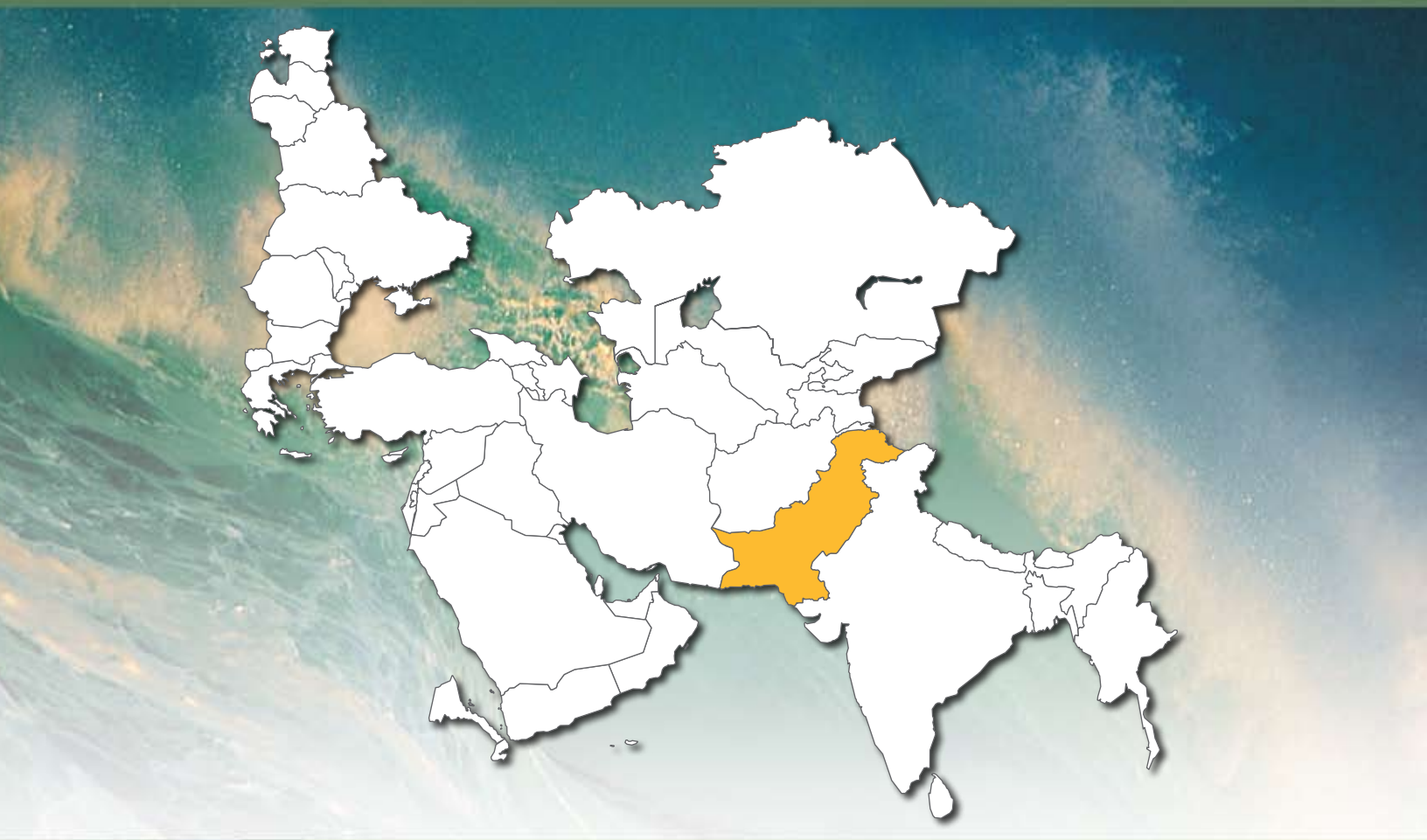


Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Pakistan



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Sonja Bhan
October 2008

About NAFSA

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.

- Q *Bachelor of...Arts (Honours), Commerce (Honours), Science (Honours), Education, and Business Administration*: three-year programs requiring credential D or equivalent for admission
- R *Bachelor of Technology (Pass)*: two-year program requiring credential I for admission
- S *Bachelor of Science in Nursing*: two-year program requiring credential J for admission
- T *Bachelor of...Library and Information Science or Education*: one-year programs requiring credential O or equivalent for admission
- U *Post-Graduate Diploma in...Special Education or Public Administration*: one-year programs requiring credential O or equivalent for admission
- V *Bachelor of Education (Arts) or (Arabic)*: one and one-half year program requiring credential O or equivalent for admission
- W *Bachelor of...Arts (Honours), Commerce (Honours), Science (Honours), Education, Business Administration (Honours), Business and Information Technology (Honours), and bachelor's degrees in the fields of nursing, city and regional planning, engineering disciplines, information technology, agriculture, pharmacy, fine arts, and medical technology*: four-year programs requiring credential D or equivalent for admission
- X *Bachelor of Dental Surgery*: four-year program requiring credential D for admission
- Y Master's degree in the fields of arts, science, commerce, public administration, business administration, management information systems, animal sciences, fine arts, education, and technical education: two-year programs requiring credential O for admission
- Z *Doctor of Veterinary Medicine*: four-year program requiring credential D for admission
- a *Master of Library and Information Science*: one-year program requiring credential T for admission
- b *Master of Administrative Sciences*: one-year program requiring credential U for admission
- c Master's degrees in the fields of business administration, engineering disciplines, engineering management, computer science, information technology, and fine arts: one-year programs requiring credential W for admission
- d *Bachelor of Technology (Honours)*: two-year program requiring credential R for admission
- e *Bachelor of Laws*: five-year program requiring credential D for admission or three-year program requiring credential O for admission
- f *Master of Education*: two-year program requiring credential T for admission
- g Master's degree in the fields of banking and finance or business information technology: three-year programs requiring credential O for admission
- h *Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery/M.B.B.S.*: five-year program requiring credential D for admission
- i *Bachelor of Architecture*: five-year program requiring credential D for admission
- j *Doctor of Veterinary Medicine*: five-year program requiring credential D for admission
- k *Doctor of Pharmacy*: five-year program requiring credential D for admission
- l *Master of Business Administration*: one to two-year program requiring credential W, Y or equivalent for admission
- m Master's degree in the fields of economics or business information technology: one and one-half year programs requiring credential W for admission

- n Master's degree in the fields of engineering, management information systems and nursing: two-year programs requiring credential W, Y or equivalent for admission
- o *Master of Philosophy*: two-year program requiring credential W, Y, c or equivalent for admission
- p *Diploma in Hematology*: one-year program requiring credential h for admission
- q *Doctor of Philosophy*: three-year program requiring credential c or d in an engineering discipline for admission
- r *Master of Laws*: two-year program requiring credential e for admission
- s *Master of Science in Oral Surgery*: three-year program requiring credential X for admission
- t *Doctor of Philosophy*: two- to six-year program requiring credential l, n, o, or equivalent for admission
- u *Master of Dental Surgery*: four-year program requiring credential X for admission
- v *Doctor of Medicine*: four- or five-year program requiring credential h for admission
- w *Master of Surgery*: four- or five-year program requiring credential h for admission
- x *Doctor of Law, Literature or Science*: five-year programs requiring credential t for admission

GRADING SCALE

Secondary:

Letter Grade	Marks %	Comment
A1	80 – 100	Outstanding
A	70– 79	Excellent
B	60– 69	Very good
C	50– 59	Good
D	40– 49	Fair
E	33– 39	Satisfactory

Postsecondary Education:

Letter Grade	Numerical Grade	Grade Point
A	80 – 100	3.30-4.00
B	65-79	2.50-3.29
C	50-64	1.80-2.49
D	40-49	1.00-1.79
F	Below 40	0.00-0.99

Grading scales will vary by institution. Refer to university prospectus or transcript for details.

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY:

Higher Education Commission Pakistan

Web site: <http://www.hec.gov.pk/>

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ministry of Education, Pakistan

Web site: <http://www.moedu.gov.bd/index.php>

Higher Education Commission Pakistan

Web site: <http://www.hec.gov.pk/>

UNESCO – World Academic Database:

Web site: <http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/index.html>

National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition. 2008. *Country Education Profiles: Pakistan*. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service.

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October 2008