

Online Guide to

# Educational Systems



Around the World—Italy



**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.

# ITALY

## 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	E	E	K	K	K	K	K	M2	X	Z→			
		A1			C	F	F		L	L	M1	M1	T	Y→				
					D		G		M	M	T	T	X	Y1				
							H		N	Q	U		Y1					
							I		O	R	V							
							J		P	S	W							
							J1											
							K											

## CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

### Secondary

#### First Stage

- A *Diploma di Licenza della Scuola Media* (Diploma of Graduation from Middle School): awarded by a *scuola media* (middle school); phased out in 2004; completion of eight years of compulsory education
- A1 *Diploma di Secondaria di 1 Grado* (Secondary School Level 1 Diploma): replaced credential A; awarded upon passing of National State Examination; represents completion of eight years of compulsory education, five years of primary education plus three years of lower secondary education

#### Second Stage

- B *Diploma di Qualifica Professionale* (Diploma of Vocational Qualification): awarded by an *istituto professionale* (vocational institute); requires credential **A** or **A1**; holders of this diploma are not eligible for admission to postsecondary programs on the basis of this credential alone
- C *Diploma di Abilitazione all'Insegnamento nelle Scuole del Grado Preparatorio* (Diploma of Qualification to Teach in Preparatory-Level Schools): awarded by a *scuola magistrate* (teacher training school); requires credential **A** or **A1**; holders of this diploma are not eligible for admission to postsecondary programs on the basis of this credential alone
- D *Diploma di Maestro d'Arte* (Diploma of Master of Art): awarded by an *istituto d'arte* (institute of art); requires credential **A** or **A1**; holders of this diploma are eligible for admission to *accademie di belle arti* (academies of fine arts)
- E *Diploma di Maturita Magistrate* (Teacher Training Maturity Diploma): awarded by an *istituto magistrate* (teacher training institute); requires credential **A** or **A1**; holders of this diploma are eligible for admission to university faculties of education and languages
- F *Diploma di Maturita Artistica* (Diploma of Artistic Maturity): awarded by a *liceo artistico* (artistic lyceum); requires credential **A** or **A1**; holders of this diploma are eligible for admission to *accademie di belle arti* (academies of fine arts) and university faculties of architecture

- G *Diploma di Licenza Linguistica* (Linguistic Graduation Diploma): awarded by a *liceo linguistico* (linguistic lyceum); requires credential **A** or **A1**; holders of this diploma are eligible for admission to *università* (university) and other postsecondary programs
- H *Diploma di Maturità* (Diploma of Maturity) from the following streams: *Arte Applicata* (Applied Arts), awarded by an *istituto d'arte* (institute of art); *Classico* (Classical), awarded by a *liceo classico* (classical lyceum); *Musicale* (Musical), awarded by a *conservatorio di musica* (music conservatory); *Professionale* (Vocational), awarded by an *istituto professionale* (vocational institute); *Scientifico* (Scientific), awarded by a *liceo scientifico* (scientific lyceum); and *Técnico* (*Technical*): awarded by an *istituto tecnico* (technical institute); requires credential **A** or **A1**; holders of these diplomas are eligible for admission to *università* (university) and other postsecondary programs
- I *Attestato di Idoneità* (Affidavit of Equivalence): awarded to holders of secondary credential **E** and **F** who successfully complete a *corso integrativo* (integrative program); leads to admission to all faculties at universities and other postsecondary institutions
- J *Diploma di Infermiere Professionale* (Diploma of Professional Nurse): this qualification was phased out in 1997 ; awarded upon passing of state examination; required credential **A**
- J1 *Diploma Universitario* (University Diploma) program in *Scienze Infermieristiche* (Nursing Sciences); replaced credential **J**; requires credential **A** or **A1**
- K *Diploma di Conservatorio* (Music College Diploma): program of varying length; requires credential **A** or **A1**

## Postsecondary

- L *Diploma Universitario* (University Diploma) [referred to colloquially as *Laurea Breve* (Short Degree)]: awarded by a *università degli studi* (university), *politecnico* (polytechnic), or *istituto universitario* (university institute); requires credential **G**, **H**, or **I** for admission
- M *Diploma* (Diploma) awarded by a *scuola diretta a fini speciali* (school for special purposes) attached to a *università degli studi* (university), *politécnic* (polytechnic), or *istituto universitario* (university institute): requires credential **G**, **H**, or **I** for admission
- M1 *Diploma di Laurea* (Laureate Diploma): awarded by a *università degli studi* (university); requires credential **G**, **H**, or **I** for admission
- M2 *Diploma di Laurea* (Laureate Diploma in Medicine and Surgery): awarded by a *università degli studi* (university); requires credential **G**, **H**, or **I** for admission
- N *Diploma di Ostetrica* (Diploma of Midwife): awarded by a *università degli studi* (university); requires credential **J** or completion of two to three years of university level study in medicine for admission
- O *Diploma di Infermiera Volontaria* (Diploma of Volunteer Nurse): awarded by the *Croce Rossa Italiani* (Italian Red Cross); requires credential **E**, **F**, **G**, or **H** for admission; this diploma has no legal value, and its holders may only work as volunteers
- P *Diploma di Traduttore Interprete Corrispondente in Lingue Estere* (Diploma of Translator, Interpreter, and Correspondent in Foreign Languages): awarded by a *scuola superiore per interpreti e traduttori* (higher school for interpreters and translators); requires credential **G**, **H** or **I** for admission

- Q *Diploma di Educazione Fisica* (Diploma of Physical Education): awarded by an *istituto superiore di educazione fisica* (higher institute of physical education); requires credential **G, H, or I** for admission
- R *Diploma Superiore* (Higher Diploma) in the following specializations: *Interprete di Trattativa* (Interpreter of Negotiations), *Traduttore* (Translator), and *Traduttore e Interprete* (Translator and Interpreter): awarded by a *scuola superiore per interpreti e traduttori* (higher school for interpreters and translators); requires credential **G, H, or I** for admission
- S *Diploma in Scienze Religiose* (Diploma in Religious Sciences): awarded by an *istituto superiore di scienze religiose* (higher institute of religious sciences); requires credential **G, H, or I** for admission
- T *Laurea di Dottore* (Degree of Doctor): awarded by a *università degli studi* (university), *politecnico* (polytechnic), or *istituto universitario* (university institute); requires credential **G, H, or I** for admission; programs in medicine require six years of study; programs in all other fields require four or five years of study
- U *Magistero in Scienze Religiose* (Teaching Degree in Religious Sciences): awarded by an *istituto superiore di scienze religiose* (higher institute of religious sciences); requires credential **G, H, or I** for admission
- V *Diploma di Licenza* (Graduation Diploma): awarded by an *accademia di belle arti* (academy of fine arts); requires credential **D, F, G, H, or I** for admission
- W *Diploma* (Diploma) awarded by an *istituto superiore di Industrie artistiche* (higher institute of artistic industries); requires credential **F, G, H, or I** for admission
- X Master's degree: awarded by a *università degli studi* (university), *politecnico* (polytechnic), or *istituto universitario* (university institute); one- to two-year programs usually requiring credential **R** for admission
- Y *Diploma di Specialista* (Diploma of Specialist): awarded by a *scuola di specializzazione* (school of specialization) attached to a *università degli studi* (university), *politecnico* (polytechnic), or *istituto universitario* (university institute); programs are two to five years in length and require credential **R** for admission
- Y1 *Laurea di Specialista* (Specialist Laureate): awarded two years after the *Laurea*; requires credential **M1, M2 or R** for admission
- Z *Dottorato di Ricerca* (Research Doctorate): awarded by a *università degli studi* (university), *politecnico* (polytechnic), or *istituto universitario* (university institute); programs are three to four years in length and require credential **R** for admission
- \* *Attestato di Corso di Perfezionamento* (Affidavit of Improvement Course): in some circumstances it may be qualified as post-lauream; admission requirements fall below the *Laurea*; up to one year of study

## Notes

On June 19, 1999, the Bologna Process was created to reform the higher education system of European countries in order to make it more transferable, compatible, and high quality. Ministers of higher education from 29 European countries signed the declaration to form the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). The higher educational system under the Bologna Process consists of three cycles:

- The first cycle or *primo ciclo* awards the Bachelor's diploma; it requires 180–240 ECTS credits.
- The second cycle or *secondo ciclo* awards the Master's diploma; it requires 90–120 ECTS credits.

- The third cycle or *terzo ciclo* awards the Doctorate; the length of program varies.

## GRADING SCALE

### Secondary

<u>Numeric:</u> <u>Course Work</u>	<u>Numeric:</u> <u>Maturity Exam</u>	<u>Description</u>
10	60	Denotes perfection; never, or almost never, awarded
9	54-59	Consistently excellent performance; capable of analysis and synthesis; rarely awarded
8	48-53	Good performance
7	42-47	Fairly good performance
6	36-41	Satisfactory performance
1-5	0-35	Unsatisfactory performance

### Postsecondary

<u>Numeric:</u> <u>Course Work</u>	<u>Numeric:</u> <u>Degree Exam</u>	<u>Description</u>
27-30	99-110	Excellent
21-26	77-98	Good
18-20	66-76	Satisfactory performance
0-17	0-65	Unsatisfactory performance

- The designation *laurea* (with honors) may be added to a perfect score (grades of 30 with 18 as minimum passing grade on course work and 110 on degree examinations with 66 as minimum passing grade) to recognize exceptional achievement.

- Specialist diploma grade scale: 0-70, 42 as passing minimum.

Other grading scales are multiples of the following basic ten-point scale:

Numeric

<u>Numeric</u>	<u>Description</u>
9-10	Excellent
7-8	Good
6	Satisfactory
1-5	Unsatisfactory

## SECONDARY AND POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione (Ministry of Public Education).

Viale Trastevere, 76/A - Rome 00153, Italy - Tel: 06 5849.1

[www.istruzione.it/](http://www.istruzione.it/)

Ministero delle Universita e della Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica/MURST (Ministry of Universities and of Scientific and Technological Research). Lungotevere Thaon de Revel 76, Rome 00194, Italy. Tel: 06 32681. Fax: 06 32689228. <http://www.murst.it>

## RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Published Sources

Alatri, Roberto, ed. 1994. *The Italian Higher Education System and Its Qualifications*. Rome, Italy: CIMEA della Fondazione Rui. Ministero delle Universita e della Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica.

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Visalberghi, A. 1995. "Italy." In *International Encyclopedia of National Systems of Education*, 2nd ed. Postlethwaite, T. Neville, ed. Tarrytown, NY: Elsevier Science, Inc.

Zanetti, Kristin M. 1996. ECE Presents: *The Educational System of Italy*. Milwaukee: Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.

International Education Research Foundation. 2004. *The New Country Index. Volume 1: Making Sense of International Credentials: Italy*. Ten Speed Press Canada.

### Internet Sources

UNESCO-World Academic Database: <http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/>

Eurydice-The Information Database on Education Systems in Europe: [www.eurydice.org/](http://www.eurydice.org/)

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