

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Cyprus



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.

CYPRUS: TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY

YEARS OF EDUCATION

1→5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			A				B		C	C	D	D	E	E			F	F	

COMPULSORY EDUCATION

1 à 5 Primary Education

6 à 8 Lower Secondary Education

NON-COMPULSORY EDUCATION

9 à 12 Upper Secondary Education

12à Postsecondary/Higher Education

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A *Ortaokul Diploması* (Lower Secondary School Diploma): represents completion of compulsory education.
- B *Lise Diploması* (Upper Secondary School/High School Diploma): represents completion of secondary education at Modern Vocational Technical High Schools, Multi-Program Modern High Schools, Colleges (English-medium high schools), Fine Arts High School and Anatolian High School; comparable to U.S. high schools; requires credential **A** for admissions.

Postsecondary

- C *Yüksekökol Diploması/Associate degree*: Most degree programs are taught in English, therefore, some students require an extra year of English preparation in Year 13 and graduate one year later in Year 15; requires credential **B** for admissions; comparable to U.S. Associate degrees.
- D *Lisans Diploması/Bachelor's degree*: Comparable to U.S. bachelor's degrees; most degree programs are taught in English, therefore, some students require an extra year of English preparation in Year 13 and graduate one year later in Year 17; requires credential **B** for admissions.
- E *Lisansüstü Diploması/Master's degree*: Same as American system of education. Students who were required to take an extra year of English preparation in Year 13 will obtain their master's degrees a year later in Year 19; requires credential **D** for admissions; comparable to U.S. master's degrees
- F *Doktora/ Doctorate (PhD)*: Comparable to U.S. doctoral degree; it usually takes about 4 years to complete; requires completion of credential **E** for admissions.

Grading System in Secondary Education

In elementary and secondary education, grading is out of 10. A score below 5 in individual courses is considered failing. Many private and public secondary schools teach in English.

Grading on *Ortaokul Diploması (Lower Secondary Diploma)* and *Lise Diploması (Upper-Secondary/High School Diploma)*

Students may receive the following grades on their diplomas.

Pek İyi (Very Good)	9 – 10
İyi (Good)	7 – 8
Orta (Fair)	5 – 6
Zayıf (Poor)	3 – 4
Pek Zayıf (Very Poor)	1 – 2

Averages with decimal points are rounded up or down, e.g. a student with an 8.6 average receives a *Pek İyi/ Very Good* degree.

Grading System in Postsecondary Education

The grading system in postsecondary institutions is similar to the American system. Students are scored with letter grades (A – F) and receive GPA out of 4.0. Some universities use double letter grades (e.g. AA, AB, BC)

Postsecondary Institution Recognition Bodies

The Council of Higher Education of Turkey- YÖK (English website):

http://www.yok.gov.tr/english/index_en.htm

Turkish Cypriot Higher Education Planning, evaluation, Accreditation, and Coordination Council- YÖDAK: <http://www.ncyodak.eu/en/>

For more information, please contact the Cyprus Fulbright Commission:

www.fulbright.org.cy

CYPRUS: GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY

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 F G H H

COMPULSORY EDUCATION

1 à 6 Primary Education

7 à 9 Gymnasium (Lower Secondary Education)

NON-COMPULSORY EDUCATION

10 à 12 Lyceum/Technical or Vocational High Schools (Upper Secondary Education)

12à Postsecondary/Higher Education

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A *Apolyterion of the Gymnasium (Leaving Certificate of the Gymnasium)*: represents completion of compulsory education or the Gymnasium.
- B *Apolyterion of the Lyceum (Leaving Certificate of the Lyceum or Technical or Vocational High Schools)*: represents completion of secondary education at Lyceums and Technical High Schools; comparable to U.S. high schools; requires credential **A** for admissions.

Postsecondary

- C *Certificate*: represents the completion of a 1-year program at various institutions of higher education.
- D *Diploma*: represents the completion of a 2-year program at various institutions of higher education
- E *Higher Diploma*: represents the completion of a 3-year program at various institutions of higher education
- F *Ptychio/ Bachelor's degree*: Comparable to U.S. bachelor's degree; requires credential **B** for admissions.
- G *Metptychiako/Master's degree*: Comparable to U.S. master's degrees; requires credential **F** for admissions.
- H *Didactoriko/ Doctorate (PhD)*: Comparable to U.S. doctoral degree; a doctoral degree usually takes about 4 years to complete; requires credential **G** for admissions.

Grading System in Secondary Education

The grading scale for both Gymnasium and Lyceum is 0-20 and the passing mark is 10.

<i>Excellent</i>	18.5 up to 20
<i>Very Good</i>	15.5 – (but not including) 18.5
<i>Good</i>	12.5 – (but not including) 15.5
<i>Average</i>	10 – (but not including) 12.5

Many private secondary schools follow GCE or IB curricula and grading systems and teach in English.

Grading system in Postsecondary Education

The grading systems in postsecondary institutions vary. Many follow the American grading system (A à F out of 4.0) and others use a scale of out of 100. Admissions officers are advised to check individual institutions.

Postsecondary Institution Recognition Bodies

Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture (English website):

<http://www.highereducation.ac.cy/en/>

For more information, please contact the Cyprus Fulbright Commission:

www.fulbright.org.cy

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