

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Ecuador



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by
Pilar Menéndez and Emily Muñiz
May 2009



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.

ECUADOR

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	C	D		E	E3	H	H	H	X		a	a			
		C1	C1				E1	E4	I	M	L	Y						
							E2	E5	J	N	P	Z						
							F	E6	K	O	R	a						
							G1	G	T	S								
							Q		U	T								
									W	U								
									X	V								
									Y	W								
									Z	Y								
										Z								
										a								

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION:

Primary:

- A *Certificado de Suficiencia en los Estudios Primarios* (Certificate of Sufficiency in Primary Studies): represents completion of six years divided into three two-year cycles of compulsory primary education; provides access to secondary education

Secondary:

- B *Certificado de Término de Noveno Grado / Ciclo Básico* (Certificate of Completion of Ninth Grade / Basic Cycle): represents completion of three years of compulsory secondary education; requires credential **A**
- C *Técnico Auxiliar* (Assistant Technician): represents completion of one to two years of secondary vocational study; requires credential **B**
- C1 *Técnico Básico I y II* (Basic Technician I and II): represents completion of one to two years of secondary vocational study; requires credential **B**
- D *Bachillerato / Ciclo Diversificado* (Secondary Baccalaureate / Diversified Cycle): represents completion of three years of upper-secondary education and completion of high school; available in two tracks: vocational-technical and academic (humanities and science streams); provides access to higher education or to workforce; requires credential **B**

Postsecondary Non-University:

Ciclo de Especialización Post-Bachillerato (Post-Secondary Specialization Cycle):

- E *Título de Profesional de Asistente en Bibliotecología* (Professional Title of Library Assistant): represents completion of two years of post-secondary vocational non-university education; offered by *Politécnicos* (Polytechnics) and *Institutos Técnicos Superiores* (Higher Technical Institutes); requires credential **D**

- E1 *Título de Profesional de Topógrafo* (Professional Title of Surveyor): represents completion of two years of post-secondary vocational non-university education; offered by *Politécnicos* (Polytechnics) and *Institutos Técnicos Superiores* (Higher Technical Institutes); requires credential **D**
- E2 *Título de Profesional de Trabajador Social* (Professional Title of Social Worker): represents completion of two years of post-secondary vocational non-university education; offered by *Politécnicos* (Polytechnics) and *Institutos Técnicos Superiores* (Higher Technical Institutes); requires credential **D**
- E3 *Diploma en Enfermería* (Nurse's Diploma): represents completion of three years of post-secondary vocational non-university education; offered by *Politécnicos* (Polytechnics) and *Institutos Técnicos Superiores* (Higher Technical Institutes); note: the *Licenciado en Enfermería* (Licentiate in Nursing) is awarded upon completion of four-year program (see credential **I**); requires credential **D**
- E4 *Título de Profesional de Decorador* (Professional Title of Interior Decorator): represents completion of three years of post-secondary vocational non-university education; offered by *Politécnicos* (Polytechnics) and *Institutos Técnicos Superiores* (Higher Technical Institutes); requires credential **D**
- E5 *Título de Profesional de Auditor* (Professional Title of Auditor): represents completion of three years of post-secondary vocational non-university education; offered by *Politécnicos* (Polytechnics) and *Institutos Técnicos Superiores* (Higher Technical Institutes); requires credential **D**
- E6 *Título de Tecnólogo* (Title of Technologist): represents completion of three years of post-secondary vocational non-university education; offered by *Politécnicos* (Polytechnics) and *Institutos Técnicos Superiores* (Higher Technical Institutes); requires credential **D**
- F *Título de Técnico Superior* (Title of Higher Technician): represents completion of two years of post-secondary vocational non-university education; offered at *Institutos Técnicos Superiores* (Higher Technical Institutes); requires credential **D**
- G *Título de Profesor de Educación Pre-Primaria, Primaria o de Areas Especiales* (Title of Pre-Primary, Primary or Specialized Area of Education School Teacher): active 1991 it has represented completion of three years of post-secondary vocational non-university education; offered at *Institutos Pedagógicos / Interculturales Bilingües* (Teacher Training Institutes / Bilingual Intercultural); requires credential **D**; note: a Secondary School Teacher degree is awarded after completion of a four-year *Licenciatura* (Licentiate) program (see credential **K**)
- G1 (Former) *Título de Profesor de Educación Pre-Primaria, Primaria o de Areas Especiales* (Title of Pre-Primary, Primary or Specialized Area of Education School Teacher): prior to 1991 it had represented completion of two years of post-secondary vocational non-university education; offered at *Colegios Normales / Institutos Normales Superiores* (Higher Normal Institutes / Normal Colleges); required credential **D**

Postsecondary University:

- H *Grado de Licenciado* (Degree of Licentiate): full undergraduate degree currently requires four to six years of study, with *Licenciaturas* (Licentiates) usually requiring four years; previously, some short *Licenciaturas* (as few as two years) existed; *Títulos* (Titles) usually require four to six years study; provides access to graduate studies; requires credential **D**

- I *Licenciado en Enfermería* (Licentiate in Nursing): represents completion of four years of undergraduate study; provides access to graduate studies; requires credential **D**
- J *Título Profesional de Obstetrix* (Professional Title of Obstetrical Practitioner): represents completion of four years of undergraduate study; provides access to graduate studies; requires credential **D**
- K *Título de Profesor de Educación Media* (Title of Secondary School Teacher / Licentiate in Secondary School Teaching): represents completion of four years of undergraduate study; provides access to graduate studies; requires credential **D**
- L *Título de Doctor en Leyes* (Doctor of Laws): represents completion of *Licenciatura* (Licentiate) plus two years of graduate study and thesis; requires credentials **D** and **H**
- M *Título Profesional de Ingeniero Comercial* (Professional Title of Commercial Engineer): represents completion of five years of undergraduate study; this degree usually has a *mención* (emphasis) in a business discipline, such as finance, marketing and productivity management; note: this is a degree in business, not engineering; provides access to graduate studies; requires credential **D**
- N *Título Profesional de Arquitecto* (Professional Title of Architect): represents completion of five years of undergraduate study; requires credential **D**
- O *Título Profesional de Contador Público* (Professional Title of Public Accountant): represents completion of five years of undergraduate study; requires credential **D**
- P *Doctor en Odontología* (Doctor of Dental Medicine): represents completion of six years of undergraduate study; requires credential **D**
- Q *Diplomado* (Diploma Holder): represents completion of three years of post-secondary study; requires credential **D**; intermediate graduate diploma (post-credential **H**)
- R *Título Profesional de Psicólogo* (Professional Title of Psychologist): represents completion of six years of undergraduate study; requires credential **D**
- S *Título Profesional de Abogado* (Professional Title of Attorney): represents completion of six years of undergraduate study; requires credential **D**
- T *Título Profesional de Ingeniero* (Professional Title of Engineer): represents completion of five to six years of undergraduate study; fields of study: Civil, Electrical, Mechanic, Mines and Petroleum, Naval, and Chemical; requires credential **D**
- U *Título de Doctor* (Title of Doctor): represents completion of *Licenciatura* (Licentiate) plus one to two years of graduate study and thesis; requires credentials **D** and **H**
- V *Doctor en Química y Farmacia* (Doctor of Pharmacy and Chemistry): represents completion of six years of post-secondary study; requires credential **D**
- W *Médico Veterinario / Zootecnista* (Veterinary Physician / Animal Scientist): represents completion of five to six years of post-secondary study; requires credential **D**
- X *Doctor en Medicina* (Doctor of Medicine): represents completion of seven years of post-secondary study; requires credential **D**
- Y *Título Intermedio Postgrado de Especialización / Diploma Superior* (Title of Intermediate Specialized Postgraduate Studies / Diploma of Advanced Studies in field of study): represents completion of one to three years of study beyond qualifying first degree; offered mostly in health sciences and medicine; provides access to further graduate studies; requires *Licenciatura* (Licentiate) or *Título Profesional* (Professional Title) (credentials **H** through **O**)

- Z *Diploma de Magister* (Master's Diploma): represents completion of one to three years of study beyond qualifying first degree plus a defended thesis; provides access to further graduate studies; requires *Licenciatura* (Licentiate) or *Título Profesional* (Professional Title) (credentials **H** through **O**)
- a *Doctorado* (Doctorate Degree): represents completion of two to three years of post-graduate study plus a defended dissertation; non-medical academic fields; note: not the same as *Título de Doctor* (Title of Doctor) (credential **U**); requires *Licenciatura* (Licentiate) or *Título Profesional* (Professional Title) (credentials **H** through **O**)

GRADING SCALES:

Secondary:

<u>Numeric</u>	<u>Spanish</u>	<u>Translation</u>
10	<i>Sobresaliente</i>	Excellent
9	<i>Muy Bueno</i>	Very Good
8	<i>Bueno</i>	Good
7	<i>Regular</i>	Average
0-6	<i>Arrastre</i>	Failure

- Grade of *Sobresaliente* often indicates first in class, with other top students earning *Muy Bueno*. The minimum passing grade is 7 and is sufficient for graduation.

Postsecondary Education:

<u>Numeric</u>	<u>Spanish</u>	<u>Translation</u>
40	<i>Sobresaliente</i>	Excellent
35-39	<i>Muy Bueno</i>	Very Good
30-34	<i>Bueno</i>	Good
24-29	<i>Regular</i>	Average
0-23	<i>Arrastre</i>	Failure

- Grade reports normally have information on the Spanish descriptions of numeric grades. Different faculties within the same university may use different numeric scales, but the Spanish descriptions of numeric grades remain constant.

Grading systems vary per institution, so it is best to refer to transcripts; examples:

1 to 10, with 7 as the minimum passing grade, converted as 9.00-10.00 = 4.00/A, 8.00-8.99 = 3.00/B, 7.00-7.99 = 2.00/C.

0 to 20, with 10 as the minimum passing grade, converted as: 17-20 = 4.00/A, 14-16 = 3.00/B, 10-13 = 2.00/C, 0-9 = F.

0 to 30, with 21 as the minimum passing grade, converted as: 27-30 = 4.00/A, 24-26 = 3.00/B, 21-23 = 2.00/C.

0 to 40, with 24 as the minimum passing grade, converted as: 35-40 = 4.00/A, 29-34 = 3.00/B, 24-28 = 2.00/C.

0 to 50, with 30 as the minimum passing grade, converted as: 45-50 = 4.00/A, 40-44 = 3.67/A-, 35-39 = 3.00/B, 30-34 = 2.00/C.

0 to 50, with 35 as the minimum passing grade, converted as: 45-50 = 4.00/A, 40-44 = 3.00/B, 35-39 = 2.00/C.

0 to 100, with 60 as the minimum passing grade, converted as: 90-100 (sobresaliente / outstanding) = 4.00/A; 80-89 (muy buena / very good) = 3.67/A-, 70-79 (buena / good) = 3.00/B, 60-69 (regular / average) = 2.00/C.

0 to 100, with 70 as the minimum passing grade, converted as: 90-100 = 4.00/A, 80-89 = 3.00/B, 70-79 = 2.00/C.

SECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY:

Ministerio de Educación del Ecuador (Ministry of Education of Ecuador), formerly, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Recreation.

Av. Amazonas N34-451 entre Av. Atahualpa y Juan Pablo Sáenz, Quito, Ecuador

Miguel Pérez – Director Nacional de Comunicación Social (Director)

Tel: + 593 02 227 8805 - 02 226 9197

<http://www.educacion.gov.ec>

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY:

Consejo Nacional de Educación Superior (National Council of Higher Education) (CONESUP). Defines higher education policy and structure, plans, manages, regulates, coordinates, monitors and evaluates the Ecuadorian system of higher education.

9 de Octubre 624 entre Carrión y Ramírez Dávalos, Quito, Ecuador

Tel: + 593 02 2569-898, Fax: + 593 02 2563-685

Email: secretariatecnica@conesup.org.ec

<http://www.conesup.org.ec>

In Ecuador, accreditation is approached from two perspectives:

1. The institution must be accredited by CONESUP.
2. The program of study must also be accredited by CONESUP.

SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Due to climatic characteristics of the country, there are two school calendars:

- 1) *Calendario de Galápagos y Costa* (Calendar of Coast and Galapagos) – School year starts in the month of April and ends the second week of January of the following year.
- 2) *Calendario de Amazonas y Sierra* (Calendar of Mountains and Amazon) – School year starts on September 15 and ends the second week of July of the following year.

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Published

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

Online Resources

Ministerio de Educación: <http://www.educación.gov.ec>

Sistemas Educativos Nacionales, Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura: <http://www.oei.es/infibero.htm>

Consejo Nacional de Educación Superior : <http://www.conesup.net>

Ministerio de Educación: <http://www.educación.gov.ec>

Sistemas Educativos Nacionales, Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura: <http://www.oei.es/infibero.htm>

UNESCO-World Database: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ec.rtf

Submitted by
Pilar Menéndez
Emily Muñiz
SpanTran Educational Services, Inc.
May 2009