

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Norway



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Jean Ringer
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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

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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.

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.

NORWAY

YEARS OF EDUCATION →

1→6	7	8	9	10	11	12	12.5	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				A		B	c	C	C	E	G	H			g	K			
						b			D	d	e	I	f	f	h	h	h		
									E	F		J	g	g			i	j	
									d										

Lower case letters represent pre-Bologna certificates

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

Prior to 1976 primary and secondary education followed the sequence of 7 years + 3 years + 3 years for a total of 13 years. It then changed to 6 years + 3 years + 3 years for a total of 12 years.

- A *Grunnskole* Primary and Lower Secondary School leads to **B or C**
- Bb *Vitnemal fra den Vidergående Skolen*, Completion Certificate for Upper Secondary School leads to university study **D**. General study program areas consisting of 4 study specializing programs, and two other study programs. The four are languages; natural sciences & mathematics; social sciences & economics; arts, crafts & design plus sports; music, dance & drama.
Note: Beginning in 2006 there will be one general study program leading to higher education. *Transfer credit is not recommended for this program without credit by examination.*
- C *Yrkesfaglig utdanning* Apprenticeship/work experience in 9 vocational fields. First year is identical to **B** and the next two are in a specialized field. The fields are technical & industrial production; electrical engineering trades; catering & food processing trades; health & social care trades; media & communication; service & transport; agriculture; design & handicraft. Additional requirements are required for consideration of admission into higher education.
Note: Starting in 2006 study areas will be sports & physical education; music, dance & drama; specialist subject; building construction skills; design & crafts; electrical trades; health & social care; media & communication; agriculture, fishing & forestry; restaurant & food trades; service, transportation & communications; technical trades & industrial production. Year four is training at a workplace, usually followed by one year work at the same workplace. This is usually terminal but may lead to further education after completion of one year of supplemental general courses to meet the admission requirements. *Transfer credit is not recommended for this program without credit by examination.*
- D *Voksenopplæring*; 5 or more years of adult school leading to employment.

Postsecondary

- c *Examen Philosophicum* ; (Universities and some regional colleges) based on credential **B** awarded upon completion of approximately one-half years of tertiary education.
- Ed *Høgskolekandidat*; two years of higher education based on credential **B or C**; gives access to further education or employment.

- F *Bachelor's degree*: 3-year university study program based on credential **B** or **C**; gives accesses to employment or further education
- G *Bachelor's degree*; 4 year degree based on credential **B** or **C**, performing music, performing arts, and teacher education; gives access to further education or employment.
- e *Candidatus magisterii (cand. Mag)*; first university degree based on credential **b**, awarded upon completion of approximately four years of tertiary education at universities and regional colleges.
- H Master's degree; 5 year integrated degree based on credential **B** or **C** in architecture, engineering, industrial design, landscape architecture, dentistry, pharmacy. Gives access to further education or employment.
- I Professional degrees of 5 year or more based on credential **B** or **C**, retaining earlier degrees in medicine, psychology, theology, veterinary science; gives access to further education or employment.
- J Master's degree: 2-year university study program based on credential **F**; gives accesses to employment or further education
- f *Candidatus philologiae (cand. philol.)*; *candidates scientiarum (cand.scient.)* two year graduate degree based on credential **e**, second university degree requiring two to three year of study
- g *Magister atrium (mag. art)*; higher university degree based on credential **e**, awarded upon completion of six to eight years of tertiary education. More research-oriented than the *cand.philol.* Degree, with major emphasis on a thesis.
- h *Doktor atrium (dr. art.)*, *Doktor politicarum (dr. polit)*, etc. third university degree based on credential **g**, awarded upon completion of two to two and one-half years of original research and dissertation. Coursework required. One of two types of doctorates awarded in Norway.
- K PhD: 3-year university study program based on credential **J**.
- i *Lisensiat's degree*; third university degree based on credential **g** but with less research, awarded upon completion of original research and dissertation.
- j Doktor's the highest academic degree awarded in Norway, and on of two types of doctorates. Obtained after several years of research, including a thesis based on independent academic work. Includes an exam and a defense of thesis. Strictly research degree and very demanding.

GRADING SCALE

Secondary

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Translation</u>	<u>Suggested Equiv</u>
6 seks	saerdeles tilfredsstillende	Excellent	A+
5 fem	meget tilfredsstillende	Very Good	A
4 fire	tilfredsstillende	Good	B
3 tre	Noenlunde tilfredsstillende	Passable	C
2 to	måtelig	Barely Passing	D
1 ett	Ikke tilfredsstillende	Failure	F
	Deltatt	Participated	Satisfactory

Vocational Secondary

Passed	Pass
Not Passed	Fail

Postsecondary

<u>Number</u>		<u>Description</u>	<u>Translation</u>
New	Old	Old	Old
A	1.00-1.50	<i>Laudabilis prae centeris</i>	highest grade
B	1.51-2.50	<i>Laudeabilis</i>	
C	2.51-3.25	<i>Haud illaudabilis</i>	
D	3.26-4.00	<i>Non Contemnendus</i>	lowest passing
F	4.01-6.00		fail

Prior to 2002 and 2003, one year of university full-time study represented a total of 20 vekttall. Starting by the end of 2003 one year of full-time study will be the new system of European Credit Transfer System (ETCS) 60 credits per full academic year.

Old recommendations for credentials listed in lower case.

- Students who have had a minimum of four years of tertiary education and who hold the cand. Mag or a professional degree are eligible for admission to a U.S. graduate school.
- The *cand. econ., cand. philol., cand. paed., cand. Polit., cand. psychol., cand. real., cand. scient., cand. social., and mag. art.* degrees may be considered comparable to a U.S. master's degree.
- The *Licentiate* may be considered for graduate transfer credit.

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministry of Education and Research; <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/kd.html?id=586>
or <http://www.norway.org>

The Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT)
<http://www.nokut.no>

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<http://www.nokut.no/sw21594.asp>

<http://www.fit-for-europe.info/webcom/zoomeduimage.php?1=NO>

<http://www.norway.org/education/norwaysschoolsystem/secondary/secondary.htm>

http://www.utdanningsdirektoratet.no/templater/udir/TM_Artikkel.aspx?id=1374

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