

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Nepal



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Aaron Bixler
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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.

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Instructions for Using the *Online Guide to Educational Systems Around the World*

Susan Whipple, Editor

December 2008

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.

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

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.

NEPAL

YEARS OF EDUCATION →

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|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|------|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|------|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | → | 5 | | 6 | | 7 | | 8 | | 9 | | 10 | | 11 | | 12 | | 13 | | 14 | | 15 | | 16 | | 17 | | 17 ½ | | 18 | | 19 | | 20 | | 20 ½ | | 21 | | 22 | | 23 | | 24 | | | | | | | | |
| | | A | | B | | | | C | | D | | | | | | E | | H | | I | | J | | K | | L | | P | | M | | N | | S | | T | | S | | S | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | F | | | | | | L | | L | | M | | | | N | | R | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | G | | | | | | M | | M | | N | | | | Q | | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | N | | O | | | | R | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A *Primary School*: represents completion of 5 years of primary education.
- B *Middle School*: represents completion of 7 years of primary and junior secondary education.
- C *Craftsman Certificate*: represents completion of 9 years of primary, junior secondary, and secondary education.
- D *School Leaving Certificate (awarded by the Ministry of Education)*: represents completion of 10 years of primary, junior secondary, and secondary education; leads to credentials **E**, **F**, **G** or **H**.
- E *Higher Secondary Certificate (awarded by a Higher Secondary Examination Board)*: represents completion of 2 additional years of secondary education based on credential **D**; leads to credentials **I**, **J**, **K**, **O** or **P**. Gives access to undergraduate education.
- F *Proficiency Certificate (awarded by Tribhuvan University)*: represents completion of 2 additional years of secondary education based on credential **D**; leads to credentials **I**, **J**, **K**, **O** or **P**. Gives access to undergraduate education.
- G *Intermediate of Science (awarded by Kathmandu University)*: represents completion of 2 additional years of secondary education based on credential **D**; leads to credentials **I**, **J**, **K**, **O** or **P**. Gives access to undergraduate education.

Postsecondary

- H *Diploma*: 3 year program (Diploma in Agriculture, Diploma in Engineering, PCL in Nursing) based on credential **D**; leads to credential **K**. Gives access to additional undergraduate education.
- I *Bachelor's Degree*: 2 year undergraduate program (Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Commerce) based on credential **E**, **F** or **G**; leads to credentials **L**, **M** or **N**. Gives access to post-Bachelor degrees at the university level. *Discontinued in 1997.*
- J *Bachelor's Degree*: 3 year undergraduate program (Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Social Work, Bachelor of Fine Arts, etc.) based on credential **E**, **F** or **G**; leads to credentials **L**, **M**, or **N**. Gives access to post-Bachelor degrees at the university level.
- K *Bachelor's Degree*: 4 year undergraduate program (Bachelor of Engineering, Bachelor of Technology, Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Science in Agriculture,

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Pharmacy, etc.) based on credential **E, F, G** or **H**; leads to credentials **L, M, N** or **Q**. Gives access to post-Bachelor's degrees at the university level.
- L** *Bachelor's Degree*: 1 year undergraduate program (Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Library Science) based on credential **I, J** or **K**; leads to credentials **M** or **N**. Gives access to post-Bachelor's degrees at the university level.
- M** *Post Graduate Diploma*: 1 year undergraduate program based on credential **I, J, K** or **L**.
- N** *Master's Degree*: 2 year post-Bachelor's program (Master of Arts, Master of Science, Master of Social Work, Master of Education, Master of Business Administration, etc.) based on credential **I, J, K** or **L**; leads to credentials **R** or **S**. Gives access to Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy degrees.
- O** *Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry*: 5 year (including one semester of internship) professional program based on credential **E, F** or **G**.
- P** *Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, Bachelor of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery, Bachelor of Dental Surgery*: 5 ½ year professional programs based on credential **E, F** or **G**; leads to credential **T**. Gives access to Doctor of Medicine degree.
- Q** *Master's Degree*: 2 year post-Bachelor's program (Master of Engineering, Master of Science in Agriculture, Master of Science in Nursing, etc.) based on credential **K**; leads to credentials **R** or **S**. Gives access to Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy degrees.
- R** *Master of Philosophy*: 1 year post-Master's program based on credential **N** or **Q**; leads to credential **S**. Gives access to Doctor of Philosophy degree.
- S** *Doctor of Philosophy*: 3 year post-Master's program based on credential **N, Q** or **R**.
- T** *Doctor of Medicine*: 3 year post-professional program based on credential **P**.

GRADING SCALES

Secondary

| Marks | Description |
|----------|------------------------|
| 75 -100% | <i>Distinction</i> |
| 60 – 74% | <i>First Division</i> |
| 45 – 59% | <i>Second Division</i> |
| 33 – 44% | <i>Pass</i> |

Postsecondary

| Marks | Description |
|----------|------------------------|
| 75 -100% | <i>Distinction</i> |
| 60 – 74% | <i>First Division</i> |
| 45 – 59% | <i>Second Division</i> |
| 35 – 44% | <i>Pass</i> |

Grading scales may differ by type of program and institution in Nepal. Some grading scales range from A to F. The minimum passing grades may also vary by institution and type of program.

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministry of Education, Government of Nepal, Kaiser Mahal, Kantipah, Kathmandu
www.moe.gov.np

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Association of Indian Universities. *Universities Handbook, 31st Edition*. New Delhi: Association of Indian Universities, 2006.

B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Ghopa, Dharan: www.bpkihs.edu

Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training, Sanothimi Bhaktapur:
www.ctevt.org.np

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

Kathmandu University, P.O. Box 6250, Dhulikhel, Kavre: www.ku.edu.np

Mahendra Sanskrit University, Central Office, Beljhundi, Dang: www.msu.edu.np

Ministry of Education, Government of Nepal, Kaiser Mahal Kantipah, Kathmandu:
www.moe.gov.np

Pokhara University, Lekhnath-12, Khudi, Dhongepatan, Kaski: www.pu.edu.np

Purbanchal University, Biratnagar, Morang: www.purbuniv.edu.np

Tribhuvan University, Central Administrative Building, P.O. Box 8212, Kirtipur, Kathmandu:
www.tribhuvan-university.edu.np

United States Educational Foundation in Nepal, Post Box 380, Kathmandu:
www.fulbrightnepal.org.np

Submitted by
Aaron Bixler
Miami University, Ohio
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