

Online Guide to

# Educational Systems



Around the World—Guatemala



**NAFSA**

Association of  
International Educators

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September 2008

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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. 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](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.

# GUATEMALA

## 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	E	G	G	G	H	K	K	M	M	M	O	O	O	
					F	H	H	H	J	L	L							
							I	I	K	M	M	O	O	O				
								J	L	N	N							
								K	M	O	O	O						

## CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

### Secondary

- A *Diploma de Educación Primaria* (Diploma of Elementary Education): Signifies completion of the six-year primary education cycle
- B *Auxiliar de Enfermería* (Nursing Aide)
- C *Diploma de Educación Media* (Diploma of General Basic Education): Signifies completion of lower secondary education (three years of schooling)
- D *Bachiller en Ciencias y Letras* (High School Graduate in Science and Letters): Signifies completion of academic upper secondary education
- E *Perito en \_\_\_* (Expert in \_\_\_); *Secretario en \_\_\_* (Secretary in \_\_\_): Signifies completion of upper secondary vocational or technical studies
- F *Maestro en Educación Preprimaria* (Teacher of Pre-Primary Education); *Maestro de Educación Primaria Urbana* (Teacher of Urban Primary Education)

### Postsecondary

- G Title of *Técnico* (Technician): two- to three and one-half-year programs; admission based on credential **D,E,** or **F**
- H Title of *Profesor* (Teacher): two-to four-year programs; admission based on credential **D,E,** or **F**
- I Title of *Enfermera* (Nurse): three-year program; admission based on credential **D,E,** or **F**
- J *Bacalaureatus* (Baccalaureate): three and one-half to four-year programs; admission based on credential **D,E,** or **F**
- K Title of *Licenciado* (Licentiate): four- to six-year programs; admission based on credential **D,E,** or **F**
- L Title of *Abogado* (Lawyer), *Arquitecto* (Architect), or *Ingeniero* (Engineer): five- to six-year programs; admission based on credential **D,E,** or **F**
- M *Maestría, Magister* (Master): one to three years of study beyond credential **K** or **L**
- N Title of *Cirujano Dentista* (Dental Surgeon) and *Médico y Cirujano* (Physician and Surgeon): six years of study; admission based on credential **D** or **E**
- O *Doctor, Doctorado* (Ph.D.): three years of study beyond credential **M**

## GRADING SCALE

### Secondary:

The grade scale is based on 0 to 100. A percentage system is used, with 51% being the minimum pass in government schools, and 61% being the minimum pass in private schools.

### Higher Education:

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Translation</u>
90-100	<i>Excelente</i>	Excellent
80-89	<i>Muy Bueno</i>	Very Good
70-79	<i>Bueno</i>	Good
60-69	<i>Aceptable</i>	Acceptable
51-59	<i>Mínimo Aceptable</i>	Barely Acceptable
0-50	<i>Reprobado</i>	Failed

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Translation</u>
90-100	<i>Excelente</i>	Excellent
80-89	<i>Muy Bueno</i>	Very Good
70-79	<i>Bueno</i>	Good
61-69	<i>Mínimo Aceptable</i>	Barely Acceptable
0-60	<i>Reprobado</i>	Failed

## POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministerio de Educación, Despacho Palacio Nacional 3er Nivel, Guatemala C.A.

<http://www.mineduc.gob.gt/>

## RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Aldrich-Langen, Caroline and Kathleen Sellew, eds. 1987: *The Admission and Placement of Students from Central America: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama*. Annapolis Junction, MD: PIER

Marcus, Jane E. 1996: *Central America Update*. Special Report 1996, Annapolis Junction, MD: PIER

National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition, 1993: *Country Education Profiles: Guatemala*. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service

Internet Source:

UNESCO-World Academic Database:

[http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=40294&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=40294&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

Educational System Links

International Association of Universities:

<http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/list.html>

#### Links to Universities

Gobierno de Guatemala:

<http://www.guatemala.gob.gt/index.php/cms/instituciones>

Universidades de Guatemala:

<http://www.icetex.gov.co/BancoConocimiento/U/Universidades/guatemala.htm>

Braintrack University Index:

<http://www.braintrack.com/linknav.htm?pprevid=19&level=3>

#### Links to other Useful Information:

Instituto Guatemalteco Americano (IGA): [www.iga.edu](http://www.iga.edu)

Open Directory Project:

<http://www.dmoz.org/World/Espa%b1ol/Regional/Am%a9rica/Guatemala/Educaci%b3n/>

Organización de Estados Interamericanos:

<http://www.oei.es/cultura/pdf/Guatemala.pdf>

Universia:

<http://www1.universia.net/catalogaxi/C10032PPMXII1/S10159/>

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