

Online Guide to

# Educational Systems



Around the World—British Virgin Islands



**NAFSA**

Association of  
International Educators

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December 2008

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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](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.

# BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

## YEARS OF EDUCATION →

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

## CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

### Secondary

- A Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC): awarded by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC)
- B General Certificate of Education (GCE), Ordinary Level, or International General Certificate of Secondary Education: 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
- C Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE): awarded by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC), requires credential **A** or **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 (GCE), Advanced Level: awarded by various examination boards, including the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate and the University of London: two-year program requiring credential **A** or **B** for admission; see the United Kingdom for grading information

### Postsecondary

- E Certificate of Achievement: awarded by H. Lavity Stoutt Community College following completion of a 1 to 2-semester program, requires credential **A** or **B** for admission
- F Certificate of Higher Education: awarded by H. Lavity Stoutt Community College following completion of a 2 to 3-semester program, requires credential **A** or **B** for admission
- G Associate Degree: awarded by H. Lavity Stoutt Community College following completion of a 4-semester program, requires credential **A** or **B** 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)

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
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

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
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**

### H. Lavity Stoutt Community College

A+	Superior	4.0
A	Outstanding	4.0
A-	Excellent	4.0
B+	Very High	3.0
B	High	3.0
B-	Good	3.0
C+	Above Average	2.0
C	Average	2.0
C-	Below Average	2.0
D	Weak	1.0
F	Failure	0
I	Incomplete	0
W	Withdrawn	0
WP	Withdrawn Passing	0

WF	Withdrawn Failing	0
Q	Dropped by President's Permission	0
AU	Audited	0

Skills and Enrichment courses that are non-credit are graded on a Pass or Fail basis.

## **POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY**

British Virgin Islands Colleges Act 1990

## **ACCREDITATION**

H. Lavity Stoutt Community College is seeking accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and 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.

The Ministry of Education and Culture has no jurisdiction over medical, dental, veterinary and other health professions education in British Virgin Islands. Institutions offering these programs are subject to accreditation by CAAM-HP. For accreditation status of institutions, visit <http://www.caam-hp.org>.

## **RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Caribbean Accrediting Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP): <http://www.caam-hp.org>

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

Department of Education and Culture of the Public Sector Development Programme: <http://www.psd.gov.vg/index.php?ref=charters&charterid=38>

H. Lavity Stoutt Community College  
 Paraquita Bay Campus; P.O. Box 3097; Road Town; Tortola VG 1110;  
 British Virgin Islands  
 Tel: 1 284 494 4994; Fax: 1 284 494 4996. <http://www.hlsc.edu.vg>

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