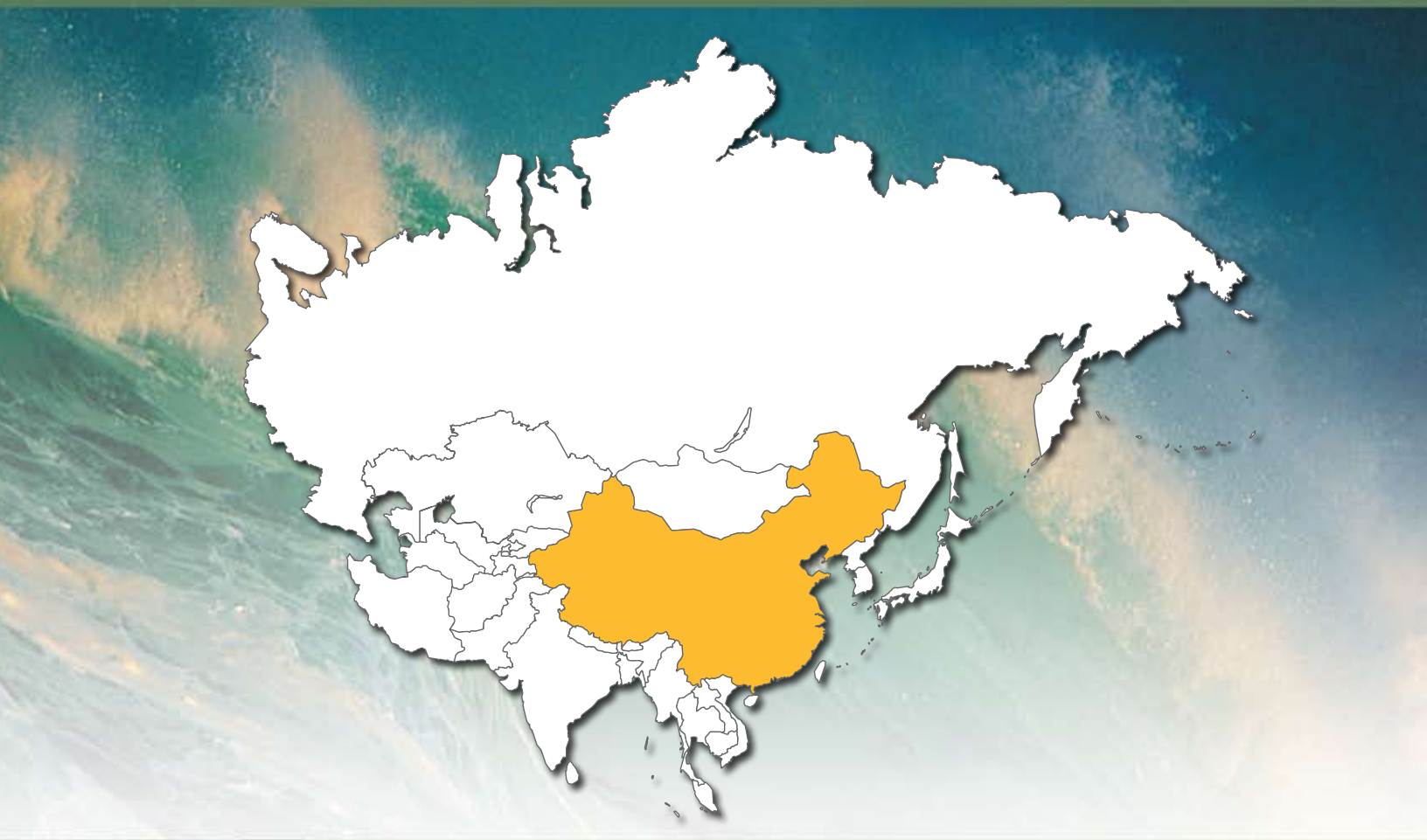


Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—
People's Republic of China



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Eric S. Feedar
September 2008

About NAFSA

NAFSA: Association of International Educators promotes the exchange of students and scholars to and from the United States. The association sets standards of good practice and provides professional education and training that strengthen institutional programs and services related to international education and exchange. NAFSA provides a forum for discussion of issues and a network for sharing information as it seeks to increase awareness of and support for international education in higher education, in government, and in the community.

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.

Notice of Liability

The information in these documents is distributed on an "As is" basis, without warranty. While every precaution has been taken in the preparation of each document, neither the submitter(s) nor NAFSA shall have any liability to any persons nor entity with respect to any loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the information contained in any of these documents. Please note that while NAFSA periodically verified the Web site links included in these e-Publications, NAFSA cannot guarantee that every link will be current at the time of download.

Acceptable Use Guidelines

Electronic resources are provided for the benefit of the international education community. However, commercial use, systematic or excessive downloading, or electronic redistribution of these publications are all expressly prohibited.

© 2009 NAFSA: Association of International Educators. All rights reserved.

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.

CHINA, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF

YEARS OF EDUCATION

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|----|--|----|---|----|---|----|--|----|--|----|--|----|----|----|----------------|---|----|---|----|---|----|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|----|
| 1→6 | | 7 | | 8 | | 9 | | 10 | | 11 | | 12 | | 13 | | 14 | | 15 | | 16 | | 17 | ^{1/2} | | 18 | | 19 | | 20 | | 21 | | 22 | | 23 | | 24 |
| | | | | A | | | | | | B | D | D | D | E | | E | | F | | F | I→ | H | | H | | J | | J | K | | K | | K | | K | | K |
| | | | | | | | | | | C | | | | | | | | G | | G | | J | | J | | K | | K | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | H | | H | | | | | K | | | | | | | | | | | | |

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A 毕业证书 (Graduation Certificate): awarded upon completion of junior (lower) middle school and represents completion of compulsory education
- B 毕业证书 (Graduation Certificate): awarded upon completion of senior (upper) middle school; may be academic or vocational¹
- C National College Entrance Examination (NCEE): taken by most graduates of senior (upper) middle school programs seeking admission to postsecondary education

Postsecondary

- D 结业证书 (Completion Certificate): awarded upon completion of programs requiring three months to three semesters of undergraduate study; admission based on credential **B** or **C**
- E 毕业证书 (Graduation Certificate): awarded upon completion of short-cycle (专科, or *zhuanke*) programs requiring two to three years of study; admission based on credential **B** or **C**
- F 毕业证书 (Graduation Certificate): awarded upon completion of long-cycle (本科, or *benke*) programs requiring four to five years of study; admission based on credential **B** or **C**; may be awarded in conjunction with credential **G**
- G 学士学位 (Bachelor's Degree): awarded upon completion of programs requiring four to five years of study in the areas of Agriculture, Arts, Economics, Education, Engineering, History, Law, Management, Military Studies, Nursing, Philosophy, or Science; admission based on credential **B** or **C**
- H 医学学士学位 (Bachelor's Degree in Medicine): awarded upon completion of programs requiring four to seven years of study in the areas of Basic Medical Science, Clinical Medicine, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, or Traditional Chinese Medicine or Pharmacy; admission based on credential **B** or **C**
- I 结业证书 (Completion Certificate): awarded upon completion of usually at least one and one-half years of graduate study; admission generally based on credential **G** and the National Postgraduate Entrance Examination (NPEE)

- J 硕士学位 (Master's Degree): awarded upon completion of programs requiring two to three years of study; admission generally based on credential **G** and the National Postgraduate Entrance Examination (NPEE)
- K 博士学位 (Doctoral Degree): awarded upon completion of programs requiring two to three years of study with admission based on credential **J**, or programs requiring three to four years of study with admission based on credential **G** and the National Postgraduate Entrance Examination (NPEE)

¹ Most academic programs require three years of senior middle school study. Programs of a vocational nature may also be of three years duration, though two- and four-year programs exist.

GRADING INFORMATION

All Levels of Education

| <u>Chinese</u> | <u>Percentage</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Letter Grade</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 优 | 90-100 | Excellent | A |
| 良 | 80-89 | Good | B |
| 中 | 70-79 | Average or Fair | C |
| 及格 | 60-69 | Pass/Satisfactory | D |
| 不及格 | 0-59 | Unsatisfactory/Fail | F |

| <u>Chinese</u> | <u>Percentage</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Letter Grade</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 优 | 85-100 | Excellent | A |
| 良 | 75-84 | Good | B |
| 及格 | 60-74 | Pass/Satisfactory | C |
| 不及格 | 0-59 | Unsatisfactory/Fail | D/F |

- Some subjects, such as optional courses and physical education courses, are graded on a pass (通过 or 合格) or fail (不通过 or 不合格) basis.

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China
 No. 37 Damucang Hutong, Xidan, Beijing 100816, P.R.C.
 Tel: 86-10-66096114
 Fax: 86-10-66011049
www.moe.edu.cn
www.moe.edu.cn/english

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Chinese Education Association for International Exchange. *Chinese Universities and Colleges*. 4th Ed. Beijing: Higher Education Press, 2004.

Feagles, Shelley M. *ECE Presents: A Guide to Evaluating Educational Credentials from China*. Milwaukee: Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc., 1992.

International Qualifications Assessment Service. *International Education Guide for the Assessment of Education from China*. Edmonton: Government of Alberta, 2007.

Surowski, David, ed. *The People's Republic of China: A Workshop Report on the Education System of the People's Republic of China and Guide to the Academic Placement of Students in Education Institutions in the United States*. Washington D.C.: Projects for International Education Research (PIER), 2000.

Submitted by
Eric S. Feedar
Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc., Milwaukee, WI
September 2008