

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Poland



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Larysa Chernyak
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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.

POLAND

YEARS OF EDUCATION

1→6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
A2		A1	B		C1	C2	D3	D4	D4	H	L	L		U	U	V		
					C2	D1	D4	E	E	I	M	N						
						D2	D	F	F	J	N	O						
						D5	E		G	K	O	Q						
						E	F		J	N	P	R						
									J1		R	S						
									K		S	T						

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A1** *Świadectwo Ukończenia Szkoły Podstawowej* (Certificate of Completion of Elementary School): represents completion of 8 years of primary education (**before the implementation of the Act of 1999**)
- A2** *Świadectwo Ukończenia Szkoły Podstawowej* (Certificate of Completion of Elementary School): represents completion of 6 years of primary education (**after the implementation of the Act of 1999**)
- B** *Świadectwo Ukończenia Gimnazjum* (Certificate of Completion of Education of Gymnasium): represents completion of 3 years of lower secondary school; leads to upper secondary school credentials **C2, D2, (after the implementation of the Act of 1999)**
- C1** *Świadectwo Ukończenia Zasadniczej Szkoły Zawodowej* (Certificate of Completion of Basic Vocational School): represents 3 years of vocational education based on credential **A1; (before the implementation of the Act of 2001)**
- C2** *Świadectwo Ukończenia Zasadniczej Szkoły Zawodowej* (Certificate of Completion of Basic Vocational School): represents 2-3 years of vocational education based on credential **B; (after the implementation of the Act of 2001)**
- D1** *Świadectwo Dojrzałości* (Maturity Certificate), *Liceum Ogólnokształcącego* (4 years), *Liceum Zawodowe* (Vocational Lyceum) (4 years), *Liceum Techniczne* (Technical Lyceum) (4 years), *Liceum Muzyczne* (Lyceum of Music) (4 years): 4-year upper secondary program based on credential **A1; gives access to university and other post-secondary programs (before the implementation of the Act of 2001)**
- D2** *Świadectwo Dojrzałości Liceum Ogólnokształcącego* (Certificate of Completion of Education of General Secondary School): 3-year upper secondary program based on credential **B; gives access to university and other post-secondary programs (after the implementation of the Act of 2001)**
- D2** *Świadectwo Dojrzałości Liceum Profilowanego* (Certificate of Completion of Education of Specialized Secondary School): 3-year upper secondary program based on credential **B; gives access to university and other post-secondary programs (after the implementation of the Act of 2001)**
- D3** *Świadectwo Dojrzałości Technikum* (Certificate of Completion of Education of Technical Secondary School): 4-year upper secondary program based on credential **B; gives access to university and other post-secondary programs (after the implementation of the Act of 2001)**

- D4** *Świadectwo Dojrzałości Liceum Ogólnokształcącego* (Certificate of Completion of Education of General Secondary School): 2-year upper secondary program at supplementary general secondary school (*Uzupełniająca Liceum Ogólnokształcącego*) or 3-year upper secondary program at supplementary technical secondary school (*Technikum Uzupełniająca*) based on credential **C2**; gives access to university and other post-secondary programs (**after the implementation of the Act of 2001**)
- D5** *Świadectwo Dojrzałości* (Maturity Certificate) *Liceum Muzycznego* (Lyceum of Music) (6 years), *Ogólnokształcącej Szkoły Sztuk Pięknych* (General Secondary School of Fine Arts) (6 years), based on credential **A2**; *Liceum Plastycznego* (Lyceum of Fine Arts) (4 years), based on credential **B**; *Ogólnokształcącej Szkoły Baletowej* (General School of Ballet) 9 years; based on completion grade 3 of elementary school; these schools were introduced or reformed in 1999
- E** *Świadectwo Ukończenia* (Certificate of Completion) is awarded to students who do not sit for the maturity examination; does not give access to university and other post-secondary programs
- F** *Dyplom Uzyskania Tytułu Zawodowego* (Diploma of Vocational Title) is awarded after completion of the program at technical secondary school or supplementary technical secondary school and having passed the vocational examination; does not give access to university and other post-secondary programs

Postsecondary After 1990

- G** *Świadectwo Ukończenia Szkoły Policealnej* (Certificate of Completion of Education of post-secondary school): not longer than 2.5-year post-secondary technical program based on credentials **E**
- H** *Dyplom Ukończenia Studiów Wyższych* (Diploma of Completion of Higher Education Studies) indicating the *Tytuł Inżynier* (title of Engineer): 3.5-4 year first cycle higher education program in the fields of engineering and technology (except architecture and urban planning), agricultural forestry based on credential **D**; provided by both university-type and non-university institutions
- I** *Dyplom Ukończenia Studiów Wyższych* (Diploma of Completion of Higher Education Studies) indicating the *Tytuł Inżynier Architekt* (title of Engineer Architect): 3.5-4 year first cycle higher education program in the fields of architecture and urban planning based on credential **D**
- J** *Dyplom Ukończenia Studiów Wyższych* (Diploma of Completion of Higher Education Studies) indicating the *Tytuł Licencjat* (title of Licentiate): 3-4 year first cycle higher education program in all fields (except technical and agricultural fields) based on credential **D**; provided by both university-type and non-university institutions
- J1** *Dyplom Ukończenia Kolegium Nauczycielskiego* (Diploma of Completion of Education at Teacher Training College/Foreign Language Teacher Training College) indicating the (title of Licentiate): 3-year non-university program based on credential **D**; gives access to university programs (complementary master studies)
- K** *Dyplom Ukończenia Studiów Wyższych* (Diploma of Completion of Higher Education Studies) indicating the *Tytuł Licencjat Pielęgniarstwa* (title of Licentiate of Nursing) or the *Tytuł Licencjat Położnictwa* (title of Licentiate of Midwifery): 3-4 year first cycle higher education program based on credential **D**

- L** *Dyplom Ukończenia Studiów Wyższych* (Diploma of Completion of Higher Education Studies) indicating the *Tytuł Magister (mgr)* (title of Master): 4.5-6 year long cycle (*jednolite*) higher education program based on credential **D**; awarded at universities, academies of economics, academies of medicine (pharmacy, nursing, medical analyses or public health), academies of physical education and academies of theology in the following fields: humanities, natural sciences, mathematics, physics, chemistry, economics, social sciences, law, medical areas (except medicine, dentistry, nursing and midwifery) and physical education ¹ or 1.5-2 year second cycle higher education program based on credentials **H** and **J** aka *studia magisterskie uzupełniające* (complementary master studies) ²
- M** *Dyplom Ukończenia Studiów Wyższych* (Diploma of Completion of Higher Education Studies) indicating the *Tytuł Magister Edukacji (mgr ed.)* (title of Master of Education): 5 year long cycle higher education program based on credential **D**; or 2 year second cycle higher education program based on credential **J1**; awarded by higher education schools, academies of pedagogy, some faculties at universities
- N** *Dyplom Ukończenia Studiów Wyższych* (Diploma of Completion of Higher Education Studies) indicating the *Tytuł Magister Sztuki (mgr szt.)* (title of Master of Arts): 4-6-year long cycle higher education program based on credential **D**
- O** *Dyplom Ukończenia Studiów Wyższych* (Diploma of Completion of Higher Education Studies) indicating the *Tytuł Magister Inżynier (mgr inż.)* (title of Master of Engineer): 5-6 year long cycle higher education program based on credential **D**; or 1.5-2 year second cycle higher education program based on credential **H**; awarded by technical and military academies, academies of agriculture, merchant navy schools and some faculties of economics
- P** *Dyplom Ukończenia Studiów Wyższych* (Diploma of Completion of Higher Education Studies) indicating the *Tytuł Magister Inżynier Architekt (mgr inż. arch.)* (title of Master of Engineer Architect): 5 year long cycle higher education program based on credential **D**; or 1.5-2 year second cycle higher education program based on credential **I**; awarded by technical academies and departments of architecture
- Q** *Dyplom Ukończenia Studiów Wyższych* (Diploma of Completion of Higher Education Studies) indicating the *Tytuł Lekarz (lek.)* (Title of Physician): 6 year long cycle (*jednolite*) higher education program based on credential **D**; gives access to *Doktor* (Doctor) program
- R** *Dyplom Ukończenia Studiów Wyższych* (Diploma of Completion of Higher Education Studies) indicating the *Tytuł Lekarz Dentysta (before 04.30.2004 Lekarz Stomatolog)* (Title of Dentist): 5-6 year long cycle (*jednolite*) higher education program based on credential **D**; gives access to *Doktor* (Doctor) program
- S** *Dyplom Ukończenia Studiów Wyższych* (Diploma of Completion of Higher Education Studies) indicating the *Tytuł Lekarz Weterynarii (lek. wet.)* (Veterinary Physician): 5-5.5 year long cycle (*jednolite*) higher education program based on credential **D**; gives access to *Doktor* (Doctor) program
- T** *Dyplom Ukończenia Studiów Wyższych* (Diploma of Completion of Higher Education Studies) indicating the *Tytuł of Magister Pielęgniarstwa* (title of Master of Nursing) or the *Tytuł of Magister Położnictwa* (title of Master of Midwifery): 2 year second cycle higher education program based on credential **K** (since 2000)
- U** *Doktor* (Doctor): 3-4 year third cycle program based on the professional title of *Magister* (Master), *Lekarz* (Physician) or its equivalent; requires passing examinations and public defense of doctoral dissertation ³
- V** *Doktor Habilitowany* (Habilitation Doctor) or *Doktor Habilitowany Sztuki* (Habilitation Doctor of Arts): requires *rozprawa habilitacyjna* (dissertation/book); academic publications; teaching achievements; and *kolokwium habilitacyjne* (examination) ³

¹ Academies of physical education award the professional title of *Trener* (coach) and in the fields of tourism and recreation the titles of *Instruktora turystyki* (tourist instructor) and *Instruktora rekreacji* (recreational instructor)

Schools of police award the professional title of *Oficer Dyplomowany*; gives access to second cycle higher education at military or civilian higher education institutions

Central School of Fire Services awards the title of *Inżynier Pożarnictwa* (Fire Engineer) and *Magister Inżynier Pożarnictwa* (Master of Fire Engineer)

² Two cycle program is not offered in such fields: pharmacy, medicine (medical doctors), law, psychology, dentistry, veterinary medicine (since 2003); only uniform (aka long cycle) study programs (*jednolite studia magisterskie*) are offered in these fields

³ *Kwalifikacje Pierwszego Stopnia* (first degree qualifications) awarded as an equivalent of the *Doktor* degree in artistic disciplines and *Kwalifikacje Drugiego Stopnia* (second degree qualifications) awarded as an equivalent of the *Doktor Habilitowany* degree in artistic disciplines were phased out in 2003

The title of *Profesor* (professor) and the title *Profesor Sztuki* (professor of arts) are conferred by the President of the Republic of Poland per recommendation of the Central Commission for Academic Degrees and Titles

GRADING SCALE

Secondary

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Translation</u>
6	<i>Celujący</i>	Excellent
5	<i>Bardzo dobry</i>	Very Good
4	<i>Dobry</i>	Good
3	<i>Dostateczny</i>	Satisfactory
2	<i>Dopuszczający</i> (former <i>mierny</i>)	Passing
1	<i>Niedostateczny</i>	Fail

Grade 6 (Excellent) is given when the student exceeds expectation.

Postsecondary

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Translation</u>
5	<i>Bardzo dobry</i>	Very Good
4	<i>Dobry</i>	Good
3	<i>Dostateczny</i>	Satisfactory
2	<i>Niedostateczny</i> <i>Zaliczenie</i>	Unsatisfactory Pass

Sometimes plus symbol or decimal is used to modify the numeric grades.

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministerstwo Edukacji Narodowej (Ministry of National Education), Al. Szucha 25, 00-918 Warsaw, Poland. Tel/Fax: 48-22-628-93-29. Tel: 48-621-67-50.

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Devlin, Edward, ed. 1992. *The Admission and Placement of Students from the Republic of Poland*. Annapolis Junction, MD: PIER.

Republic of Poland Ministry of National Education. 1997a. *Scientific and Academic Activities of Polish Universities: Agricultural Academies, Economical Academies, Teacher Education Schools*. Warsaw: Warsaw Agricultural University Press.

Ministry of Science and Higher Education in English: www.eng.nauka.gov.pl)

European Union Web site on education: www.eurydice.org

Guide to Higher Education in Poland, 2000: www.buwiwm.edu.pl/publ/guide/index.htm

Polish State Accreditation Committee: www.pka.edu.pl/

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