

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Portugal



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Sarah Qeyros
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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

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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.

PORTUGAL

YEARS OF EDUCATION

1→6	7	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	
			A			B1		C		E	H	K		M	N	N	N	N	N	N
					B2			D		F	I	L						O	O	
										G	J	M								
										G1										

CREDENTIAL OR DOCUMENTATION

Basic Education

- A *Certificado de Educação Básica* (Certificate of Basic Education): Nine years of mandatory basic education, divided in 3 cycles; required for admission to Secondary Education.

Secondary Education

- B1 *Diploma / Certificado de Ensinos Secundários* (Diploma / Certificate of Secondary Studies): Three years of secondary education; leads to post-secondary education.
- B2 *Diploma / Certificado de qualificação profissional, nível III* (Professional Diploma / Certificate, level III): Three years of secondary education; leads to post-secondary education.

Postsecondary

- C *Curso de Especialização Tecnológica / CET* (Technological Specialization Course): Culminates in the *Diploma de Especialização Tecnológica / DET* (Diploma of Technological Specialization) and Professional Qualification, level IV, allows access to *CAP: Certificado de Aptidão Profissional* (Professional Suitability Certificate).
- D *Bacharel / Licenciado* (Bachelor / Licentiate): Originally, the *Bacharel* was the first degree awarded after a three-year program; in accordance with Bologna Process, students may complete a fourth year to be awarded the *Licenciado* (Licentiate). Credential **B1** and the **National Exam** are necessary for admission.
- E *Licenciado* (Licentiate for Teachers) / Pre-Primary and Primary Basic School: Four-year university program; in accordance with Bologna Process, equates to 180 ECTS, making it a three-year, first-cycle program; requires credential **B1** and the **National Exam for entrance**.
- F *Licenciado* (Licentiate): Four-year university program in arts or humanities; in accordance with the Bologna process, this is equivalent to a first cycle, 180 ECTS (three-year) program; requiring credential **B1** and **National Exam** for entrance.
- G *Licenciado* (Licentiate): Four-year university program in agriculture and animal husbandry, environmental sciences, pharmacy, physical education, social sciences and technology; requires credential **B1** and **National Exam** for entrance.
- G1 *Licenciado* (Licentiate): Four-year university program in the field of law; requires credential **B1** and **National Exam** for entrance.
- H *Diploma do Ciclo Especial* (Special Cycle Diploma): Five-year university program in fine arts; requires credential **B1** and **National Exam** for entrance.

- I *Licenciado Ramo de Formação Educacional* (Licentiate in the Field of Teacher Training): Four- to six-year university program for secondary school teachers; requires credential **B1** and **National Exam** for entrance.
- J *Diploma de Estudos Superiores / DESE* (Diploma of Higher Specialized Studies): Five-year technical program: this is the same as the Licentiate.
- K *Licenciado* (Licentiate): Six-year program in field of dentistry; graduates are referred to as *doutor* (doctor) and use the initials “dr”; requires credential **B1** for admission.
- L *Licenciado* (Licentiate): Six-year program in field of medicine; graduates are referred to as *doutor* (doctor) and use the initials “dr”; requires credential **B1** for admission.
- M *Mestre* (Master): Advanced degree in specific scientific field, indicating capacity to conduct practical research; courses usually last four semesters and include lectures as well as preparation and discussion of an original thesis; requires a *Licenciatura* (Licentiate).
- N *Doutor* (Doctor): The *doutor* is conferred by universities to those who have passed Doctorate examinations and have defended a dissertation; there is no fixed period to prepare for Doctorate examinations; requires a *Mestre* or *Licenciado* degree for admission.
- O *Agregação* (Aggregation): The highest qualification reserved to holders of *Doutor* degree; requires the capacity to undertake high-level research and requires special pedagogical competence in a specific field; awarded only after passing specific examination; grants the title of *Professor Doutor* (Doctor Professor)

GRADING SCALE

Postsecondary

According to Decreto Lei no.42/2005 (2-22-05), a 20 point grading scale is used in both secondary and higher education:

<u>Numeric</u>	<u>Description</u>
16-20	A
13-15	B
10-12	C
1-9	F

INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministerio de Educação: www.min-edu.pt

Diplomas e certificados/Diplomas and Certificates: <http://sitio.dgice.min-edu.pt>

Portal do Governo de Portugal/Portugal Government: www.portugal.gov.pt

Ministerio da Ciência, tecnologia e Ensino superior/Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education: www.mctes.pt

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Internet Sources:

Country Studies - Portugal: www.country-studies.com

Education in Portugal: www.country-data.com

Countries of the world: www.photius.com

Sistemas Educativos Nacionales (National Educational Systems); *Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos* (Organization of Inter-American States):

<http://www.oei.es/quipu/portugal/index.html>

Structure of Educational System in Portugal: www.euroeducation.net

UNESCO-World Academic Database: www.unesco.org

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