

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Vietnam



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Shelley M. Feagles
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Instructions for Using the *Online Guide to Educational Systems Around the World*

Susan Whipple, Editor

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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.

VIETNAM

YEARS OF EDUCATION

1→6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			A			C	H	I	I	J	J	P	N	Q	X	X	Y	Y
			B			D	I	J	KK	K	O	P		Y				
						E		L	L	N	P	V						
						F		M		O	Q	W						
						G				Q	R	X						
						H				R	S							
											T							
											U							

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A *Bằng Trung học Cơ sở* (Diploma of Lower Secondary Education): represents completion of 9 years of primary and lower secondary education (**awarded 1996-2003**)
- B *Bằng Tốt nghiệp Trung học Cơ sở* (Graduation Diploma of Lower Secondary Education): represents completion of 9 years of primary and lower secondary education (**awarded since 2003**)
- C *Bằng Tốt nghiệp Trường Phổ thông* (Graduation Diploma for General School): represents completion of 3 years of upper secondary education; gives access to postsecondary education (**awarded 1977-1979**)
- D *Bằng Tốt nghiệp Phổ thông Trung học* (Graduation Diploma for General Upper Secondary Education): represents completion of 3 years of upper secondary education; gives access to postsecondary education (**awarded 1980-1995**)
- E *Bằng Tú tài, Phổ thông Trung học* (Diploma for High School, General Upper Secondary Education): represents completion of 3 years of upper secondary education; gives access to postsecondary education (**awarded 1996-1999**)
- F *Bằng Trung học Phổ thông* (Diploma for General Upper Secondary Education): represents completion of 3 years of upper secondary education; gives access to postsecondary education (**awarded 2000-2003**)
- G *Bằng Tốt nghiệp Trung học Phổ thông* (Graduation Diploma for General Upper Secondary Education): represents completion of 3 years of upper secondary education; gives access to postsecondary education (**awarded since 2003**)
- H *Bằng Tốt nghiệp Trung học Chuyên nghiệp* (Graduation Diploma of Vocational Education): represents completion of 3 or 4 years of upper secondary education when preceded by credential **A** or **B**; leads to employment and gives access to post-secondary education [see also credential **I**]

Postsecondary

- I *Bằng Tốt nghiệp Trung học Chuyên nghiệp* (Graduation Diploma of Vocational Education): 1 to 2.5-year program when preceded by credential **C** to **G**; leads to employment or credential **K** or **Q** in the same discipline [see also credential **H**]
- J *Bằng Tốt nghiệp Cao đẳng¹* (Graduation Diploma from College): 2 to 3-year programs; leads to employment or credential **Q** in the same discipline; admission based on credential **C** to **H**
- K *Bằng Tốt nghiệp Cao đẳng¹* (Graduation Diploma from College), *Chuyên tu* (Short-term): 1.5 to 2-year programs; leads to employment or credential **Q** in the same discipline; admission based on credential **I**
- L *Bằng Tốt nghiệp Cao đẳng Sư phạm¹* (Graduation Diploma from Teacher Training College): 2 to 3-year programs; leads to employment or credential **Q**; admission based on credential **C** to **H**
- M *Bằng Cao đẳng* (Diploma of Associate Bachelor): 2-year general education program; gives access to Phase II of bachelor degree programs (see credentials **N** and **O**); admission based on credential **C** to **H**
- N *Cử nhân* (Bachelor's Degree), *Chính quy* (Full-time, regular admission) system: 4 to 5-year programs offered by *đại học* (universities); often divided into two phases with Phase I representing 1.5 years of general education and Phase II representing 2.5 to 3.5 years of specialized education; gives access to credential **X**; admission based on credential **C** to **H**
- O *Cử nhân* (Bachelor's Degree), *Mở rộng* (Full-time, open admission) system, *Tự học* (Guided Self-learning) system, and *Từ xa* (Distance Study) system: 4 to 5-year programs offered by *đại học* (universities); often divided into two phases with Phase I representing 1.5 years of general education and Phase II representing 2.5 to 3.5 years of specialized education; admission based on credential **C** to **H**
- P *Cử nhân* (Bachelor's Degree), *Tại chức* (In-service) system: 4.5 to 6-year part-time programs offered by *đại học* (universities); usually includes less course work than credential **N** or **O** programs, but includes work experience as part of the curriculum; gives access to credential **X**; admission based on credential **C** to **H** and approximately 2 years of work experience
- Q *Cử nhân* (Bachelor's Degree), *Chuyên tu* (Short-term) system: 2.5 to 4-year programs offered by *đại học* (universities); admission based on credential **I**, **J**, or **K**
- R *Kỹ sư* (Engineer) *Chính quy* (Full-time, regular admission) system: 4 to 5-year programs offered by *đại học* (universities); gives access to credential **X**; admission based on credential **C** to **H**
- S *Bác sĩ Thú y* (Veterinarian) *Chính quy* (Full-time, regular admission) system: 5-year program offered by *đại học* (universities); gives access to credential **X**; admission based on credential **C** to **H**
- T *Dược sĩ* (Pharmacist) *Chính quy* (Full-time, regular admission) system: 5-year program offered by *đại học* (universities); gives access to credential **X**; admission based on credential **C** to **H**
- U *Kiến trúc sư* (Architect) *Chính quy* (Full-time, regular admission) system: 5-year program offered by *đại học* (universities); gives access to credential **X**; admission based on credential **C** to **H**
- V *Bác sĩ Răng Hàm Mặt* (Dentist) *Chính quy* (Full-time, regular admission) system: 6-year program offered by *đại học* (universities); gives access to credential **X**; admission based on credential **C** to **H**
- W *Bác sĩ Y Khoa* (Medical Doctor) *Chính quy* (Full-time, regular admission) system: 6-year program offered by *đại học* (universities); gives access to credential **X**;

- admission based on credential **C** to **H**
- X *Thạc sĩ* (Master's Degree): 2-year program offered by *đại học* (universities) or research institutes; gives access to credential **Y**; admission based on credentials **N, P, R, S, T, U, V, or W**
- Y *Tiến sĩ* (Doctorate Degree): minimum 2-year program following credential **X**, or 4-year program for superior students holding credentials **N, P, R, S, T, U, V, or W**; offered by *đại học* (universities) or research institutes

¹ *Cao đẳng* may also be translated as “junior college.” This term refers to postsecondary institutions that offer sub-degree programs, credentials **J** to **M**. While degree-awarding universities (*đại học*) may offer college (*cao đẳng*) programs, colleges may not offer *đại học* (university) programs, credentials **N** to **Y**.

GRADING SCALE

Secondary and Postsecondary

<u>Grade in Vietnamese</u>	<u>English translation</u>	<u>Numerical grade or abbreviation</u>
<i>Ưu, xuất sắc</i>	Excellent, outstanding	9.0-10.0
<i>Khá</i>	Good, rather good	7.0-8.9
<i>Trung bình</i>	Fair, pass, average	5.0-6.9 4.0-4.9*
<i>Kém, không</i>	Poor, failing	0.0-4.0 or 0.0-4.9
<i>Đạt</i>	Pass	Đ
<i>Miễn thi</i>	Exempt	M
<i>Vắng thi</i>	Absent	V

* Used by some higher educational institutions where grades of 4.0 to 4.9 are considered passing, with some restrictions, such as in certain non-major subjects, or if the overall average is 5.0 or more, or if there are no grades of 0.0.

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Bộ Giáo dục và Đào tạo (Ministry of Education and Training):

<http://esq.moet.gov.vn/index.php>

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Country Education Profiles: Vietnam, A Comparative Study (2nd ed.). Canberra: National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition, Department of Employment, Education and Training, 1996.

Dean, Michael. *World Education Series, Vietnam: A Study of the Educational System of Vietnam and Guide to the Academic Placement of Students in Educational Institutions in the United States*. Washington DC: AACRAO/NAFSA, 2000.

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“The Higher Education System in Vietnam.” *World Education News and Reviews* May/June 2000: 13(3).

Kelly, Kristy. “Higher Education in Vietnam Update.” Institute of International Education, Hanoi, 2004.

Lam Quang Thiep, and Dang Xuan Hai. “Vietnam.” *Handbook on Diplomas, Degrees and other Certificates in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific*. Eds. T.I. Wongsothom, and Wang Y. Bangkok: Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development, 1998. 349-365.

Tran Ba Viet Dzung (Ed.). *Vietnam Education and Training Directory* (3rd ed.). Hanoi: International Co-operation Department, Ministry of Education and Training, 2004.

<http://esg.moet.gov.vn/index.php> The Education Sector Group, Ministry of Education and Training. Contains a description of the national education system, list of universities and colleges, the Education Law 2005, etc.

Submitted by
Shelley M. Feagles
Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.
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