

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Cameroon



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

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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.

CAMEROON

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	D	E	H		J	T	X	c	j		l			
B						F	I		K	U	Y	d	k		m			
						G			L	V	Z	e						
									M	W	a	f						
									N		b	g						
									O			h						
									P			i						
									Q									
									R									
									S									

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Primary and Secondary

- A** *Certificat d'Études Primaires Élémentaires/CEPE* (Certificate of Primary Elementary Studies): represents completion of 6 years of primary education (Francophone system)
- B** First School Leaving Certificate: represents completion of 6 years of primary education (Anglophone system)
- C** *Brevet d'Études du Premier Cycle [BEPC] du Second Degré* (Certificate of First Cycle Studies of Secondary Level): represents completion of 4 years of lower secondary education; requires credential **A** for admission (Francophone system)
- D** General Certificate of Education/GCE, Ordinary Level: represents completion of 5 years of secondary education; requires credential **B** for admission (Anglophone system)
- E** *Diplôme d'Infirmier Adjoint* (Diploma of Assistant Nurse) : represents completion of 2 years of training; requires credential **C** or **D** for admission
- F** *Certificat de Probation* (Certificate of Probation) also called *Probatoire*: represents completion of 2 years of upper secondary education; requires credential **C** for admission; gives limited access to post-secondary non-university technical programs (Francophone system)
- G** *Diplôme de Capacité en Droit* (Diploma of Aptitude in Law): represents 2 years of upper secondary level study; requires credential **C** for admission; gives access to post secondary education in legal and political studies (Francophone system)
- H** *Baccalauréat de l'Enseignement Général* (Baccalaureate of General Education), or *Baccalauréat Technique* (Technical Baccalaureate): represent 3 years of upper secondary education; require credential **C** for admission; give access to university and other post-secondary education (Francophone system)
- I** General Certificate of Education/GCE, Advanced Level: represents completion of 2 years of upper secondary education; requires credential **D** for admission; gives access to post secondary education (Anglophone system)

Postsecondary

- J** *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur/BTS* (Higher Technician Certificate) : 2 years of technical study beyond credential **H** or **I**
- K** Higher National Diploma: 2 years of technical study beyond credential **H** or **I**
- L** *Diplôme d'Études Universitaires Générales/DEUG* (Diploma of General University Studies): 2 years of first cycle university study beyond credential **H** or **I**; gives access to further post-secondary level study
- M** *Diplôme d'Études Universitaires Professionnelles/DEUP* (Diploma of Professional University Studies): 2 years of first cycle university study beyond credential **H** or **I** gives limited access to further post-secondary education
- N** *Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie/DUT* (University Diploma of Technology): 2 years of first cycle university study beyond credential **H** or **I**; gives access to further post-secondary level study
- O** *Diplôme d'Études Scientifiques Générales/DESG* (Diploma of General Scientific Studies): 2 years of first cycle university study beyond credential **H** or **I**; gives access to further post-secondary level study
- P** *Diplôme d'Études Scientifiques Générales Agronomiques/DESGA* (Diploma of Scientific General Agricultural Studies): 2 years of first cycle university study beyond credential **H** or **I**; gives access to further post-secondary level study in agriculture
- Q** *Diplôme d'État d'Infirmier* (Diploma of State Nurse): 2 years of study beyond credential **H** or **I**
- R** *Diplôme Supérieur d'Études Professionnelles/DSEP* (Higher Diploma of Professional Studies): 2 years of technical study beyond credential **H** or **I**; gives limited access to further post-secondary level study
- S** Higher Professional Diploma: 2 years of study beyond credential **H** or **I**; gives limited access to further post-secondary level study
- T** *Licence* (Licentiate): 1 year of second cycle university study beyond credential **L**, **N**, **O**; gives access to further post-secondary level study (Francophone system)
- U** Bachelor: 3 years of university study beyond credential **H** or **I**; gives access to further post-secondary level study
- V** *Licence Professionnelle* (Professional Licentiate): 3 years of first and second cycle university study beyond credential **H** or **I**, or 1 year beyond credential **M**
- W** *Diplôme de Professeur des Collèges d'Enseignement Général/Technique 1er Grade* (Diploma of Secondary School Teacher of General/Technical Education 1st Level): 3 years of university study beyond credential **H** or **I**; gives access to further post-secondary level study
- X** *Certificat d'Aptitude au Professorat de l'Enseignement Secondaire / CAPES* (Certificate of Aptitude for Secondary Education Teaching) / *Enseignement Technique / CAPET* : 2 years of study beyond credential **L**, **N** and **O** or 1 year of study beyond credential **T** or **U**; gives access to further post-secondary level study
- Y** *Maîtrise* (Master): 1 year of second cycle university study beyond credential **T** or **U**; gives access to further post-secondary level study
- Z** Master's degree (without thesis): 1 year of university study based on credential **T** or **U**; gives access to further post-secondary level study
- a** *Diplôme d'Administration des Entreprises* (Diploma of Company Administration): 1 year of study beyond credential **T** or **U**
- b** *Diplôme d'Ingénieur Agronome* (Diploma of Agricultural Engineer): 2 years of study beyond credential **P**

- c** *Diplôme de Professeur des Lycées d'Enseignement Général/Technique 2ème Grade* (Diploma of Upper Secondary School Teacher of General/Technical Education 2nd Level): 2 years of study beyond credential **T** or **U**; gives access to further post-secondary education
- d** *Diplôme d'Ingenieur de Conception* (Diploma of Conception Engineer): 5 years of study beyond credential **H** or **I**, or 3 years of study beyond credential **N** or **O**; gives access to further post-secondary study
- e** *Diplôme d'Études Approfondies/DEA* (Diploma of Advanced Studies): 1 year of third cycle study beyond credential **Y** or **Z**; gives access to further post-secondary level study
- f** *Diplôme de l'Institut des Relations Internationales du Cameroun* (Diploma of Institute of International Relations of Cameroon): 2 years of study beyond credential **T** or **U**
- g** *Diplome d'Etudes Professionnelles Approfondies/DEPA* (Diploma of Advanced Professional Studies): 1 year of third cycle study beyond credential **Y** or **Z**
- h** *Diplôme d'Études Supérieures Spécialisées/DESS* (Diploma of Higher Specialized Studies): 1 year of third cycle study beyond credential **Y** or **Z**
- i** Master's degree (with thesis): 2 years of study beyond credentials **T** or **U**; gives access to further post-secondary level study
- j** *Docteur en Médecine (Doctor of Medicine)*: 6 years of professional study beyond credential **H** or **I**
- k** *Doctorat du Troisième Cycle* (Third Cycle Doctorat): 2 years of study beyond credential **Y** or **Z**: gives access to further post-secondary level study
- l** *Doctorat d'État (Doctor)*: 4 years of third cycle study beyond credential **Y** or **Z** or 3 years beyond credential **e**
- m** Doctor of Philosophy: 4 years of study beyond credential **Y** or **Z**

Proposed changes in higher education

In March 2006, the government of Cameroon passed a law for the introduction of the *Système L.M.D.* (LMD system) and implementation thereof starting in 2008. The LMD system contains three levels:

Licence/Bachelor: 3 years/6 semesters after the GCE, Advanced Level or *Baccalauréat*

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

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

GRADING SCALE

Secondary and Postsecondary Francophone System

<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 10 or above.

Secondary Anglophone System

Ordinary Level: A through E (passing grades) and F (failure)

Advanced Level: A through E (passing grades), F (Failure) and O (passing grade at the Ordinary Level)

For postsecondary grading in the Anglophone system, consult the transcript.

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur / Ministry of Higher Education

www.minesup.gov.cm

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RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

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

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