

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Macau



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Kathleen T. Freeman

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For more information about NAFSA, visit www.nafsa.org.

In 1948, NAFSA pioneered the concept of providing professional services for postsecondary exchange students. Early efforts to enhance living and learning environments for exchange students have blossomed into today's active association of accomplished professionals whose numbers continue to grow worldwide.

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

Susan Whipple, Editor

May 2011

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: <http://www.nafsa.org/aceforums>. For information on how to subscribe to the network, please visit www.nafsa.org/networksubscribe.

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 - 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.

MACAU

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				D	H	K	M	M	P	T	U	W	Z	→	a					a	→									
						C				E	J	L		N	Q	V	X																					
										F				O	R	W	Y																					
										G						S																						
										H																												
										I																												

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A Primary Certificate: 6 years of study
- B Junior Secondary Certificate: 3 years of study following credential **A**
- C *Certificao do Curso do Ensino Unificado* (Certificate of the General Unified Course of Study): 9 years of study (last awarded in 1986)
- D *Certificao do Curso Complementar* (Certificate of Complementary Course): 2 years of study following credential **C** (last awarded in 1986)
- E Diploma in Education: 2 years of teacher training requiring credential **B** for admission
- F Hong Kong Certificate of Education (HKCE): 11 years of study
- G General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level (GCE "O" Level): 11 years of study
- H Senior Secondary Certificate: 2-3 years of study following credential **B**
- I *Certificao do Decimo-Segundo Ano* (Certificate of 12th Year): 2 years of study following credential **C** (last awarded in 1986)
- J Hong Kong Higher Level Examination (HKLE): 1 year of study following credential **F** (last awarded in 1992)
- K General Certificate of Education Advanced Level (GCE "A" Level): 2 years of study following credential **G**

Postsecondary

- L Certificate from the *Instituto de Formação Turística* (Institute for Tourism Studies): 1 year of study requiring credential **H** for admission
- M Diploma from the *Instituto de Formação Turística* (Institute for Tourism Studies): 1 – 1.5 years of study requiring credential **L** for admission
- N Higher Diploma: 3 years of study requiring credential **H** for admission
- O *Bacharelato* (Baccalaureate): prior to 1990-91 - 3 years of study requiring credential **H** for admission
- P *Bacharelato* (Baccalaureate): 1990-91 to present - 4 years of study requiring credential **H** for admission
- Q *Licenciatura* (Licentiate): 1-4 years of study requiring credentials **H**, **N**, or **O** for admission
- R Bachelor of Science / Arts / Nursing: 1-4 years of study requiring credentials **H**, **N**, or **O** for admission
- S Bachelor of Laws (LLB) / *Licenciatura em Direito* (Licentiate in Law) / 法學士課程: 1-4 years of study requiring credentials **H**, **N**, or **O** for admission

- T Diploma in Management (DipM): 1 year of part-time study requiring credentials **P, Q, R,** or **S** for admission
- U Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma: 1 year of study requiring credentials **P, Q, R,** or **S** for admission
- V Postgraduate Certificate in Law: 1 year of study requiring credential **S** for admission
- W *Mestrado* (Master): 1 – 2 years of study requiring credential **Q** for admission
- X Master's degree: 2 years of study requiring credentials **P, Q, R,** or **S** for admission
- Y Master of Laws (LLM): 2 years of study requiring credential **S** for admission
- Z *Doutoramento* (Doctorate): awarded upon completion of research requiring credential **W** for admission
- a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.): 3+ years of study requiring credentials **P, Q, R,** or **S** for admission

GRADING SCALES

Secondary

Secondary schools on Macau follow several educational systems, including those of China, Hong Kong, Portugal and Taiwan. Open the country's *On-Line Guide to Foreign Educational Systems* entry to learn more about its secondary school grading scale.

Postsecondary

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Point</u>	<u>Alternative</u>	<u>Description</u>
A	3.7-4.00	18-20	Superior, Very Good, Honours
B	2.7-3.69	16-17	Good with Distinction
C	1.7-2.69	14-15	Good
D	1.0-1.69	10-13	Satisfactory
F	0.0-0.99	0-9	Fail

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Gabinete de Apoio ao Ensino Superior (Tertiary Education Services Office)

English version: <http://www.gaes.gov.mo/en>

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Print

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

International Association of Universities. *World List of Universities and Other Institutions of Higher Education 25 edition*. Paris: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.

Keeves, John Philip and Ryo Watanabe. *The International Handbook of Educational Research in the Asia-Pacific Region*. Spring, 2003.

On-line

Description of educational system:

http://www.dsej.gov.mo/~webdsej/www/edulaw/law_9_2006/index-e.htm

Direcção dos Serviços de Educação e Juventude (Educational and Youth Affairs Bureau)

English version: http://www.dsej.gov.mo/~webdsej/www/einter_dsej_page.php

Higher education institutions in Macau:

http://www.gaes.gov.mo/en/contentframe.asp?content=./mc_u_link.html

International schools in Macau: http://www.shambles.net/pages/Countries/mo_schools/

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