

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Qatar



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.

QATAR

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		F		I	O	Q				X		
						C		G		J	P	R						
						D		H		K		S						
						E				L		T						
										M		U						
										N		V						
												W						

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A General Preparatory Education Certificate - Awarded after three years of intermediate (preparatory) education
- B *Thanawiya aam Qatari* (Qatari General Secondary Education Certificate): Awarded after three years of upper secondary study, the first year general and the second two years containing either a scientific or literary stream; leads to university education
- C *Thanawiya Fanni* (also *Thanawiya al-fanni*) – Commercial Secondary School Certificate (Vocational): leads to employment; limited access to higher education
- D *Thanawiya Sina'ah* (also *Thanawiya al-sina'ah*) - Technical Secondary Certificate (Vocational): leads to employment; limited access to higher education.
- E *Thanawiya al-Islamiya* – Religious Secondary Certificate Institute (Vocational): leads to Sharia and Islamic Studies at the undergraduate level

Postsecondary

- F Associates Degree (AA, AAS, AS) from the Community College of Qatar (CCQ); requires B and English proficiency for admission; leads to employment or further studies. CCQ opened Sept 2010
- G Diploma in Air Traffic Control, awarded by the Qatar Aeronautical College, requires Credential **B** and English proficiency for admission; leads to employment
- H Diploma in Aeronautical Meteorology: requires Credential **B** and English proficiency for admission; leads to employment.
- I Bachelor of Science Degree (B.Sc.): Requires Credential **B** and English proficiency for admission. Leads to employment or further studies.
- J Bachelor of Arts Degree (BA): Requires Credential **B** and English proficiency for admission. Leads to employment or further studies.
- K Bachelor Business Administration Degree (BBA): Requires Credential **B** and English proficiency for admission. Leads to employment or further studies.
- L Bachelor of Education Degree: Requires Credential **B** and English proficiency for admission. Leads to employment or further studies.
- M Bachelor of Law Degree (LL.B.): Requires Credential **B** and English proficiency for admission. Leads to employment or further studies.
- N Bachelor of Sharia & Islamic Studies: Requires Credential **B** or **E** for admission. Leads to employment.

- O Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (BSc (Pharm)): Requires Credential **B** and English proficiency for admission. Leads to employment or further studies.
- P Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Special Education, Early Childhood, Primary, Secondary); requires Credential **M** for admission. Leads to employment.
- Q Master of Education (M.Ed.): Requires Credential **J** or **L** and English Proficiency for admission; leads to employment.
- R Master of Science (MSc): requires Credential **I, J, K, L** or **M** and English proficiency for admission; leads to employment or further studies.
- S Master of Urban Planning and Design (MUPD): Requires Credential **I** or **J** and English proficiency for admission; leads to employment or further studies.
- T Master of Business Administration (MBA): Requires Credential **K** and English proficiency for admission; leads to employment.
- U Master of Accounting (MAC): Requires Credential **K** and English proficiency for admission; leads to employment or further studies.
- V *Master of Arts (MA) (Gulf Studies)*: requires Credential **I, J, K, L** or **M** and English proficiency for admission. Began in Fall 2011
- W *Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)*: Requires Credential **O** and English proficiency for admission. Leads to employment. Began in Fall 2011
- X *Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (Engineering)*: Requires Credential **R** or **S** and English proficiency for admission. Leads to employment. Began in Fall 2011

GRADING SCALES

Secondary

Percentage	Suggested US Equivalent
85-100	A
70-84	B
55-69	C
40-54	D
0-39	F

Postsecondary/Qatar University

Grade	Description	Percentage	Grade Points
A	Excellent	90-100	4.0
B+	Very Good	85-89.5	3.5
B	Very Good	80-84.5	3.0
C+	Good	75-79.5	2.5
C	Good	70-74.5	2.0
D+	Pass	65-69.5	1.5
D	Pass	60-64.5	1.0
F	Fail	Less than 60	0

2.0 is considered passing at the undergraduate level.

2.5 is considered passing for the Diploma programs.

3.0 is considered passing at the Masters and Doctorate level.

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministry of Education

NOTES:

- Qatar University is on a semester credit hour system.
- Per the University's Graduate Handbook, the official language of the University is Arabic; however the language of instruction can be Arabic or English (typically English for all programs other than the Bachelor of Sharia & Islamic Studies). Official TOEFL scores are required for all programs (with the exception of Sharia & Islamic Studies); 520 PBT for graduate studies, 500PBT (5.5 IELTS) for undergraduate.
- Qatar University is accredited by AACSB, the American Bar Association, ABET, Inc and many other US, UK and Canadian associations.
- Qatar has undergone extensive education reform, beginning in 2003 – "Education for a New Era."

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Print

The Admission and Academic Placement of Students from: Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Yemen Arab Republic, Joint Committee on Workshops, May 1984, pp. 61-74.

Guide to Educational Systems Around the World, NAFSA, 1999

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/qatar.html>

Qatar University <http://www.qu.edu.qa/>

Supreme Education Council of Qatar <http://www.english.education.gov.qa>

Supreme Education Council – Higher Education Institute
<http://www.english.education.gov.qa/section/sec/hei>

University Education – from the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar
<http://english.mofa.gov.qa/details.cfm?id=102>

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