

Online Guide to

# Educational Systems



Around the World—Egypt



**NAFSA**

Association of  
International Educators

Submitted by Kurt Baumbach  
August 2011

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# 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](http://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

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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.

# EGYPT

## YEARS OF EDUCATION →

1	→6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13		14		15		16		17		18		19		20		21		22		23		24	
											A		E		F		I		K		M		N		R		S	→									T	→
											B		G				L		O		P		Q															
											C		H																									
											D		J																									

## CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

### Secondary

- A Certificate of Completion of General Secondary Education (*thaanawiya*): represents 11 years of education, awarded after passing a national examination; before 1995 this represented 12 years of education; between 1995 and 2006 there were a mixture of 11- and 12-year programs
- B Commercial, Industrial or Agricultural Secondary School Diploma: represents 11 years of education, awarded after passing a national examination
- C Industrial/Agricultural Technical Secondary School Diploma in Vocational Preparation: represents 11 years of education; considered equivalent to credential **B**
- D Teacher's Diploma; represents 11 years of education: introduced on an experimental basis in 1988-1989 to replace credential **J**
- E Al-Azhar Secondary Certificate: represents 12 years of education
- F Diploma of Advanced Technical Commercial / Industrial / Agricultural Studies: represents 13 years of education; prior to 1996 represented 14 years of education
- G Industrial Teacher Training School Diploma: represents 13 years of education
- H Diploma of Complementary Industrial Studies: two-year program serving as a transition to the technical track for those who have completed the coursework for credential **A**; considered equivalent to credential **B**
- I Teachers' Diploma: represented 14 years of education; phased out as of 1991-1992 and replaced by credential **D**

### Postsecondary

- J Technical Institute Diploma: two years, requires credential **A** or **B**
- K Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science: four years in most fields, requires credential **A** or **B**<sup>1,2</sup>
- L Licentiate or *Licence*: four years, requires credential **A** or **B**
- M Bachelor of Architecture, Bachelor of Engineering, Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science, Bachelor of Dental Medicine, Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine: five years, requires credential **A** or **B**
- N Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery: six years, requires credential **A** or **B**
- O General Diploma in Education: one year teacher-training program for lower- and upper-secondary school teachers, requires credential **K** or **L**

<sup>1</sup> The American University of Cairo offers 4- to 5.5-year bachelor degree programs

<sup>2</sup> Al-Azhar University requires credential E for admission; students with credential A or B may be admitted but must attend a preliminary year of religious studies

- P Diploma of Higher Studies, Postgraduate Diploma: one or two years of graduate study that does not require thesis, requires credential **K, L, M** or **O**<sup>3</sup>
- Q Master's Degree: two years of graduate study that does require thesis, requires credential **K, L, M** or **O**
- R Diploma of Specialization: one year of advanced medical study, requires credential **O**
- S Doctorate: two years (minimum) of research and dissertation, requires credential **Q**
- T Doctor of Science: five years (minimum) of post-doctorate research, requires credential **S**

## GRADING SCALES

### Secondary

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Translation</u>
90-100	Excellent
80-89	Very Good
65-79	Good
50-64	Pass
0-49	Fail

### Postsecondary

#### *Undergraduate Grading Scale:*

Most common

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Translation</u>
90-100	Excellent
80-89	Very Good
65-79	Good
50-64	Pass
35-49	Weak
0-34	Fail

#### *Undergraduate Grading Scale:*

Health sciences

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Translation</u>
85-100	Excellent
75-84	Very Good
65-74	Good
60-64	Pass
30-59	Weak
0-29	Fail

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<sup>3</sup> The American University of Cairo offers 1- to 1.5-year graduate diploma /postgraduate diploma programs

### *Undergraduate Grading Scale:*

Education, engineering, fine arts, technology, social services, urban planning, veterinary medicine

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Translation</u>
85-100	Excellent
75-84	Very Good
65-74	Good
50-64	Pass
30-49	Weak
0-29	Fail

### *Graduate Grading Scale*

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Translation</u>
90-100	Excellent
80-89	Very Good
70-79	Good
60-69	Pass
0-59	Fail

### *Credit-Hour Grading Scale*

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Graduate</u>	<u>Translation</u>
3.2 - 4.0	3.6 - 4.0	Excellent
2.4 - 3.19	2.7 - 3.59	Very Good
1.6 - 2.39	1.8 - 2.69	Good
1.0 - 1.59	1.0 - 1.79	Pass
0 - .99	0 - .99	Fail

## **POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY**

Supreme Council of Universities  
Cairo University Campus  
P.O. 12613  
Giza, Egypt  
Telephone: 20 2-3570-4158  
Email: scu@eun.eg

## **RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Print**

*African Higher Education*; Indiana University Press, 2003

*Education in the Arab World, Volume 1*; AMIDEAST, 1993.

*Egypt: A Comparative Study*, National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR – Australia), 1992.

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

*Guide to Higher Education in Africa, third edition*; Association of African Universities, 2004

*The New Country Index, Volume 2*; International Education Research Foundation (IERF), 2011

**On-line**

AACRAO EDGE – Electronic Database of Global Education: <http://aacraoedge.aacrao.org/>

Egyptian Universities Network website: <http://www.frcu.eun.eg/>

Supreme Council of Universities website: <http://www.scu.eun.eg/>

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