

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Syria



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Kurt Baumbach
December 2011

About NAFSA

NAFSA: Association of International Educators is a member organization promoting international education and providing professional development opportunities to the field. Hundreds of NAFSA members volunteer to serve the Association and thousands advocate for international education. NAFSA serves international educators and their institutions and organizations by establishing principles of good practice, providing training and professional development opportunities, providing networking opportunities, and advocating for international education.

For more information about NAFSA, visit www.nafsa.org.

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.

Notice of Liability

The information in these documents is distributed on an "As is" basis, without warranty. While every precaution has been taken in the preparation of each document, neither the submitter(s) nor NAFSA shall have any liability to any persons nor entity with respect to any loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the information contained in any of these documents. Information about each country was current at the time of upload. Education systems change periodically and updates will be written to reflect significant changes, once known. Please note that while NAFSA periodically verified the Web site links included in these e-Publications, NAFSA cannot guarantee that every link will be current at the time of download.

Acceptable Use Guidelines

Electronic resources are provided for the benefit of the international education community. However, commercial use, systematic or excessive downloading, or electronic redistribution of these publications are all expressly prohibited.

© 2011 NAFSA: Association of International Educators. All rights reserved.

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

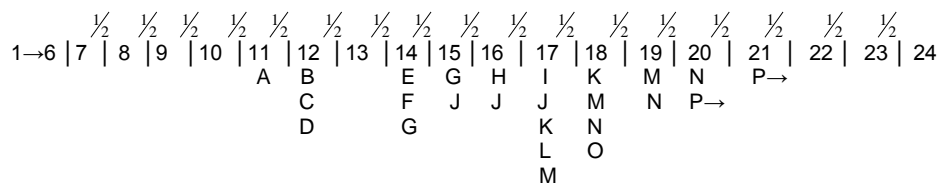
Foreign terms are used whenever possible, and are translated literally, in most cases. Literal translations are used to avoid subjectivity. We have attempted to be consistent with translations across languages, though readers may notice some differences between countries because of preferences indicated 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.

SYRIA

YEARS OF EDUCATION →



CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A Vocational Secondary Certificate or Professional Secondary Certificate: represents 11 years of education (nine years of primary / lower-secondary, two years of vocational / professional secondary) – grants access to employment but not to postsecondary study
- B General Secondary Certificate or Certificate of General Secondary Education (commonly known as the *Baccalaureate*): represents 12 years of education (nine years of primary / lower-secondary, three years of academic secondary in literature or science tracks and passing of a national examination) – grants access to postsecondary study
- C Technical Secondary Certificate or Certificate of Technical Secondary Education: represents 12 years of education (nine years of primary / lower-secondary, three years of industrial, commercial, agricultural, or home economics-specialized secondary and passing of a national examination) – grants limited access to postsecondary study
- D Religious Secondary Certificate (nine years of primary / lower-secondary, three years of religious secondary) – grants limited access to postsecondary study

Postsecondary

- E Certificate of Licensed Assistant, Associate Degree, Industrial Institute Diploma, Technical Assistant: two years, requires Credential **B** or **C** – religious institutes require Credential **D**
- F Teaching Certificate for Primary Education or Primary Teaching Certificate, Teacher Training Diploma, Physical Education Diploma, Intermediate Teaching Certificate: two years, requires Credential **B**
- G Nursing Certificate or Certificate of Licensed Assistant in Nursing: two or three years (most commonly three years), requires Credential **B**
- H Bachelor's degree (sometimes known as the *Licence*): four years for most academic fields, requires Credential **B**
- I Bachelor's degree: five years for engineering, pharmacy, architecture, dentistry or veterinary medicine, requires Credential **B**
- J Specialized Nursing Certificate in Midwifery, Surgery or Pediatrics: one or two years, requires Credential **G**
- K Diploma of Qualification and Specialization or Special Diploma: one year, requires Credential **H** or **I**
- L Educational Qualifying Diploma: one year of study in a teacher certification program, requires Credential **H**

- M Diploma of Higher Studies or Postgraduate Diploma: one or two years, requires Credential **H** or **I**
- N Master's degree: one to three years in total, requires either credential **H** or **I** (two or three years) or Credential **M** (one or two years)
- O Bachelor's degree: six years for medicine, requires Credential **B**
- P Doctorate: two or three years (minimum), requires Credential **N**

GRADING SCALES

Secondary

Minimum passing score for Arabic: 50%

Minimum passing score for other subjects: 40%

- Passing the general secondary examination requires a passing score in Arabic and in all but one of the other subjects, or a passing score in Arabic and all but two of the other subjects as long as the combined score for the failed subjects is at least 25%.
- The minimum passing total score is 102/240 (43%) in the literature track, and 104/260 (40%) in the science track.

Postsecondary

Intermediate Institute Grading Scale
(for university-affiliated institutes)

<u>Score</u>	<u>Remark</u>
85-100	Excellent
75-84	Very Good
65-74	Good
40-64 or 50-64	Pass

- Passing scores are 60% in applied or practical subjects, 50% in technical subjects, and 40% in theoretical subjects
- Intermediate institutes not affiliated with a university use a grading scale similar to that used at the secondary level

Undergraduate Grading Scale

<u>Score</u>	<u>Remark</u>
90-100	Honors
80-89	Distinction
70-79	Very Good
60-69	Good
50-59	Passing

- Grading is conservative, and often the top students score in the high 60's.

Graduate Grading Scale

<u>Score</u>	<u>Remark</u>
95-100	Honors
85-94	Distinction
75-84	Very Good
65-74	Good
60-64	Passing

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Ministry of Higher Education
PO Box 9251
Damascus
SYRIA
Telephone: 963 112119865, 963 112119961, 963 112119962
Email: mhe@mhe.gov.sy

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Print

de Leeuw, Herman. "Intermediate Institutes in Syria." *World Education News and Reviews*, 9,4: 11-17, 1996.

Feagles, Shelley M., editor. *A Guide to Educational Systems Around the World*. Washington, DC: NAFSA, 1999.

The New Country Index, Volume 2; International Education Research Foundation (IERF), 2011

Syria: A Comparative Study; National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR – Australia), 1992.

On-line

AACRAO EDGE – Electronic Database of Global Education: <http://aacraoedge.aacrao.org/>

Ministry of Higher Education listing of approved institutions of higher education in Syria:
<http://www.mhe.gov.sy/new/index.php?page=show&ex=2&dir=docs&lang=2&ser=1&cat=1168&ref=home>

Submitted by
Kurt Baumbach
Academic Evaluation Services, Tampa
December 2011