

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—
Palestinian National Authority



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Hany Arafat
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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.

PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITY

YEARS OF EDUCATION

1→6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
						A		B	B	C	C	F	F		I	I		
											D	G	G					
											E		H					
											F							

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION¹

Secondary

- A شهادة الدراسة الثانوية العامة (General Secondary Education Certificate, also known as the *tawjih*): awarded after passing of national examination

Postsecondary

- B دبلوم متوسط (Intermediate Diploma): two to three years, depending on field of study; requires credential **A** for admission
- C بكالوريوس (Bachelor's degree): four to five years, depending on the field of study; requires credential **A** for admission
- D دبلوم العالي في تأهيل التربوي (Teaching Diploma): one year of teacher training for holders of four-year credential **C** in scientific fields
- E دبلوم عالي (Higher Diploma): one year, requiring four-year credential **C** for admission
- F الدبلوم العالي في التربية (Higher Diploma in Education): one to two years, requiring credential **C** for admission
- G ماجستير (Master's Degree): two years, requiring credential **C** for admission
- H بكالوريوس في الطب (Bachelor of Medicine): seven years, requiring credential **A** for admission
- I دكتوراه (Doctorate Degree): three years, requiring credential **G** for admission

¹ Authority over Palestinian education was transferred from the Israelis to the Palestinians in September, 1994. Beginning with the 1995-96 academic year, the Palestinians unified the curriculum on the Jordanian model. Prior to that time, schools in the Gaza Strip followed the Egyptian system, and schools in the West Bank followed the Jordanian system.

GRADING INFORMATION

Secondary

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Remark</u>	<u>Translation</u>
90-100	ممتاز	Excellent
80-89	جيد جدا	Very Good
70-79	جيد	Good
60-69	مقبول	Acceptable
50-59	ضعيف	Poor
0-49	راسب	Fail

Higher Education

Most universities and colleges use the following grading scale:

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Remark</u>	<u>Translation</u>
90-100	ممتاز	Excellent
80-89	جيد جدا	Very Good
70-79	جيد	Good
60-69	مقبول	Satisfactory
50-59	ضعيف	Poor
0-49	راسب	Fail

- At Bethlehem University, the minimum passing score is 60.
- A grade of E designates a range considered minimally passing for individual courses, but failing as an average.

In graduate programs at Birzeit University, the following grade scale is used:

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Remark</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
90-100	Excellent	A
85-89	Very Good	B
80-84	Good	C
75-79	Satisfactory	D
70-74	Pass	E
Below 70	Fail	F

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministry of Education and Higher Education; Ramallah, West Bank Office – Tel: 972-2-298-2600, Fax: 972-2-295-4518; Gaza Office – Tel: 972-8-282-8814, Fax: 972-8-282-8554.

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Published:

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

On-Line:

UNESCO – World Higher Education Database: <http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/>

Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education: <http://www.moe.gov.ps/>

Submitted by
Hany Arafat
SpanTran Educational Services, Inc.
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