

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Chile



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Pilar Menéndez
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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.

CHILE

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 | E | F | F | G | G | H→ | H→ | I→ | I→ | I→ |
| | | | | | | C | | E | | G | G | H→ | H→ | | I→ | | | |

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Primary

- A *Licencia de Educación Básica* (License of Basic Education): Awarded by an *Escuela* (School) after completion of eight years of primary education

Secondary

- B *Licencia de Educación Media* (License of Middle Education): Awarded by a *Colegio* (Private High School) or a *Liceo* (Public High School) after completion of four years of secondary academic education; grants access to academic higher education
- C *Técnico Medio* (Middle Technician): Awarded by a *Técnico-Profesional* (Technical Professional High School) after completion of four years of secondary technical / vocational education; grants access to technical higher education

Postsecondary

- D *Bachiller en Ciencias o Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales* (Bachelor in Science or Humanities and Social Sciences): Awarded by an *Universidad* (University) after two years of tertiary education; intermediate academic degree leading to further higher education, but not to professional employment; admission requires credential **B**
- E *Título Técnico de Nivel Superior* (Title of Advanced-Level Technician): Awarded by a *Centro de Formación Técnica* (Technical Training Center), *Instituto Profesional* (Professional Institute), or *Universidad* (University) after two to three years of tertiary technical education; grants access to professional employment in area of specialization; admission requires credential **B** or **C**
- F *Licenciatura en Educación* (Licentiate in Education): Awarded by an *Instituto Profesional* (Professional Institute) or *Universidad* (University) after four to five years of tertiary education with a specialization in pre-primary, primary, or secondary education; admission requires credential **B** or **D**
- G *Licenciatura* (Licentiate / Academic Degree): Awarded by an *Universidad* (University) after four to seven years of tertiary education; in many vocations, the *Licenciatura* is a prerequisite for a *Título Profesional* (Professional Title), which is a professional qualification rather than an academic degree and is required for professional practice; admission requires credential **B** or **D**
- H *Magister* (Master's Degree): Awarded by an *Universidad* (University) after two or more years of post-graduate study beyond a *Licenciatura*; admission requires credential **G**

- I *Doctorado* (Doctorate): Awarded by *Universidad* (University), usually after three to five years of post-graduate study beyond a *Magister* and successful defense of a thesis; admission requires credential **H**

GRADING SCALE

The grade scale for all levels of education is based on 0 to 7, with corresponding descriptions and with 7 as the highest grade:

| | | |
|--|---|--------|
| 6-7.0 (<i>Muy Bueno / Very Good</i>) | = | 4.00/A |
| 5-5.9 (<i>Bueno / Good</i>) | = | 3.00/B |
| 4-4.9 (<i>Suficiente / Sufficient</i>) | = | 2.00/C |
| 0-3.9 (<i>Insuficiente / Insufficient</i>) | = | 0.00/F |

SECONDARY AND POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION BODY:

Ministerio de Educación / Ministry of Education
Avenida del Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 1371, Of. 610, Santiago, Chile
Tel: +56(2)6710292
Fax: +56(2)6716164
<http://www.mineduc.cl>

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Published:

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

On-Line:

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

UNESCO – World Higher Education Database:

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

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