

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Oman



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.

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

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.

OMAN

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	D	G	J	M	M	M	Q					
				B			E	H	K		N	P	R					
							F	I	L		O							

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A General Preparatory School Certificate – completion of Basic Education Cycle One (4yrs) and Two (6yrs) or completion of primary (6yrs) and preparatory (3yrs) education.
- B Islamic Preparatory School Certificate: Identical to Credential **A**, but awarded to students schooled in the mosque.
- C *Thanawiya Amma* (General Certificate in General Education/General Education Diploma/General Secondary School Certificate): secondary school leaving certificate. This is also considered “post-basic education.” Requires Credential **A** or **B** for admission; leads to employment or further study.
- D Preparation or Foundation Program: Non-credit preparation program intended to enhance English skills to proficiency level adequate to begin studies in degree programs. Requires Credential **C** for admission; allows access to first year of diploma or degree programs.

Postsecondary

- E Certificate: awarded after 1 year of post-secondary study in college or university. Requires Credential **C** for admission; leads to employment or further study.
- F Certificate of Higher Education: awarded after 1 year of study at a technical/vocational institute (credit may be awarded on course-by-course basis). Requires Credential **C** for admission; leads to employment or further study.
- G Oman National Diploma: awarded after 2 years of study at a technical/vocational institute (credit may be awarded on course-by-course basis). Requires Credential **C** for admission; leads to employment or further study.
- H Diploma of Higher Education: awarded after 2 years of study at a technical/vocational institute (credit may be awarded on course-by-course basis). Requires Credential **C** for admission; leads to employment or further study.
- I Diploma or Associates Degree: awarded after 2 years of post-secondary study at a college or university. Requires Credential **C** for admission; leads to employment or further study.
- J Advanced Diploma: awarded after 3 years of study at a college or university. Requires Credential **C** for admission; leads to employment or further study.
- K Higher National Diploma: awarded after 3 years of study at a college or university. Requires Credential **C** for admission; leads to employment or further study.
- L Diploma Certificate in Nursing: awarded after completion of 3-year General Nursing Programme at a Ministry of Health Nursing Institute (credit may be awarded on course-by-course basis). Requires Credential **C** for admission; leads to employment or further study.

- M Bachelor's Degree: Programs range from 4-6 years, depending on school and major. Requires Credential **C** for admission. Leads to employment or further studies.
- N Teaching Diploma: one year of study in an educational subject area. Requires Credential **M** for admission. Leads to employment or further studies.
- O Postgraduate Diploma: awarded after completion of 1 year of post-graduate study. Requires Credential **M**; leads to employment or further studies.
- P Master's Degree: Requires Credential **M** for admission; leads to employment or further studies.
- Q Doctor of Medicine (M.D.): 7 years of study at Oman Medical College (requires Credential **C** for admission) or 3 year clinical program at Qaboos University College of Medicine (requires Credential **M** for admission). Leads to employment.
- R Doctoral Degree: Offered by Sultan Qaboos University only. 2-3 years of graduate level coursework. Requires Credential **P** for admission; leads to employment.

GRADING SCALES

Secondary

Percentage	Suggested US Equivalent
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
65-79%	C
50-64%	D
0-49%	E, F

50% is lowest passing grade

Postsecondary

Omani Grading Scales				Suggested US Equivalent
Grade	4 point scale	6 or 7 point scale	Percentage	
A	4	7 or 6	90-100%	A
B	3	5	75-89%	B
C	2	4	60-74%	C
D*	1*	3*	50-59%*	D
F	0	2 or 1	0-49%	F

**Indicates lowest passing grade*

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministry of Higher Education
 PO Box: 82, Ruwi
 P.C: 112
 Sultanate of Oman
Info_dept@mohe.gov.om

NOTES:

Due to new education initiatives, most university programs (other than Islamic studies in religion and education) are taught (all or in part) in English. Some schools require IELTS, others rely on passing the Foundation Program.

New and old systems of Basic Education (new) and General Education (old) are running side by side at the moment. Basic Education is Cycle One (Grades 1-4, 4 years) and Cycle Two (Grades 5-10, 6 years). Post Basic education is 2 years following Cycle Two. The “old” system of education is a 6-3-3 structure (primary, preparatory, secondary).

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**Print**

The Admissions and Academic Placement of Students from Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Yemen Arab Republic, Johnson, J. K., NAFSA and AACRAO, 1994

A Guide to Educational Systems Around the World, NAFSA/Association of International Educators, 1999

International Guide to Qualifications in Education, the British Council, Third Edition, 1991

On-line

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

International Bureau of Education (IBE) – UNESCO

<http://www.ibe.unesco.org/en/worldwide/unesco-regions/arab-states/oman.html>

Sultanate of Oman Ministry of Higher Education

<http://www.mohe.gov.om/tabid/153/Default.aspx>

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