

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Spain



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Kevin Rolwing
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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.

SPAIN

YEARS OF EDUCATION

1-6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13		14		15		16		17		18		19		20		21		22		23		24	
		A				C		D				E		H		I		J		L		O		P		X		a									
												F		I				K		M		P		Q													
												G						L		N		Q		R													
												H						M		O		R		S													
																				Y		T		T													
																						Z															

CREDENTIALS

Secondary

A *Certificado de Graduado Escolar* (Certificate of School Graduate); follows completion of eight years of compulsory education [Pre-LOGSE]*

* A major set of educational reforms was enacted in 1990 when the *LOGSE--Ley Orgánica de Ordenación General del Sistema Educativo* (Organic Law on the General Structure of the Education System) was passed. The new elementary and secondary-level educational structures and academic credentials created by LOGSE were implemented over the 1990-2000 decade. As such, one will find both pre-LOGSE academic credentials and new academic credentials created by LOGSE awarded in the 1990-2000 period. (A new law passed in 2006, the *Ley Orgánica de Educación* {Organic Law on Education} revised and replaced LOGSE, but it did not change the basic academic credentials)

B *Título de Técnico Auxiliar* (Title of Assistant Technician): Two-year technical program following **A**. [Pre-LOGSE]*

C *Graduado en Educación Secundaria* (Secondary Education Graduate) signifies completion of compulsory education (lower secondary – 10th grade) – [created by LOGSE]*

D *Bachiller Unificado y Polivalente* (Unified and Multipurpose Bachelor) – Three year program following **A**. An additional year of study leading to the F award were required for admission to university. [Pre-LOGSE]*

E *Título de Técnico* (Title of Technician)— Two-year upper-secondary technical program following **C**. [created by LOGSE]*

F *Curso de Orientación Universitaria* (University Orientation Program)—one year streamed university preparatory program following **D**. [Pre-LOGSE]* Replaced by **G** created by LOGSE.

G *Título de Bachiller* (Title of Bachelor) – Two-year streamed university preparatory program following **C**. [Created by LOGSE]* Sometimes referred to as the *Bachiller-LOGSE*, it replaced the pre-LOGSE F for university admissions.

H *Título de Técnico Especialista* (Title of Specialized Technician)—Two to three-year technical program following **B**. [Pre-LOGSE]*

Postsecondary

- I** *Título de Técnico Superior* (Title of Higher Technician)— A two-year technical (occasionally one-year) program following **E** or **G**. [Created by LOGSE]*
- J** *Diplomado* (University Diploma) Three-year program following completion of upper secondary education (**F, G, H**). This degree program will be replaced by the new Bologna Process degree programs—see below.
- K** *Maestro* (Teacher): Three-year program teacher training program (K-6) following completion of secondary education (**F, G**). This degree program will be replaced by the new Bologna Process degree programs—see below.
- L** *Arquitecto Técnico* (Technical Architect)—Three (occasionally four)-year program following completion of upper-secondary education (**F, G, H**). This degree program will be replaced by the new Bologna Process degree programs—see below.
- M** *Ingeniero Técnico* (Technical Engineer)—Three (occasionally four)-year program following completion of upper-secondary education (**F, G, H**). This degree program will be replaced by the new Bologna Process degree programs—see below.
- N** *Título de Profesor Superior* (Title of Higher Teacher)—Four-year program in music and music education offered at conservatories of music. Follows completion of secondary education (**F, G**)
- O** *Licenciado* (Licentiate)—Four or five-year two-cycle degree program following completion of upper secondary education (**F, G**) Some *Licenciado* programs are offered as two-year 2nd cycle degree programs for holders of the *Diplomado* – **J** or equivalent. The *Licenciado* degree program will be replaced by the new Bologna Process degree programs—see Bologna Process Degrees below.
- P** *Licenciado* (Licentiate) in Pharmacy or Veterinary Medicine—Five or six-year two-cycle degree program following completion of upper secondary education (**F, G**).
- Q** *Arquitecto* (Architect)—Five or six-year two-cycle degree program following completion of upper secondary education (**F, G**)
- R** *Ingeniero* (Engineer)—Five or six-year two-cycle degree program following completion of upper secondary education (**F, G**). This degree program will be replaced by the new Bologna Process degree programs—see Bologna Process Degrees below.
- S** *Licenciado* (Licentiate) in Medicine—Six-year two-cycle degree program following completion of upper secondary education (**F, G**).
- T** *Certificado de Aptitud Pedagógica* (Certificate of Pedagogical Aptitude)—One year part-time (300 hours) teacher training program designed for *Licenciado* – **O** holders or equivalent. Holders of this certificate are eligible to teach at the lower and upper-secondary level.
- U** *Experto* (Expert)—One or two-semester program requiring at least a *Diplomado*-level **J** academic credential for admission. Public and private universities may offer this non-official “*título propio*” (institutional title) program, but the *Ministerio de Ciencia y Innovación* (Ministry of Science and Innovation) does not regulate its structure nor recognize it as an official degree program.
- V** *Especialista* (Specialist)—One or two-semester program generally requiring at least a *Licenciado*-level **N** academic credential for admission. Public and private universities may offer this non-official “*título propio*” (institutional title) program, but the *Ministerio de Ciencia y Innovación* does not regulate its structure nor recognize it as an official degree program.
- W** *Master* (Master’s Degree)—One or two-year program requiring at least a *Licenciado*-level **O** academic credential for admission. Public and private universities may offer this non-official “*título propio*” (institutional title) program, but the *Ministerio de Ciencia y Innovación* does not regulate its structure nor recognize it as an official degree program. Please note that as of 2007 universities also offer the one or two-

year degree program of the official *Master Universitario* (University Master). The official *Master Universitario* is both regulated and recognized as an official degree program by the *Ministerio de Ciencia y Innovación* (Ministry of Science and Innovation). Please see the Bologna Process University Degrees section below.

- X *Doctor* (Doctor) Minimum two years of coursework and submission of dissertation. Follows completion of two-cycle university degree program (**O, P, Q, R, S**). [Pre-Bologna Process doctorate]. Please see the Bologna Process University Degrees section below.

New “Bologna Process” University Degrees

Following the Bologna Process reforms being enacted by most European countries, Spain has adopted the following three-cycle degree structure:

- Y *Graduado en . . .* (Graduate in FIELD OF STUDY) Four-year 1st cycle Bologna Process degree following completion of upper secondary education-G. This degree program is being offered as of the academic year 2008-2009 at Spanish universities and should replace most pre-Bologna degrees as of the 2010-2011 academic year. It gives access to the Bologna Process compliant *Master Universitario* (University Master) - Z.
- Z *Master Universitario* (University Master) One to two-year 2nd cycle Bologna Process degree program designed to follow the above *Graduado* – Y qualification or equivalent. First introduced in 2007, more than 1,000 official university master’s degree programs are being offered as of 2008. In contrast to the pre-Bologna Process *Master* (Master’s Degree), the *Master Universitario* is regulated and recognized as an official degree program by the *Ministerio de Ciencia y Innovación*, and is often referred to as the “*master oficial*” (“official master’s degree”). It is designed to give access to a restructured Bologna Process “*doctorado*” (doctoral) program- a.
- a *Doctor* (Doctor) Restructured Bologna Process doctorate designed to follow completion of the official *Master Universitario* - Z (University Master) or equivalent. To be offered after 2010.

Grading Information

Secondary Level

Current (LOGSE)* Spanish Secondary Grading Scale

10

9

8

7

6

5 – minimum passing individual subject grade and minimum GPA

Below 5--failing

Pre-LOGSE* Secondary Grading Scale

Sobresaliente SB (Outstanding)

Notable NT (Notable)

Bien BI (Good)

Suficiente SF (Sufficient)— minimum passing individual subject grade and overall average grade required

Insuficiente INSUF (Insufficient)—failing grade

University Grading Scale

Matrícula de Honor (Class Honors)

Sobresaliente (Outstanding)

Notable (Notable)

Aprobado (Passing)— minimum passing individual subject grade and overall average grade required for the award of a degree

Suspense (Fail)—failing grade

References and Resources

Ministerio de Educación, Política Social y Deporte (Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports) website: <http://www.mepsyd.es/index-mec.html>. This education ministry oversees Pre-K through 12 education.

Ministerio de Ciencia y Innovación (Ministry of Science and Innovation) <http://web.micinn.es/> Oversees the higher education sector.

(Please note the above two ministries were created in 2008. Previously, all education from pre-school through university level was under the auspices of one education ministry, the *Ministerio de Educación y Cultura*).

ENIC-NARIC Profile of the Spanish Education System

<http://www.enic-naric.net/index.aspx?c=Spain>

EURYDICE Description of the Spanish Education System:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/ressources/eurydice/eurybase/pdf/0_integral/ES_EN.pdf

UNESCO website on the System of Education:

http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/es.rtf

UNESCO International Bureau of Education - Spain Resources:

<http://www.ibe.unesco.org/countries/Spain.htm>

WENR – World Education News and Reviews article, “Education in Spain”:

<http://www.wes.org/ewenr/02July/Practical.htm>

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