

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Denmark



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

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May 2009

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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.

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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.

DENMARK

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	F	F	J	J	X	X	f	g	g
	C	E	E	G	I	K	K	Y	a	g	h	h
		G	G	H	J	L	P	Z	f	h	l	i
				I	K	P	R	a	g	i		
				J	L	Q	S	b	h			
				K	M	R	T	c	i			
				L	N	S	U	d	o			
				M	O	T	V	e				
				N	P	U	W	f				
				O	Q	V	X	g				
				P	R	W	Y	h				
				Q	S	X	Z	i				
				R	T	Y	a	k				
				S	U	Z	b	o				
				T	V	a	d					
				U	W	b	e					
				V	X	d	f					
				W	Y	f	i					
				X	Z	l	k					
				Y	a	k	n					
				Z	b	n						
				a	d							
				b	f							
				d	i							
				f	j							
				l	k							
				j	m							
				k	n							
				m								
				n								

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A** Afghangsbevis (Lower Secondary School Certificate) awarded after completion of 9 years of primary and lower secondary education; represents the end of compulsory education in Denmark
- B** Udvidede afgangsbævis (Extended Leaving Certificate) awarded after completion of 10 years of primary and lower secondary education; requires credential **A** for admissions
- C** Bævis for hõjere grunduddannelser (Certificate from Higher Basic Course) awarded after completion of 2 years of upper secondary education; requires credential **A** or **B** for admissions
- D** Studentereksamen (STX) (Upper Secondary School Leaving Examination) awarded after completion of 3 years of upper secondary education; comparable to High School diploma in U.S.; requires credential **A** or **B** for studies taken from a studenterkurs and requires credential **A**, plus one year of additional secondary studies, plus 18 years of age for studies taken from a gymnasieskole

- E** Hojere forberedelseksamen (HF) (Higher Preparatory Examination) awarded after completion of 2 to 3 years of upper secondary education; comparable to High School diploma in U.S.; requires credential **A** or **B** for admissions
- F** Hojere handelseksamen (HHX) (Higher Commercial Examination) awarded after completion of 3 to 4 years of upper secondary education; comparable to High School diploma in U.S.; requires credential **C** for admissions
- G** Hojere teknisk eksamen (HTX) (Higher Technical Examination) awarded after completion of 2 to 4 years of vocational upper secondary education; comparable to High School diploma in U.S.; requires credential **A**, **B**, or **C** for admissions
- H** Gymnasialt Indslusningforløb for Fremmedsprogede (GIF) awarded after one year of Danish upper secondary education; comparable to High School diploma in U.S.; requires completion of secondary school from country of origin

Tertiary

Denmark has undergone numerous reforms to its educational system in the last several years. As a result, higher education is broken into two segments: the university sector and the college sector. As of March 2009, the university sector is comprised of 8 universities (reduced as a result of several mergers) and 13 university-level institutions that specialize in architecture, art, music, and related fields. The college sector, boasting approximately 100 institutions of higher education, offers two tracks: vocational colleges offering short-cycle programs (generally two year Academy Profession degrees), primarily through Erhvervsakademier (Academies of Professional Higher Education), and colleges offering medium-cycle programs (mostly professional bachelor degrees), primarily through the Centre for Videregående Uddannelse (Centers for Higher Education). In addition, open education qualifications have been created to correspond with levels of traditional higher education. These programs generally are completed part-time so that two years of part-time study is equivalent to one year of full-time study. These life-long learning programs are offered at three levels: short-, medium-, and long-cycle programs.

UNIVERSITY SECTOR: FIRST LEVEL DEGREES

- I** Akademiøkonom (Academy Economist)/Erhvervsproglig diplom (Commercial Language Diploma); represents one year of university studies; requires credential **D**, **E**, **F**, or **G** for admissions; comparable to 30 lower division semester credits.
- J** Teknikereksamen (Technical Diploma offered in many fields); represents 1½ to 4 years of university studies; requires credential **D** for admissions plus 1 year of practical experience in related field or apprenticeship training; comparable to up to 30 undergraduate semester credits for each year of full-time study.
- K** Examinatus artium/exam. Art (Humanities Examination)/Examinatus scientiarum/exam. Scient. (Science Examination); represents two to four years of university studies; requires credential **D**, **E**, **F**, or **G** for admissions; comparable to up to 30 undergraduate semester credits for each year of full-time study.

- L** Datanom (Computer Specialist); represents 2½ years of university studies; requires credential **D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions; comparable to up to 30 lower division semester credits for each year of full-time study.
- M** Den erhversøkonomiske diplomprove (Business Economics Diploma); represents two years of university studies; requires credential **D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions; comparable to up to 30 lower division semester credits for each year of full-time study.
- N** Handelsvidenskabelig diplomeksamen (Commerical Science Diploma); four years of part-time studies equivalent to two years of tertiary education; requires credential **D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions; comparable to up to 30 lower division semester credits for each year of full-time study.
- O** Handelshøjskolens diplomeksamen (Business School Diploma); represents two years of university studies; requires credential **D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions; comparable to up to 30 lower division semester credits for each year of full-time study.
- P** Akdemi Ingeniør (Academic Engineer) and Diplom Ingeniør (Diploma Engineer); represents 3½ years of university studies including 6 months of practical training; requires credential **D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions; comparable to up to 105 undergraduate semester credits.
- Q** Bachelorograd or Bachelorgraden (Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science); represents three years of university studies; requires credential **D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions; equivalent to 180 ECTS credits. This credential represents the first level of the new Bologna-compliant degree structure.
- R** Handelshøjskolens Afgangsprøve (HA)(Bachelor of Business Administration); represents 3 to 3½ years of university studies; requires credential **D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions; equivalent to 180-210 ECTS credits. This credential represents the first level of the new Bologna-compliant degree structure.
- S** Teknikumingeniør (Technical Engineer)/Almen administrative datalogi eksamen (General Administrative Computer Degree); represents four years of university studies including one year of practical training; requires credential **D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions.
- T** Sygeplejerske (Nurse); represents four years of university studies; requires credential **D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions plus 9 months of experience.
- U** Musiklæreruddannelse (Diploma Music); represents four years of university studies; requires credential **D, E, F,** or **G** and audition for admissions.
- V** Candidatus/a philosophiae/cand. Phil. (Candidate of Philosophy); represents four years of university studies; concentration in one major subject; requires credential **D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions.
- W** Candidatus/a negotiandi/cand. Negot. (Candidate of Business Trade); represents four years of university studies; requires credential **D, E, F,** or **G** for admissions.
- X** Candidatus/a pharmaciae/cand. pharm. (Candidate in Pharmacology); represents five to six years of university studies; requires credential **D, E, F,** or **G**; first professional degree in Pharmacy.

- Y** Candidatus/a juris/cand. jur. (Candidate in Law); represents five years of university studies, if entered with bachelorgraden program, requires two additional years; requires credential **D, E, F, or G** for admissions; first professional degree in Law.
- Z** Examinatur oeconomiae/exam. oecon. (Economics Examination); represents 3½ to 5 years of university studies; requires credential **Q, V, W or X** in another subject.
- a** Candidatus/a architecturae/cand. arch. (Candidate in Architecture); represents 5½ to 6 years of university studies; requires credential **D, E, F, or G** for admissions; first professional degree in architecture.
- b** Diplom i... (Diploma in [Instrument]); represents five years of university studies; requires credential **D, E, F, or G** and audition for admissions.

UNIVERSITY SECTOR: SECOND LEVEL DEGREES

- c** Sygeplefaglig diplomeksamen (Nursing Diploma) in special fields; requires credential **T** for admissions; comparable to up to 30 semester credits of Graduate level coursework in the area of specialization.
- d** Kandidatgrad/Candidatus/Candidata (Candidate + field of study) (Master of Arts or Master of Science); represents five years of university studies; requires credential **D, E, F, or G** (will require five years of graduate studies) or credential **Q** (will require 2 years of graduate studies) for admissions; equivalent to 120 ECTS credits. This credential represents the second level of the new Bologna-compliant degree structure.
- e** Magistergrad/Mag.Art./Magisterkonferens (Master of Arts or Science); represents five to six years of university studies; requires credential **Q** (will require three years of graduate study) or credential **V** (will require two years of graduate study) for admissions; equivalent to 120-180 ECTS credits.
- f** Candidatus/a medicinae/cand. med. (Candidate in Medicine)/Candidatus/a odontologicae/cand. odont. (Candidate in Dentistry)/Candidatus/a medicinae veterinariae/cand. med. vet. (Candidate in Veterinary Medicine); represents 5½ to 6½ years of university studies; requires credential **D, E, F, or G** for admissions; represents a professional degree in medicine, dentistry, or veterinary medicine.

UNIVERSITY SECTOR: THIRD LEVEL DEGREES

- g** Licentiatu/a/lic. (Licentiate); represents seven to nine years of university studies; requires credential **d** or **e** for admissions.
- h** Ph.d.-grad (PhD degree); represents seven to nine years of university studies; requires credential **d** for admissions, though a few fields allow students to be admitted for a 4-year PhD-graden program before receiving credential **d**; equivalent to 180 ECTS credits. This credential represents the third level of the new Bologna-compliant degree structure.

- i Doktorgraden (Doctor + field of study in Latin) (PhD in various fields); generally represents ten or more years of independent research, publication, and public defense of a scholarly thesis; requires independent research for admissions (no minimum entry requirement but usually holds credential **d**); there is no formal study program.

COLLEGE SECTOR: SHORT-CYCLE

- j Erhvervsakademiuddannelse (Academy Profession Degree/AP degree) (Profession + (AK)); represents two years of college study; requires relevant vocational education and training (and general upper secondary courses) or general, commercial, or technical upper secondary education, generally credentials **D, E, F, or G** for admissions; equivalent to 120 ECTS credits.

COLLEGE SECTOR: MEDIUM-CYCLE

- k Professionsbachelor (Professional Bachelor); represents 3½ to 4½ years of college or university college studies including a period of practical training and a project paper; requires credential **D, E, F, or G** for admissions; equivalent to 180-270 ECTS credits; may lead to a Master's program in Adult Education and Continuing Training or specific Candidatus programs. This credential corresponds to the first level of the new Bologna-compliant degree structure but with more emphasis on professional practice. Common examples of the two dozen professional bachelor degrees include: Bachelor of Education (240 ECTS credits); Bachelor in Social Education (210 ECTS credits); Bachelor in Nursing (210 ECTS credits); Bachelor of Engineering (210 ECTS credits); Bachelor of Journalism (240 ECTS credits).

OPEN EDUCATION SECTOR: SHORT-CYCLE

- m Videregaende voksenuddannelse (VVU) (Advanced Adult Education); awarded after studies at Academy Profession level; requires credential **D, E, F, or G** and at least two years' professional experience for admission; comparable to credential **j**.

OPEN EDUCATION SECTOR: MEDIUM-CYCLE

- n Diplomuddannelse (Diploma program); awarded after studies at Professional Bachelor level; requires credential **D, E, F, G or m** and at least two years' professional experience for admissions; comparable to credential **Q or k**.

OPEN EDUCATION SECTOR: LONG-CYCLE

- o Masteruddannelse (Master's program); awarded after studies at university graduate level; requires credential **Q, k, or n** for admissions; comparable to long-cycle higher education such as Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Public Health (MPH), or Master of Public Administration (MPA).

GRADING SYSTEM

Secondary (prior to July 2006) and Postsecondary Grading Scale (prior to August 2007)

Danish Grade	Description	ECTS Grade	U.S. Grade
13	Exceptionally independent and excellent performance.	A	A+
11	Independent and excellent performance.	A	A
10	Excellent but not particularly independent performance.	B	A-/B+
9	Good performance, a little above average.	C	B
8	Average performance.	C	C+
7	Mediocre performance, slightly below average.	D	C/D
6	Just acceptable performance; minimum passing mark.	E	C-
5	Hesitant and not satisfactory performance.	FX	F*
03	Very hesitant, very insufficient and unsatisfactory performance.	FX	F
00	Completely unacceptable performance.	F	F

* May be considered passing in individual subjects. Minimum passing mark is a 6.

Secondary (after July 2006) and Postsecondary 7-Point Scale (after August 2007)

Danish Grade	Description	ECTS Grade	U.S. Grade
12	For an excellent performance displaying a high level of command of all aspects of the relevant material, with no or only a few minor weaknesses	A	A
10	For a very good performance displaying a high level of command of most aspects of the relevant material, with only minor weaknesses.	B	A-/B+
7	For a good performance displaying good command of the relevant material but also some weaknesses.	C	B
4	For a fair performance displaying some command of the relevant material but also some major weaknesses	D	C+
02	For a performance meeting only the minimum requirements for acceptance.	E	C
00	For a performance which does not meet the minimum requirements for acceptance.	Fx	F
-3	For a performance which is unacceptable in all respects.	F	F

Alternate Grading Scale

Bestået – Pass
ikke bestået – Fail

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODIES

Danish Ministry of Culture: <http://www.kum.dk/sw10009.asp>. The ministry is responsible for tertiary artistic education institutions (conservatories and academies of music, arts, fine arts, architecture, visual arts, library science, etc.).

Danish Ministry of Education. <http://www.eng.uvm.dk/Uddannelse.aspx>. The Ministry is responsible for short- and medium-cycle, non-university higher education.

Danish Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation: <http://en.vtu.dk/education>. The Ministry is responsible for university research and education except programs that come under other Ministries.

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CIRIUS - Danish Centre for International Cooperation and Mobility in Education and Training. <http://www.ciriusonline.dk/Default.aspx?ID=3825> and <http://www.ciriusonline.dk/Default.aspx?ID=4531>

Danish Evaluation Institute: <http://english.eva.dk>.

Danish Rector's Conference (Rektorkollegiet) <http://dkuni.dk/english/>

ENIC-NARIC: <http://www.enic-naric.net/index.aspx?c=Denmark>

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

Structure of Education System in Denmark, EuroEducation.net. <http://www.euroeducation.net/prof/denmarco.htm>

World Education & News Reviews (WENR) <http://www.wes.org/ewenr/03Sept/Denmark.htm>

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March 2009