

Online Guide to

# Educational Systems



Around the World—Bolivia



**NAFSA**

Association of  
International Educators

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May 2009



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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](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

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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.

# BOLIVIA

## 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		D	D	D	G	G	H→	I				
					C				E1	E2	H→	H→	I	J→				
									F			I	J→					
									G			J→						

## CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

### Secondary

- A *Diploma de Técnico Básico* (Diploma of Basic Technician): Awarded after 10 years of primary-secondary vocational education; grants access to employment
- B *Bachillerato Técnico* (Technical Secondary Baccalaureate): Awarded after 12 years of primary-secondary vocational education; grants access to employment or post-secondary non-university technical / vocational study
- C *Bachillerato Humanístico* (Humanities Secondary Baccalaureate): Awarded after 12 years of primary-secondary academic education; grants access to employment or higher education

### Postsecondary

- D *Título de Técnico Superior* (Title of Higher Technician) / *Título de Técnico Universitario Superior* (Higher University Technician): Awarded by *Institutos Técnicos Superiores* (Higher Technical Institutes) after 3 to 4 years of study; awarded by universities after 2 to 4 years of study; admission requires credential **B** or **C**
- E *Título de Maestro Normal* (Title of Normal Teacher): Awarded by *Institutos Normales Superiores* (Higher Normal Institutes); grants access to employment as a Primary or Secondary School Teacher; admission requires credential **C**  
 E1 Primary School Teacher: Requires 3 years of study  
 E2 Secondary School Teacher: Requires 4 years of study
- F *Bachiller en Ciencias o Artes* (Bachelor of Science or Arts): Awarded by universities for professional careers; requires 4 years of study; admission requires credential **C**
- G *Licenciatura* (Licentiate) / *Título de Licenciado* (Title of Licentiate): Awarded by universities after 4 to 6 years of study; *Título en Provisión Nacional* / National Professional Title awarded after completion of *Licenciatura* and examination; admission requires credential **C**
- H *Diploma de Posgrado* (Graduate Diploma): Awarded by universities after at least 1 year of graduate study beyond the *Licenciatura*; requires credential **G**
- I *Maestría* / *Título de Magister* (Master's degree): Awarded by universities 2 years after the *Licenciatura*; studies for this degree are professionally-oriented, and generally do not require a thesis; admission requires credential **G**
- J *Doctorado* or *Título de Doctor* / Doctoral degree: Awarded by universities; requires completion of a program of study, research, and defense of a thesis; admission requires credential **G**

## GRADING SCALES

### Secondary:

Based on a scale of 1 to 7 with corresponding descriptions, and with 7 as highest grade:

- 7 (*Excelente / Excellent*)
- 6 (*Muy Bueno / Very Good*)
- 5 (*Bueno / Good*)
- 4 (*Regular / Average*)
- 3 (*Deficiente / Deficient*)
- 2 (*Malo / Poor*)
- 1 (*Pésimo / Very Poor*)

### Postsecondary Education:

Based on a scale of 50 to 100 with corresponding descriptions, and with 100 as the highest grade:

- 90-100 (*Sobresaliente / Outstanding*)
- 77-89 (*Distinguido / Distinguished*)
- 64-76 (*Bueno / Good*)
- 51-63 (*Suficiente / Adequate*)
- 0-50 (*Reprobado / Fail*)

## POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION BODY:

Viceministerio de Educación Superior, Ciencia y Tecnología / Vice-Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Technology

Av. Arce No. 2147 (lado Hotel Radisson), La Paz, Bolivia

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Comité Ejecutivo de la Universidad Boliviana / Executive Committee of the Bolivian University

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<http://www.ceub.edu.bo>

## RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Published:

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

### On-Line:

UNESCO – World Higher Education Database:

<http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/>

Sistemas Educativos Nacionales (National Educational Systems); Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos (Organization of Inter-American States):  
<http://www.oei.es/quipu/bolivia/index.html/>

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May 2009