribbean Examinations Council (Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination)

Grade	Description
I	Represents an excellent performance
II	Represents a very good standard of performance
III	Represents a good standard of performance
IV	Represents a satisfactory standard of performance
V	Represents an acceptable level of performance
VI	Represents weak performance
VII	Represents unsatisfactory performance

The CAPE examinations use seven overall grades: I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII in reporting candidate's overall results along with the profile grades, A, B, C, D, E, F, and G.

Postsecondary

Barbados Community College

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Description</u>
A*	90-100	Exceptional Performance
A	80-89	Excellent
B+	75-79	Very Good
B	70-74	Good
C+	65-69	Fairly Good
C	60-64	Satisfactory
D	50-59	Passing
F	0-49	Failing

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODIES

Barbados Accreditation Council (BAC): <http://www.bac.gov.bb>

Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and the other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) was established in 2003 to accredit medical, dental, veterinary, and other health professions education programs leading to professional degrees required for practice in the Commonwealth Caribbean. Institutions offering these programs in Barbados are subject to accreditation by CAAM-HP. For accreditation status of institutions: <http://www.caam-hp.org>.

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Barbados Community College: <http://www.bcc.edu.bb>

Caribbean Examinations Council: <http://www.cxc.org>

Erdiston College: <http://www.erdistoncollege.edu.bb>

Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development: <http://www.mes.gov.bb>

The University of the West Indies: <http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu>

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