

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Uruguay



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Fanny del Rio
December 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.

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.

- B.** Bachillerato Tecnológico (Technical Baccalaureate): three-year courses (Grades 4-6) imparted in technical/vocational schools. Courses are organized in workshops with practical experience considered essential to the programs offered (agriculture, arts and crafts, industry training, services, etc.).
- C.** *Bachillerato Diversificado* (Diversified Baccalaureate): three-year courses (Grades 4-6). Divided in 4 areas (Artistic, Humanities, Scientific and Biological) geared towards university preparation.

Postsecondary

- D.** *Titulos Intermedios* (Intermediate Titles) awarded by universities after two-to four-year programs: some examples are *analista en computacion* (computing analyst), three years; *analista universitario* (technician) in business fields or computer programming, two to three years; *ayudante de ingeniero* (engineering assistant), two years; *bachiller en ciencias quimicas* (bachelor in chemical sciences), three years; *tecnico* (technician) in allied health professions, two and one half to four years; *asistente de veterinario* (veterinary assistant), four years; requires credential **B** or **C** for admission.
- E.** *Traductor Publico* (Public Translator): four-year program; admission requires credential **B** in a related area, or credential **C**
- F.** *Maestro(a) en Educacion Primaria* (Primary Education Teacher) awarded by Institutos Normales (normal institutes): four-year program; admission requires credentials **B** or **C**.
- G.** *Profesor(a)* (Secondary Education Teacher), awarded by Institutos de Profesores (teachers' institutes): four-year program comprising both theoretical and practical components; admission requires credential **B** or **C**.
- H.** *Trabajador(a) Social* (Social Worker): four-year university program: admission requires credential **B** or **C**.
- I.** *Licenciatura/Licenciado* (a) (Licenciate): four- to five and one-half-year university program; admission requires credential **B** in a related area, or credential **C**.
- J.** *Procurador en Derecho* (Legal Specialist): four-year university program; admission requires credential **C**.
- K.** *Ingeniero (Engineer)*: five-year university program; admission requires credential **B** in a related area, or credential **C**.
- L.** *Doctor en Odontologia* (Doctor in Dentistry): five-and-one-half-year university program; admission requires credential **B** in a related area, or credential **C**.
- M.** *Doctor en Derecho* (Doctor in Law): six-year university program, admission requires credential **C**.
- N.** *Escribano Publico* (Notarial Law): six-year university program; admission requires credential **B** in a related area, or credential **C**.
- O.** *Arquitecto* (Architect): six-year university program; admission requires credential **C**.
- P.** *Doctor en Ciencias Veterinarias* (Doctor of Veterinary Sciences): five-year university program; admission requires credential **C**.
- Q.** *Doctor en Medicina* (Doctor in Medicine): eight-year university program; admission requires credential **C**.
- R.** *Diplomas, Postgrados, y Especializaciones* (Diplomas, Postgraduate and Specialization Studies): one- to one-and-one-half-year university program of specialization in a field; admission based on any credential **G** through **Q**; programs offered in the fields of communications, communications systems, nursing,

psychology and human resources and development; one- to six-year program of medical specialization exist for those with credential **Q**.

- S. *Maestrías, Magister, or Master* programs: two- to two-and-one-half-year university programs of specialization in a field; admission based on any credential **G** through **Q**; programs offered in the fields of administration, business administration (MBA), human resources, marketing, information systems and public policy.
- T. *Doctorado* (Doctorate): usually three years of in-depth study and research, leading to the award of *Doctor en...* (Doctor in...) a specific field, not to be confused with credentials **L, M, P, or Q**; admission based on any credential **G** through **Q**.

GRADING INFORMATION (THERE ARE DIFFERENT GRADING SCALES IN URUGUAY)

Universidad De La Republica: (Public): On a scale 3-12, 3 is the minimum passing grade in courses with further evaluation marks (i.e. exam); exoneration is awarded with a 9; exams are passed with a 3; 6 is a passing grade in courses with no further evaluation marks (i.e. exam). grades 10, 11 and 12 are seldom awarded. grades 6, 7 and 8 are considered good.

For more information: www.rau.edu.uy/universidad

Private Universities

Universidad De Montevideo: On a scale 6–12, 6, or *Bueno* (Good) is minimum passing grade; 7 is *Bueno Muy Bueno* (Good +); 8 is *Muy Bueno Bueno* (Very Good –); 9 is *Muy Bueno* (Very Good); 10 is *Muy Bueno Sobresaliente* (Very Good +); 11 is *Sobresaliente Muy Bueno* (Excellent); 12 is *Sobresaliente* (Excellent +).

For more information: www.um.edu.uy

Universidad Catolica Del Uruguay Damaso Antonio Larrañaga: Private, Catholic. Grades are awarded according to the following scale: S is excellent, MB is very good, B is good (minimum passing grade), R is fair and D is very unsatisfactory. The university does not use the credit hour system.

For more information: www.ucu.edu.uy/

ORT University: Private. ORT awards grades on a 0 to 100% scale. The lowest grade needed to obtain a full unit of academic credit is 70%. The scale is as follows: 0-69% is fail, 70% is lowest passing grade, 70-80% is acceptable, 80-90% is good, 90-100% is very good.

In ORT transcripts, you will see some of the following symbols:

- S/C Pass (Courses which do not award a grade; they are taken on a Pass/Fail basis.)
- ✓ Pass
- * Automatic transfer.

For more information: www.ort.edu.uy

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ministry of Education: <http://www.mec.gub.uy/>

Elementary Public Education: <http://www.cep.edu.uy/>

Secondary Public Education: http://www.anep.edu.uy/ces/menu_2006.htm

Technical, Secondary And Tertiary Public Education: <http://www.utu.edu.uy/>

Formative Institutes For Professors Of Elementary Level:

Institutos Normales: <http://www.dfpd.edu.uy/IINN/index.htm>

Formative Institutes For Professors Of Secondary Level:

<http://www.dfpd.edu.uy/inicio.htm>

<http://www.memfod.edu.uy/>

Formative Institutes For Teachers:

CERPS: <http://www.anep.edu.uy/>

IPA: <http://www.todosenred.edu.uy/sites/249B/default.aspx>

Information on the history of education, current trends, and legislation pertaining to education:

<http://www2.unesco.org/wef/countryreports/uruguay/contents.html#cont>

<http://www.anep.edu.uy/sitio/anep.php?identificador=26>

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December 2008