

Online Guide to

# Educational Systems



Around the World—Uganda



**NAFSA**

Association of  
International Educators

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April 2009

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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

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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.

# UGANDA

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

## CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

### Secondary

- A Uganda Junior Technical Certificate
- B Uganda Certificate of Education
- C Uganda Technical Institute Certificate
- D Uganda Craft Certificate
- E Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education

### Postsecondary <sup>1</sup>

- F Grade III Teachers Certificate: two-year program requiring credential **B** for admission
- G Uganda Advanced Craft Certificate: two-year program requiring credential **D** for admission, awarded by the Uganda National Examinations Council
- H Ordinary Diploma: two- or three-year program requiring credential **C** or **E** for admission, awarded by the Uganda National Examinations Council
- I Grade IV Teachers Certificate: two-year program requiring credential **F** for admission
- J Bachelor: three- or four-year program requiring credential **E** for admission
- K Grade V Teachers Certificate: one-year requiring credential **I** for admission
- L Diploma in Education: one-year program requiring credential **J** for admission
- M Master: one- to three-year program requiring credential **J** for admission <sup>2</sup>
- N Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery: five-year program requiring credential **E** for admission
- O Bachelor of Dental Surgery: five-year program requiring credential **E** for admission
- P Diploma in Medicine: one-year program requiring credential **N** for admission
- Q Doctor of Medicine: one-year program requiring credential **N** for admission
- R Doctor of Philosophy: two- to three-year program requiring credential **M** for admission

1 Postsecondary education in Uganda, including technical programs and the certificate and diploma programs requiring less than two years of work, do not having coherent naming conventions and program lengths. Since the program curricula also change over time, make sure you have a complete grade report in order to know the precise length of time the student was enrolled.

2 The majority of Ugandan Master's degree programs are eighteen months long and require a thesis.

## GRADING SCALES

### Secondary

<u>Number</u>	<u>Letter</u>	<u>Descriptor</u>
1-2	A	Pass with Distinction
3-4	B	Pass with Credit
5-6	C	Pass with Credit
7	D	Pass
8	E	Pass
9	F	Fail

### Postsecondary <sup>3</sup>

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Letter</u>	<u>Descriptor</u>
80-100	A	
75-79	B+	
70-74	B	
65-69	B-	
60-64	C+	
55-59	C	
50-54	C-	Pass
45-49	D+	
40-44	D	
35-39	D-	
0-34	E	

## INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION BODIES

Ministry of Education and Sports (secondary) - <http://www.education.go.ug/>  
P O Box 7063, Kampala, UGANDA

National Council for Higher Education (postsecondary) - <http://www.unche.or.ug/>  
34 Cavers Crescent  
PO Box 76, Kyambogo, UGANDA  
Email: nche@infocom.co.ug

## RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Uganda National Examinations Board - <http://www.uneb.ac.ug/>

Makerere University - <http://www.mak.ac.ug/>

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<sup>3</sup> The grading scale that is listed is from Makerere University. It was implemented in the 1997/1998 academic year. The grading scales in Uganda vary over time and from one institution to the next. The current scale tends to be located on the bottom or reverse of university transcripts.

National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition. 1993. *Country Education Profiles: Uganda*. Canberra: Australian Government Printing Office.

Current profile available online by subscription <https://aei.gov.au/AEI/CEP/Uganda/Default.htm>

UNESCO: Directory of World Education Systems – Uganda  
[http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems\\_data/ug.rtf](http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ug.rtf)

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April 2009