

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Belarus



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Polina Lippman
October 2008

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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.

BELARUS

YEARS OF EDUCATION →

1→6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			A		B	C	D	D	E	E	E	E	E	E	G	I	I	
						D			F	F	F	G	G	H	J		→	
										G	G	G	H	H	I			
										H	H	H	I	I				
												I						

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A** **Пасведчанне аб базавай адукацыі** [*Pasvedchanne ab bazavaj adukatsyi*] (Certificate of Basic Education) awarded by a **Агульнаадукацыйная школа** (General education school): represents completion of 9 years of primary and lower secondary education.
- B** **Атэстат аб агульнай сярэдняй адукацыі** [*Atestat ab agulnai sjarednaj adukatsyi*] (Certificate of General Secondary Education) awarded by a **Агульнаадукацыйная школа** (General education school), **Гімназія** (Gymnasium) or **Ліцэй** (Lyceum): represents completion of high school.
- C** **Дыплом аб пачатковай прафесійнай адукацыі** [*Dyplom ab pachatkovaj prafesijnaj adukatsyi*] (Diploma of Basic Vocational Education) requires credential **A** for admission and is awarded by a **Прафесійна-тэхнічнае вучылішча** (Professional Technical School): 3-year program, gives access to further post-secondary vocational programs and employment.

Postsecondary

- D** **Дыплом аб сярэдняй прафесійнай адукацыі** [*Dyplom ab sjarednaj prafesijnaj adukatsyi*] (Diploma of Secondary Vocational Education) awarded by a **Сярэдняя спецыяльная навучальная установа: Тэхнікум, Вучылішча, Коледж** (Institution of Secondary Special Education: Technical, Vocational Schools, College): 3 to 4-year post-secondary vocational program based on credential **A** and 2 to 3-year post-secondary vocational program based on credential **B**¹
- E** **Дыплом аб вышэйшай адукацыі** [*Dyplom ab vyshejshaj adukatsyi*] (Diploma of Higher Education) awarded by a **Вышэйшая навучальная установа: Вышэйшае вучылішча, Інстытут, Універсітэт, Акадэмія** (Institution of higher education: Higher School, Institute, University, Academy): 4 to 5-year program (including Law program), 5-year Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine program, 6-year Medical program. Requires credential **B** or **D** for admission
- F** **Дыплом бакалаўра** [*Dyplom bakalaura*] (Bachelor's diploma) awarded by a **Вышэйшая навучальная установа: Вышэйшае вучылішча, Інстытут, Універсітэт, Акадэмія** (Institution of higher education: Higher School, Institute, University, Academy): 4 to 5-year program. Requires credential **B** or **D** for admission

- G **Дыплом спецыяліста з паглыбленай падрыхтоўкай** [*Dyplom specyjalista z paglyblennaj padrykhtoukaj*] (Diploma of Advanced Specialist) awarded by a **Вышэйшая навучальная установа: Універсітэт, Акадэмія (Institution of higher education: University, Academy)**: 1-year program. Requires credential **E** for admission
- H **Дыплом магістра** [*Dyplom magistra*] (Master's Diploma) awarded by a **Вышэйшая навучальная установа: Універсітэт, Акадэмія (Institution of higher education: University, Academy)**: 1-2 year program based on credential **E** or **F**
- I **Дыплом кандыдата навук** [*Dyplom kandydata navuk*] (Diploma of Candidate of Sciences): 3-year program following credential **E**
- J **Дыплом доктара навук** [*Dyplom doktara navuk*] (Diploma of Doctor of Sciences) represents 3 years of advanced research that concludes in defense of thesis. Requires credential **I** for admission

¹ Graduation from this program confers the right to enter higher education (for a shortened course of study if the student continues to specialize in the same branch).

GRADING SCALE

Secondary and Postsecondary

Number	Belarusian	Transliteration	Translation
5	Выдатна	Vydatna	Excellent
4	Добра	Dobra	Good
3	Здавальняюча	Zdavalnjajucha	Satisfactory
-	Залік	Zalik	Pass
2	Нездавальняюча	Nezdavalnjajucha	Fail

10-point grading scale (Introduced in 2004)

Number	Belarusian	Transliteration	Translation
10	Выдатна	Vydatna	Excellent
9			
8	Добра	Dobra	Good
7			
6			
5	Здавальняюча	Zdavalnjajucha	Satisfactory
4			
3	Нездавальняюча	Nezdavalnjajucha	Fail
2			
1			
-	Залік	Zalik	Pass

- The grade of Pass is given for the subjects that were graded based on pass/fail basis.
- The grade of 2 (1,2, and 3 for 10-point grading scale) is considered failing and is not shown on transcripts.

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus

Address: Sovetskaya str., 9, 220010, Minsk

Phone: +375 17 227-47-36

Fax: +375 17 200-84-83

Official site: <http://minedu.unibel.by>

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus <http://minedu.unibel.by/?newlang=eng>

National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (list of Web sites regarding the educational system and list of higher educational institutions in Belarus)

<http://www.ac.by/country/education.html>

National Centre for Equivalence of Education Qualifications (Belarusian ENIC)

Moskovskaja Str., 15, 220001, Minsk, Belarus

Phone: +375 17 209 59 55,

Fax: +375 29 698 15 74

<http://www.nihe.niks.by/>

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October 2008