

Online Guide to

# Educational Systems



Around the World—Iran



**NAFSA**

Association of  
International Educators

Submitted by Jasmin Saidi  
February 2009

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# Instructions for Using the *Online Guide to Educational Systems Around the World*

Susan Whipple, Editor

December 2008

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.

# IRAN

## 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	D	E	E					I→	I→							
																								F	H													
																								G														

## CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

### Secondary

- A** *Diplome* (Diploma) also known as Certificate of Completion of Secondary Study: awarded upon completion of 11 years of education (five years or primary school, three years of lower secondary (junior high) and two years of higher secondary (senior high)); holders of the *Diplome* cannot continue studies at the university level but may seek employment.
- B** Pre-University Year, National Entrance Examination (*Concours*), and personal interview to ensure that moral-ethical and religious standards are met; leads to postsecondary education.

### Postsecondary

- C** *Kardani* (Higher Diploma), formerly known as *Foghé Diplome*; awarded by some universities, higher education institutions and technical institutions upon completion of a minimum of two years of education and 70-74 credits.
- D** *Karshenasi* (Formerly known as *Licence*, usually translated as Bachelor's degree): prior to 1964, it was awarded after three years of stud; since 1964 it requires a minimum of four years of education and 140-148 credits; architecture requires five years of education
- E** *Karshenasi-arshad-napeyvasteh* (formerly known as *Foghé Licence*, usually translated as Master's degree); awarded upon completion of two years of study (32-36 units) by coursework and some research.
- F** Doctor of Dentistry: six-year professional degree
- G** Doctor of Veterinary Medicine: six-year professional degree
- H** Doctor of Medicine: seven-year professional degree
- I** *Doctora* (Doctorate): minimum of three years, maximum of six, following credential **E**; requires completion of 60 units and a thesis.

## GRADING SCALE

### Secondary

#### Numeric

17-20

15-16

12-14	
10-11	Minimum passing grade is 10
0-9	Failure

Total year average is calculated by adding the sum of the first term of study, the sum of the second term, and the sum of the third term June Examination grades, multiplying by two, and dividing the total by four.

### **Postsecondary Education**

The 20 point scale (with 10 as minimum passing grade) used by secondary schools is also used by some postsecondary institutions. Other postsecondary institutions use a 20-point scale with 13 as minimum passing:

#### 20-point scale with 13 as minimum passing

18-20	
15-17.9	
13-14.9	
Below 13	Failure

### **POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY**

Ministry of Culture and Higher Education: Africa Ave, Golpham Street #1, Tehran, Iran  
Tel: 9821 204-3600; Fax: 9821 205-0338.

### **RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Department of Statistics and Information, Ministry of Culture and Higher Education:  
Africa Ave, Golpham Street #1, Tehran, Iran  
Tel: 9821 204-3600.  
Fax: 9821 205-0338

UNESCO – World Academic Database: [www.unesco.org/iau/educir.html](http://www.unesco.org/iau/educir.html)

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February 2009

Editor's note: there have been no changes to the education system of Iran since publication of *A Guide to Educational Systems Around the World*, 1999, NAFSA: Association of International Educators, Washington, D.C.