

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Saudi Arabia



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Margaret Wenger
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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

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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.

SAUDI ARABIA

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		MTT		b	c	f		o	o			
						C		NUU			d	g						
						D		OVV			e	h						
						E		PWX			f	l						
						F		QY			l	m						
						G		RZ			i	n						
						H		Sa			j							
						I		T			k							
						J		U			n							
						K		V										
						L												

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A شهادة الكفاءة المتوسطة (Intermediate Education Certificate)
- B الشهادة الثانوية العامة/ شهادة المرحلة الثانوية (General Secondary Education Certificate); awarded in science and literature tracks; three years, requiring credential **A** for admission
- C دبلوم المدرسة التجارية (Commercial Secondary School Diploma); three years, requiring credential **A** for admission
- D دبلوم المدرسة الزراعية (Agricultural Secondary School Diploma) ; three years, requiring credential **A** for admission
- E دبلوم المدارس الثانوية المهنية (Vocational Secondary School Diploma); three years, requiring credential **A** for admission
- F الشهادة الثانوية العامة الشاملة/المطورة (Comprehensive Secondary Certificate); phased out in early 1990s; three years, requiring credential **A** for admission
- G الشهادة الثانوية الشرعية (الدينية) (Religious Secondary Education Certificate) ; three years, requiring credential **A** for admission
- H الشهادة الثانوية لمدارس تحفيظ القرآن (Quranic Secondary School Certificate) ; three years, requiring credential **A** for admission
- I الشهادة الثانوية العامة في التربية الفنية (General Secondary Certificate of Art Education); three years, requiring credential **A** for admission
- J الشهادة الثانوية للتربية الرياضية (Secondary Physical Education Certificate); three years, requiring credential **A** for admission
- K شهادة الدراسة الثانوية لمعاهد تدريب المعلمين (Secondary Teacher Training Institute Certificate); phased out in early 1990s; three years, requiring credential **A** for admission
- L دبلوم المعهد الصحي (Health Institute Diploma) ; three years, requiring credential **A** for admission

Postsecondary

- M دبلوم مركز العلوم و الرياضيات (Science and Mathematics Center Diploma); two years, requiring credential **B** for admission
- N دبلوم الكلية المتوسطة لتدريب المعلمين (Junior College Teacher Training Diploma); two years,

- requiring credential **B** or **K** for admission
- O دبلوم المعهد العالي في العلوم المالية و التجارية (Diploma of the Higher Institute for Financial and Commercial Sciences); two years, requiring credential **B** or **C** for admission
- P دبلوم علم الأرض (Earth Science Diploma); two years, requiring credential **B** for admission
- Q شهادة الخدمة الاجتماعية (Certificate of Social Work); two years at Higher Institute of Social Work, requiring credential **B** for admission
- R شهادة تنبؤ جوي (شهادة في علم الأرصاد الجوية) (Certificate in Meteorology); two years, requiring credential **B** for admission
- S شهادة المعهد الفني العالي (Higher Technical Institute Certificate); two years, requiring credential **E** for admission; phased out in 1980s
- T دبلوم تمريض (Diploma in Nursing); two to three years, requiring credential **B** for admission
- U الشهادة الجامعية المتوسطة (Intermediate University Certificate); two to three years at the Intermediate/Junior Colleges of Technology; requires credential **A, B, C, D,** or **E** for admission
- V شهادة إتمام دورة معهد الإدارة العامة (Institute of Public Administration Certificate of Completion); two to three years, requiring credential **B** or **C** for admission
- W دبلوم متوسط في تقنية الحاسبات (Diploma of Computer Technology); two and one-half years, requiring credential **B** for admission
- X دبلوم المعهد الفني العالي (Higher Technical Institute Diploma); one year, requiring credential **S** or **U** for admission
- Y كفاءة التدريس في المدارس المتوسطة (Intermediate School Teaching Qualification); one year at Science and Mathematics Centers, requiring credential **M** for admission
- Z شهادة إتمام دورة مكثفة (Certificate of Completion, Intensive Program); one year of teacher training, requiring credential **N** for admission
- a بكالوريوس العلوم العسكرية/البحرية/الطيران (Bachelor of Military Science/Naval Science/Aviation); three years, requiring credential **B** for admission
- b إجازة/بكالوريوس في الآداب، إجازة/ بكالوريوس في العلوم، إجازة/بكالوريوس في لتربية/بكالوريوس/لستنس (Bachelor of Arts/ Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Education/Bachelor/License); four years, requiring credential **B-H** (depending on field of study and secondary scores) for admission
- c البكالوريوس في العمارة (Bachelor in Architecture); five years, requiring credential **B** for admission
- d البكالوريوس في العلوم الصيدلانية (Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences); five years, requiring credential **B** for admission
- e بكالوريوس الزراعة و الطب البيطري/بكالوريوس في الطب البيطري (Bachelor of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine); five years, requiring credential **B** for admission
- f بكالوريوس في طب الأسنان (Bachelor of Dental Medicine); five or six years, requiring credential **B** for admission
- g دكتور صيدلة (Doctor of Pharmacy); six years, requiring credential **B** for admission
- h بكالوريوس في الطب و الجراحة (Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery); six years, requiring credential **B** for admission
- i الدبلوم الخاص/الدبلوم العام [Special Diploma/General Diploma (in education)]; one year, requiring credential **b** for admission
- j الدبلوم العالي [Higher Diploma (in education)]; one year, requiring credential **b** for admission
- k شهادة التأهيل (Certificate of Qualification); one year of teacher training, requiring credential **b** for admission
- l الدبلوم الخاص (في الترجمة) [Special Diploma (in Translation)]; two years, requiring

- credential **b** for admission
- m دبلوم الدراسات الدبلوماسية (Diplomacy Studies Diploma); two years, requiring credential **b** for admission
- n ماجستير (Master); two years, requiring credential **a** or **b** for admission
- o دكتوراه (Doctorate); three years, requiring credential **n** for admission

GRADING SCALE

Secondary

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Translation</u>
90-100	ممتاز	Excellent
75-89	جيد جدا	Very Good
60-74	جيد	Good
50-59	مقبول	Pass
0-49	راسب	Fail

Postsecondary

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Letter</u>	<u>5-point scale</u>	<u>4-point scale</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Translation</u>
90-100	A	4.0-5.0	3.6-4.0	ممتاز	Excellent
80-89	B	3.0-3.9	2.6-3.59	جيد جدا	Very Good
70-79	C	2.0-2.9	1.6-2.59	جيد	Good
60-69	D	1.0-1.9	1.0-1.59	مقبول/ضعيف	Pass
0-59	F	0.0-0.9	0.0-.99	راسب	Fail

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministry of Higher Education: www.mohe.gov.sa

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Abalhassan, Khalid M. *Higher Education in Saudi Arabia 2007*. Ministry of Higher Education, Riyadh, 2007.

Hendrickson, Peggy Bell. "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Educational System," *NAFSA Admissions wRap Up*, February 2007

www.moe.gov.sa (Ministry of Education)

www.mohe.gov.sa (Ministry of Higher Education)

www.moh.gov.sa (Ministry of Health)

www.scfhs.org (Saudi Commission for Health Specialties)

www.tvtc.gov.sa/English [Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (replaced General Organization for Technical Education and Vocational Training)]

www.rcjy.gov.sa (Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu)

www.educationusa-mena.org (Education USA, Middle East/North Africa Region)

www.ncaaa.org.sa (National Commission for Academic Accreditation and Assessment)

www.sacm.org (Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission)

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