

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Czech Republic



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

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

Susan Whipple, Editor

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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.

CZECH REPUBLIC

YEARS OF EDUCATION →

1→6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24

A	A	C	D	E	F	F	L	L	L	L	L
	B	B	E	F	G	G					
				G	H	H					
				H	I	I					
				I		J					
						K					

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A *Vysvědčení o závěrečné zkoušce* (Certificate of Final Exam) in one- and two-year courses of secondary technical training (apprenticeship) at *Střední odborné učiliště* or *Střední odborná škola*.
- B *Výuční list* (Vocational Certificate) is based on successful completion of *Závěrečná zkouška* (Final Exam) in two-year or three-year courses of secondary technical or vocational training at *Střední odborné učiliště* or *Střední odborná škola*.
- C *Vysvědčení o maturitní zkoušce* (Certificate of Maturity Examination) is based on a result of *Maturitní zkouška* (Maturity Examination) that marks a completion of four-year secondary general education at *Gymnázium* or secondary technical or vocational education at *Střední odborná škola* or *Střední odborné učiliště*. **A successful completion of Maturity Examination is a prerequisite for entering higher education.**

Note: Secondary education can be obtained at three types of institutions differentiated by the level of academic rigorousness and the proportion of general and vocational subjects and practical training. Students cannot select academic level of courses within the school, a curriculum at each type of school is given. Set of courses is obligatory, although some optional courses usually exist. *Gymnázium* is a college-preparatory secondary school offering subjects of general education on the highest level. *Střední odborná škola (SOŠ)* and *Střední odborné učiliště (SOU)* offer technical or vocational programs, including first cycle program in performing arts (*konzervatoř*) and fine arts. In technical programs the proportion of general subjects and technical subjects is about 40:60. In vocational programs the proportion of general subjects, vocational subjects and practical training are varying. Practical training in three-year courses (a prevailing type) can take 30-45 % of lessons. Graduates with the Maturity Examination in general or technical fields represent 70% of all secondary program graduates. Graduates of *gymnázium* (i.e. general education – a half of them already enroll during the second stage of the basic school to 6-year or 8-year *gymnázium*) represent 28 % of holders of the Maturity Examination and almost 20% of graduates of upper secondary education.

Note: Completion of compulsory education is a basic prerequisite for the entrance into higher education. Acceptance to the program of secondary education is based on the results of entrance exams and previous education. The content of the entrance exam is

determined by the school. *Gymnázium* is usually more selective than other types of schools.

Note: Graduates of shorter secondary education programs can enlarge or change their qualification in *nástavbové studium* (follow-up study) providing graduates of shorter programs with missing general subjects.

Postsecondary

- D *Diplomovaný specialista (DiS., Specialist with Diploma)* is a diploma based on completion of *Vyšší odborná škola (VOŠ, Higher Professional School)*. These tertiary professional schools provide students with advanced technical or vocational knowledge (including the second cycle in performing arts at *konzervatoř*) in three- or three-and-half (allied health) year programs. Final examination at these schools is called *absolutorium*.
- E *Bakalář (Bc., Bachelor)* degree is awarded to graduates of the first cycle of higher education that last from three to four years. Most programs are three-year long. Longer programs are usual in nursing and allied health programs, engineering, architecture or fine arts and design.
- F *Magistr (Mgr., Master)* degree is awarded to graduates of the second cycle continuing after Bachelor. The *Magister* program usually lasts two years, however there can be some one- or even three-year long. Although, according to Bologna agreement, most programs should offer the bachelor and master cycles, there are still institutions of higher education that offer so called long-type *Magister* that incorporates the bachelor cycle and last from five to six years. Graduates of Master programs have a choice to take an extra *rigorózní zkouška (Rigorous Exam)* and be awarded more traditional titles *JUDr.* (in law), *PhDr.* (in arts), *RNDr.* (in sciences), *PharmDr.* (in pharmacy), *ThDr.* (in theology).
- G *Magister umění (MgA., Master of Fine Art)* is a special name for Master programs in fine and performing arts and architecture.
- H *Inženýr (Ing., Engineer)* is a special name for Master in technical and economic fields.
- I *Inženýr architekt (Ing.Arch., Engineer - Architect)* is a special name for Master degree in architecture at technical universities.
- J *Doktor medicíny (MUDr., Doctor of Medicine)* is a graduate of professional medical program. The professional program last six year. Students enter the program directly after the secondary education.
- K *Doktor veterinární medicíny (MVDr., Doctor of Veterinary Medicine)* is a graduate of professional veterinary program. The professional program lasts six years. Students enter the program directly after the secondary education.
- L *Doktor (Ph.D., Doctor, Th.D. in theology)* is awarded after completion of the third cycle of higher education (doctoral studies) that include doctoral examination. Usual length of doctoral program is from three to five years. Doctoral programs may be entered only after finishing Master program.

Note: *The Czech Republic participates in Bologna Process. According to the amendment to the Higher Education Act in 2001 higher education institutions could admit applicants for long-cycle Master programs only until the end of 2003. Long-cycle Master programs are only allowed if the nature of the study program requires. It applies especially to professional programs like medicine or law. According to the Bologna Agreement, all higher education institutions issue Diploma Supplements in English.*

GRADING SCALE

Secondary Education

<u>Description</u>	<u>Translation</u>
<i>Výborný</i>	Excellent
<i>Chvalitebný</i>	Very Good
<i>Dobrý</i>	Good
<i>Dostatečný</i>	Satisfactory
<i>Nedostatečný</i>	Unsatisfactory

Note: *Dostatečný* is the lowest passing grade.

Higher Education

<u>Description</u>	<u>Translation</u>
<i>Výborný</i>	Excellent
<i>Velmi dobrý</i>	Very Good
<i>Dobrý</i>	Good
<i>Nedostatečný</i>	Unsatisfactory
or <i>Nevyhověl</i>	or Did not Pass
<i>Zápočet</i>	Credit, Pass
<i>Klasifikovaný zápočet</i>	Graded Credit

Note: *Dobrý* is the lowest passing grade.

Note: *Zápočet* is used for non-graded courses without exam. *Klasifikovaný zápočet* is used for graded courses without exam.

Note: The grading system described above is used at most institutions of higher education although some use their different scales, including ECTS grading system. The system used at each institution is described in the Diploma Supplement issued together with the diploma and it also contains description of the credit system and number of credits for each course.

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODIES

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports – <http://www.msmt.cz>

Accreditation Commission – <http://www.msmt.cz/areas-of-work/akreditacni-komise>

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Educational System in the Czech Republic, Institute for Information on Education
<http://www.uiv.cz/clanek/29/148>

EURYDICE, Information Network on Education in Europe
<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/Eurydice/ByCountryResults?countryCode=CZ>

Ministry of Education, Information on Higher Education
<http://www.msmt.cz/areas-of-work/higher-education-1>

National Academic Recognition Information Center
<http://www.naric.cz/>

Bologna Process in the Czech Republic
<http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/links/Czech-Republic.htm>

Fulbright Commission: For U.S. Educators
<http://www.fulbright.cz/for-educators/index.shtml>

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