

Online Guide to

# Educational Systems



Around the World—Mali



**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.

# MALI

## 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	H	L	d	N	f	T	k	U
		D	I	M		O	g	h		
		E	J	a		P		R		
		F	K	b		Q		i		
		G		c		S		j		
						e				

## CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

### Secondary

- A *Diplôme d'Etudes Fondamentales* (Basic Studies Diploma)
- B *Certificat d'aptitude professionnelle* (Professional proficiency certificate): requires credential A for admission.
- C *Baccalauréat Malien* (Malian Baccalaureate)
- D *Baccalauréat Technique* (Technical Baccalaureate)
- E *Diplôme d'Infirmier d'État* (State Nursing Diploma): requires credential A for admission
- F *Diplôme de Technicien de Laboratoire* (Laboratory Technician Diploma): requires credential A for admission
- G *Diplôme de Sage-femme d'Etat* (State Midwife's Diploma): requires credential A for admission
- H *Brevet de Technicien* (Technician Certificate): from the Ecole Centrale pour l'Industrie, le Commerce et l'Administration (ECICA); requires credential A for admission
- I *Diplôme de Technicien Supérieur* (Advanced Technician Diploma): from the Institut Polytechnique rural; requires credential A for admission
- J *Diplôme de Dessin et d'Arts Plastiques* (Fine Arts Diploma): from the Institut National des Arts (INA); requires credential A for admission
- K *Diplôme d'Enseignement Fondamentales* (Basic School Teacher)

### Postsecondary (pre-1996)<sup>1</sup>

- L *Diplôme de Technicien Supérieur* (Advanced Technican Diploma); from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes Pratiques; required credential C for admission (two years)
- M *Diplôme des Ecoles Normales Secondaires* (Secondary Teacher-training School Diploma); required credential C for admission<sup>2</sup>
- N *Diplôme de l'Ecole Normale Supérieure* (Higher Teacher-training School Diploma); required credential C for admission
- O *Diplôme de l'Ecole Nationale d'Administration* (National School of Management Diploma): required credential C for admission
- P *Diplôme d'Ingénieur des Sciences Appliquées* (Engineer Diploma in Applied Sciences): from the Ecole Nationale d'Ingénieurs or the Institut Polytechnique Rural

de Katibougou; required credential C for admission

- Q *Diplôme de Professeur de l'Enseignement Secondaire Technique et Professionnel* (Technical and Vocational Secondary School Teacher Diploma): from the Ecole Nationale d'Ingénieurs; required credential C for admission
- R *Diplôme de Docteur en Médecine* ( Doctor of Medicine Diploma): from the Ecole Nationale de Médecine et de Pharmacie; a five-year program and a year of practice; required credential C for admission
- S *Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies* (Diploma of Advanced Studies); from the Institut Supérieur pour la Formation et la Recherche Appliquée; required credential M, N, O, P or equivalent for admission.
- T *Diplôme de Docteur-Ingénieur és-Sciences* (Doctorate in Engineering); from the Institut Polytechnique Rural de Katibougou; required credential O for admission
- U *Doctorat Malien* (Doctorate); from the Institut Supérieur pour la Formation et la Recherche Appliquée; required credential S for admission

### **Post Secondary (post-1996)**

- a *Diplôme d'Études Universitaires Générales (DEUG)* (Diploma of General University Studies); requires credential C for admission
- b *Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie (DUT)* (University Diploma of Technology): requires credential C for admission
- c *Diplôme Universitaire de Technicien Supérieur* (Higher Technician Diploma); requires credential C for admission
- d Licence (Licenciate): requires credential a for admission
- e *Maîtrise (Master)*: requires credential d for admission
- f *Diplôme d'Ingénieur* (Diploma of Engineer): requires credential a or equivalent for admission
- g *Diplôme de l'Institut Supérieur pour la Formation et la Recherche Appliquée* (Diploma of the Higher Institute of Training and Applied Research): requires credential M, N, O, P or d for admission
- h *Diplôme d'Études Approfondies (DEA)* (Diploma of Advanced Studies): mostly a two-year program, but some one-year programs may exist requires credential e or equivalent for admission
- i *Diplôme d'Études Supérieures Spécialisées (DESS)* (Diploma of Higher Specialized Studies): requires credential e for admission
- j *Diplôme de Pharmacien* (Diploma of Pharmacist); from the Faculté de Médecine, Pharmacie et d'Odonto-stomatologie; a five-year program; requires credential C for admission
- k. *Doctorat (Doctorate): requires credential h for admission.*<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In 1996, the Université du Mali was created by the merger of the following institutions: Ecole Normale Supérieure, Ecole Nationale d'Ingénieurs, Institut Polytechnique rural de Katibougou, Ecole National d'Administration, Ecole National de Médecine et de Pharmacie, Institut Supérieur de Formation et de Recherche Appliquée, Ecole des Hautes Etudes Pratiques. New diplomas were introduced.

<sup>2</sup> Holders of this credential may teach at grades 7-9. Before 1989, the program was four years and required credential A for admission. Up to 1989, primary school teachers were trained in the Instituts Pédagogiques d'Enseignement Général (IPEG) in a two-year program requiring credential A for admission. Since 1989, credential C has been required for admission to the IPEG.

<sup>3</sup> The doctorate may be earned in two to four years at the Institut Supérieur de Formation et de Recherche Appliquée (ISFRA) (Higher Institute of Training and Applied Research): it may then be called a Doctorat de Spécialité (Specialized Doctorate). In the Faculties (Faculté des Sciences et Techniques-Applied Sciences-Faculté des Lettres, des Langues, des Arts et des Sciences Humaines-Humanities and Social Sciences-Faculté des Sciences Juridiques et Economiques-Law and Economics), the Doctorate requires at least three years of preparation

## GRADING SCALE

### Secondary and Postsecondary

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Translation</u>
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
8-9	Médiocre	Mediocre
6-7	Faible	Weak
3-5	Très Faible	Very Weak
0-2	Nul/Echec	Zero

**The National School of Engineering (Ecole Nationale d'Ingenieurs) may use a grading scale of 0-5, with 3 as the minimum passing mark.**

## POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministère de l'Education (Ministry of Education), B.P. 71, Place de la Liberté, Bamako, MALI.

Tel: 223 22 31036 Fax: 223 22 35563

## RESOURCES USED AND SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

IAU London, Macmillan's Global Academic Publishing, New York, Palgrave, Global Publishing at St. Martin's Press. *Guide to Higher Education in Africa*. 4th Edition, 2007, New York, NY.

The British Council, 1996, *International Guide to Qualifications in Education*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, London: Mansell.

Ministère des enseignements secondaire, supérieur et de la recherche scientifique, Ministère de l'éducation de base. 1994 "Développement de l'Education au Mali". Report

presented for the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the Conférence Internationale sur l'Education. Bamako, Mali.

UNESCO. 1996. World Guide to Higher Education. Paris: UNESCO.

### **Internet Sources**

Association of African Universities: <http://www.aau.org/about/index.htm>

UNESCO – IAU, World Higher Education Database: [www.unesco.org/iau/educml.html](http://www.unesco.org/iau/educml.html)

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