

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Burkina Faso



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Liliane Bauduy
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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.

BURKINA FASO

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	E	G		K	S	X	Y	b	c	e→			
			C	E	F	H	I	J	L	T		Z	a	d				
									M	U				e				
									N	V								
									O	W								
									P									
									Q									
									R									

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Primary and Secondary

- A *Certificat d'Études Primaires / CEP* (Certificate of Primary Studies): represents completion of 6 years of primary education
- B *Certificat d'Aptitude Professionnelle / CAP* (Certificate of Professional Ability): represents completion of 3 years of technical/vocational education; requires credential **A** for Admission
- C *Brevet d'Études du Premier Cycle du Second Degré / BEPC* (Certificate of First Cycle of Secondary Studies): represents completion of 4 years of lower secondary education; requires credential **A** for admission
- D *Diplôme de Fin d'Études des Écoles Nationales d'Enseignants du Primaire* (End of Studies Diploma from National Schools for Teachers of Primary): represents completion of 1 year of primary education teacher training; requires credential **C** for admission
- E *Brevet d'Études Professionnelles / BEP* (Certificate of Professional Studies): represents completion of 2 or 3 years of technical/vocational training; requires credential **B** or **C** for admission
- F *Brevet d'Infirmier(ère)* (Nurse Certificate) / *Infirmier(ère) Breveté(e)* (Certified Nurse): represents completion of 2 years of nursing training; requires credential **C** for admission
- G *Diplôme de Bachelier de l'Enseignement du Second Degré* (Diploma of Bachelor of Secondary Level Education) / *Baccalauréat* (Baccalaureate): represents completion of 3 years of upper secondary education; requires credential **C** for admission; grants access to universities and other post-secondary level institutions
- H *Diplôme de Bachelier de Technicien* (Diploma of Technician Bachelor) / *Baccalauréat Technique* (Technical Baccalaureate): represents completion of 3 years of upper secondary education; requires credential **C** or **E** for admission; grants access to universities and other post-secondary level institutions
- I *Infirmier(ère) d'État* (State Nurse) / *Diplôme d'Infirmier(ère)* (Nurse Diploma): represents completion of 3 years of nursing training; requires credential **C** for admission

- J *Diplôme de Sage-Femme Maïeuticien d'État* (State Midwife Diploma): represents completion of 3 years of nursing training in midwifery; requires credential **C** for admission

Postsecondary

- K *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur* (Certificate of Higher Technician): represents completion of 2 years of non-university technical study; requires credential **G** or **H** for admission
- L *Diplôme de Technicien Supérieur en Informatique* (Higher Technician Diploma in Computer Science): represents completion of 2 years non-university technical study; requires credential **G** or **H** for admission
- M *Premier Cycle d'Études Médicales / PCEM* (First Cycle of Medical Studies): represents 2 years of first cycle pre-medicine study; requires credential **G** for admission and grants access to further medical study
- N *Diplôme de Gestionnaire des Hôpitaux* (Hospital Administrator Diploma): represents completion of 2 years of non-university study; requires credential **G** or **H** for admission
- O *Diplôme d'Études Universitaires Générales / DEUG* (Diploma of General University Studies): represents 2 years of first cycle university study; requires credential **G** or **H** for admission and grants access to further university study
- P *Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie / DUT* (University Diploma of Technology): represents completion of 2 years of first cycle university study; requires credential **G** or **H** for admission and grants access to further university study
- Q *Diplôme Universitaire d'Études Littéraires / DUEL* (University Diploma of Literary Studies): represents completion of 2 years of first cycle university study; requires credential **G** or **H** for admission and grants access to further university study
- R *Diplôme Universitaire d'Études Scientifiques / DUES* (University Diploma of Scientific Studies): represents completion of 2 years of first cycle university study; requires credential **G** or **H** for admission and grants access to further university study
- S *Technicien de Laboratoire* (Laboratory Technician): represents completion of 3 years of non-university study; requires credential **G** or **H** for admission
- T *Licence* (License): represents completion of 1 year of second cycle university study beyond credential **O**, **P**, **Q** or **R** and grants access to further university study
- U *Certificat d'Aptitude au Professorat des Collèges d'Enseignement Général / CAPCEG* (Certificate of Ability in Teaching at General Secondary Schools): represents completion of 3 years of university study in teacher training; requires credential **G** or **H** for admission and grants access to further university study
- V *Certificat d'Aptitude au Professorat de l'Enseignement Technique/ CAPET* (Certificate of Ability in Teaching Technical Education): represents completion of 3 years of university study teacher training; requires credential **G** or **H** for admission and grants access to further university study
- W *Diplôme d'Ingenieur* (Diploma of Engineer): represents completion 3 years of non-university study; requires credential **G** or **H** for admission
- X *Maîtrise* (Master) : represents completion of 1 year of second cycle university study beyond credential **T**, **U** or **V** and grants access to further university study
- Y *Diplôme d'Études Supérieures Spécialisées / DESS* (Diploma of Higher Specialized Studies): represents completion of 1 year of third cycle university study beyond credential **X**
Diplôme d'Études Approfondies / DEA (Diploma of Advanced Studies): represents

- Z completion of 1 year of third cycle university study beyond credential **X** and grants access to further university study
- a *Diplôme d'Ingénieur* (Diploma of Engineer): represents completion of 3 years of second cycle university study beyond credential **O**, **P**, **Q** or **S** and gives access to further university study
- b *Diplôme de Doctor en Médecine* (Diploma of Doctor of Medicine): represents completion of 4 years of study in medicine beyond credential **M** and grants access to further university study
- c *Doctorat d'État en Médecine* (State Doctorate in Medicine): represents completion of 1 year of third cycle university study beyond credential **b**
- d *Doctorat du Troisième Cycle* (Third Cycle Doctorate): represents completion of 2 years of third cycle university study beyond credential **Z**
- e *Doctorat d'État* (State Doctorate): represents completion of 2 to 5 years of third cycle university study beyond credential **Z**

Proposed Changes in Higher Education

In 2007, the government of Burkina Faso proposed a reform that would lead to the introduction of the *Système L.M.D.* (Licence/Master/Doctorat system in line with the reforms in Europe following the Bologna Process) and implementation thereof to take place over five to six years. The LMD system proposes three levels in higher education:

Licence (Licentiate): 3 years/6 semesters after the *Baccalauréat*

Maîtrise (Master): 2 years/4 semesters after the *Licence*

Doctorat (Doctorate): 3 years/6 semesters after the *Maîtrise*

GRADING SCALE

Secondary and Postsecondary Education

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Translation</u>
16-20	<i>Très Bien</i>	Very Good
14-15	<i>Bien</i>	Good
12-13	<i>Assez Bien</i>	Good Enough
10-11	<i>Passable</i>	Pass
0-9	<i>Ajourné</i>	Fail

Grades lower than 10 on individual courses may be considered passing if the overall average is at least a 10.

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministère des Enseignement Secondaire, Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique –
MESSRS (Ministry of Secondary and Higher Education and Scientific Research)

Joseph Paré, Ministre

BP 7047

Ouagadougou 03

Burkina Faso

<http://www.messrs.gov.bf>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For baccalaureate verification:

Office du Baccalauréat
Université de Ouagadougou
BP 7021
Ougadougou 03
Burkina Faso
Tel: 226 50 70 59
Email: ofbac@univ-Ouaga.bf

Ministère des Enseignement Secondaire, Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique –
MESSRS (Ministry of Secondary and Higher Education and Scientific Research)
<http://www.messrs.gov.bf>

Education USA Advising Center, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
http://ouagadougou.usembassy.gov/educationusa_advising_center.html

World Higher Education Database
www.unesco.org/iau

Guide to Higher Education in Africa, Fourth Edition, International Association of
Universities, Association of African Universities, Palgrave MacMillan, 2007

National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom (UK NARIC)
<http://www.naric.org.uk>

Submitted by
Liliane Bauduy
Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.
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