

Online Guide to

# Educational Systems



Around the World—Saint Lucia



**NAFSA**

Association of  
International Educators

Submitted by Liliane Bauduy  
November 2008

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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

December 2008

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](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.

# SAINT LUCIA

## 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	C	D	E	E	P		Q								
						G	F											
						H	H											
							I											
							J											
							K											
							L											
							M											
							N											
							O											

## CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

### Secondary

- A** Common Entrance Examination (CEE): following completion of Junior Primary (Grade 1 through 6), gives access to Senior Primary or Secondary education
- B** Senior Primary/Minimum Standard Examination: following 3 years of lower secondary education (Year 1 through 3), requires credential **A** for admission, leads to employment or further vocational education
- C** Certificate in Agriculture: following one year of study, requires **B** for admission, leads to employment
- D** Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC): awarded by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) following completion of 5 years of secondary education (Form 1 through 5), requires credential **A** for admission, gives access to community college
- E** Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE): awarded by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC), requires credential **D** for admission; Certificate awarded following a 1-year program and successful completion of one unit, Diploma awarded following a 2-year program and successful completion of six units
- F** General Certificate of Education, Advanced Level: awarded by various examination boards, including the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate and the University of London; two-year program following credential **D**; see United Kingdom for grading information

### Postsecondary

- G** Certificate in various fields: awarded by Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC) following completion of a 2-semester program, requires credential **D** for admission
- H** Diploma in various fields: awarded by SALCC following completion of a 2 to 4-semester program, requires credential **D** for admission
- I** Associate Degree in Agriculture: awarded by SALCC following completion of a 4-semester program, requires credential **D** for admission
- J** Associate Degree in Arts/Science/General Studies: awarded by SALCC following completion of a 4-semester program, requires credential **D** for admission

- K** Associate Degree in Building Technology: awarded SALCC following completion of a 4-semester program, requires credential **D** for admission
- L** Associate Degree in Mechanical Engineering: awarded by SALCC following completion of a 4-semester program, requires credential **D** for admission
- M** Associate Degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management: awarded by SALCC following completion of a 4-semester program, requires credential **D** for admission
- N** Associate Degree in General Nursing/Diploma in Nursing: awarded by SALCC following completion of a 4-semester program, requires credential **D** for admission
- O** Associate Degree in Teacher Education: awarded by SALCC following completion of a 4-semester program, require credential **D** for admission
- P** Nurse Midwifery Diploma: awarded by SALCC following completion of a one and one half year program requiring credential **N** for admission
- Q** Bachelor of Education: awarded by the University of the West Indies (UWI)\* in collaboration with SALCC following completion of a 6-semester program, requires credential **E** (2-year Diploma) or F for admission

\*UWI does not have a campus in Saint Lucia but offers the first two years of some bachelor's degree programs and a Bachelor of Education in Collaboration with SALCC.

## GRADING SCALE

### Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC)

#### CSEC until 1998

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
I	Comprehensive working knowledge of the syllabus
II	Working knowledge of most aspects of the syllabus
III	Working knowledge of some aspects of the syllabus
IV	Limited knowledge of a few aspects of the syllabus
V	Insufficient evidence on which to base a judgment

#### CSEC since 1998

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
I	Comprehensive grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills and competencies required by the syllabus
II	Good grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skill, and competencies required by the syllabus
III	Fairly good grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skill, and competencies required by the syllabus
IV	Moderate grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skill and competencies required by the syllabus
V	Limited grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skill and competencies required by the syllabus
VI	Very limited grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skill, and competence required by the syllabus

## **CAPE**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
I	Represents an excellent performance
II	Represents a very good standard of performance
III	Represents a good standard of performance
IV	Represents a satisfactory standard of performance
V	Represents an acceptable level of performance
VI	Represents weak performance
VII	Represents unsatisfactory performance

## **Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC)**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Grade</u> <u>Point</u>
A+	Excellent work	4.00
A		3.75
A-		3.50
B+	Good work	3.25
B		3.00
B-		2.75
C+	Satisfactory work	2.50
C		2.25
C-		2.00
D**		1.00
F	Unsatisfactory work	0.00

\*\*A grade of 'D' may not be considered passing for some courses.

## **POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY**

Ministry of Education and Culture  
Francis Compton Building  
Waterfront, Castries  
Saint Lucia, West Indies  
Telephone: (758) 468-5203  
Facsimile: (758) 453-2299  
E-mail: [mineduc@candw.lc](mailto:mineduc@candw.lc)  
<http://www.education.gov.lc>

## **ACCREDITATION**

The Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and the other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) was established in 2003 to accredit medical, dental, veterinary, and other health professions education programs leading to professional degrees required for practice in the Commonwealth Caribbean.

There are a number of medical education institutions in Saint Lucia that are not recognized by the Ministry of Education and Culture but may be accredited by CAAM-HP. For accreditation status of institutions visit <http://caam-hp.org>.

## **RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Ministry of Education and Culture  
<http://www.education.gov.lc>

Sir Arthur Lewis Community College – SALCC  
Morne Fortune, Castries  
Saint Lucia, West Indies  
Telephone: (758) 452-5507  
Facsimile: (758) 452-7901  
<http://www.salcc.edu.lc>

SALCC is the only recognized tertiary level institution in St Lucia. It was established in 1985 with the integration of the St. Lucia Teachers' College, Morne Fortune Technical College, St. Lucia 'A' Level College and St. Lucia College of Agriculture which formed the Morne Educational Complex.

University of the West Indies  
<http://www.uwi.edu/territories/lucia>

Caribbean Examinations Council  
<http://www.cxc.org>

Caribbean Accrediting Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP)  
<http://www.caam-hp.org>

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November 2008