

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—France



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by
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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. The omission of an advice section follows the original publication's goal of following the now current methodology for credential evaluation from the National Council on the Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials.

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

	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½
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.

FRANCE (including the overseas departments and territories of Clipperton Island, Corse (Corsica), French Guiana, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Miquelon, Wallis and Fortuna, New Caledonia, Reunion, St. Barthelemy, Saint Martin, and Saint Pierre)

All education in these overseas departments and territories of France is under the jurisdiction of the French Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale. As such, all educational institutions and all external examinations, such as the *Baccalauréat*, are administered by the Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, de la Recherche et de la Technologie.

YEARS OF EDUCATION

1→6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			A		D	E	G	J	P	S	U	Y	h	j	k			
			B			F	H	K	Q	T	V	Z	i					
			C			I		L	R		W	a						
								M				b						
								N				c						
								O				d						
												e						
												f						
												g						
												h						

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A *Brevet des Collèges* (Certificate of Lower Secondary School): represents completion of 9 years of primary and lower secondary education (**last awarded in 2004**)
- B *Diplôme Nationale du Brevet/DNB* (National Certificate Diploma): represents completion of 9 years of primary and lower secondary education (**awarded 1987-2004**)
- C *Brevet d'Études Fondamentales* (Certificate of Basic Studies): represents completion of completion of 4 years of lower secondary school; leads to upper secondary school credentials **E, F, G, H (first awarded in 2005)**
- D *Brevet d'Enseignement Professionnel/BEP* (Certificate of Professional Training), or *Certificat d'Aptitude Professionnelle/CAP* (Certificate of Professional Ability): represents 2 years of vocational education based on credential **C**; leads to credentials **C, F**
- E *Brevet de Technicien* (Technician Certificate): 3-year vocational/technical program based on credential **C**; gives access to post-secondary technical programs
- F *Baccalauréat Général* (General Baccalaureate), or *Baccalauréat Technologique* (Technical Baccalaureate): 3-year upper secondary program based on credential **C**; gives access to university and other post-secondary programs
- G *Baccalauréat Professionnel* (Professional Baccalaureate): 2-year vocational program based on credential **C**; gives access to credential **J**
- H *Brevet Professionnel* (Professional Certificate), or *Brevet Professionnel Agricole* (Professional Agricultural Certificate): 2-year vocational program based on credential **C**; does not give access to post-secondary programs
- I *Diplôme d'Accès aux Études Universitaires/DAEU* (Diploma of Access to University Studies): diploma based on an examination taken by students who have not passed the *baccalauréat* or other upper secondary examination; gives access to university studies

Postsecondary

- J *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur/BTS* (Higher Technician Certificate) or *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur Agricole* (Higher Agricultural Technician Certificate): 2-year post-secondary technical program based on credentials **C, F**
- K *Certificat de Fin d'Études Normales/CFEN* (Certificate of Completion of Teacher Training Studies): 2-year program for primary school teachers based on credential **F (last awarded in 1986)**
- L *Classe Préparatoire aux Grandes Écoles/CPGE* (Preparatory Program for Higher Schools of Professional Education): 2-year program to prepare students for admission to elite higher schools based on credential **F**; no diploma is awarded
- M *Diplôme d'Études Universitaires Générales/DEUG* (Diploma of General University Studies); 2-year first cycle university program based on credential **F**
- N *Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie/DUT* (University Diploma of Technology): 2-year first cycle technical university diploma based on credential **F**
- O *Diplôme d'Études Universitaires Scientifiques et Technologiques/DEUST* (Diploma of Scientific and Technological University Studies): 2-year first cycle university program based on credential **F** or a 1-year program after the 1st year of credential **M**
- P *Licence* (Licentiate): 3-year first cycle university program based on credential **F**, or a 1-year second cycle university program based on credentials **L, M, N, O**
- Q *Licence Professionnelle* (Professional Licentiate): 1-year second cycle university program based on credentials **J, L, M, N, O**
- R *Diplôme d'État d'Infirmier* (State Nurse Diploma): 3-year first cycle university program based on credential **F**
- S *Maîtrise* (Master) or *Maîtrise de Sciences et Techniques/MST* (Master of Sciences and Techniques): 1-year second cycle university based on credential **P**
- T *Master* (Master): 1-year second cycle university program based on credential **P**
- U *Magistère* (Master): 3-year second cycle university program based on credentials **L, M, N, O (first awarded in 1988)**
- V *Diplôme d'Ingénieur* (Diploma of Engineer): 3-year second cycle university program based on credentials **J, L, M, N**
- W *Diplôme de Grande École* (Diploma of Higher School of Professional Education): 3-year university program based on credentials **J, L, N**; 5-year program based on credential **F**
- Y *Certificat d'Aptitude au Professorat de l'Enseignement Secondaire/CAPES* (Certificate of Ability for Secondary School Teaching): 2-year second cycle university program based on credential **P**
- Z *Diplôme d'Études Supérieures Spécialisées /DESS* (Diploma of Higher Specialized Studies): 18-month third cycle program based on credential **S**; will be phased out as the L-M-D diploma scheme is fully implemented
- a *Diplôme d'Études Approfondies/DEA* (Diploma of Advanced Studies): 1 to 2-year third cycle program based on credentials **S** and **T**
- b *Diplôme de Recherche Technologique/DRT* (Diploma Technological Research): 18-month program based on credential **S**
- c *Master Spécialisé* (Specialized Master): 1-year program based on credential **V**
- d *Diplôme d'Études Fondamentales Vétérinaires* (Diploma of Basic Veterinary Studies): 4-year university program following first year of credential **L**
- f *Diplôme d'État de Docteur en Pharmacie* (State Diploma of Doctor of Pharmacy): 6-year professional program following credential **F**
- g *Diplôme d'État de Docteur en Chirurgie-Dentaire* (State Diploma of Doctor of Dental Surgery): 6-year professional program following credential **F**

- h *Diplôme d'État de Docteur en Médecine* (State Diploma of Doctor of Medicine): 6-year professional program following credential **F**
- i *Docteur* (Doctor): 3-4 year third cycle program based on credential **T**
- j *Diplôme d'Études Spécialisées Vétérinaires* (Diploma of Specialized Veterinary Studies): 3- year program following credential **W**
- k *Doctorat* (Doctorate): 3-4 year program based on credentials **a** and **c**

GRADING SCALE

Secondary and Postsecondary

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Translation</u>
16-20	<i>Très Bien</i>	Very Good
14-15	<i>Bien</i>	Good
12-13	<i>Assez Bien</i>	Good Enough
10-11	<i>Passable</i>	Passing
0-9	<i>Ajourné</i>	Fail

Students must have an overall average (*moyenne générale*) of 10 or above to pass a complete academic year. Grades of 8 or 9 on individual courses may be considered passing if the overall average is 10 or above.

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, de la Recherche et de la Technologie:

www.education.gov.fr

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Assefa, A. Mariam. *France: A Study of the Educational System of France and a Guide to the Academic Placement of Students in Educational Institutions in the United States*. Washington, DC: AACRAO, 1988.

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

Trayte Freeman, Kathleen and Linda Jahn. *The Educational System of France*. Washington, DC: AACRAO, 2007.

www.education.fr (general information on education in France)

www.onisep.fr (general information on education in France)

www.recherche-gouv.fr/doctorat.htm (doctoral studies in France)

www.cefi.org (engineering education in France)

www.amue.fr/Dossier/LMD (information on the new L-M-D structure)

www.education.gouv.fr/pid10/enseignement-superieur-et-recherche.html (higher education in France)

www.iufm.fr (teacher training)

www.educagri.fr (agriculture education)

www.eurydice.org (European Union Web site on education)

www.cge.ass.fr (information on grandes ecoles)

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