

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Finland



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

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

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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.

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 |
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.

FINLAND

YEARS OF EDUCATION→

		$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
1 - 6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
			A		B B	BC	CD	D G	GG	HJ	KL	LL	Q		T T T				
						C	D G G	H J	JK	LR	Q Q								
						E	G	I	K M	O	S								
						F		J	N	P									

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Secondary

- A** *Peruskoulun päättötodistus/Avgångsbetyg från Grundskolan* (Comprehensive School Completion Certificate): awarded by a *peruskoulu/grundskola* (comprehensive school); signifies completion of compulsory education
- B** *Ammatillinen perustutkinto/Yrkesinriktande grundexamen* (Certificate of Vocational Qualification): awarded by an *ammattillinen oppilaitos/nistitut* (vocational institution); basic secondary-level vocational qualification; accompanied by a descriptive title such as *Ruokapalvelujen perustutkinto/Grundexamen I matservice* (Vocational Qualification in Catering Services); two year program for those with credentials **D** or **E**, and three year program for those with credential **A**; requires credential **A** for admission
- C** *Ammattitutkinto/Yrkesexam* (Certificate of Further Vocational Qualification): awarded by a *tutkintotoimikunta/examenskommissionerna* (Qualification Committee); further vocational qualification that demonstrates the vocational skills required for skilled workers in the field; accompanied by a descriptive title such as *Kondiittorin ammattitutkinto/Yrkesexamen för konditor* (Further Vocational Qualification for Confectioners); competence based qualification with varying program length and no formal requirements for participation in competence tests; most candidates complete individualized preparatory training that compliments existing vocational skills; completion grants access to employment and is not typically considered for academic credit
- D** *Erikoisammattitutkinto/Specialyrkesexamina* (Specialist Vocational Qualification): awarded by a *tutkintotoimikunta/examenskommissionerna* (Qualification Committee); specialist vocational qualification that demonstrates the ability to perform the most advanced skills in the field; accompanied by a descriptive title such as *Leipurimestarin erikoisammattitutkinto/Specialyrkesexamen för bagarmästare* (Specialist Qualification for Bakers); competence based qualification with varying program length and no formal requirements for participation in competence tests; most candidates complete individualized preparatory training that compliments existing vocational skills; completion grants access to employment and is not typically considered for academic credit
- E** *Lukion päättötodistus/Dimissionsbetyg or Avgångsbetyg från gymnasiet* (Upper Secondary Completion Certificate): awarded by a *lukio/gymnasium* (upper secondary school); three-year program; requires credential **A** for admission; signifies completion of secondary education
- F** *Ylioppilastutkintotodistus/Studentexamensbetyg* (Matriculation Examination Certificate): awarded by the national *Ylioppilastutkintolautakunta/ Studentexamensnämnd* (Matriculation Examination Board); this is the basic admission requirement for tertiary study; does not represent completion of additional study beyond upper secondary competition certificate (see **E** above)

- G** *Teknikko/Tekniker* (Technician) or *Opistotutkinto/Institutexamen* (Postsecondary Vocational Qualification): awarded by an *ammattillinen oppilaitos/institute* (vocational institution); a postsecondary (but not university-level) vocational qualification accompanied by a descriptive title such as *Teknikko, puuala/Tekniker, träbranschen* (Technical Engineer, Wood Industry) or *Liiketalouden opistotutkinto, merkonomi/Institutexamen inom förtagsekonmi, merkonom* (Diploma in Business and Administration); the credential will occasionally indicate a qualification title such as *Optikko/Optiker* (Diploma of Optometrist); programs are two- to four and one-half years in length; requires credential **A** and **B** or **C** for admission; programs discontinued after 2000
- H** *Kandidaatti/Kandidat* (Bachelor): awarded by an *yliopisto/universitet* (university); awarded in the fields of Agriculture and Forestry, Art and Design, Economics and Business Administration, Education, Fine Arts, Health Sciences, Humanities, Law, Music, Natural Sciences, Psychology, Social Sciences, Sport and Health Sciences, Theater and Drama, Dance, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Medicine, Technology/Architecture, and Theology; all fields of study have *numerus clausus* (closed number) admissions; signifies three years of study that consists of at least 180 credits; requires credentials **B**, **E**, and/or **F** for admission
- I** *Farmaseutti/Farmaceut* (Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy)): awarded by an *yliopisto/universitet* (university); all fields of study have *numerus clausus* (closed number) admissions; three-year program in Pharmacy; requires credentials **B**, **E** and/or **F** for admission
- J** *Ammattikorkeakoulututkinto/Yrkeshögskoleexamen* (Bachelor): awarded by an *ammattikorkeakoulu [AMK]/ yrkeshögskolan [YH]* (Polytechnic/University of Applied Sciences); awarded in the fields of Humanities and Education, Culture and Arts, Social Sciences and Business Administration, Natural Sciences, Technology and Traffic, Seafaring, Natural Resources and Environment, Social Services, Healthcare and Sport, Beauty and Cosmetics, Sport Studies, Tourism, and Catering and Hospitality; accompanied by a title indicating the field of study; all fields of study have *numerus clausus* (closed number) admissions; signifies three to four years of study or 180, 201, or 240 credits; vocational degree program requires credentials **B**, **C**, or **E** and **F** for admission
- K** *Maisteri/Magister* (Master): awarded by an *yliopisto/universitet* (university); awarded in the fields of Agriculture and Forestry, Art and Design, Economics and Business Administration, Education, Fine Arts, Health Sciences, Humanities, Law, Music, Natural Sciences, Psychology, Social Sciences, Sport and Health Sciences, Theater and Drama, Dance, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Medicine, Technology/Architecture, and Theology; all fields of study have *numerus clausus* (closed number) admissions; second-cycle university program signifying two years or 120 credits; requires credentials **B**, **E** and/or **F** for admission or builds on credential **H**, **I** and **J** programs
- L** *Ylempi ammattikorkeakoulututkinto/högre yrkeshögskoleexamen* (Master): awarded by an *ammattikorkeakoulu/yrkeshögskola* (Polytechnic/University of Applied Sciences); awarded in the fields of Humanities and Education, Culture and Arts, Social Sciences and Business Administration, Natural Sciences, Technology and Traffic, Seafaring, Natural Resources and Environment, Social Services, Healthcare and Sport, Beauty and Cosmetics, Sport Studies, Tourism, and Catering and Hospitality; accompanied by a title indicating the field of study such as Master of Cultural Arts; all fields of study have *numerus clausus* (closed number) admissions; second-cycle polytechnic degree signifying one to one and a half years or 60 or 90 credits; requires credentials **H**, **I**, and **J** for admission
- M** *Arkkitehti/Arkitekt* (Master of Science (Architecture)): awarded by an *yliopisto/universitet* (university); all fields of study have *numerus clausus* (closed number) admissions; signifies five years of university-level study; requires credentials **B**, **E** and/or **F** for admission or builds on credentials **H**, **I**, and **J**

- N** *Diplomi-insinööri/Diplomingenjör* (Master of Science (Technology)): awarded by an *yliopisto/universitet* (university); all fields of study have *numerus clausus* (closed number) admissions; signifies five years of university-level study; requires credentials **B**, **E** and/or **F** for admission
- O** *Proviisori/Provisor* (Master of Science (Pharmacy)): awarded by an *yliopisto/universitet* (university); all fields of study have *numerus clausus* (closed number) admissions; signifies five years of university-level study; requires credentials **B**, **E** and/or **F** for admission or builds on credential **I**
- P** *Hammaslääketieteen lisensiaatti/Odontologie licentiat* (Licentiate of Dentistry (Master level)): awarded by an *yliopisto/universitet* (university); all fields of study have *numerus clausus* (closed number) admissions; signifies five years of university-level study, requires credentials **B**, **E** and/or **F** for admission
- Q** *Lisensiaatti/Licentiat* (Licentiate): awarded by an *yliopisto/universitet* (university); awarded in the fields of Agriculture and Forestry, Art and Design, Economics and Business Administration, Education, Fine Arts, Health Sciences, Humanities, Law, Music, Natural Sciences, Psychology, Social Sciences, Sport and Health Sciences, Theater and Drama, Dance, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Medicine, Technology/Architecture, and Theology; all fields of study have *numerus clausus* (closed number) admissions; signifies two years of study; based on credential **K**, **L**, **M** or **N**
- R** *Eläinlääketieteen lisensiaatti/Veterinärmedicine licentiat* (Licentiate of Veterinary Medicine (Master level)): awarded by an *yliopisto/universitet* (university); all fields of study have *numerus clausus* (closed number) admissions; signifies six years of university-level study; requires credentials **B**, **E** and/or **F** for admission or builds on credential **H**
- S** *Lääketieteen lisensiaatti/Medicine licentiat* (Licentiate of Medicine (Master level)): awarded by an *yliopisto/universitet* (university); all fields of study have *numerus clausus* (closed number) admissions; signifies six years of university-level study; requires credentials **B**, **E** and/or **F** for admission
- T** *Tohtori/Doktor* (Doctorate): awarded by an *yliopisto/universitet* (university); awarded in all fields; all fields of study have *numerus clausus* (closed number) admissions; signifying a minimum of four years of study, unless preceded by credential **N**, making it a minimum of two years of study; requires credential **H**, **K**, **L**, **M**, **N**, **P**, **Q**, **P** or **R** for admission

Prior to September 2005 Reforms: The number of years required to complete a program was based on the ration of 40 *opintoviikkoa/sudieveck*a (credits) equal to one year of full-time study. The actual length of enrollment may be longer than the credits indicate, so, for example, a 120-point program might take longer to complete than the calculated three years.

September 2005-Present: Higher Education studies are measured in *opintopiste/studiepoäng* (credits). Study courses are quantified according to the work load required. One year of studies is equivalent to 1600 hours of student work on the average and is defined as 60 credits. This is in compliance with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).

GRADING INFORMATION

Secondary

Numerical	Finnish	Swedish	Translation
10	Erinomainen	Utmärkta	Excellent
9	Kiitettävä	Berömliga	Praiseworthy
8	Hyvä	Goda	Good

7	Tyydyttävä	Nöjaktiga	Satisfactory
6	Kohtalainen	Försvarliga	Moderate
5	Välttävä	Hjälpliga	Adequate
4	Hylätty	Icke Godkänd	Failure

Upper-Secondary-Vocational

For Qualifications before the 2009/2010 reform:

Numerical	Finnish	Swedish	Translation
5	Kitettävä	Berömliga	Excellent
4	Erittäin hyvä	Mycket goda insikter	Very Good
3	Hyvä	Goda insikter	Good
2	Erittäin tyydyttävä	Mycket nöjaktigt	Very Satisfactory
1	Tyydyttävä	Nöjaktigt	Satisfactory

For Qualifications after the 2009/2010 reform:

Numerical	Finnish	Swedish	Translation
3	Kiitettävä	Berömliga	Excellent
2	Hyvä	Goda insikter	Good
1	Tyydyttävä	Nöjaktigt	Satisfactory

Higher Education

Universities (prior to September 2005):

Numerical	Finnish	Swedish	Translation
3	Erinomaiset tiedot (ET)	Utmärkta insikter	Excellent
2	Hyvät tiedot (HT)	Goda insikter	Good
1	Tyydyttävät tiedot (TT)	Nöjaktiga insikter	Satisfactory
0	Hylätty	Icke godkänd	Failure

Grades can also be *hyväksytty/hylätty, godkänd/inte godkänd* (pass/fail)

Universities (after September 2005):

Numerical	Finnish	Swedish	Translation
5	Erinomaiset tiedot (ET)	Utmärkta insikter	Excellent
4	Kiitettävät tiedot (KT)	Berömliga insikter	Very Good
3	Hyvät tiedot (HT)	Goda insikter	Good
2	Tyydyttävät tiedot (TT)	Nöjaktiga insikter	Satisfactory
1	Välttävät tiedot (VT)	Hjälpliga	Adequate
0	Hylätty	Icke godkänd	Failure

Universities (after September 2005):

Numerical	Finnish	Swedish	Translation
5	Kiitettävä	Berömligt	Excellent
4	Erittäin hyvä	Mycket goda	Very Good
3	Hyvä	Goda insikter	Good
2	Erittäin tyydyttävä	Mycket	Very Satisfactory
1	Tyydyttävä	Nöjaktigt	Satisfactory
0	Hylätty	Icke godkänd	Failure

Grades can also be *hyväksytty/hylätty, godkänd/inte godkänd* (pass/fail)

Numerical	Latin	Translation
6	Laudatur(L)	Excellent
5	Eximia Cum Laude Approbatur(E)	Very Good
4	Magna Cum Laude Approbatur(M)	Good
3	Cum Laude Approbatur(C)	Fairly Good
2	Lubenter Approbatur(B)	Satisfactory
1	Approbatur(A)	Fair
0	Improbatur(I)	Failure

Polytechnics:

Numerical	Finnish	Swedish	Translation
5	Kiitettävä	Berömligt	Excellent
4	Erittäin hyvä	Mycket goda	Very Good
3	Hyvä	Goda insikter	Good
2	Erittäin tyydyttävä	Mycket	Very Satisfactory
1	Tyydyttävä	Nöjaktigt	Satisfactory
0	Hylätty	Icke godkänd	Failure

Ylioppilastutkintotodistus/Studentexamensbetyg (Matriculation Examination Certificate)

Numerical	Latin	Translation
7	Laudatur(L)	Excellent
6	Eximia Cum Laude Approbatur(E)	Very Good
5	Magna Cum Laude Approbatur(M)	Good
4	Cum Laude Approbatur(C)	Fairly Good
3	Lubenter Approbatur(B)	Satisfactory
2	Approbatur(A)	Fair
0	Improbatur(I)	Failure

Grades given for the *Ylioppilastutkintotodistus/Studentexamensbetyg* (Matriculation Examination Certificate) generally reflect the following percentages:

Grade	Percent of Students
L	5%
E	15%
M	20%
C	24%
B	20%
A	11%
I	5%

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Finnish National Board of Education, P.O. Box 380, FI-00531, Helsinki, Tel: +358 40 348 7555, Fax: +358 40 348 7865, e-mail: recognition@oph.fi and kirjaamo@oph.fi (registry)

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Center for International Mobility: <http://www.cimo.fi/english>

FINLEX Data Bank: <http://www.finlex.fi/en>

Finnish Board of National Education: <http://www.oph.fi/recognition>

The Finnish Matriculation Examination: <http://www.ylioppilastutkinto.fi/en/index.html>

Ministry of Education and Culture:
<http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Koulutus/koulutusjaerjestelmae/?lang=en>

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