

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Belize



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Orlando Diaz
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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.

BELIZE

YEARS OF EDUCATION

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

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A Belize Junior Achievement Test (BJAT): awarded following completion of eight years of primary education
- B Primary School Examination: administered following completion of eight years of primary education
- C High School Diploma or Graduation Certificate: awarded after completion of twelve years of primary and secondary education; does not provide access to tertiary education
- D Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC): awarded by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC)
- E General Certificate of Education (GCE), Ordinary Level: awarded by various examination boards, including the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate and the University of London; see the United Kingdom for grading information
- F Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE): awarded by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC); requires credential **D** 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
- G General Certificate of Education (GCE), Advanced Level: awarded by various examination boards, including the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate and the University of London: two-year program following credential **D**; see the United Kingdom for grading information

Postsecondary

- H Associate's degree: awarded by a university or other postsecondary institution; following completion of two years of study requiring credential **D** or equivalent for admission
- I Certificate in Teaching Level One: awarded by a university or other postsecondary institution following completion of a one-year teacher training program requiring credential **D** or equivalent for admission
- J Certificate in Teaching Level Two: awarded by a university or other postsecondary institution following completion of a two-year teacher training program requiring credential **D** or equivalent for admission, or a one-year program when based on credential **I**

- K Bachelor's degree in Arts, Sciences, or Business: awarded by a university following completion of two years of study requiring credential **H** or equivalent for admission
- L Bachelor's degree in Education: awarded by a university following completion of two years of study requiring credential **J**, **H**, or equivalent for admission
- M Bachelor's degree in Nursing: awarded by a university following completion of four years of study requiring credential **D** or equivalent for admission

GRADING SCALES

Secondary

Caribbean Examinations Council: until 1998 (Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate)

Number	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 on which to base a judgment

Caribbean Examinations Council: since 1998 (Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate)

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

Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations

Number	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

Postsecondary

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Description</u>
A	Excellent
B+	Very Good
B	Good
B-	Good
C+	Very Satisfactory/Above Average
C	Satisfactory
C-	Satisfactory/Minimal Pass
D	Pass
F	Failure

Note: Variations to this grading scale exist. For example, the letter grade of "D" is sometimes considered a failing grade.

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports: <http://www.moes.gov.bz>

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Gladman, A. (ed.). 2007. *The Europa World of Learning* (Vol 2). (58th ed.). London and New York: Routledge.

Marlow-Ferguson, R. (ed.). 2002. *World Education Encyclopedia: A Survey of Educational Systems Worldwide* (Vol. 3). (2nd ed.). Detroit: Gale Group Thompson Learning.

UNESCO: América Latina y El Carib: <http://www.iesalc.unesco.org.ve/>

UNESCO: Directory of World Higher Education Systems
<http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/index.html>

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