

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—New Zealand



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Margaret Wenger
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NAFSA: Association of International Educators promotes the exchange of students and scholars to and from the United States. The association sets standards of good practice and provides professional education and training that strengthen institutional programs and services related to international education and exchange. NAFSA provides a forum for discussion of issues and a network for sharing information as it seeks to increase awareness of and support for international education in higher education, in government, and in the community.

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.

NEW ZEALAND

YEARS OF EDUCATION

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

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A School Certificate (last offered in 2002)
- B National Certificate of Educational Achievement Level 1
- C Sixth Form Certificate (last offered in 2003)
- D National Certificate of Educational Achievement Level 2
- E Higher School Certificate (last offered in 2003)
- F National Certificate of Educational Achievement Level 3
- G University Entrance and Bursaries Examinations (last offered in 2003)
- H New Zealand University Entrance
- I National Certificate [Level 3, 4, or 5 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF)]

Postsecondary

- J Diploma; one-three years, various admission requirements, depending on field of study (Levels 4, 5, and 6 on NQF)
- K National Diploma; one-three years, various admission requirements, depending on field of study (Levels 5, 6, and 7 on NQF)
- L Bachelor of Teaching; three years (360 credits), requiring credential F* for admission (Level 7 on NQF)
- M Bachelor of Nursing; three years (360 New Zealand credits), requiring credential F* for admission (Level 7 on NQF)
- N Bachelor of Architectural Studies; three years (360 credits); requiring credential F* for admission (Level 7 on NQF)
- O Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Business Studies, Bachelor of Commerce; three years (360 credits), requiring credential F* for admission (Level 7 on NQF)
- P Graduate Diploma; one year, requiring credential O for admission (Level 7 on NQF)
- Q Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Bachelor of Science (Honours), Bachelor of Teaching (Honours); one year (120 credits) requiring credential O for admission, or four years (480 credits) requiring credential F* for admission (Level 8 on NQF)
- R Bachelor of Education; three or four years (360 or 480 credits), requiring credential F* for admission, or one year (120 credits), requiring credential O for admission (Level 7 on NQF)

- S Post Graduate Certificate; one semester (60 credits), requiring credential O for admission (Level 8 on NQF)
- T Post Graduate Diploma; one year (120 credits), requiring credential O for admission (Level 8 on NQF)
- U Bachelor of Laws; four years (480 credits), requiring credential F* for admission (Level 7 on NQF)
- V Bachelor of Engineering; four years (480 credits), requiring credential F* for admission (Level 7 on NQF)
- W Bachelor of Pharmacy; four years (480 credits), requiring credential F* for admission (Level 7 on NQF)
- X Bachelor of Dental Surgery; five years (600 credits), requiring credential F* for admission (Level 7 on NQF)
- Y Bachelor of Architecture; five years (600 credits), requiring credential F* for admission, or two years (240 credits), requiring credential N for admission (Level 7 on NQF)
- Z Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine; five years, requiring credential F* for admission (Level 7 on NQF)
- a Master of Science, Master of Arts, Master of Commerce; two years, requiring credential O for admission, or one year, requiring credential Q for admission (Level 9 on NQF)
- b Master of Education; two years (240 credits), requiring credential three-year credential L, O, or R for admission, or one year (120 credits) requiring four-year credential Q or R for admission (Level 9 on NQF)
- c Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery; six years requiring credential F* for admission (Level 7 on NQF)
- d Doctorate; at least three years, requiring credential Q or b for admission (Level 10 on NQF)
- e Doctor of Clinical Dentistry; three years (360 credits), requiring credential Y for admission (Level 10 on NQF)
- f Doctor of Medicine; four years (480 credits), requiring credential d for admission (Level 10 on NQF)

All quality-assured qualifications are on the New Zealand Register of Quality Assured Qualifications, known as KiwiQuals ([link below](#)). The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) is a sub-set of the Register and consists of qualifications which are made up of achievement standards or unit standards. Achievement standards are offered in secondary schools; unit standards may be offered in schools or by tertiary education providers, but no university has chosen to use them.

The National Qualifications Framework includes Levels 1-10. In general, Levels 4 through 10 are postsecondary, although some credentials in Levels 3 and 4 are not necessarily defined as either secondary or postsecondary.

* To meet the common entrance standard a student must achieve all of the following:

- a minimum of 42 credits at level 3 or higher on the National Qualifications Framework, including a minimum of 14 credits at level 3 or higher in each of two subjects from an approved list of subjects, with a further 14 credits at level 3 or

- higher taken from no more than two additional domains on the National Qualifications Framework or approved subjects, and
- a minimum of 14 credits at level 1 or higher in Mathematics or Pangarau on the National Qualifications Framework, and
 - a minimum of 8 credits at level 2 or higher in English or Te Reo Maori; 4 credits must be in Reading and 4 credits must be in Writing.

GRADING SCALES

Secondary

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Description</u>
E	Achieved with Excellence
M	Achieved with Merit
A	Achieved
NA	Not Achieved

Postsecondary

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Description</u>
A	First Class, Excellent
B	Second Class, Good
C	Pass, Satisfactory
D,E	Fail
Aeg, G	Aegrotat Pass

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

New Zealand Qualifications Authority:

www.nzqa.govt.nz

New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee

www.nzvcc.ac.nz

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

www.nzqa.govt.nz (New Zealand Qualifications Authority)

www.kiwiquals.govt.nz (description of New Zealand Qualifications)

www.itpnz.ac.nz (Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics of New Zealand)

www.minedu.govt.nz/ (Ministry of Education)

Submitted by
Margaret Wenger
Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.
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