

Online Guide to

# Educational Systems



Around the World—Malawi



**NAFSA**

Association of  
International Educators

Submitted by Kathleen T. Freeman  
September 2011



## About NAFSA

NAFSA: Association of International Educators is a member organization promoting international education and providing professional development opportunities to the field. Hundreds of NAFSA members volunteer to serve the Association and thousands advocate for international education. NAFSA serves international educators and their institutions and organizations by establishing principles of good practice, providing training and professional development opportunities, providing networking opportunities, and advocating for international education.

For more information about NAFSA, visit [www.nafsa.org](http://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.

## Notice of Liability

The information in these documents is distributed on an "As is" basis, without warranty. While every precaution has been taken in the preparation of each document, neither the submitter(s) nor NAFSA shall have any liability to any persons nor entity with respect to any loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the information contained in any of these documents. Information about each country was current at the time of upload. Education systems change periodically and updates will be written to reflect significant changes, once known. Please note that while NAFSA periodically verified the Web site links included in these e-Publications, NAFSA cannot guarantee that every link will be current at the time of download.

## Acceptable Use Guidelines

Electronic resources are provided for the benefit of the international education community. However, commercial use, systematic or excessive downloading, or electronic redistribution of these publications are all expressly prohibited.

© 2011 NAFSA: Association of International Educators. All rights reserved.

# 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](http://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.

# MALAWI

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

## CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

### Secondary

- A Primary School Leaving Certificate
- B Junior Certificate of Education: 2 years of study following completion of credential **A**
- C Junior Secondary School Certificate: 2 years of study following completion of credential **A**
- D Teachers' Certificate T3: 1 year of study requiring credentials **B** or **C** for admission
- E State Enrolled Nurse: 2 years of study requiring credentials **B** or **C** for admission
- F Malawi School Certificate of Education: 2 years of study following completion of credentials **B** or **C**
- G Malawi General Certificate of Education: 2 years of study following completion of credentials **B** or **C**

### Postsecondary

- H Teachers' Certificate T2: 1 year of study requiring credentials **F** or **G** for admission
- I University Diploma in Nursing: 2 years of study requiring credential **E** and credentials **F** or **G** for admission
- J University Diploma in Midwifery: 1 year of study requiring credential **I** for admission
- K Diploma in various fields of study: 3 years of student requiring credentials **F** or **G** for admission
- L State Registered Nurse Diploma: 3 years of study requiring credentials **F** or **G** for admission
- M Medical Auxiliary: 3 years of study requiring credentials **F** or **G** for admission
- N Bachelor's (Pass): in arts, public administration, science or social science: 4 years of study requiring credentials **F** or **G** for admission
- O Bachelor Science in Nursing: 4 years of study requiring credentials **F** or **G** for admission
- P Bachelor of Science in Advanced Midwifery: 2 years of study requiring credential **I** for admission
- Q University Certificate in Midwifery: 1 year of study requiring credential **O** for admission
- R Bachelor's degree in education/technical education: 2 years of study requiring credential **K** for admission
- S Bachelor's degree in agriculture or commerce: 2 years of study requiring credential **K** for admission
- T Bachelor of Education / Bachelor's (Honours) / Bachelor of Laws: 5 years of study requiring credentials **F** or **G** for admission
- U Bachelor of Engineering: 3 years of study requiring credential **K** for admission

- V Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Post-Basic): 3 years of study requiring credential **L** for admission
- W University Certificate in Education: 1 year of study requiring credentials **R** or **T** for admission
- Y Master of Arts/Master of Science: 1-2 years of study requiring credentials **N, O, P, R, S, T, U,** or **V** for admission
- Z Doctor of Philosophy: 3+ years of study requiring credential **Y** for admission

## GRADING SCALES

### Secondary

- 1 – 2 Distinction
- 3 – 6 Credit
- 7 – 8 Pass
- 0 – 9 Fail

### Postsecondary

- 75 – 100 Undoubted Distinction
- 70 – 74 Marginal Distinction
- 60 – 69 Bare Distinction/Credit
- 50 – 59 Pass
- 40 – 49 Bare Pass
- 35 – 39 Marginal Failure
- 0 – 34 Undoubted Failure

## POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology:

[http://www.malawi.gov.mw/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=21&Itemid=21](http://www.malawi.gov.mw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=21&Itemid=21)

Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training

[http://www.malawi.gov.mw/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=72&Itemid=19](http://www.malawi.gov.mw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=72&Itemid=19)

## RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Print

Teferra, Damew 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)

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology:

[http://www.malawi.gov.mw/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=21&Itemid=21](http://www.malawi.gov.mw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=21&Itemid=21)

Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training

[http://www.malawi.gov.mw/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=72&Itemid=19](http://www.malawi.gov.mw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=72&Itemid=19)

Submitted by

Kathleen T. Freeman

International Consultants of Delaware

September 2011