

Online Guide to

# Educational Systems



Around the World—India



**NAFSA**

Association of  
International Educators

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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

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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.

# INDIA

## YEARS OF EDUCATION →

1→4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	17½	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	A		B			C		D	E		F	G	I		H	I	K	R	R	R	R
								E				L	L			J		Q			
												M	M			K					
													N			N					
													O			P					

## CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

### Secondary

- A** *Elementary (Primary) School*: represents completion of 4 years of primary education.
- B** *Higher Primary (Middle) School*: represents completion of 7 years of primary and Higher Primary education.
- C** *High School /Secondary School Leaving Certificate*: represents completion of 10 years of primary, middle and high school education; leads to Higher Secondary or Pre University or Intermediate school credentials **D**, **E**.
- D** *Higher Secondary/Senior Secondary/Pre University or Intermediate*: represents 2 years of Senior Secondary education based on credential **C**; leads to credentials **E**, **F**. Gives access to undergraduate education or technical education (polytechnic/diplomas) leading to vocational certificates.
- E** *Diploma from Polytechnic*: represents 2 to 3 years of post high school education based on credential **C** or **D**; leads to vocational diploma and employment, and further education.

### Postsecondary

- F** *Bachelor's Degree*: 3 year undergraduate degree program – also known as graduate degree in India (Bachelor of Science – B Sc, Bachelor of Arts - BA, Bachelor of Commerce – B Com, Bachelor of Business Administration - BBA, Bachelor of Computer Application – BCA etc.) based on credential **D**; gives access to Post Bachelor degrees at the university level.
- G** *Bachelor's Degree*: 4 year undergraduate degree program – also known as graduate degree in India (Bachelor of Engineering, Bachelor of Nursing, Bachelor of Pharmacy, Bachelor of Dentistry etc.) based on credential **D**; gives access to Post Bachelor degrees at the university level. The first year of a 4 year bachelor degree may be waived based on credential **E**.
- H** *Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery- M.B.B.S. (Professional Baccalaureate)*: 5 ½ years of program (including one year of internship) based on credential **D**; this first professional degree in the field of medicine gives access to Doctor of Medicine and Post Graduate Certificate programs in Medicine.
- I** *Master's Degree*: 2 year post bachelor's degree program – also known as post graduate degree in India based on credential **F** and **G**; gives access to Master of Philosophy (M. Phil) and Doctor of Philosophy (D. Phil) degrees.
- J** *Masters of Computer Applications (MCSA)* is three years in duration, Based on credential **F** and **G**.

- K** *Master of Philosophy (M. Phil)*: 1 year graduate level program based on credential **I**; gives access to Doctor of Philosophy (D. Phil) degree.
- L** *Post Graduate Diploma*: 1-2 years of graduate level program based on credential **F or G**; gives access to Master's program of studies. Often used to satisfy the 12 + 4 requirement to be eligible for a Master degree at US Institutions based on credential **F**.
- M** *Bachelor of Education – (B. Ed)*: 1-year post Bachelor's degree leading to certificate in Teaching based on credential **F or G**; giving access to Master of Education degree.
- N** *Master of Education (M. Ed)*: 1-year university program based on credential **M**; gives access to Master of Philosophy (M. Phil) or Doctor of Philosophy (D. Phil).
- O** *Bachelor of Architecture (B. Arch)*: 5 year undergraduate program of study leading to Bachelor's degree based on credential **D**; gives access to Master's degree.
- P** *Bachelor of Laws*: 3 year post Bachelor program of study leading to first professional degree in Laws based on credential **F or G**; gives access to Master's degree.
- Q** *Master of Laws*: 2 to 3 years of graduate level program leading to Master's degree in Laws based on credential **P**.
- R** *Doctor of Philosophy*: 3 to 5 years of research leading to Thesis or Dissertation in a specific field of study based on credential **H, I, K, M, N or O**.

## GRADING SCALE

### Secondary and Postsecondary

<u>Marks</u>	<u>Description</u>
70 – 100%	<i>Distinction</i>
60 – 69%	<i>First Class/Division</i>
51 – 59%	<i>Second Class/Division</i>
35 – 50%	<i>Pass</i>
0 – 34%	<i>Fail</i>

Grading scale differ by type of program and institutions in India. The grading scales range from A to F and 10 points to 0 points. Some institutions use the 4.0 grading scale common to the U.S. The minimum passing grades may also vary by institution and type of programs. The applicable grading scales are usually found on the bottom or the reverse of the mark sheets.

### Key Degree-Granting Indian Institutions

**Deemed Universities:** status of autonomy granted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development based on the recommendations of the Universities Grants Commission (UGC) to high performing institutes.

#### Universities

- ◆ Central Universities - Funding from the Central Government (Examples: Aligarh Muslim University, Jawaharlal Nehru University)
- ◆ State Universities - Funding from the state government and or UGC (Example: Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, University of Calcutta)

- ◆ Independent University level specialized institutions funded by the central government (Example: Indian Institute of Technology)
- ◆ Open Universities - Central and State operated universities offering distance education (Examples: Indira Gandhi National Open University, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University)
- ◆ Specialist Universities offering education in specialized fields of study (Examples: Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Gandhigram Rural University)

### Accreditation & Recognition of Indian Institutions of Higher Education

- ◆ **University Grant Commission (UGC)** – controls and monitors all universities and assist them to get funding support from MHRD as well as provides accreditation.
- ◆ **All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE)** – controls and monitors technical institutions and provide accreditation.
- ◆ **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)**- autonomous body established by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India to assess and accredit institutions of higher education in the country.
- ◆ **National Board of Accreditation (NBA)**- autonomous body constituted by the AICTE to periodically conduct evaluation of technical institutions or programs.

### Indian Education: Important Web Sites

1. Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) - [www.education.nic.in](http://www.education.nic.in)
2. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) - [www.cbse.nic.in](http://www.cbse.nic.in)
3. Council of Indian School Certificate Examination - [www.cisce.org](http://www.cisce.org)
4. National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) - [www.nos.org](http://www.nos.org)
5. State Boards of School Education - [www.education.nic.in/boards.asp](http://www.education.nic.in/boards.asp)
6. National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) - [www.ncert.nic.in](http://www.ncert.nic.in)
7. University Grants Commission (UGC) - [www.ugc.ac.in](http://www.ugc.ac.in)
8. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)- [www.naac-india.com](http://www.naac-india.com)
9. Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) - [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in)
10. Distance Education Council (DEC) - [www.dec.ac.in](http://www.dec.ac.in)
11. Association of Indian Universities (AIU) - [www.aiuweb.org](http://www.aiuweb.org)
12. All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) - [www.aicte.ernet.in](http://www.aicte.ernet.in)
13. National Board of Accreditation (NBA) - [www.nba-aicte.ernet.in](http://www.nba-aicte.ernet.in)
14. Ministry of Law and Justice - [www.lawmin.nic.in](http://www.lawmin.nic.in)
15. Bar Council of India (BCI) - <http://barcouncilofindia.nic.in>
16. Medical Council of India (MCI) - [www.mciindia.org](http://www.mciindia.org)
17. Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) - [www.rehabcouncil.nic.in](http://www.rehabcouncil.nic.in)
18. Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) - [www.pci.nic.in](http://www.pci.nic.in)
19. Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) - [www.icar.org.in](http://www.icar.org.in)
20. Indian Nursing Council (INC) - [www.indiannursingcouncil.org](http://www.indiannursingcouncil.org)
21. Dental Council of India (DCI) - [www.dciindia.org/](http://www.dciindia.org/)
22. Central Council of Homeopathy (CCH) - [www.cchindia.com](http://www.cchindia.com)

23. National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) - [www.ncte-in.org](http://www.ncte-in.org)
24. Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) - [www.ccimindia.org](http://www.ccimindia.org)
25. Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) - [www.icssr.org](http://www.icssr.org)
26. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - [www.icmr.nic.in](http://www.icmr.nic.in)
27. Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) - [www.icsi.edu](http://www.icsi.edu)
28. Institute of Costs and Works Accountants of India (ICWAI) - [www.mycwai.com](http://www.mycwai.com)
29. Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) - [www.icai.org](http://www.icai.org)

## RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Print:

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

*Foreign Educational Credentials Required*, AACRAO, 2003

Kallur, Ravi. India: *EDGE Profile* : AACRAO, 2006

Kallur, Ravi and Leo Sweeney: *World Education Series PIER India Special Report*. Washington, DC: AACRAO/NAFSA , 1996

Sweeney, Leo and Valerie Woolston: *The Admission and Academic Placement of Students from South Asia: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, A Workshop Project Report*, AACRAO/NAFSA Washington DC, 1986

### Internet:

Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination - [www.cisce.org](http://www.cisce.org)

Central Board of Secondary Education - [www.cbseindia.org](http://www.cbseindia.org)

Government of India, Department of Education - <http://education.nic.in>

United States-India Educational Foundation - <http://www.usief.org.in/>

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