

Online Guide to

# Educational Systems



Around the World—Moldova



**NAFSA**

Association of  
International Educators

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November 2011

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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 |  
          ½   ½   ½   ½   ½   ½   ½   ½   ½   ½  
          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.

# Moldova

## 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	D	E F H	G H		I	L N O P	M P Q	Q		R S	R	T	

## CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

### Secondary

- A. *Certificat de Studii Gimnaziale* (Certificate of Secondary Studies): Completion of compulsory education; grants access to further secondary education and represents a total of 9 years of study
- B. *Adeverință* (Certificate of Professional Qualification) or *Certificat de Studii Secundare Profesionale* (Certificate of Professional Secondary School Study): Awarded one and a half years after Credential **A** or may be awarded one year after either Credential **C** at a *școală de meserii* (trade school)
- C. *Atestat de Studii Medii de Cultură Generală* (Certificate of General Secondary Education) or *Atesta de Maturitate* (Certificate of Maturity): Awarded after 2 years of upper secondary study at a *școală medie de cultură generală* (general secondary school) for a total of 11 years education; this credential was last awarded in 2005.
- D. *Diplomă de Bacaluareat* (Baccalaureate Diploma): Awarded after 3 years of upper secondary study at a *liceul* (lyceum).
- E. *Diplomă de Bacaluareat* (Baccalaureate Diploma) with professional qualification: Awarded after 4 years of study at a *școală profesională polivalentă* (vocational professional multi-discipline secondary school) following Credential **A** or after 2 years of study at a *școală profesională polivalentă* following Credential **C** or Credential **D**.
- F. *Diplomă de Studii Superioare de Scurta Durată* (Diploma of Short Program in Higher Education): Awarded by a *colegii* (college) after a 4 year program of following Credential **A**.

### Postsecondary

- G. *Diplomă de Tehnologii* (Diploma of Technology): Awarded by a *școală profesională polivalentă* after a one year program following Credential **E**.
- H. *Diplomă de Studii Superioare de Scurta Durată* (Diploma of Short Program in Higher Education): Awarded by a *colegii* after a 2 year program following Credential **C** or **D**.
- I. *Diplomă de Studii Superioare Universitare* (Diploma of Higher Level Short Duration Studies): Awarded by universities, academies, institutes, or conservatories after 4 years of study following Credential **D** or 5 years after Credential **C**. Does not lead to higher studies (masters and doctorate).
- J. *Diplomă de Licență* (Diploma of Licentiate): Awarded after 4 years of study at a university, academy, institute, or conservatory following Credential **D** or 5 years of study after Credential **C**. Does lead to higher studies (masters and doctorate).

- K. *Ciclul I Licență* (Cycle I Licentiate): Bologna-compliant first cycle degree awarded after 3-4 years of post-secondary study following Credential **D**; replaced Credential **J** in 2005-06 academic year.
- L. *Diplomă of Inginer* (Diploma of Engineer): Awarded by universities after 5 years of study following Credential **D** or 6 years of study after Credential **C**.
- M. *Ciclul II Masterat* (Cycle II Masters): Bologna-compliant second cycle degree awarded 1.5-2 years following credential K; replaced Credential **Q** in 2005-06 academic year. Three year Cycle I *Licență* requires longer *Masterat*, four year *Licență* allows entry into the shorter *Masterat*.
- N. *Diplomă de Doctor-Stomatolog* (Diploma of Doctor-Dentist): Awarded after 5 years of study following Credential **C** or **D**.
- O. *Diplomă de Doctor-Veterinar* (Diploma of Doctor-Veterinarian): Awarded after 5 years of study following Credential **C** or **D**.
- P. *Diplomă de Doctor-Medic* (Diploma of Doctor-Medicine): Awarded after 6 years of study following Credential **C** or **D**.
- Q. *Diplomă de Magistru* (Diploma of Master): Awarded after 1-2 years of study and defense of a research thesis (*Teza de Master*) following credential Credential **J** or **L**.
- R. *Diplomă de Doctor* (Diploma of Doctor) or *Diplomă de Doctor in Științe* (Diploma of Doctor of Science): Awarded a minimum of 3 years of study, research, and defense of thesis. Entry qualification is Credential **Q**.
- S. *Doctorat*: Bologna-compliant doctorate awarded 3-4 years after Credential **M**, introduced in 2009
- T. *Doctor Abilitat* (Doctor of Science) or *Doctor Habilitat*: Awarded after the completion of a thesis (*Teza de Doctor*) containing original research and public defense. Entry requirement is generally Credential **R**.

## GRADING SCALES

### Secondary

Grade	Moldovan Description	English Description	Suggested US Equivalent
10	Excelente	Excellent	A
9	Foarte Bun	Very Good	B+
7-8	Bine	Good	B
5-6	Satisfacator	Satisfactory	C
1-4	Nesatisfacator	Not Satisfactory	F

NOTE: Grades of 1-4 (Nesatisfacator/Failing) are not generally shown on academic transcripts.

### Postsecondary

Same as Secondary scale

## POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Higher Commission for Diplomas and Degrees (Comisia Superoara de Atestare)

## RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Print

*A Guide to Educational Systems Around The World*, ed. By Shelley M. Feagles, NAFSA: Association of International Educators, 1999, pp. 244-46.

*The New Country Index: Making Sense of International Credentials*, Volume 1, International Education Research Foundation, 2004, pp. 217-220.

### On-line

AACRAO EDGE Database <http://aacraoedge.aacrao.org>

The Bologna Process 2009 Stocktaking Report:

[http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/links/National-reports-2009/National\\_Report\\_Moldova\\_2009.pdf](http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/links/National-reports-2009/National_Report_Moldova_2009.pdf)

*Higher Education in Moldova*, European Commission, TEMPUS:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/participating\\_countries/reviews/moldova\\_review\\_of\\_higher\\_education.pdf](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/participating_countries/reviews/moldova_review_of_higher_education.pdf), 2010.

Ministry of Education, Republic of Moldova: The Structure of Moldova's Educational System:

<http://www.edu.md/?lng=en&MenuItem=3&SubMenu0=1>

*World Higher Education Database (WHED)*, International Association of Universities (IAU), Moldova, 2006: <http://www.euroeducation.net/prof/moldovco.htm>.

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November 2011