

Online Guide to

# Educational Systems



Around the World—Malta



**NAFSA**

Association of  
International Educators

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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](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

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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.

# MALTA

## YEARS OF EDUCATION →

1→6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
					A	G	D	K	R	S	V	W	X	Y	b	b	b	b
					B	H	E	O	P	T			Y	b				
					C	I	F	Q		U			Z					
						J	G						a					
							I											
							J											
							K											
							L											
							M											
							N											

## CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

### Secondary

- A General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level; last awarded in 1991
- B Secondary Education Certificate; awarded 1992 to present
- C Trade School Certificate: 3-4 year technical secondary program
- D General Certificate of Education Advanced Level: 2-year program following credential **A** or **B**
- E Matriculation Certificate: 2-year program following credential **B**; first awarded in 1998
- F Advanced Matriculation Certificate: 2-year program following credential **A** or **B**; last awarded in 1997

### Postsecondary

- G [MCAST](#) Foundation Certificate: 1-year program at Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology requiring credential **B** for admission
- H [MCAST](#) Intermediate Certificate: 1-year program at Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology requiring credentials **B** or **G** for admission
- I [MCAST](#)-BTEC First Diploma: 1-year program at Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology requiring credentials **B** or **G** for admission
- J [MCAST](#)-BTEC National Certificate: awarded after completion of a 2-year, part-time apprenticeship requiring credentials **B** or **I** for admission
- K [MCAST](#)-BTEC National Diploma: 2 years of study at Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology requiring credentials **B** or **I** for admission
- L [MCAST](#) Diploma: 2 years of study at Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology requiring credential **B** for admission
- M Ordinary Technician Diploma: 2-year program in mechanical or electrical engineering requiring credential **A** or **B** for admission
- N Certificate or Diploma: 2-year technical program requiring credential **A** or **B** for admission
- O University Certificate: one-semester of study at the University of Malta requiring credential **E** for admission
- P University Diploma: 1-1.5 years of study at the University of Malta requiring credential **E** for admission

- Q University Higher Diploma: 1-1.5 years of study at the University of Malta requiring credential **E** for admission
- R [MCAST](#)-BTEC Higher National Diploma: 2 years of study at Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology requiring credentials **E** or **N** for admission
- S Bachelor: 3 years of study at the University of Malta requiring credential **E** for admission
- T Bachelor (Honours): 3 years of study at the University of Malta requiring credential **E** for admission
- U Bachelor of Laws (LLB): 3 years of study at the University of Malta requiring credential **E** for admission
- V Postgraduate Certificate: 1 semester of study requiring credentials **S** or **T** for admission
- W Postgraduate Diploma: 1 year of study requiring credentials **S** or **T** for admission  
Magister Juris (M.Jur.): 1 year of study requiring credential **R** for admission
- X Master of Arts (MA.)/Master of Science (MSci.): 1.5-2 years of study requiring credential **T** for admission
- Y Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.): 1.5-3 years of study requiring credential **T** for admission
- Z Bachelor of Pharmacy: 5 years of study at the University of Malta requiring credential **E** for admission
- a Doctor of Medicine and Surgery: 5 years of study at the University of Malta requiring credential **E** for admission
- b Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.): 3-5 years of study requiring credentials **V** or **W** for admission

*NOTE:* MCAST = Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology which opened in 2001.

## **GRADING SCALES**

### **Secondary**

#### *General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level Examinations*

Passing grades of 1 to 5 with “F” indicating failure. Grades of 1 to 5 qualify students for further study in that subject.

#### *Secondary Education Certificate Examinations*

Passing grades of 1 to 7 are used with “F” indicating failure. Grades of 1 to 5 qualify students for further study in that subject.

#### *Trade School Certificate and other Technical Certificates and Diplomas*

Distinction

Credit

Pass

#### *General Certificate of Education Advanced Level Examinations*

Grades of A through E indicate Principal Level passes; grade of O indicates failure at Principal Level, but passing at Subsidiary Level; grade of F indicates failure

#### *Advanced Matriculation Certificate*

Grades of A through E are passing; grade of F indicates failure

#### *Matriculation Certificate*

Grades of A, B or C

## Postsecondary

### *University of Malta*

<u>Mark</u>	<u>Grade</u>
95-100%	A+
80-94%	A
75-79%	B+
70-74%	B
65-69%	C+
55-64%	C
50-54%	D+
45-49%	D
34-44%	CP – compensated pass
0-33%	F
	I (incomplete)
	W (withdrawal)
	P (pass)

### *Postgraduate Diplomas and Master's degree classifications*

<u>Average Mark</u>	<u>Classification</u>
80-100%	Pass with Distinction
70-79%	Pass with Merit
50-69%	Pass
0-49%	

## POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment: <http://www.education.gov.mt/>

## RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Print

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

### On-line

Institute of Tourism Studies: <http://www.its.edu.mt/>

Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST): <http://www.mcast.edu.mt/>

University of Malta: <http://www.um.edu.mt>

Malta Qualifications Council: <http://www.mqc.gov.mt/home?!=1>

National Commission for Higher Education: <https://www.nche.gov.mt/>

European National Information Centre and National Academic Recognition Information Centre (ENIC-NARIC). *Gateway to Recognition of Academic and Professional Qualifications*: <http://www.enic-naric.net/index.aspx?c=Malta>

“Eurybase: The Information Database on Education Systems in Europe: The Education System in Malta: 2006/07.” *EURYDICE*. Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, 2009:  
[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/eurybase/eurybase\\_full\\_reports/MT\\_EN.pdf](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/eurybase/eurybase_full_reports/MT_EN.pdf)

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