

Online Guide to

# Educational Systems



Around the World—Kuwait



**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.

# KUWAIT

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## 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	D	C		D	G		I	K		J													
												B							E	H	H														L			
													F																									

## CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

### SECONDARY

- A General Secondary School Leaving Certificate (Shahadat Al-Thanawiya-Al-A'ama) awarded in two streams: social studies and science (three years; four years before 2006-07) by the Ministry of Education
- B Vocational Secondary School Certificate (an alternative to the academic secondary certificate) awarded in the following areas of specialization: auto-mechanics, auto-electrics, refrigeration and air-conditioning maintenance, printing, welding, concreting, electrical installation or carpentry (four years) by Public Authority for Applied Education & Training (PAAET)

### POSTSECONDARY

- C Diploma (PAAET institute) awarded in: technical studies (three years full-time, including three months of on-the-job training), requires credential Intermediate School Certificate, credential **A** or credential **B**
- D Diploma (PAAET college) awarded in: applied business studies (two years), allied health fields (two years), technological fields (two or two and one-half years); arts and education (four years), and science and education (four years); requires credential **A** and an entry exam minimum grade of 65%
- E Bachelor's degree: requires credential **A** for admission; 70% is the minimum grade, but entry is highly competitive (especially at Kuwait University) and much higher grades may be required (four years)
- F Bachelor's degree in Police Science: graduates of this program can enter the second year of the four-year law program at Kuwait University; requires credential **A** for admission (four years)
- G Bachelor's degree in Engineering: requires credential **A** for admission (five years)
- H Higher diploma: students must complete 21 credits; no thesis or final exams required; minimum GPA of 2.67 to graduate; requires credential **E** for admission (one or one and one-half years)
- I Master's degree: requires credential **E** with a minimum GPA of 2.67 for admission (two years)
- J Doctoral degree: requires credential **F**, usually in a related field (three years)
- K Bachelor's of Medicine and Surgery: requires credential **E** for admission (three years)
- L Bachelor's of Dentistry: requires credential **E** for admission (five and one half years)

## GRADING INFORMATION

### Secondary

Tawjihi, General Secondary Examination Grading Scale:

Percentage	Letter/Point Value	Description
90-100	A / 4.00	Distinction
90-89.9	B / 3.00	Very Good
70-69.9	C / 2.00	Good
60-69.9	D / 1.00	Pass
0-59.9	F / 0.00	Poor

### Postsecondary Education

Kuwait University

Letter	Point Value	Description
A	4.0	Distinction
A-	3.67	Distinction
B+	3.33	Very Good
B	3.0	Very Good
B-	2.67	Very Good
C+	2.33	Good
C	2.0	Good
C-	1.67	Good
D+	1.33	Satisfactory
D	1.0	Satisfactory
F	0	Fail

### Technical Training Centers

Percentage	Letter/Point Value	Description
90-100	A / 4.00	Distinction
90-89.9	B / 3.00	Very Good
70-69.9	C / 2.00	Good
60-69.9	D / 1.00	Pass
0-59.9	F / 0.00	Poor

\*Students records were not destroyed during the Gulf War

## POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministry of Higher Education, P.O. Box 7, Safat, Kuwait. Tel: 965-484-9452. Fax: 965-483-7601

Ministry of Higher Education, Private Universities Council, (physical address not provided)

<http://www.puc.edu.kw/en/index.php>

## RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Print:

Safwat, Ismail. 1993. *The System of Education in Kuwait*. Annapolis Junction, MD: PIER.

### Internet Sources:

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

NOOSR – Country Education Profiles: <http://aei.gov.au/AEI/CEP/Default.htm>

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