

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Madagascar



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Kathleen T. Freeman
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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.

MADAGASCAR

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			E	H	J	J	O	P	T→				
					D			F	I	M	N	P	Q	U→				
								G			O	Q	R					
											P	R	S					
											Q	T	T→					
												U	U→					

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A *Brevet d'Etudes du Premier Cycle/BEPC* (Certificate of First Cycle Studies): awarded after completion of 4 years of lower secondary school
- B *Diplôme d'Instituteur* (Primary School Teacher Diploma): 2 years of study at a primary school teacher training school requiring credential **A** for admission
- C *Baccalauréat de l'Enseignement Technique* (Technical Education Baccalaureate): 3 years of upper secondary school study requiring credential **A** for admission
- D *Baccalauréat de l'Enseignement Secondaire* (Secondary Education Baccalaureate): 3 years of upper secondary school study requiring credential **A** for admission

Postsecondary

- E *Diplôme Universitaire de Technicien Supérieur en Informatique* (Higher Computer Technician University Diploma): 2 years of study requiring credential **D** for admission
- F *Diplôme de Fin d'Etudes du Premier Cycle en Droit/Economie/Sociologie* (Diploma of End of First Cycle Studies in Law/Economics/Sociology): 2 years of study requiring credential **D** for admission
- G *Diplôme Universitaire d'Etudes Technologiques/DUET, Diplôme Universitaire d'Etudes Littéraires/DUEL, Diplôme Universitaire d'Etudes Scientifiques/DUES* (University Diploma of Technological Studies, University Diploma of Literary Studies, University Diploma of Scientific Studies): 2 years of study requiring credential **D** for admission
- H *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur* (Higher Technician Certificate): 3 years of study requiring credentials **C** or **D** for admission
- I *Licence* (Licentiate): 1 year of study requiring credentials **F** or **G** for admission
- J *Certificat d'Aptitude Pédagogique de l'Ecole Normale/CAPEN* (Teacher Training School Certificate of Teaching Ability): 4 – 5 years of study requiring credential **D** for admission
- M *Maîtrise* (Master): 1 year of study requiring credential **I** for admission
- N *Diplôme d'Ingénieur* (Diploma of Engineer): 5 years of study requiring credential **D** for admission
- O *Docteur en Chirurgie Dentaire* (Doctor of Dental Surgery): 5 – 6 years of study requiring credential **D** for admission
- P *Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures Spécialisées/DESS* (Diploma of Higher Specialized Studies): 1 – 2 years of study requiring credentials **M** or **N** for admission
- Q *Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies/DEA* (Diploma of Advanced Studies): 1 – 2 years of study requiring credentials **M** or **N** for admission
- R *Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures/DES* (Diploma of Higher Studies)

- S Doctorat de Médecine (Doctor of Medicine): 7 years of study requiring credential **D** for admission
- T *Doctorat de Troisième Cycle* (Third Cycle Doctorate): 1 or more years of study and research requiring credential **Q** for admission
- U *Doctor d'Etat* (Doctor of State): 1 or more years of study and research requiring credential **Q** for admission

GRADING SCALES

Secondary

16 – 20	<i>Très bien</i>	Very good
14 – 15	<i>Bien</i>	Good
12 – 13	<i>Assez bien</i>	Good enough
10 – 11	<i>Passable</i>	Passing
0 – 9	<i>Ajourné</i>	Fail

Postsecondary

16 – 20	<i>Très bien</i>	Very good
14 – 15	<i>Bien</i>	Good
12 – 13	<i>Assez bien</i>	Good enough
10 – 11	<i>Passable</i>	Passing
0 – 9	<i>Ajourné</i>	Fail

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research) <http://www.refer.mg/edu/minesup/minesup/minesup.htm>

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Print

Teferra, Damtew and Philip G. Altbach, editors. *African Higher Education: An International Reference Handbook*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2003.

On-line

Electronic Database for Global Education (EDGE) by American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO). Online database: <http://aacraoedge.aacrao.org> (accessible by subscription)

Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique (Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research) <http://www.refer.mg/edu/minesup/minesup/minesup.htm>

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