

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—
Republic of the Congo



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Kathleen T. Freeman
November 2011

About NAFSA

NAFSA: Association of International Educators is a member organization promoting international education and providing professional development opportunities to the field. Hundreds of NAFSA members volunteer to serve the Association and thousands advocate for international education. NAFSA serves international educators and their institutions and organizations by establishing principles of good practice, providing training and professional development opportunities, providing networking opportunities, and advocating for international education.

For more information about NAFSA, visit www.nafsa.org.

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. Information about each country was current at the time of upload. Education systems change periodically and updates will be written to reflect significant changes, once known. 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.

© 2011 NAFSA: Association of International Educators. All rights reserved.

Instructions for Using the *Online Guide to Educational Systems Around the World*

Susan Whipple, Editor

May 2011

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: <http://www.nafsa.org/aceforums>. For information on how to subscribe to the network, please visit www.nafsa.org/networksubscribe.

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 - 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.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

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			H		K		Q		T		V		X→	
											D			I		L		R		U		W			
											E			J		M		S							
											F					N									
											G					O									
																P									

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A *Certificat d'Etudes Primaires Élémentaires/CEPE* (Certificate of Primary Elementary Studies): awarded after completion of 6 years of primary and elementary school
- B *Brevet d'Etudes du Premier Cycle/BEPC* (Certificate of First Cycle Studies): 4 years of study requiring credential **A** for admission
- C *Brevet d'Etudes Technique/BET* (Certificate of Technical Studies): 2 years of study following completion of 11 years of study
- D *Brevet de Technicien/BT* (Certificate of Technician): 3 years of vocational study requiring credential **B** for admission
- E *Baccalauréat Technique* (Technical Baccalaureate): 3 years of technical study requiring credential **B** for admission
- F *Baccalauréat* (Baccalaureate): 3 years of general academic study requiring credential **B** for admission

Postsecondary

- G *Capacité en Droit* (Capacity in Law): 2 years of study that only requires completion of upper secondary school (13 years of education)
- H *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur/BTS* (Certificate of Higher Technician): 2 years of study requiring credentials **E** or **F** for admission
- I *Certificat d'Aptitude au Professorat dans les Collèges d'Enseignement Général/CAPCEG* (Certificate of Teaching Ability in General Lower Secondary Schools): 2 years of teacher training requiring credentials **E** or **F** for admission
- J *Diplôme Universitaire d'Etudes Générales/DUEG* (University Diploma of General Studies) / *Diplôme Universitaire d'Etudes Littéraires/DUEL* (University Diploma of Literary Studies) / *Diplôme Universitaire d'Etudes Scientifiques/DUES* (University Diploma of Scientific Studies): 2 years of study requiring credentials **E** or **F** for admission
- K *Diplôme d'Ingénieur des Travaux* (Diploma of Public Works Engineer): 3 years of study requiring credentials **E** or **F** for admission
- L *Licence Professionnelle* (Professional Licentiate): 3 years of study requiring credentials **E** or **F** for admission
- M *Licence en Sciences de la Santé pour les Infirmiers* (Licentiate in Health Sciences for Nurses): 3 years of study requiring credentials **E** or **F** for admission

- N *Certificat d’Aptitude au Professorat d’Education Physique et Sportive/CAPEPS* (Certificate of Physical Education and Sports Teaching Ability): 3 years of teacher training requiring credentials **E** or **F** for admission
- O *Diplôme d’Etudes Comptables et Financières/DECF* (Diploma of Accounting and Financial Studies): 3 years of study requiring credentials **E** or **F** for admission
- P *Licence* (Licentiate): 1 year of study requiring credential **J** for admission
- Q *Certificat d’Aptitude au Professorat de l’Enseignement Technique/CAPET* (Certificate of Technical Upper Secondary School Teaching Ability): 2 years of teacher training requiring credential **I** for admission
- R *Certificat d’Aptitude au Professorat dans l’Enseignement Secondaire/CAPEPS* (Certificate of Upper Secondary School Teaching Ability): 2 years of teacher training requiring credential **I** for admission
- S *Maîtrise* (Master): 1 year of study requiring credential **M** for admission
- T *Diplôme d’Ingénieur* (Diploma of Engineer): 5 years of study requiring credentials **E** or **F** for admission
- U *Diplôme d’Etudes Approfondies/DEA* (Diploma of Advanced Studies): 1 year of study requiring credential **S** for admission
- V *Diplôme d’Etudes Supérieures/DES* (Diploma of Higher Studies) 2 years of study requiring credential **S** for admission
- W *Doctorat d’Etat en Médecine* (State Doctorate in Medicine): 6 years of study requiring credentials **E** or **F** for admission
- X *Doctorat* (Doctorate): 3 years of study requiring credential **U** for admission

GRADING SCALES

Secondary and Postsecondary

<u>Grade</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>	Passing
0 – 9*	<i>Ajourné</i>	Fail

*Grades of 8 and 9 may be considered passing if the general average (*moyenne général*) is 10 or above.

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministère de l’Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research)

Ancien Immeuble de la Radio

Brazzaville

REPUBLIQUE DU CONGO

Phone: +242 810 359

Fax: +242 81- 815

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Print

Feagles, Shelley (editor). *A Guide To Educational System Around the World*. Washington, DC: NAFSA: Association of International Educators, 1999.

Teferra, Damtew and Philip G. Altbach, editors. *African Higher Education: An International Reference Handbook*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2003.

On-line

UNESCO World Data on Education: Republic of Congo
http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/WDE/2010/pdf-versions/Congo.pdf

Submitted by
Kathleen T. Freeman
International Consultants of Delaware
November 2011