

Online Guide to

Educational Systems



Around the World—Vatican City



NAFSA

Association of
International Educators

Submitted by Emily Muñiz
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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.

VATICAN CITY

Vatican City supervises two types of educational institutions: seminaries, which train priests; and ecclesiastical universities, which train church administrators, church officials, and faculty members for both seminaries and universities.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SEMINARIES

Roman Catholic seminaries are supervised jointly by the Congregation for Catholic Education in Rome and by the National Conference of Bishops in the country in which a seminary is located. Additions to the approved curricula can be made by the bishop of the diocese in which a diocesan seminary is located or by the superior of a religious order if the seminary is operated by a religious order (e.g., Dominican, Franciscan, Jesuit).

Primary and Secondary

Primary education is completed within the educational system of the country in which a seminary is located. Secondary education is completed either within the educational system of the country in which a seminary is located or in a *seminarium minus* (minor seminary). The curriculum of a minor seminary can encompass both lower and upper secondary education, or only upper secondary education, or upper secondary education plus one or two years of postsecondary education.

Postsecondary

Postsecondary education is completed in a *seminarium maius* (major seminary), in a program known as *sexennium philosophic-theologicum* (six-year philosophical-theological study), that is, two years of philosophy plus four years of theology leading to ordination as a priest.

In some countries, the philosophy portion of the major seminary curriculum, and (if applicable) the postsecondary portion of the minor seminary curriculum, can be completed at a university that is affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church.

In many countries, no credential is awarded upon completion of the various stages of minor and major seminary curricula. In some countries, regular credentials are awarded. For example, in Italy students who complete five-year minor seminary curriculum (upper secondary) or an eight-year minor seminary curriculum (lower and Upper Secondary) receive a *Testimonium Maturitatis* or *Lyceo* (Maturity Certificate from a Secondary School). In the United States, some seminaries award a Bachelor of Arts degree (with major in Philosophy) to students who have completed the philosophy portion of the major seminary curriculum, and a Master of Divinity degree to students who have completed the theology portion.

Grading Information for seminars is listed after the following section on ecclesiastical universities.

ECCLESIASTICAL UNIVERSITIES

Approximately 15 institutions in Vatican City or in Rome, and approximately 125 institutions in other countries, are governed by the Roman Catholic Apostolic Constitution "*Sapientia Christiana*" of 15 of April 1979 and the Norms of the Congregation for Catholic Education of 29

April 1979. Many of these “ecclesiastical Universities” have the word pontifical in their name. They award degrees with authority granted by the Roman Catholic Church. In some cases, they also have received official degree-granting recognition from the authorities who supervise postsecondary education in the country in which the institution operates.

Most ecclesiastical universities award the credentials represented in this ladder:

YEARS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION →

1→	12		13		14		15		16		17		18		19		20		21		22		23		24
					A		C		E		F		J		J		J		J		J				
					B		D		G		H		K		L		L		L		L				
					O		O		N		I		L												
									P		P		M												

CREDENTIALS OR DOCUMENTATION

Postsecondary

Primo Ciclo (First Cycle)

- A *Baccalaureato in Diritto Canonico* (Baccalaureate in Canon Law / Roman Catholic Church Law): two years of tertiary education; requires a secondary leaving certificate
- B *Baccalaureato in Filosofia* (Baccalaureate in Philosophy): two years of tertiary education; requires a secondary leaving certificate
- C *Baccalaureato in Teologia* (Baccalaureate in Theology): three years of tertiary education; requires a secondary leaving certificate
- D *Baccalaureato in Scienze Religiose* (Baccalaureate in Religious Science): three years of tertiary education; requires a secondary leaving certificate
- E *Magistero* (Teacher): four years of tertiary education; offered by Teacher Training Colleges; available in religious studies; requires a secondary leaving certificate

Secondo Ciclo (Second Cycle)

- F *Licenza in Diritto Canonico* (Licentiate in Canon Law): three years of tertiary education; requires credential **A**
- G *Licenza in Filosofia* (Licentiate in Philosophy): two years of tertiary education; requires credential **B**
- H *Licenza in Teologia* (Licentiate in Theology): two years of tertiary education; requires credential **C**
- I *Licenza in Scienze Religiose* (Licentiate in Religious Science): two years of tertiary education; requires credential **D**

Terzo Ciclo (Third Cycle)

- J *Dottorato in Diritto Canonico* (Doctorate in Canon Law): post-graduate program of varying length; awarded upon completion of thesis; requires credential **F**
- K *Dottorato in Filosofia* (Doctorate in Philosophy): usually two years of post-graduate education; awarded upon completion of thesis; requires credential **G**

- L *Dottorato in Teologia* (Doctorate in Theology): post-graduate program; awarded upon completion of thesis; requires credential **H**
- M *Giurisprudenza in Diritto Canonico* (Jurisprudence in Theology): one year of post-graduate education; requires credential **F**
- N *Diploma in Teologia Pastorale* (Pastoral Theology Diploma): one year of post-graduate education; requires credential **C**

Teacher Education

- O *Magistero* (Teacher): the secondary school teaching program requires credentials **A, B, C** or **D**
- P *Magistero* (Teacher): the higher education teaching program requires credentials **E, F, G** or **H**

Notes

- 1 For some programs, knowledge of Latin is required for entrance.
- 2 Most programs admit men and women, laity and clergy, and non-Catholic.
- 3 Pontifical Institute of Arabic Studies offers a Licentiate in Arabic and Islamic Studies.
- 4 The faculty of Canon Law was modified under the *Decreto Nuovo Codice* (New Code Decree) of September 2, 2002
- 5 On June 19, 1999, the Bologna Process was created to reform the higher education system of European countries in order to make it more transferable, compatible, and high quality. Ministers of higher education from 29 European countries signed the declaration to form the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). The higher educational system under the Bologna Process consists of three cycles:
 - The first cycle or *primo ciclo* awards the Bachelor's diploma; it requires 180–240 ECTS credits.
 - The second cycle or *secondo ciclo* awards the Master's diploma; it requires 90–120 ECTS credits.
 - The third cycle or *terzo ciclo* awards the Doctorate; the length of program varies.

GRADING SCALE

<u>Latin</u>	<u>Translation</u>
<i>Summa Cum Laude Probatus</i>	Passed With Highest Praise
<i>Magna Cum Laude Probatus</i>	Passed With Great Praise
<i>Cum Laude Probatus</i>	Passed With Praise
<i>Probatus</i>	Passed
<i>Non Probatus</i>	Not Passed

<u>Numeric</u>	<u>Latin</u>	<u>Translation</u>	<u>U.S. System</u>
29,00 to 30,00	<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Passed With Highest Praise	4.00/A Excellent
27,00 to 28,99	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Passed With Great Praise	3.00/B Very Good
24,00 to 26,99	<i>Cum Laude P</i>	Passed With Praise	2.00/C Good
21,00 to 23,99	<i>Bene Probatus</i>	Passed	2.00/C Good
21,00 to 23,99	<i>Probatus</i>	Passed	1.00/D Pass

- Some seminaries and ecclesiastical universities use a grade scale of 0 to 10 with 6 being the minimum passing grade.

List of Accredited Institutions

Pontificia Facoltà di Scienze dell'Educazione "Auxilium" (Pontifical Faculty of Sciences of Education "Auxilium")

Established 1954

Via Cremolino, 141 - 00166 Roma

Tel. 06.6157201 - Fax 06.61564640

segreteria@pfse-auxilium.org

WWW: <http://www.pfse-auxilium.org/>

Pontificia Università della Santa Croce (Pontifical University of the Holy Cross)

Established 1985

Piazza Sant'Apollinare, 49

00186 Roma

Tel. +39 06 681641 - Fax +39 06 68164400

e-mail: santacroce@pusc.it

WWW: <http://www.pusc.it/>

Pontificia Università Gregoriana (Pontifical Gregorian University)

Established 1553

Piazza della Pilotta, 4 - 00187 Roma

Tel. +39 06 67015295 – Fax +39 06 67015419

WWW: www.unigre.it/

Pontificia Universitas a S. Thomas Aquinate in Urbe (Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas)

Established 1580

Pontificia Università San Tommaso d'Aquino

Roma 184

Tel. +39 06 670 21 - Fax +39 06 679 0407

e-mail: amministrazione@pust.urbe.it

amministrazione@pust@gmail.com

WWW: <http://www.angelicum.org/>

Pontificia Università Urbaniana (Pontifical Urbaniana University)

Established 1627

Via Urbano VIII, 16 - 00165 Roma

Tel. 06/69889611 - Fax 06/69881871

segreteria@urbaniana.edu

WWW: www.urbaniana.edu

POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION RECOGNITION BODY

Congregazione per l'educazione Cattolica (Congregation for Catholic Education):

3 Piazza Pio XII, Rome 00193, Italy.

Tel: 39-50-698-4161 Fax: 39-6-698-4172

WWW: www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccatheduc/index_it.htm

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Published:

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

The British Council. 1996. *International Guide to Qualifications in Education*. 4th ed. London: Mansell

Capobianco, Joseph P. 1981. *Italy: A Study of the Educational System of Italy and a Guide to the Academic Placement of Students in Educational Institutions of the United States*. Washington D.C.: AACRAO.

Internet Sources:

UNESCO - World Academic Database: <http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/>

Bologna Process: www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna

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