

Online Guide to

# Educational Systems



Around the World—TUNISIA



**NAFSA**

Association of  
International Educators

Submitted by Thao Le  
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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](http://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

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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.

# TUNISIA

## 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	K	H	Z	Z	d	f	h	m	w	x	x	y→
							D		I	a	a	e	g	o					
							E		J	b	b	i	h	r					
							F		L	c			j	s					
							G		M				k	t					
									N				l	u					
									O				n	v					
									P				p→						
									Q				q→						
									R										
									S										
									T										
									U										
									V										
									W										
									X										
									Y										

## CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

### Secondary

- A *Diplôme de Fin d'Études d'Enseignement de Base* (Diploma of Completion of Basic Education): completion of 9 years of primary and lower secondary education
- B *Certificat d'Aptitude Professionnelle –CAP* (Certificate of Professional Competence): 2-year vocational program based on credential **A**, leads to credentials **C**
- C *Brevet de Technicien Professionnel – BTP* (Certificate of Professional Technician) / *Diplôme de Technicien* (until 1993): 2-year vocational program based on credential **B**
- D *Diplôme de Fin d'Études Techniques Agricoles* (Diploma of Completion of Technical Agricultural Studies): 4-year secondary agriculture program based on credential **A**
- E *Diplôme du Baccalauréat / Baccalauréat de l'Enseignement Secondaire* (Baccalaureate of Secondary Education): 4-year upper secondary program based on credential **A**; give access to university and other post-secondary programs
- F *Baccalauréat Professionnel* (Technical Baccalaureate): 2-year vocational program based on credential **B**, or 4-year upper secondary program in technical track based on credential **A**
- G *Diplôme de fin d'études normales* (Diploma of Completion of Normal Studies): 4-year program for primary school teachers (last awarded in 1990)
- H *Certificat de Capacité en Droit* (Certificate of Capacity in Law): 2-year law program based on completion of secondary school, give access to employment
- I *Certificat de Capacité en Sciences Économiques* (Certificate of Capacity in Economic Sciences) 2-year Economic Studies program based on completion of secondary school, give access to employment
- J *Certificat d'Aptitude au Journalisme* (Certificate of Aptitude in Journalism): 2-year journalism program based on completion of secondary school, give access to employment

## Postsecondary

- K *Diplôme National de Premier Cycle d'Études de Médecine Vétérinaire* (National Diploma of First Cycle of Veterinary Medicine): 1-year first cycle Veterinary Medicine studies based on credential **E**
- L *Diplôme d'Éducateur de l'Enfance* (Diploma of Children's Educator): 2-year program for preschool teachers based on credential **E**
- M *Diplôme d'Éducateur Polyvalent* (Diploma of General Educator): 2-year program for special education teachers, based on credential **E**
- N *Diplôme instituteur or institutrice* (Diploma of Instructor): 2-year program for primary school teachers based on credential **E**
- O *Maître d'Éducation Physique* (Physical Education Teacher): 2-year program for physical education teachers
- P *Diplôme d'Études Universitaires du Premier Cycle* (Diploma of First Cycle University Studies): 2-year first cycle university program based on credential **E**
- Q *Diplôme Universitaires d'Études Scientifiques* (University Diploma of Scientific Studies): 2-year program in Sciences based on credential **E**
- R *Diplôme Universitaires d'Études Littéraires* (University Diploma of Literary Studies): 2-year program in Arts and Humanities based on credential **E**
- S *Diplôme Universitaires d'Études Musicales* (University Diploma of Music): 2-year program in Musical Studies based on credential **E**
- T *Diplôme d'Études Universitaires du Premier Cycle en Arts Plastiques* (Diploma of First Cycle University Studies in Plastic Arts): 2-year first cycle university program based on credential **E**
- U *Diplôme National de Premier Cycle d'Études de Médecine* (National Diploma of First Cycle of Medicine) / *Diplôme National de Premier Cycle d'Études de Médecine Dentaire* (National Diploma of First Cycle of Dental Medicine): 2-year first cycle studies in Medical and dentistry fields based on credential **E**
- V *Diplôme National de Premier Cycle d'Études d'Ingénieur* (National Diploma of First Cycle of Engineering Studies): 2-year first cycle studies in Engineering, based on credential **E**
- W *Diplôme d'Études Universitaires en Documentation. Bibliothéconomie et Archivistique* (University Diploma in Documentation, Library Science, & Archival Studies): 2-year first cycle studies in Library Science, based on credential **E**
- X *Diplôme National de Premier Cycle d'Études d'Architecture* (National Diploma of First cycle of Architecture Studies): 2-year first cycle studies in Architecture, based on credential **E**
- Y *Diplôme National de Premier Cycle de Pharmacien* (National Diploma of First Cycle of Pharmacy Studies): 2-year first cycle studies in Pharmacy, based on credential **E**
- Z *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur-BTS* (Certificate of Higher Technician): 2-3 year post-secondary vocational program based on credentials **C, E**
- a *Diplôme de Technicien Supérieur-DTS* (Diploma of Higher Technician) / *Diplôme de Technicien Supérieur de la Santé* (Diploma of Higher Health Technician): 2-3 year technical program based on credential **C, E**

- b *Diplôme Universitaires de Technologie-DUT (University Diploma of Technology)*: 3-year technical program based on credential **C, E**
- c *License (Licentiate)*: 3-year first cycle university program based on credential **E**
- d *License (Licentiate)*: pre-LMD credential, 2-year second cycle university program based on credentials **P, Q, R, S, T**
- e *Maîtrise (Master)*: pre-LMD credential, 2-year second cycle university program based on credential **P**
- f *Mastère (Master)*: 2-year second cycle program based on credential **c** (first awarded in 2001)
- g *Mastère Spécialisé (Specialist Master)*: 1-year program based on credential **e**
- h *Diplôme d'Ingénieur (Diploma of Engineer)*: 3 (or 3½)-year second cycle university program based on credentials **P, V**
- i *Diplôme National d'Études Théâtrales (National Diploma in Theater Studies)*: 2-year second cycle university program based on credential **P**
- j *Certificat d'Aptitude au Professorat de l'Enseignement Secondaire- CAPES (Certificate of Aptitude to Teach at the Secondary Level)*: 1-year secondary cycle university program based on credentials **d, e**
- k *Diplôme National en Arts et Métiers (National Diploma of Arts & Crafts)*: 3-year second cycle university program based on credential **P**
- l *Diplôme National de Pharmacien (Diploma of Pharmacy)*: 3-year secondary cycle university program based on credential **Y**
- m *Diplôme National d'Architecture (National Diploma of Architecture)*: 4-year second cycle university program based on credential **X**
- n *Diplôme National de Médecine Vétérinaire (Diploma of Veterinary Medicine)*: 4-year second cycle university program based on credential **K**
- o *Diplôme National de Docteur en Médecine Dentaire (Doctor in Dental Medicine)*: 4-year second cycle university program based on credential **U**
- p *Certificat d'Études Supérieures/CES (Certificate of Higher Studies)*: post-*maîtrise* program, variable length
- q *Certificat d'Études Supérieures Spécialisées /CESS (Certificate of Higher Specialized Studies)*: post-*maîtrise* program, variable length
- r *Diplôme d'Études Approfondies /DEA (Diploma of Advanced Studies)*: pre-LMD credential, 2-year third cycle program based on credentials **d, e** (last awarded in 2001)
- s *Diplôme d'Études Supérieures Spécialisées/DESS (Diploma of Higher Specialized Studies)*: pre-LMD credential, 1->2-year third cycle program based on credentials **d, e** (last awarded in 2001)
- t *Diplôme de Pharmacie Spécialiste (Diploma of Pharmacy Specialist)*: 1-year third cycle program based on credential **I**
- u *Diplôme de Recherches Approfondies (Diploma of Advanced Research)*: pre-LMD credential, 2-year third cycle program based on credentials **d, e**
- v *Docteur en Médecine Vétérinaire (Doctor in Veterinary Medicine)*: 1-year third cycle university program based on credential **n**
- w *Docteur en Médecine (Doctor in Medicine)*: 5-year program based on credential **U**
- x *Doctorat (Doctorate)/ Doctorat d'État (State Doctorate)/ Doctorat de Spécialité (Specialised Doctorate)*: 3-year third cycle program based on credentials **f, r, s**
- y *Habilitation Universitaire (University Habilitation)*: Post-Doctoral Research, variable length

## GRADING SCALES

### Secondary & Postsecondary

<u>Numeric</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Translation</u>
16-20	Très Bien	Very Good
14-15	Bien	Good
12-13	Assez Bien	Good Enough
10-11	Passable	Pass
0-9	Ajourné	Fail

- An overall grade of 10 is required to pass; however, Individual subjects may be passed with grades lower than 10.

## POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

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## RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Print

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

Macmillan, Palgrave. *Guide to Higher Education in Africa*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York, NY: International Association of Universities, 2002.

Macmillan, Palgrave. *Guide to Higher Education in Africa*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. New York, NY: International Association of Universities, 2010.

Wenger, Margaret L. *The Educational System of Tunisia*. Milwaukee, WI: Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc., 2002.

Wessel, Tana N. *The New Country Index Volume II: Tunisia*, Culver City, CA: International Education Research Foundation, 2011.

### On-line

WENR – Education in Tunisia: [http://www.wes.org/ewenr/06apr/practical\\_tunisia.htm](http://www.wes.org/ewenr/06apr/practical_tunisia.htm)

European Commission TEMPUS – Higher Education in Tunisia:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/participating\\_countries/reviews/tunisia\\_review\\_of\\_higher\\_education.pdf](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/participating_countries/reviews/tunisia_review_of_higher_education.pdf)

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