
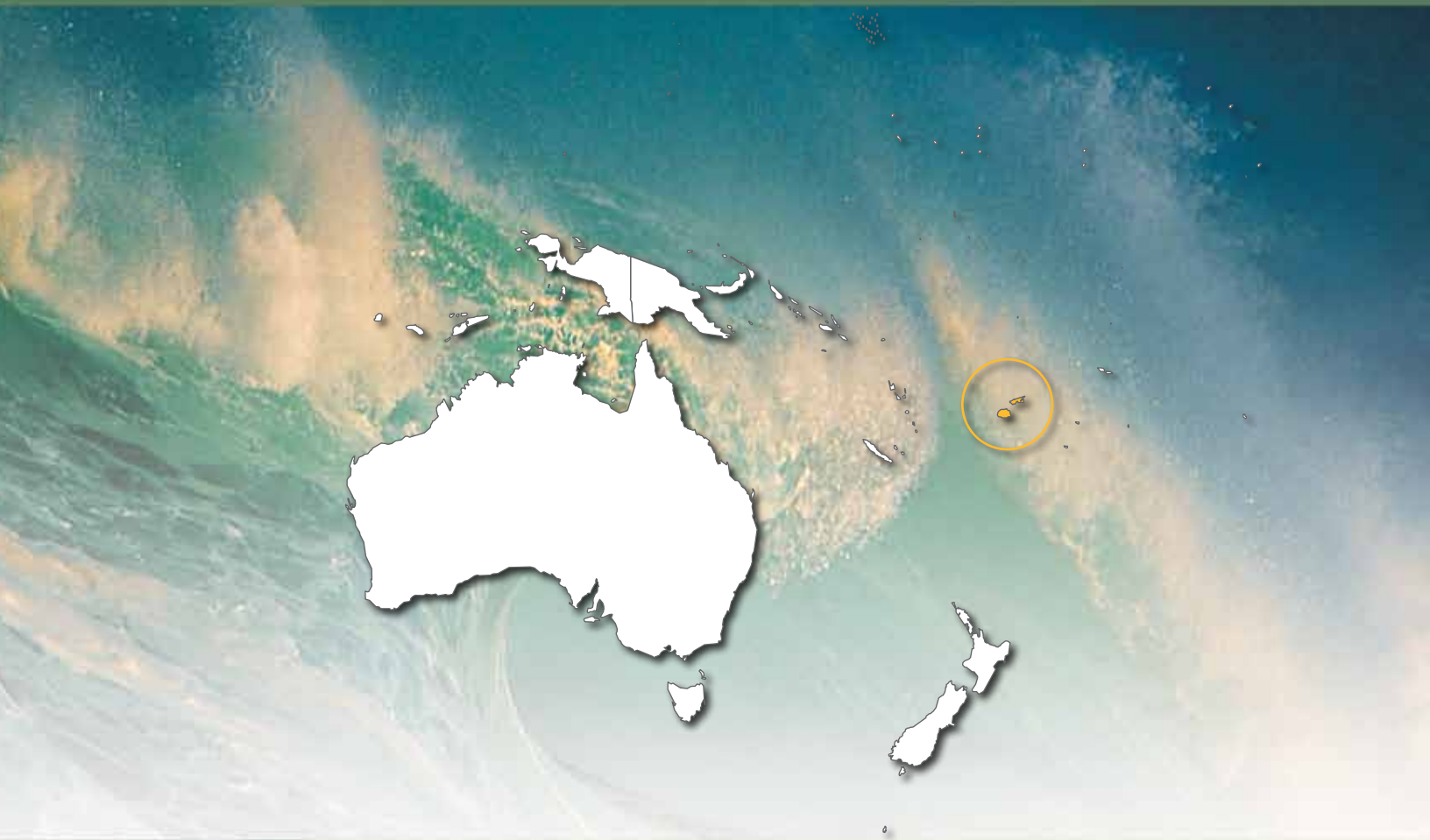


Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Fiji



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Kathleen T. Freeman
September 2011

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For more information about NAFSA, visit www.nafsa.org.

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

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.

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

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.

FIJI

YEARS OF EDUCATION →

1→6	7	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$							
		A		B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	X	Y	Z	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	i	i

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A Fiji Eighth Year Certificate
- B Fiji Junior Certificate: 2 years of study requiring credential **A** for admission
- C Fiji Vocational Training Certificate: until 1995 represented 2 years of study following grade 8; now represents 3 years of study requiring credential **A** for admission
- D Fiji School Leaving Certificate (formerly known as Fiji Form 6 Certificate): 2 years of study requiring credential **B** for admission
- E Fiji Seventh Form Certificate: 1 year of study requiring credential **D** for admission

Postsecondary

- F University of the South Pacific Certificate in Foundation Studies: 1 year of study requiring credential **D** for admission
- G University of Fiji Foundation Certificate: 1 year of study requiring credential **D** for admission
- H Certificate from the University of the South Pacific: .5 – 1 years of study requiring credential **F** for admission
- I Diploma in Physiotherapy from Fiji National University*: 1 year of study requiring credentials **E** or **G**
- J Diploma from the University of the South Pacific: 1 – 2 years of study requiring credential **E** for admission
- K Certificate from University of Fiji: 1 year of study requiring credentials **E** or **G** for admission
- L Higher Education Certificate from Fiji National University*: 1 year of study requiring credential **E** for admission
- M Diploma in Secondary Education from Fiji National University*: 2 years of study requiring credential **E** for admission
- N Diploma from University of Fiji: 2 years of study requiring credentials **E** or **G** for admission
- O Diploma in Pharmacy from Fiji National University*: 2 years of study requiring credential **E** for admission
- P Higher Education Diploma from Fiji National University*: 2 years of study requiring credential **E** for admission
- Q Diploma in Nursing from Fiji National University*: 2 years of study requiring credential **E** for admission
- R Bachelor of Education (Secondary) from Fiji National University*: 3 years of study requiring credential **E** for admission (first graduates expected in 2014)

- S Bachelor of Accounting / Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Commerce / Bachelor of Education / Bachelor of Engineering Technology / Bachelor of Laws (LLB) / Bachelor of Science from the University of Fiji: 3 years of study requiring credentials **E** or **G** for admission
- T Bachelor of Physiotherapy from Fiji National University*: 3 years of study requiring credentials **E** or **G** for admission or 2 years of study following credential **H**
- U Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Science / Bachelor of Commerce / Bachelor of Information Technology from the University of Fiji: 3 years of study requiring credentials **E** or **G**
- V Bachelor of Laws awarded by the University of Fiji: awarded after 3 years of study requiring credentials **E** or **G** (first awarded in 2011)
- W Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Agriculture / Bachelor of Science from the University of the South Pacific: 3 years of study requiring credential **E** for admission
- X Postgraduate Certificate from the University of the South Pacific: completion of 3 courses requiring credential **W** for admission
- Y Bachelor of Pharmacy from Fiji National University*: 4 years of study requiring credentials **E** or **F** for admission or 2 years of study following credential **O**
- Z Postgraduate Diploma from the University of the South Pacific: 1 year of study requiring credential **W** for admission
- a Postgraduate Diploma from the University of Fiji: 1 year of study requiring credential **S** for admission
- b Master of Arts / Master of Science / Master in Educational Leadership / Master of Teaching / Master of Business Administration (MBA) / Master of Commerce / Master of International Relations / Master of Mathematics from the University of Fiji: 1 - 3 years of study requiring credentials **S** or **a** for admission
- c Master of Agriculture / Master of Arts / Master of Business Administration / Master of Commerce / Master of Computing & Information Systems / Master of Education / Master of Information Systems / Master of Science from the University of the South Pacific: length of study varies among programs (2-3 courses plus a thesis, thesis only, coursework only) requiring credential **W** for admission
- d Master of Environmental Laws (MEL) / Master of Laws (LLM) / Master of Business Administration University of Fiji: 2 years of study requiring credential **S** for admission
- e Bachelor of Dental Surgery from Fiji National University: 5 years of study requiring credential **E** for admission
- f Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from the University of the South Pacific: 3-5 years of study plus dissertation requiring credentials **W** or **c** for admission
- g Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from the University of Fiji: 3 years of study requiring credential **b** for admission
- h Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from Fiji National University*: 6 years of study requiring credential **E** for admission
- i Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from the University of Fiji: 6 years of study requiring credentials **E, F, G, S,** or **b** for admission (program began in 2008; first diplomas will be awarded in 2014)

* Fiji National University was created in 2010 with the merger of Fiji Institute of Technology, Fiji College of Education, Lautoka Teachers College, Fiji School of Medicine, and the Fiji College of Agriculture. Therefore, credentials awarded prior to 2010 were awarded by these schools and not by Fiji National University

GRADING SCALES

Secondary

Seventh Form Examination

A	80 – 100%
B	65 – 79%
C	50 – 64%
F	0 – 49%

Postsecondary

80.00 – 100

65.00 – 79.99

50.00 – 64.99

0.00 – 49.99

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministry of Education

Marela House

Suva

FIJI

Phone: 011-679-331-4477

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Print

Carpenter, Kenneth D. *Pacific Islands: Niue, Tonga, Kiribati, Fiji, Papua New Guinea. A Country Guide Series Report from the AACRAO-AID Project.* Washington, DC: AACRAO, 1996.

On-line

Fiji Ministry of Education: <http://www.education.gov.fj/>

Fiji National University: <http://www.fnu.ac.fj/>

Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA) – member countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Australia, and New Zealand. <http://www.spbea.org.fj/>

The University of Fiji: <http://www.unifiji.ac.fj/>

University of the South Pacific: <http://www.usp.ac.fj/>

Submitted by
Kathleen T. Freeman
International Consultants of Delaware
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