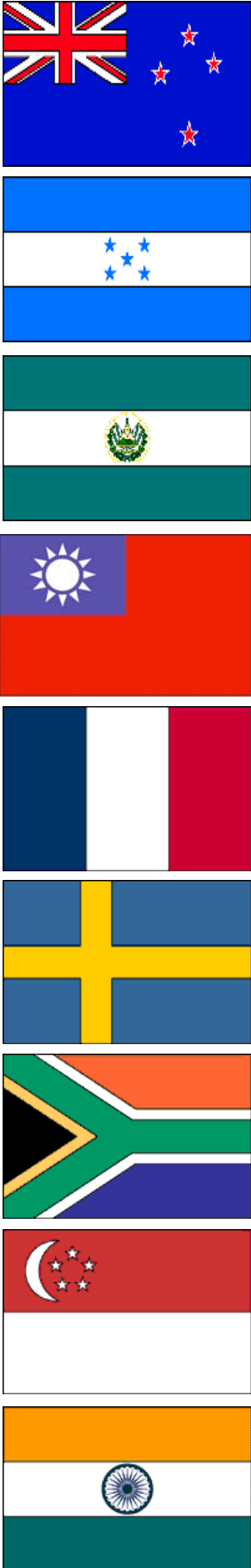
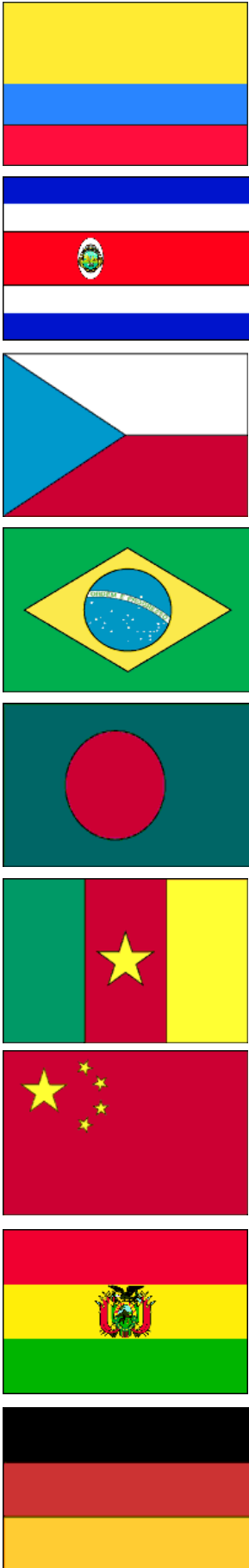
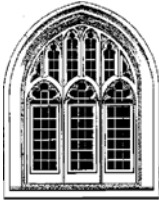


International Credentials Guide 2005-2006



Duke University



Graduate School

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November, 2005

Dear International Credential Guide User:

The Graduate School Enrollment Services Office is pleased to present the 2005 edition of our International Credentials Guide. This guide is designed to assist the departmental directors of graduate studies and their assistants in evaluating the academic credentials of the large number of applicants from many different nations.

Information presented on each country's education system has been taken from a variety of sources. These sources are identified in the bibliography section of this guide. It should be noted that, while information on the grading system and recommendations are based on the latest available research, there is a good deal of variance between universities within each country. Therefore, the transcript should always be examined for an explanation of the grading system.

We hope you will find this Guide a useful tool in evaluating international academic credentials. We welcome your suggestions and comments.

Enrollment Services Office
Duke University Graduate School

What's In a GPA?

The GPA (grade point average) used in all official reports produced from Graduate School admissions data is the **undergraduate** GPA (UGPA), reflecting the equivalent of a four-year bachelor's program, based on a **4-point grading scale**. Many students attend more than one school, and in these cases, the grades from all undergraduate schools are combined. Courses that were dropped or courses that do not award letter grades (e.g. satisfactory/unsatisfactory, pass/fail, credit only) are not included in the GPA calculation nor are graduate grades. If a student repeats a course, both grades are included. Also, grades of "F" are included in the calculation.

Applicants are allowed to self-report their GPA's on their applications. If the department recommends admission of an applicant, the Enrollment Services Office will confirm the self-reported UGPA. If there is a discrepancy in the self-reported UGPA and our calculation, we will notify the department. If you have any reason to question the **unconfirmed** UGPA on the blue Control Sheet, let the Enrollment Services Office know and we will recompute it for you.

Sometimes applicants tell us that they want to report their graduate GPA (GGPA), perhaps because it is higher than their undergraduate GPA. There is a place on the application for them to do so, and it also appears on the Control Sheet for your information. However, GGPA comparisons cannot be made across all applicants since not all applicants have graduate grades and, for those that do, the graduate work represented may be for very different periods and types of study. Therefore, we do not routinely include GGPA's in our GPA calculations. However, **you should look at all transcripts in your review process** to assist you in your assessment of a particular applicant.

Foreign transcripts represent a very unique challenge in that only a few foreign institutions have grading scales like that of the United States and, therefore, we have to attempt to calculate a GPA that is equivalent to ours. To do this, we use information in this guide and other reference volumes we have available in the Graduate School Enrollments Services Office. In most cases we are able to come up with an approximate equivalent but, when we cannot, we record the GPA as "0.0" and confirm it as official.

Occasionally you will see a U.S. student with a GPA of "0.0" confirmed as official. This occurs when the student attends a school that does not give grades (e.g. Hampshire College, UC-Santa Cruz). A transcript from these schools usually consists of a packet of narrative reports by professors on the student's work in their courses. It will take longer to assess these students' academic records, but it may be well worth the effort.

How to Compute the Undergraduate Grade Point Average (UGPA)

The following values are assigned to letter grades to use when calculating the UGPA.

A, A+ = 4.0	B- = 2.8	D+ = 1.5
A = 3.8	C+ = 2.5	D = 1.0
B+ = 3.5	C = 2.0	D- = 0.8
B = 3.0	C- = 1.8	F = 0.0

Step 1. Multiply the grade values (see above) times the number of credit hours. Sample:

Grade	Credit Hours	X	Grade Value	=	Grade Points
A-	15		3.8		57
B+	8		3.5		28
C-	7		1.8		12.6
F	3		0.0		0.0

Step 2. Add the total number of credits ($15 + 8 + 7 + 3 = 33$) and the total number of grade points ($57 + 28 + 12.6 + 0.0 = 97.6$)

Step 3. Divide the total number of grade points by the total number of credits ($97.6/33 = 2.96$).

Note: Do not combine quarter credit hours with semester credit hours; instead, convert quarter hours to semester hours. Generally **one quarter hour = 2/3 semester hour**.



AFGHANISTAN

Middle East

Area: 652,000 sq. km. (252,000 sq. mi.)

Population: 29.9 million

Cities: Capital – Kabul; Kandahar, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad, Konduz

Languages of instruction: Persian, Pashto, or English

Education: Years compulsory-6

Literacy: 32% (female 15%, male 47%)

Academic Year: March – January



System of Education

The education system of Afghanistan has changed throughout the tumultuous history of this troubled country. The education system evolved from its beginning as a foreign-dominated to an Islamic-based system. In the villages where the economy prohibits the building of schools, the mosques play the role of schools and education includes religion. The Taliban clerics who came to rule in 1996 had reinforced the Islamic emphasis in education, including the exclusion of females in receiving an education. Poor educational quality today is due to the war--lack of access to computers, destruction of libraries, and shortage of textbooks. The greatest challenge facing higher education is the need to provide adequate funding and to establish security, peace, and stability.

Degree Significance

- *Baccaluria*: awarded at completion of secondary school
- *Teachers College Certificate*: awarded from teacher training colleges. Primary and middle teacher diplomas are awarded after two years of post-secondary study and the upper secondary teacher diploma is awarded after four years.
- *Bachelor's Degree*: first university degree is awarded after four years. Bachelors of Medicine requires seven years. Also known as *leicanc* or *licence*.

Higher degrees are not offered at present.

- *Master's Degree*: awarded after six years. Entrance exam is required. Student must have obtained very high marks in bachelor's study.
- *Doctor of Medicine*: awarded after six year of post-secondary education, and one year of internship.
- *Doctor of Philosophy*: awarded after seven years (Bachelor's+Master's+3 years).
- *Doctor of Philosophy*--awarded after seven years (Bachelor's+Master's+3 years).

Key Universities

University of Kabul
Balkh University
Herat University

Grading System (since 1975)

<u>Transcript grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
90-100	a'la A excellent
80-89	'ali B very good
55-79	hub C good
50-54	D
0-49	F

Recommendations and Comments

The Afghan school system will take years to reconstruct. Since 1975 the minimum required degree for admission to graduate studies is the bachelor's degree.



ALBANIA

Southeastern Europe



Area: 28,748 sq km
Population: 3.5 million
Cities: Capital – Tirana; Durres, Shkodra, Vlora
Language of instruction: Albanian
Education: Years compulsory-8
Literacy: 86.5% (79.5% female, 93.3% male)

System of Education

A major economic and political crisis in Albania in 1991 plunged the school system into chaos. In the late 1990s, many schools were rebuilt or reconstructed to improve learning conditions. Most improvements have happened in the larger cities where classrooms are vastly overcrowded. The old communist propaganda has been taken out of the curricula and more emphasis placed on math, hard sciences and humanities. Many schools still lack basic supplies for laboratory classes. Most schools are public and financed through the government, but recently several private schools have been opened.

Degree Significance

- *Deftese Pjekurie* (Certificate of Maturity): equivalent to a 4-year high school diploma
- *Diplome* (Diploma): primary grades teacher's diploma awarded upon completion of a 3-year program.
- *Diplome with titull* (Diploma with title): equivalent to Bachelor's Degree. Admission requires high school diploma. Most are four years; five years required in hard science and six in medicine.
- *Diplome e Studimeve te Thelluara* (Diploma of Advanced Studies): equivalent to Master's Degree. Based on 3 years of study and research and a thesis.
- *Doktor* (Doctor): awarded by University of Tirana based on a dissertation representing advanced research and publication.

Key Universities

University of Tirana

Grading System

Transcript grade

10-dhjetë
9-nëntë
8-tetë
7-shtatë
6-gjashtë
5-pesë

US Equivalent

A excellent
A-/B+ very good
B good
C+/C average
C/C- satisfactory
D lowest passing grade

Recommendations and Comments

The 4-year Diploma with title is required for admission to graduate study.



ALGERIA

Northern Africa



Area: 2,381,740 sq. km. (919,595 sq. mi.)
Population: 32.5 million
Cities: Capital –Algiers; Oran, Constantine, Annaba
Languages of instruction: Arabic, French
Education: Years compulsory-9
Literacy: 70% (female 61%, male 78.8%)
Academic Year: September — June

System of Education

Basic education last for nine years. Secondary education, which is compulsory, lasts for three. Higher education was first based on the French model, stressing autonomy of the university in administration and curricula. The system proved to be unwieldy, resulting in duplication of academic offerings, complete loss of credits by students changing programs, and high attrition rates. Major reforms were introduced in 1988, and although the number of French instructors has declined, the universities still loosely resemble the French model and French remains widely used.

Degree Significance

- *Baccalaureat*: equivalent to a 4-year high school diploma
- *Diplome de Technicien Supérieur* (Advanced Technician Diploma): requires high school diploma for admission; duration of 24, 30, or 36 months
- *Licence* (Licenciate): four-year degree awarded in humanities and social sciences
- *Diplome d'Etudes Supérieure* (Higher Studies Diploma): four-year degree awarded in sciences
- *Magister* (Master): requires licence or diplome for admission; normally a two-year program.
- *Doctorat* (Doctorate): requires at least three years of study beyond the master's degree

Key Universities

University of Oran
University of Science and Technology at Oran
University of Algiers

Grading System

<u>Transcript grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
15-20 Tres Bien	A Very good
13-14 Bien	A- good
12 Assez Bien	B Quite good
11 Passable	C average
10 Sans Mention	D No comment
0-9 Insuffisant	F Failed

Recommendations and Comments

The 4-year *licenciate* or diploma of higher studies is required for admission to graduate study.



ARGENTINA

Southern South America

Area: 2.8 million sq. km (1.1 million sq. mi.)
 Population: 39.5 million
 Cities: Capital – Buenos Aires; Cordoba, Rosario, Mar del Plata, Mendoza
 Language of instruction: Spanish
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 96% (96% female, 96% male)
 Academic year: April – December



System of Education

Higher education in Argentina is provided by public national, public provincial, and private universities. Universities are self-governing. The traditional degree is awarded after four to six years and implies an academic and professional qualification in a specific field of study. University curricula for an undergraduate major are usually fixed with few elective subjects. The approach to university teaching remains traditional, with emphasis on learning from professor’s lectures. Lack of technology and resources, and strong tradition, combine to keep the curriculum primarily technical.

Degree Significance

- *Bachillerato*: degree awarded upon completion of secondary school.
- *Auxiliar* (Assistant): awarded after two to two and one-half years of postsecondary, non-university study.
- *Tecnico* (Technician): typically awarded after two to two and one-half years of study in a technical area.
- *Bachiller Universitario* (University Bachelor): typically awarded after three years of study. Holders of this degree are eligible to continue towards the next higher degree in the same field at the same university.
- *Profesor en* (Professor of): awarded after three to three and one-half year of postsecondary, non-university study or three to four and one-half years of university study. Title includes area of specialization. It is a highly specialized degree considered to be teaching certification.
- *Licenciado/a or licenciatura* (professional title): equivalent to a U.S. bachelor’s degree. It normally requires between four and six years to complete, depending on the field.

- *Especialista en* (Specialization in): practical and focused on a particular aspect of a field of study, usually one year in length after *licenciado*.
- *Magister, Maestria* (Master): combines practical and academic study; usually requires a thesis and one to two years of study after *licenciado*.
- *Doctorado* (Doctorate): the highest degree. Candidates must submit a thesis; no time limit is imposed. Master not required for admission.

Key Universities

Colegio Jesuita
 Universidad de Buenos Aires
 Universidad Nacional de Cordoba
 Universidad Nacional del Mar de Plata
 Pontifica Universidad de Catolica Argentina
 Universidad del Salvador

Grading System

Although it varies slightly from university to university, the grading system generally follows the one to ten scale:

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>	
Sobresaliente	9-10	Excellent	A
Distinguido	8-9	Very Good	A-
Bueno	6-7	Good	B
Aprobado	4-5	Passing	C
Insuficiente/ Reprobado	0-3	Insufficient/ Failing	F

Recommendations and Comments

The minimum required degree for admission to graduate studies is *licenciado*. *Bachillerato* is a high school diploma.



ARMENIA

Southwestern Asia



Area: 29,800 sq. km. (11,500 sq. mi.)
Population: 3 million
Cities: Capital –Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor
Languages of instruction: Armenian, Russian
Education: Years compulsory-8
Literacy: 98.6% (female 85%, male 99.4%)

System of Education

In its first years of independence, Armenia made substantial changes to the centralized and regimented Soviet system of education. Universities hired experts to design a curriculum that addressed the social and economic trends of the post-Cold War era. Both quality and number of courses increased. Armenian became the dominant language of instruction with Russian widely taught as a second language.

Universities are struggling to adjust to the changes brought about by a market economy and are turning to alternative sources of funding. There has also been a sharp increase in demand for higher education. About 80% of high school students applying to university take private lessons to help them prepare for admissions exams. Until recently, graduates from private institutions have not enjoyed the same status as those from state universities. However, many private schools are now accredited, especially those specializing in business and law. Armenia is striving to bring universities and faculties in line with western higher education without blindly following European and American models.

Degree Significance

- *Hasunutian Vkaikakan* (Certificate of Maturity): a two-year degree signifying completion of academic secondary school; leads to postsecondary education
- *Diplom* (Diploma) from an *usumnaran* (vocational secondary school): may lead to postsecondary education
- *Bakalavri Kochum* (Bachelor’s Degree): completion of four years of higher education.
- *Specialist Diploma*: five years of study, six for medicine
- *Magistrosi Kochum* (Master’s Degree): requires the bachelor’s degree; one to two years concentrating in area of specialization

- *Gitutyunneri Teknatsu* (Candidate of Science): requires specialist diploma or master’s degree; three years of study focusing on research and requiring defense of a dissertation
- *Gitutyunneri Doctor* (Doctor of Science): requires the *Gitutyunneri Teknatsu* for admission. Three years of study focusing on independent research and requiring defense of a dissertation

Key Universities

Yerevan State University
State Engineering University of Armenia (Hayastani Petakan)

Grading System

Transcript grade	US Equivalent	
5	excellent	A
4	good	B
3	satisfactory	C
2-0	failed	F

Recommendations and Comments

Either the *Bakalavri Kochum* or the specialist diploma will meet the bachelor’s degree requirement for graduate studies in the U.S.



AUSTRALIA

South Pacific



Area: 7.7 million sq. km (3 million sq. mi.)
 Population: 20.1 million
 Cities: Capital – Canberra; Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth
 Language of instruction: English
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 100%

System of Education

Higher education experienced high levels of growth during the 1990s. Total student numbers have grown by around 55 percent. There are three broad sectors comprising higher education: universities, colleges of advanced education (CAEs) and technical and further education institutes (TAFEs). Universities and CAEs provide the equivalent of a bachelor's degree and beyond. TAFEs provide specialized and technical further education. Although entrance requirements vary, universities require fairly high Year Twelve exam scores. The CAEs can be divided into five categories: institutes of technology, regional colleges, metropolitan multipurpose colleges, teacher's colleges, and other specialized colleges. CAEs also require Year Twelve exams, but are more flexible than the universities with regard to scores and prerequisites.

Degree Significance

- *Certificate*: awarded at completion of secondary school.
- *Associate Diploma*: two years; certificate required.
- *Diploma*: three years; certificate required
- *Ordinary or Pass Bachelor's Degree*: three years
- *Honours Bachelor's Degree*: four years; five years in architecture, engineering, law, medical science, music, town planning, and social work; six years in medicine; required for admission to master's degree programs.
- *Graduate Diploma*: requires the diploma for entrance and is viewed as a second major, not as an advanced degree.
- *Master's Degree*: one to two years of study beyond the graduate diploma or honours degree. May be completed either by all coursework, by coursework and thesis, or by research only and thesis.
- *Doctor of Philosophy*: requires two to three years of full-time research and thesis. Admission is based on honours bachelor's degree or master's degree.

Key Universities

University of Adelaide
 Australian National University
 University of Canberra
 Griffith University
 La Trobe University
 Macquarie University
 University of Melbourne
 University of Sydney
 University of New South Wales

Grading System

There is a variety of grading systems used. The most common for honours degrees:

<u>Transcript grade</u>	<u>% Awarded</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
High Distinction	8-9%	A
Distinction	19-27%	A/B+
Credit	19-30%	B
Pass	25-28%	C
Conceded/Terminating Pass	25-28%	D
Failure	10-14%	F

Recommendations and Comments

The *bachelor's degree* (honours) or a postgraduate diploma from a CAE is the minimum requirement for graduate study. Number of students who receive A's in US is three times those in Australia.



AUSTRIA

Western Europe



Area: 83, 870 sq. km. (32,377 sq. mi.)
 Population: 8.2 million
 Cities: Capital – Vienna; Graz, Linz, Salzburg, Innsbruck
 Language of instruction: German
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 98%
 Academic Year: October – June

System of Education

Higher education in Austria is offered through universities, technical universities, academies, and colleges. Access to higher education is open to holders of the *Reifeprüfungzeugnis*, or *Teifezeugnis*, the secondary school leaving certificate. The length of time for academic programs in Austrian higher education is given in “legal minimum” terms. In most cases, the actual length of time a student spends in the program in order to earn a degree is several semesters or even years beyond the legal minimum.

Degree Significance

- *Matura Reifeprüfung*: (*Maturity Examination Certificate*)—gives access to postsecondary education
- *Bakkalaureus (Bachelor)*: 6-8 semesters beyond secondary school; requires two essays and an examination
- *Fachhochschule Bakkalaureus (Professional School Bachelor)*: 6 semesters, one in practical training
- *Magister Fachhochschule (Master Technical College)*: six to eight semesters in a practically oriented program such as business
- *Magister (Master)*: first university degree, awarded after completion of a legal minimum of four or five years of study (usually lasts six to seven years).
- *Diplom-ingenieur (Graduate Engineer)*: awarded after a legal minimum of four or five years (usually six to seven).
- *Diplom (Diploma), Diplomierterz (Diploma Certificate), Reifezeugnis (Maturity Certificate), Lehrbefähigungszeugnis (Teaching Qualification Certificate)*: university-level fine arts curriculum of four to eight years.
- *Doktor (Doctor)*: awarded after two to four semesters of study beyond *magister* or *diplom-ingenieur* (usually lasts several semesters longer).

Key Universities

Karl Franzens University
 Graz University of Technology
 University of Innsbruck
 University of Salzburg
 Vienna University of Economics
 Vienna University of Technology

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
1 Sehr Gut (Very Good)	A
2 Gut (Good)	A-/B+
3 Befriedigend (Satisfactory)	B/B-
4 Genugend (Sufficient)	C
5 Nicht Genugend (Insufficient)	F

Recommendations and Comments

The *magister* or the *diplom-ingenieur* is the minimum required credential to be considered for graduate admission. The *doktor* may be considered equivalent to a U.S. doctorate.



AZERBAIJAN

Southwestern Asia



Area: 86,600 sq. km. (53,810 sq. mi.)
 Population: 7.9 million
 Cities: Capital – Baku, Ganca, Sumgayit
 Language of instruction: Azerbaijani, Russian, English
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 98.8% (female 98.2%, male 99.5%)
 Academic Year: September – May

System of Education

Azerbaijan regained its independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. In 1993 reforms in the educational system were instituted, the most important of which is the transition to a multi-level system of higher professional education. Institutions have the right to choose the approach, determine the contents, and draw up academic plans for the education of specialists. The only restriction imposed by the state is to maintain a minimum of knowledge. The institution’s right to autonomy is guaranteed. As of 1997, several institutions have instituted the master’s degree.

Students must sit for a National Entrance Examination and hold the Certificate of General Education for admission to university.

Degree Significance

- *Bakalavr* (Bachelor): degree awarded after four years during which students study Humanities and Natural Sciences as well as their chosen specialty.
- *Specialist*: five-year degree being phased out
- *Magistr* (Master): degree awarded after 1½ to 2 years during which students acquire in-depth knowledge and professional training in Humanities and the Natural Sciences.
- *Kandidat Nauk*: three-year postgraduate degree being phased out.
- Doctor: PhD awarded after 2 to 3 years to the best graduates of the master’s program
- *Doktor Nauk*: degree formerly awarded by thesis after *Kandidat Nauk*; being phased out.

Key Universities

- University of Azerbaijan
- Institute of Petroleum and Chemistry
- Azerbaijan Technical University
- Pedagogical Institute for Languages
- Western University

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
5 excellent	A
4 good	B
3 pass	C
2 unsatisfactory	F

Recommendations and Comments

Bakalavr or *Specialist* degree is required for admission to graduate studies.



BAHRAIN

Middle East, Persian Gulf



Area: 665 sq. km. (274 sq. mi.)
 Population: .69 million
 Cities: Capital –Manama, Ar-Rifa, Al-Muharraq, Hammad
 Languages of instruction: Arabic, English
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 89.1% (female 85%, male 91.9%)

System of Education

Established in 1932, the Bahrain public education system is the oldest in the Arabian Peninsula. Since the 1970s, education has been one of the largest government expenditures.

Degree Significance

- *Tawjihiya*: high school graduation certificate. Secondary education lasts for three years and offers students a choice of general, technical or commercial study.
- *Associate degree (from College of Health Sciences)*: three years of study beyond high school
- *Diploma (from College of Health Sciences)*: three semesters of study beyond the associate degree
- *Bachelor's Degree*: four years of study beyond high school
- *Certificate (in Arabic and Islamic Studies)*: one year of study beyond the Bachelor's
- *Master's Degree (in Science Education)*: one year of study beyond the Bachelor's
- *Doctor (in medicine)*: seven years of study beyond high school

Key Universities

University of Bahrain
 Arabian Gulf University
 College of Health Sciences

Grading System

<u>Transcript grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
87-100	A
84-86	B+
80-83	B
77-79	B-
74-76	C+
70-73	C
67-69	C-
60-66	D
0-59	F

Other Scale

<u>Transcript grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
4 excellent	A
3 good	B+/B
2 satisfactory	C+/C
1 minimum pass	D+/D

Recommendations and Comments

The Bachelor's Degree in Bahrain is equivalent to the US bachelor's degree. One set of photocopies of all official documents are issued in English.



BANGLADESH

Southeast Asia



Area: 144, 000 sq. km. (55, 813 sq. mi.)
 Population: 144.3 million
 Cities: Capital – Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna
 Language of instruction: Bengali, English
 Education: Years compulsory-5
 Literacy: 43.1% (53.9% males; 31.8% females)
 Academic Year: September – August

System of Education

As in India, education in Bangladesh is based upon the English system. A student’s performance is determined by adding points to a base of zero, instead of reducing points from a maximum of one hundred. Often transcripts will have only a few grades because grading stress is placed on end-of-year exams. Degrees are awarded with a ranking. Grading tends to be harsh, particularly in the science fields.

Degree Significance

- *Bachelor’s Degree (Pass)*: a two-year degree in the fields of arts, commerce, and social sciences awarded by public universities.
- *Bachelor’s Degree (Honours)*: a three-year degree in the fields of arts, business, commerce, fine arts, law, pharmacy, science, and social science. May also be a four-year degree if awarded at a private university.
- *Bachelor of Engineering* and *Bachelor of Technology*: four-year degrees.
- *Master’s Degree*: one year of study for Honours graduates and two years of study for Pass graduates; one-and-a-half years in Engineering.
- *Doctor of Philosophy*: two to three-year program requiring a master’s degree for admission.
- *Doctor of Literature* and *Doctor of Science*: three-year programs requiring the Doctor of Philosophy for admission.

Key Universities

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
 University of Chittagong
 University of Dhaka

Grading System

Mark sheets are provided for each year of study for all yearly examinations. Grades are figured based a maximum score and a minimum pass score, which can vary. The actual score is given and then translated into a relative percentage. For example a score of 120 out of a possible 200 maximum score equals 60%. (120/200). Typically a score over sixty percent is considered “Excellent.”

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
60-100	A
55-59	B+
50-54	B
43-49	C+
35-42	C
0-34	F
or	
<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
60-100 (First Division)	A
45-59 (2 nd Division)	B/B+
30-44 (3 rd Division)	C/C+
0-29	F

Recommendations and Comments

A four-year *bachelor’s* or a combined *bachelor’s/master’s* degree is the minimum required degree to pursue graduate studies. All original official documents and one complete set of photocopies are issued in English.



BELARUS

Western Europe

Area: 2,900 sq. km. (sq. mi.)
 Population: 10.3 million
 Cities: Capital – Minsk; Homyel, Hrodna, Mahilyow, Vitsyebsk
 Language of instruction: Byelorussian, Russian
 Education: Years compulsory - 9
 Literacy: 99.6% (female 99.5%, male 99.8%)
 Academic year: September – July



System of Education

After seven decades as a republic of the USSR, Belarus attained its independence in 1991. It has retained closer political and economic ties to Russia than any of the other former Soviet republics. Higher education is provided by state and private accredited institutions. Education in public institutions is free for students who pass the entrance competition. In private institutions, students pay all tuition and fees. Higher education is under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, which is responsible for accreditation and licensing of higher education institutions and applying the state education standards.

Degree Significance

In Belarus, specialized vocational education is the sector of secondary education and not part of the higher education system.

- *Diplom o Vyshem Obrazovanii* (Diploma of Higher Education): awarded after four or five years.
- *Bakalavr* (Bachelor): awarded simultaneously to holders of the Diploma of Higher Education who have obtained marks of 4 and 5.
- *Magistr* (Master): Holders of the *Bakalavr* or those who have passed *Bakalavr* training course examinations may pursue the *Magistr* degree. The course is comprised of one to two years of study and research in the chosen specialty followed by public presentation of a thesis. The degree specifies the specialty.
- *Kandidat Nauk* (Candidate of Sciences): requires at least 3 years of postgraduate courses, special examinations and the public defense of a thesis.
- *Doktor Nauk* (Doctor of Sciences): Holders of *Kandidat Nauk* can receive this highest scientific degree by following the required research program and publicly defending a thesis.

It is possible to do doctorate research and sit for a scientific degree while not following postgraduate courses. Higher education institutions support such persons and provide them with a supervisor.

Key Universities

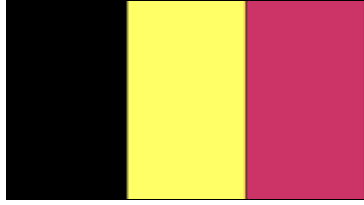
Belarus State University
 Belarus Technical University
 Belarus State Economics University
 Belarus Academy of Arts
 Homyel Polytechnic Institute
 Hrodna State Medical Institute

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
5 excellent	A
4 good	B
3 pass	C
2 unsatisfactory	F

Recommendations and Comments

The *Bakalavr* or Bachelor's degree is the minimum required credential to be considered for graduate admission.



BELGIUM

Western Europe



Area: 30,528 sq. km. (11, 799 sq. mi.)
 Population: 10.4 million
 Cities: Capital – Brussels; Antwerp, Ghent, Charleroi, Liege, Bruges
 Language of instruction: Dutch, French, English
 Education: Years compulsory-12
 Literacy: 98%
 Academic year: September –June/July

System of Education

Belgium is legally divided by its constitution into three cultural-linguistic communities: French, Flemish, and German. Each community is responsible for education within its borders. University level education is offered at 19 institutions. More than seventy percent of the university population is enrolled in private institutions, all of which are financially supported by the state. Education takes place in cycles which lead to a degree. Approximately eleven percent of Belgian 18-year-olds enter universities.

Degree Significance

- *Candidat/Kandidaat(Candidate)*: represents two years of study, three in medicine and veterinary medicine. *Candidate* is not a final credential but indicates completion of a fixed number of courses to qualify for admission to the next cycle. Less than fifty percent pass the first-year exams.
- *Licence/licentiaat (Licentiate)*: requires two additional years, three in dentistry, law and psychology. Students select an area of specialization. Courses are offered as seminars, and practical exercises are included in the schedule. The *licentiate* is comparable to the U.S. bachelor's degree.
- *Ingenieur (Engineer)*: two to three years of study after the *Candidate*.
- *Doctorat/doctoraat (Doctor)*: one additional year after the licentiate or engineer is required by law, but normally three to four years of independent research and writing of a dissertation are necessary.

Key Universities

- Free University of Brussels
- State University of Ghent
- State University of Liege
- Catholic University of Louvain
- Catholic University of Leuven
- University Institute of Antwerp

Grading System

<u>Numeric</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US</u>
18-20	90-100	<i>Avec la plus Grande Distinction/ Met Grootse Onderscheiding</i> With the Highest Distinction	A
16-17.9	80-89	<i>Avec Grande Distinction/ Met Grote Onderscheiding</i> With Great Distinction	A-
14-15.9	70-79	<i>Avec Distinction/ Met Onderscheiding</i> With Distinction	B
12-13.9	60-69	<i>Suffisant/Avec Satisfaction/ Met Voldoening</i> Sufficient/ With Satisfaction	C
10-11.9	50-59	May be considered passing if entire year is passed.	D
0-9.9	0-49	<i>Ajourne</i> Failed	F

Other Scale

16-20	80-100	With Great Distinction	A
14-15	70-79	With Distinction	B
12-13	60-69	Sufficient	C
0-11	0-59	Failed	F

Recommendations and Comments

The *licence/licentie* is the minimum required degree to pursue graduate studies.



BELIZE

Central America

Area: 22,966 sq. km. (8,867 sq. mi.)
 Population: 279,000
 Cities: Capital – Belmopan, Belize City, Corozal, Orange Walk,
 San Ignacio & Santa Elena, Dangriga, Punta Gorda
 Language of instruction: English
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 94.1% (male/female 94.1%)
 Academic year: August – May



System of Education

Belize is the only predominantly English-speaking country in Central America. The higher educational system is largely modeled after the U.S. As a former British colony with stronger ties to the Caribbean region than to Central America, Belize participates in the Caribbean Commonwealth Council (CXC) examinations. *Education Ordinary Level examinations (O-level)* are given upon completion of secondary school. Results are often used as admissions criteria for post-secondary programs. *General Certificate of Education Advanced Level Examination (A-level)* is given upon completion of first two years of post-secondary studies. Equivalent to the U.S. associate degree, these two-year programs are known as “sixth form” or “junior college”.

Degree Significance

- *Associate Degree*: a two-year post-secondary program
- *Bachelor’s Degree*: requires one year of study in the University in the field in which the Associate Degree is awarded. It is the highest academic degree available in Belize and comparable to the U.S. bachelor’s degree.

Key Universities

University College of Belize
 Belmopan Junior College
 Belize’s Teacher College
 Belize Technical College
 Belize School of Nursing
 Belize College of Agriculture
 St. John’s College

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
A	95-100 A
A-	90-94 A-
B+	85-89 B+
B	80-84 B
B-	75-79 B-
C+	70-74 C+
C	65-69 C
C-	60-64 C-
D+	55-59 D+
D	50-54 D
F	0-49 F

Other Scale

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
70-100	First Class Honours	A
60-69	Upper Second Class Honours	B+
50-59	Lower Second Class Honours	B
40-49	Pass	C
0-39	Fail	F

Recommendations and Comments

The minimum required degree for admission to graduate studies is the *bachelor’s degree*.



BOLIVIA

Central South America



Area: 1.1 million sq. km. (425,000 sq. mi.)
 Population: 8.9 million
 Cities: Capitals – La Paz (seat of government), Sucre (constitutional); Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, El Alto
 Language of instruction: Spanish
 Education: Years compulsory-7
 Literacy: 87.2% (female 81.6%, male 93.1%)
 Academic year: March – December

System of Education

Higher education in Bolivia is offered through universities and technical universities. Entrance to higher education requires successful completion of the *tecnico*, or the *bachiller en humanidades*, representing twelve years of primary and secondary education.

Degree Significance

- *Tecnico Superior (Advanced-Level Technician)*: awarded after three or four years of post secondary school specialized study.
- *Titulo de Maestra Normal (Title of Normal Teacher)*: awarded after three years of study and student teaching for teachers of primary school and four years for teachers of secondary school.
- *Licenciado (Licentiate)*: awarded in different fields with variable years of study: four years in accounting, biological sciences, education, and humanities; four and one-half years in dentistry, nursing, physics, psychology, and sociology; five years in business administration, computer science, economics, engineering, geography, law, mathematics; and six years in medicine and veterinary medicine.
- *Maestria (experto)*: awarded after two additional years of study beyond the four-year licenciado.
- *Doctorado (Doctor)*: awarded after a period of study and research, and defense of a thesis

Key Universities

Autonomous University Tomas Frias
 Autonomous University Gabriel Rene Moreno
 Catholic University Boliviana
 Technical University of Oruro
 University of San Francisco Xavier
 University of San Simon
 Juan Misael Saracho Bolivian University
 National University of Siglo XX
 Technical University of Beni

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>	
90-100	Sobresaliente	A	Excellent
77-89	Distinguido	A-	Distinguished
64-76	Bueno	B	Good
51-63	Suficiente	C	Sufficient
0-50	Reprobado	F	Failure

Recommendations and Comments

The *licenciado* is the minimum requirement for consideration for graduate admission. *Tecnico* programs lasting four years are not sufficient for graduate admission.



BRAZIL

Eastern South America

Area: 8,511,965 sq. km. (3,290,000 sq. mi.)
 Population: 186.1 million
 Cities: Capitol – Brasilia; Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Salvador
 Language of instruction: Portuguese
 Education: Years compulsory-7
 Literacy: 86.4% (female 86.1%, male 86.6%)
 Academic year: March – December



System of Education

Higher education is provided in federal, state, municipal, and private universities. Public universities are better funded than private and they do not charge tuition. They are, therefore, more highly regarded by students and the public. There are a few private universities with considerable support and historical tradition that are considered equally prestigious.

Another level of Brazilian higher education is the federation. Federations are associations of independent institutions that offer more varied, better integrated courses and greater administrative efficiency. They offer fewer degree programs than universities and enjoy less prestige.

Students must take entrance exams to be admitted to institutes of higher education. Undergraduate education is divided into two sections: basic cycle and professional cycle. These cycles are roughly equivalent to general education (basic cycle) and electives toward the major (professional cycle).

Degree Significance

Undergraduate programs lead to *bacharel*, *licenciado* or *titulo*. The *licenciado* is offered in fields related to education and teaching. *Titulo* is a professional title awarded in such fields as engineering.

- *Bacharel*--considered the more prestigious of the undergraduate degrees. Normal time to complete these degrees is four to five years.
- *Mestre*--completed approximately one to two years after the undergraduate degree, comparable to a U.S. master's degree.
- *Doutor*--completed two years beyond the *mestre*, may be comparable to a U.S. doctoral degree.

Key Universities

Federal University of Bahia
 University of Sao Paulo
 University of Brasilia
 University of Caxias do Sul
 Federal University of Goias
 University of Fortaleza
 Federal University of Minas Geiras
 Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro
 Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

Grading System

Grading systems vary. See transcript for scale used. The following scales are widely used.

Transcript Grade	Equiv.	Description	
9-10	Excelente	A	Excellent
7-8.9	Bom	B	Good
5-6.9	Regular	C	Average
3-4.9	Insuficiente	D	Below Average
0-2.9	Deficiente	F	Fail
E	Excelente	A	Excellent
B	Muito Bom	B	Good
C	Regular	C	Average
I	Insuficiente	D	Below Average
M	Mau	F	Failed
S	Sem rendimento		Without results

S.S.	Superior superior	A
M.S.	Media superior	B
M.M.	Media media	C
M.I.	Media inferior	D
I.I.	Inferior inferior	F

86-100	A
66-85	B
50-65	C

Recommendations and Comments

The *bacharel*, *licenciado* or *titulo*, requiring 4 or more years of study, is the minimum required degree to pursue graduate study.



BULGARIA

Southeast Europe

Area: 110,910 sq. km. (44,365 sq. mi.)
 Population: 7.5 million
 Cities: Capitol – Sofia; Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, Ruse
 Language of instruction: Bulgarian
 Education: Years compulsory-11
 Literacy: 98.6% (female 98.2%, male 99.1%)
 Academic year: September – June



System of Education

The Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria regulates the legal basis for the organization of the educational system. The Higher Education Act of 1995 provides for the establishment of higher education and regulates doctoral studies. The Bulgarian government is trying to meet the challenges of a transition period and is seeking to enhance education and training quality by legislating changes on a long-term basis. Entrance to higher education in Bulgaria is based on the secondary school leaving certificate and results of a competitive entrance exam known as *konkursen izpit*.

Degree Significance

- *Bakalavr (Bachelor)*--awarded upon completion of four to five years of study. There are some fields where the bachelor does not exist and where studies lead directly to the second stage (master's degree).
- *Magistr (Master)*--awarded one year after obtaining the bachelor's degree. Students must usually complete a thesis and pass a state examination. The former *Diplom za Visse Obrazovanie*, awarded before the 1995 law, is officially regarded as equivalent to the master's.
- *Doktor (Doctor)*--obtained on the basis of individual research and after the defense of a thesis. It replaces the former *Kandidat na Naukite* (Candidate of the Sciences), awarded after three years of study beyond the kandidat.

Key Universities

Cyril and Methodius University
 Institute of National Economics
 Higher Institute of Chemical Technology
 University of Plovdiv
 Higher Institute of Medicine, Sofia
 University of Sofia

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
6	Otlichen	A
5	Mnogo dobur	A-/B+
4	Dobur	B
3	Sreden	C
2	Slab	F

Recommendations and Comments

The *bakalavr* is the minimum requirement for consideration for graduate admission. Prior to 1995, a five-year *diplom* was required



CAMEROON

Central Africa

Area: 475,442 sq. km. (183,569 sq. mi.)
 Population: 16.4 million
 Cities: Capitol – Yaounde; Douala
 Languages of instruction: English, French
 Education: Years compulsory-6
 Literacy: 79% (73.4% female, 85.7% male)
 Academic year: October – July



System of Education

The education system of Cameroon is unique. Because of both French and British influences, Cameroon has a dual education system. Four-fifths of the country follows the French system, while one-fifth follows the British system. Each system has its own structure and schools and grants its own degrees. Access to higher education is open to holders of one of the secondary school leaving certificates: the General Certificate of Education (British schools) or the *Baccalaureat* (French schools).

Degree Significance

Higher education is composed of several stages, with certificates or degrees awarded after each stage. The degrees listed below are the minimum required degrees necessary for graduate admission consideration. Following each degree is the number of years spent at each stage.

- *Diplome d'Etudes Superieures* (Diploma of Advanced Studies): 2+1+1
- *Diplome d'Ingenieur Agronomes* (Diploma of Agronomy Engineering): 2+2
- *Certificat d'Aptitude au Professorat del'Enseignement Secondair/CAPES* (Certificate of Teacher of Secondary Education): 2+2 or 2+1+1
- *Diplome d'Administration des Entreprise* (Diploma of Business Administration): 2+1+1
- *Certificat d'Aptitude au Professorat de l'Enseignement Technique/CAPET* (Certificate of Teacher of Secondary Education): 2+1+1
- *Diplome d'Ingenieur de Conception* (Diploma of Design Engineer): 2+3
- *Diplome de l'Institut des Relations Internationales de Cameroun/Diplome d'IRIC* (Diploma of the Institute of International Relations of Cameroon): 2+1+2
- *Maitrise* (Master): 2+1+2 or 3+2
- *Doctorat en Medecine* (Doctor of Medicine): 6

Key Universities

University of Buea
 University of Centre Douala
 University Centre of Dschang
 University Centre of Ngaoundere
 University of Yaounde

Grading System

<u>Transcript grade</u>		<u>US Equivalent</u>	
16-20	Tres Bien	A	Very Good
14-15.9	Bien	A-	Good
12-13.9	Assez Bien	B	Quite Good
10-11.9	Passable	C	Pass

A minimum overall grade of 10 is required to pass; however, individual subjects may be passed with grades lower than 10.

8-9.9		D	
0-8	Echec	F	Fail

Recommendations and Comments

In the French system, a degree requiring a minimum of four years of higher level study in any combination is required for graduate admission consideration.



CANADA

Northern North America

Area: 9,970,610 sq. km. (3,849,670 sq.mi.)

Population: 32.8 million

Cities: Capitol – Ottawa; Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver

Languages of instruction: English, French

Education: Years compulsory- 9 to 11, depending on the province

Literacy rate: 97%



System of Education

The 92 institutions of higher learning in Canada are largely publicly funded. Their programs are uniform in quality. Canadians see a university education as fundamental to their future well being. Canada ranks second in the world in the percentage of its citizens attending university. Recently changing priorities and focus on the deficit have brought cuts in public support. Although tuition fee revenues are on the rise, they don't make up for the losses in government funding. The changes in funding are shaping university policies and programs. In response to cuts in support in the 1970s and early 80s, universities adjusted by providing their services with greater efficiency to an ever-increasing clientele.

Higher education is the constitutional responsibility of the provinces and universities in many provinces set their own admission policies. Usually a secondary school diploma is required; some require a minimum grade average. Enrollment may be restricted because of a limited number of available spaces.

Degree Significance

- *Diploma or Associate's Degree*: awarded upon completion of a two- or three-year program at a college or community college.
- *Bachelor's Degree (General, Three-Year, Ordinary or Pass)*: an additional year of study referred to as a "qualifying year" is required for admission to graduate studies. (Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan)
- *Bachelor's Degree (Honours, Four-Year, Advanced)*: involves a higher level of concentration and achievement within the honors subject. Generally considered a prerequisite for graduate admission.
- *Master's Degree*: requires at least one year of full-time studies usually including a thesis.
- *Doctorate Degree*: requires a minimum of three years of full-time study and the defense of a dissertation. A master's degree is generally required for admission.

Key Universities

University of Alberta
University of British Columbia
Carleton University
Concordia University
University of Guelph
Laval University
McGill University
McMaster University
University of Manitoba
University of Quebec at Montreal
Simon Fraser University
University of Toronto
University of Waterloo
York University

Grading System

There is no standard system of grading used by all universities. Most use some variant of an alphabetical (A-F) or numerical (0-100) grading scale. The grading system is usually described on the back of the transcript or on a supplementary sheet that accompanies the transcript. Course catalogs or the registrar's office of the institution can provide information regarding grading practices.

Recently the universities and colleges in Alberta adopted a letter grading system with a four-point scale equivalent to that commonly used in the U.S.

Recommendations and Comments

A four-year (honours) bachelor's degree is required for admission to graduate study. Check transcript for grading scale.



CHAD

Central Africa



Area: 1,284,000 sq. km. (495,752 sq. mi.)
Population: 9.8 million
Cities: Capital – N'Djamena
Languages of instruction: Arabic, French
Education: Years compulsory-8
Literacy: 47.5% (female 39.3%, male 56%)
Academic year: October – June

System of Education

The education system of Chad is based on the French education system. Higher education is offered at the only university in the country, the University of N'Djamena (former University of Chad). Higher education is open to holders of the *baccalaureat*, the secondary school leaving certificate. There are a number of post-secondary professional training institutions. These training institutions award degrees equivalent to the first university cycle. Most institutions impose a selective entrance exam.

Degree Significance

- *Baccalaureat* (Baccalaureate): secondary school leaving certificate
- *Diplome Universitaire* (University Diploma): first cycle university degree awarded after two years of study.
- *Certificat d'Aptitude Pedagogique pour Colleges d'Enseignement Generales/CAPCEG* (Certificate of Pedagogic Aptitude for Lower Secondary Schools): a two-year course entitling holders to teach at the lower secondary cycle.
- *Licence* (License): second-cycle degree awarded after an additional year beyond the *diplome*.
- *Diplome d'Ingenieur* (Diploma of Engineer): an additional year beyond the *diplome*.
- *Maitrie* (Master): awarded after one or two years of study beyond the *licence*.
- *Doctorate in Medicine*: awarded after seven years of study

)

Key Universities

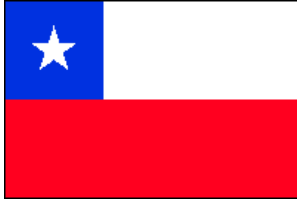
University of N'Djamena
Ecole nationale des Travaux publics
Institut superieur Sciences de l'Education (formerly Ecole normale superieure)

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
16-20	Tres bien/Very good	A
14-15.9	Bien/Good	A-
12-13.9	Assez Bien/Quite good	B
10-11.9	Passable/Satisfactory	C

Recommendations and Comments

The *maitrise* is the minimum requirement to be considered for graduate admission.



CHILE

Southern South America

Area: 756,945 sq. km. (302,778 sq. mi.)

Population: 16 million

Cities: Capitol – Santiago; Concepcion-Talcahuano, Vina del Mar-Valpariso, Antofagasta

Language of instruction: Spanish

Education: Years compulsory-7

Literacy: 96.2% (female 96.1%, male 96.4%)

Academic year: March – December



System of Education

Higher education in Chile is provided through universities and professional institutes. Holders of the *licencia de education media*, the secondary school leaving certificate, are eligible to sit for the national university entrance examination, the *prueba de aptitud academica*. Higher education is not free. Students with limited resources may have access to a system of university fiscal credit, which is allocated to universities according to the number of disadvantaged students enrolled. The newer private universities and institutes are not entitled to this.

Degree Significance

- *Bachiller (Bachelor)*: awarded after two to three years of general studies.
- *Licenciatura/Licenciado (Licentiate)*: awarded after four to five years of study in a university. The *licenciatura* in engineering is awarded after six years. The *licenciatura* in medicine is awarded after seven years.
- *Titulo Profesional (Professional Title)*: six to eight semesters in a professional institute or university.
- *Magister*: awarded after two years of study beyond the *licenciatura*. or *Titulo Profesional*.
- *Doctorado*: takes between three and five years beyond the *magister*. Candidates must submit a thesis.

Key Universities

Catholic University of Chile

University of Chile

University of Concepcion

University of Santiago de Chile

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>	
6.0-7	Muy Bien	Very Good	A
5.0-5.9	Bueno	Good	B
4.0-4.9	Suficiente	Satisfactory	C
0.0-3.9	Insuficiente	Fail	F

Recommendations and Comments

Applicants presenting transcripts that represent the completion of at least four years of post-secondary study and the corresponding degree may be considered for graduate admission. *Egresado* indicates that all course work is complete and the thesis is still pending.



CHINA

East Asia

Area: 9,596,960 sq. km. (3.7 million sq. mi.)
 Population: 1.3 billion
 Cities: Capitol – Beijing; Shanghai, Tianjin, Canton, Wuhan
 Language of instruction: Chinese
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 90.9% (female 86.5%, male 95.1%)
 Academic year: September – June



System of Education

As of 1977, admission to university level education in China has been based on a national competitive entrance examination. Admission into graduate education is based on institutional and departmental examinations. China began to formally issue bachelor's degrees in 1982, and master's and doctoral degrees in 1981. Higher education in China is fairly competitive (approximately 600,000 openings per year for over two million applicants), but grading on the graduate and undergraduate level tends to be inflated. Students who complete a degree, however, represent the very best of a large pool of students.

Degree Significance

The degrees granted by Chinese universities are very similar to those granted in the U.S.

- *Graduation Certificate (Zhuanke)*: awarded by post-secondary institutions upon completion of two to four years of study.
- *Bachelor's Degree (Benke)*: the primary higher education degree awarded. Normally earned after four to five years of university level coursework.
- *Master's Degree*: normally takes three years to complete and requires a thesis.
- *Doctor of Medicine*: six to eight years beyond the Bachelor's degree.
- *Doctoral Degree*: the highest degree awarded, usually requiring three years of course work beyond the master's, as well as an oral examination and a dissertation.

Key Universities

Beijing University	Sichuan University
Beijing Medical University	Tianjin University
Fudan University	Tsinghua University
Fuzhou University	University of Science & Technology of China
Jilin University	Wuhan University
Lanzhou University	Zhejiang University
Nankai University	Zhongshan University
Nanjing University	Shanghai University
Shandong University	

Grading System

Grading scale may vary. Refer to grading scale on transcript. The following scale is the most common:

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

Alternate Scale

85-100	A
75-84	B
60-74	C
0-59	F

Pass/fail grades may be given for non-core courses or for graduation theses.

GPA Conversion (to be used for unofficial GPA only)

If A=85-100		If scale is unknown use:	
<u>Transcript Average</u>	<u>US GPA</u>	<u>Transcript</u>	<u>US GPA</u>
98-100	4.0	99-100	4.0
95-97	3.9	97-98	3.9
91-94	3.8	94-96	3.8
88-90	3.7	92-93	3.7
85-87	3.6	90-91	3.6
84	3.5	89	3.5
83	3.4	88	3.4
82	3.3	87	3.3
81	3.2	86	3.2
80	3.1	85	3.1
79	3.0	84	3.0
78	2.9	83	2.9
77	2.8	82	2.8

Recommendations and Comments

The *bachelor's degree* is considered the minimum degree required to pursue graduate studies. Failing grades are rare and grades tend to be inflated. GRE scores, letters of recommendation, and the university attended tend to be more significant indicators of academic performance than are grades. It is possible to graduate without earning a degree; student must supply diploma as well as graduation certificate.



COLOMBIA

Northern South America

Area: 1.2 million sq. km. (440,000 sq. mi.)

Population: 43 million

Cities: Capitol – Santa fe de Bogota; Medellin, Cali, Barranquilla, Cartagena

Language of instruction: Spanish

Education: Years compulsory-9

Literacy: 92.5% (female 92.6%, male 92.4%)

Academic year: February – November



System of Education

Colombia has a long history of established traditional universities dating back to 1573. Overall, higher education in Colombia has been modeled on the traditional style universities from Europe. However, since about 1970 higher education has rapidly expanded to allow broader access to all levels of society, including many schools geared toward technology and practical training. Admission to higher education requires the *bachillerato* (high school diploma) and the passing of a state examination.

Degree Significance

- *Titulo de Tecnico* (Title of Technician): two or two and one-half years of technical study
- *Titulo de Tecnologo* (Title of Technologist): three or three and one-half years of study
- *Normalista* (Teaching Credential): training for primary school teachers is at the secondary level.
- *Licenciado* (Licentiate): four or five years of study.
- *Titulo Profesional* (Professional Qualification): four or five years of study. Thesis sometimes required.
- *Magister/Maestria* (Master): usually two years of research with thesis after Licenciado. Entrance exam usually required.
- *Especialista* (Specialist): one to four years of study beyond the Licentiate in a practical or applied field. Entrance exam usually required.
- *Doctor*: usually four years of research and dissertation after the master's degree.

Key Universities

- Pontifica Universidad Javeriana
- Universidad de Cartagena
- Universidad Nacional de Colombia
- Universidad del Atlantico
- Universidad del Valle
- Universidad de los Andes
- Fundacion Universidad del Norte

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
4.6-5.00 (rare)	A
4.0-4.59	A-
3.5-3.99	B
3.0-3.49	C
0.0-2.9	F

3.5 is the minimum passing grade for most graduate programs. Failures are rarely averaged into the cumulative and are sometimes not indicated on the transcript. Class rankings are not made public except of those students whose rankings are among the highest

Recommendations and Comments

A four-year *licenciado* or *titulo profesional* is the minimum degree required to pursue graduate studies.



CONGO REPUBLIC

(Brazzaville)

Central Africa

Area: 342,000 sq.km (132,046 sq.mi.)
Population: 3 million
Cities: Capital – Brazzaville
Language of instruction: French



System of Education

Congo's education system is based on the French education system. Higher education is offered through vocational education programs. The Universite Marien Ngouabi is the only university in the Congo. Higher education is open to holders of the secondary school leaving certificate, the *baccalaureat*. There is a competitive entrance exam required for entrance to the university.

Degree Significance

Higher education in Congo is multi-stage, leading to degrees or certificates after the completion of each stage:

- *Certificat D'aptitude au Professorat dans les Colleges D'enseignement General (CAP-CEG)*: first cycle teacher training certificate awarded after two years.
- *Certificat D'aptitude au Professorat de Lo-Enseignement Secondaire (CAPES)*: qualifies holder to teach secondary school.
- *Certificat d'aptitude au Professorat de L'enseignement Lycee (CAPEL) and Professeur de Lycee*: qualifies holder to teach at the college level.

The first stage of university study lasts two years and leads to one of the following diplomas:

- *Diplome Universitaire D'etudes Litteraires (DUEL)*: awarded in letters and human sciences.
- *Diplome Universitaire D'etudes Scientifiques (DUES)*: awarded in sciences.
- *Diplome Universitaire D'etudes Economiques Generales (DUEEG)*: awarded in economics.
- *Certificat de Capacite en Droit*: law certificate awarded after two years to students who do not possess a *baccalaureat*.
- *Licence*: awarded after an additional year of study beyond the diplome.

- *Diplome D'etudes Superieures (DES)*: awarded after two years of study beyond the *licence*. This degree has taken the place of the *maitrise*
- *Diplome D'ingenieur*: science degree program lasting five years.
- *Doctorat de Troisieme Cycle*: awarded after five years of study beyond the *DES*.

Key Universities

Universite Marien Ngouabi

Grading System

<u>Transcript</u>	<u>Grade/Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
16-20	Tres bien/Very good	A
14-15.9	Bien/Good	A-
12-13.9	Assez bien/Quite good	B
10-11.9	Passable/Satisfactory	C

Recommendations and Comments

The *maitrise*, *diplome d'ingenieur*, or the *diplome d'etudes superieures* are acceptable degrees to be considered for graduate admissions.



COSTA RICA

Central America

Area: 51,032 sq. km. (19,652 sq. mi.)
 Population: 4 million
 Cities: Capitol – San Jose; Alajuela, Puntarenas, Limon, Cartago
 Language of instruction: Spanish
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 96% (female 96.1%, male 95.9%)
 Academic year: March – November



System of Education

Education in Costa Rica has become an important center of debate and political struggle. While education once held a privileged position in Costa Rica, dramatic decreases in the education budget, lack of political support, and economic limitations in the face of increased crime have led to neglect of the education sector. Satisfactory completion of secondary school leads to the *Bachillerato*, which gives access to higher education, but most universities impose an entrance examination. In technical education it leads to the title of *Técnico en el Nivel Medio* or *Bachiller en la Enseñanza Media*.

Degree Significance

- *Diplomado (Diplomate)*: two- to three-year program beyond secondary school. Holders of this diploma do not have professional status.
- *Profesorado (Teacher)*: three-year program designed to train pre-school and primary school teachers.
- *Bachiller Universitario (University Bachelor)*: a four-year program, the first university degree awarded. Holders of this diploma may be considered for admission directly into master's level courses in the same field.
- *Licenciatur/licenciad (Licentiate)*: represents one year of study beyond the bachiller program or five years after secondary school.
- *Especializacion/especialidad profesional (Specialized practical training in a professional field)*: represents postgraduate degrees offered in medicine and law.
- *Maestria (Master)*: two years of study beyond the bachiller. A thesis is required.
- *Doctorado Academico (Academic Doctor)*: post-graduate degree requiring a minimum of 3 ½ years beyond the *bachiller* and a thesis or graduation project.

Key Universities

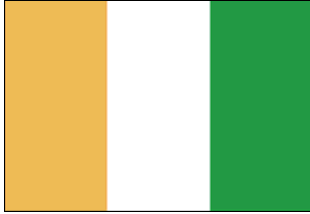
Universidad de Costa Rica Escuela Normal Superior
 Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica/ITCR
 Universidad Nacional/UNA
 Universidad Autónoma de Costa Rica/UACA
 Universidad par la Paz (run by United Nations)

Grading System

Transcript Grade	Percentage	US Equivalent
9-10	90-100	A
8	80-89	B
7	70-79	C
0-6	0-69	F

Recommendations and Comments

Applicants who have received the *bachiller universitario* or the *licenciado* may be considered for graduate admission.



CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Western Africa



Area: 322,460 sq. km. (124,500 sq. mi.)
 Population: 17.3 million
 Cities: Capital –Yamoussoukro, Abidjan, Bouake
 Languages of instruction: French
 Education: Years compulsory-none
 Literacy: 50.9% (female 43.6%, male 57.9%)
 Academic Year: October – June

System of Education

The Ivoirian education system is adapted from the French system and was introduced at the end of the 19th century to train clerks and interpreters to help administer the colony. Education assumed greater importance in the 1950's as independence approached. Since the 1980s, education has been an important national priority.

Degree Significance

- *Baccalaureat* (Baccalaureate): equivalent to a 4-year high school diploma
- *Certificat d'Aptitude* (Certificate of Aptitude): two-year degree for teaching profession
- *Diplome Universitaire* (University Diploma): three years of study beyond high school
- *Licence* (License): one year of study beyond *Diplome*
- *Maitrise* (Master): one year of study beyond Licence
- *Diplome d'Etudes Superieures* (Diploma of Higher Studies): two years of study beyond the master
- *Doctorat* (Doctor): usually 4 years of study beyond the *Licence* and submission of a thesis

Key Universities

University of Abobo-Adjame
 University of Bouake
 University of Cocody
 National Polytechnic Institute Felix Houphouet-Boigny

Grading System

Transcript grade	US Equivalent
16-20 Tres Bien	A Very good
14-15 Bien	A- Good
12-13 Assez Bien	B Quite good
10-11 Passable	C Average
0-9 Insuffisant	F Failed

Recommendations and Comments

The *Licence* should be considered the minimum required degree for graduate study.



CROATIA

Southeastern Europe



Area: 56,538 sq. km. (21, 829 sq. mi.)
Population: 4.5 million
Cities: Capital – Zagreb; Sisak, Zadar, Ploce
Language of instruction: Croatian
Education: Years compulsory-9
Literacy: 98.5% (female 97.8%, male 99.4%)
Academic year: October – June

System of Education

Prior to 1991 when Croatia became an independent state, all education was state-run. This is still the case for the majority of institutions, but some private schools have been established with government approval. Higher education is divided into university and non-university sectors. University studies qualify students for high level professional or artistic work and prepare them to continue in scientific work. Professional studies qualify students for high level professional work. Polytechnic graduates are not allowed to continue their studies at university.

The *Maturalna svjedodzba* is the name of the required secondary school credential. Students must pass an entrance examination to enter university.

Degree Significance

- *Diploma*: awarded after four to six years of study. It qualifies students for specialized, artistic, or scientific work.
- *Magistar*: students graduating with high grades can qualify to study in either Arts or Science. Students must submit and defend a thesis.
- *Doctorate*: requires defense of a doctoral thesis.

Key Universities

University of Rijeka
University of Split
University Zagreb

Grading System

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
5	Odlican (Excellent)	A
4	Vrlo Dobar (Very Good)	A-
3	Dobar (Good)	B
2	Dovoljan (Satisfactory)	C
1	Nedovoljan (Unsatisfactory)	F

Recommendations and Comments

The *diploma* is required for graduate study.



CUBA

Caribbean



Area: 110,860 sq. km. (44,200 sq.mi.)
 Population: 11.3 million
 Cities: Capital – Havana; Santiago de Cuba, Camaguey, Holguin, Guantánamo, Santa Clara
 Language of instruction: Spanish
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 97% (female 96.9%, male 97.2%)
 Academic year: September – July

System of Education

Higher education in Cuba is offered through four universities. All institutions of higher education are public and have the same status. Access to university study is open to holders of the *bachillerato* or the *certificado de fin estudios secundarios*, secondary school leaving certificates. The length of time for higher degree programs varies depending on the course of study and the academic institution.

Degree Significance

- *Bachillerato*: Secondary School Completion Diploma
- *Doctor en Medicina (Doctor of Medicine)*: awarded after six years of medical education beyond the *bachillerato*.
- *Licenciado/Licenciatura*: awarded after four or five years of post secondary school study. Until the mid-1960's the *licenciado* was a three-year program.
- *Titulo Professional*: professional title (engineer, etc.) awarded after four or five years of university study.
- *Candidato a Doctor en Ciencias (Candidate to Doctor in Sciences)*: awarded after a minimum of two years of study beyond the *licenciado* or *titulo*. Usually completed in three or more years.
- *Doctor en Ciencias (Doctor in Sciences)*: awarded after at least one year of study beyond the *candidato*. Requires completion of a thesis.

Key Universities

University of Camaguey
 University of Havana
 Central University of Las Villas
 University of Oriente

Grading System

One of the following grading systems is used:

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
5 Sobresaliente	A Excellent
4 Aprovechado	B Successful
3 Aprobado	C Pass
0-2 Desaprobado*	F Fail

Other Scale

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
90-100 Excelente	A Excellent
80-89 Bien	B Good
70-79 Regular	C Average
60-69 Aprobado	D Pass
0-59 Mal, Suspenso	F Fail

*Note: suspenso and insuficiente are considered provisional marks and final examinations may be repeated. If a final examination is failed twice, the course must be repeated. Desaprobado and suficiente are considered final and permanent marks.

Recommendations and Comments

Applicants who have completed a four- or five-year university program and have earned the corresponding degree may be considered for graduate admission.



CYPRUS

Middle East

Area: 9,250 sq. km. (44,200 sq.mi.)
 Population: 780,000
 Cities: Capital – Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaka, Paphos
 Language of instruction: Greek, English
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 97.6% (female 96.3%, male 98.9%)
 Academic year: September – June



System of Education

A former British colony, Cyprus received its independence in 1960. The island of Cyprus includes two separate and distinct communities. The Greek-Cypriot community is located in the south and the Turkish-Cypriot community is located in the north. Each community has a distinct educational structure.

- A large number of students who continue their education do so abroad. In the south, the *Apolyterion* (Certificate of Completion) is awarded after 9 years of primary and 3 of secondary education and is required for higher education. In the north, *Lise Diploması* (Secondary School Diploma) leads to higher education and is awarded after 8 years of primary and 3 years of secondary education

Degree Significance (South-Greek)

- *Ptychio* (Bachelor): degree requiring 4 years of study.
- Master's: offered by the University of Cyprus and conferred after 18 months of study beyond the Bachelor's Degree.
- Doctorate: The University of Cyprus confers a PhD in some fields of study after at least 3 years beyond the Master's Degree.

Degree Significance (North-Turkish)

- Bachelor's degree: awarded after 4 years of study at Eastern Mediterranean University.

Key Universities

University of Cyprus (south)
 Higher Technical Institute (south)
 Mediterranean Institute of Management (south)
 Eastern Mediterranean University (north)

Grading System

Higher Technical Institute:

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>	
85-100	Distinction	A
75-84	Credit	B
65-74	Credit	C
55-64	Pass	D
50-54	Pass	D-
0-49	Fail	F

University of Cyprus:

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>	
8.5-10	Excellent	A
6.5-8.0	Very Good	B
5.0-6.0	Good	C

Eastern Mediterranean University:

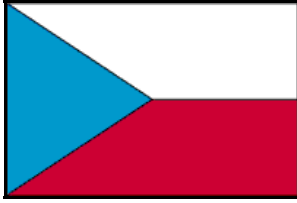
4.0 system same as U.S.

Other grading system:

16-20	A
12-15+	B
10-11+	C
Below 10	F

Recommendations and Comments

Be sure to use correct grading scale as scales in schools in south and north differ. A Bachelor's degree from either is sufficient for entrance to graduate studies. However, the Turkish Cypriot education system is not recognized by the Republic of Cyprus.



CZECH REPUBLIC

Eastern/Central Europe



Area: 78,902 sq. km.
(30,464 sq. mi.)
Population: 10.2 million
Cities: Capital – Prague; Brno, Ostrava, Pizen
Languages of instruction: Czech, English, German
Education: Years compulsory-9
Literacy: 99.9%

System of Education

Education at all levels has experienced considerable change since the split of Czechoslovakia into the independent nations of the Czech Republic and the Republic of Slovakia in 1989. The 1990 University Act allows students, faculty and staff to have greater control over curriculum, hiring, admission requirements and accreditation, areas once controlled by the Communist Party.

Institutions of higher education are divided into the following categories: classical universities, offering programs in humanities natural and social sciences, and medicine; technical institutions, offering programs in engineering and physical sciences; agricultural institutions, which train agronomists, forestry scientists, agricultural economists and horticulturists; schools of economics; theological institutions; and academies of science, which provide research and training facilities for faculty and students with advanced degrees.

Degree Significance

The degree structures in both republics are moving toward a U.S. model of bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees. Most transcripts will still reflect the following pre-1989 degrees.

- *Bakalar* (bachelor): the first university degree, varying in length from two to four years. Students must sit for a final state examination, part of which is the defense of the bachelor thesis.
- *Inzynyr* (engineer): four- or five-year program in agriculture, economics, or engineering.
- *Magistr/Magister* (Master): second university degree, varying in length from one to three years.
- *Doktor* (Doctor): variable length program of advanced study, examinations, and dissertation. Usually three years beyond *magistr*. Comparable to a U.S. *doctorate*.

Key Universities

Masaryk University
Technical University of Brno
University of West Bohemia
Charles University Prague
Czech Technical University
Prague University of Agriculture
Prague University of Economics

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
Vyborny/Vyborne	Excellent	A
Velmi Dobre/Dobry	Very Good	B
Dobre/Dobry	Good	C
Nevyhovel/Nedostatecny	Fail	F
Zapocitane	Credit/Pass	Pass

Recommendations and Comments

A completed degree program representing at least 4 years of study is the minimum requirement to be considered for graduate admission.

DEMOCRATIC

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

(formerly Zaire)

Central Africa



Area: 2,344,885 sq. km. (905,365 sq. mi.)
Population: 60.1 million
Cities: Capital – Kinshasa; Lubumbashi, Mbuji-Mayi
Language of instruction: French
Education: Years compulsory-6
Literacy: 65.5% (female 55.1%, male 76.2%)
Academic year: October – June

System of Education

The education system of Democratic Republic of Congo is highly centralized and has changed little since independence from Belgium in 1960. The Ministry of Education decides on the objectives, length and content of education. Access to higher education is open to holders of one of the secondary school leaving certificates (*diplome d'etat de l'enseignement secondaire, diplome de fin d'etudes secondaires, brevet*), and passing marks on the national competitive entrance examination (*epreuve d'orientation*).

Post-secondary education is available through the universities, teacher training institutes, and technological institutes (polytechniques). There are some private institutions, but these are not officially sanctioned and their degrees are not recognized by the state.

Degree Significance

- *Gradue (Graduate Diploma)*: first-cycle degree, awarded after three years of study.
- *Gradue en Enseignement (Graduate in Teaching)*: awarded after three years of study. Qualifies holder to teach at the lower secondary level.
- *Licence (Licentiate)*: awarded after two years of study beyond the *gradue*.
- *Licence en Enseignement (Licence in Teaching)*: higher-cycle teacher training degree awarded after two years of study beyond the *gradue en enseignement*. Qualifies holder to teach at the upper secondary level.
- *Ingenieur, Architect, Pharmacien, or Dentiste*--professional degrees awarded after two years of study beyond a three-year *gradue*.

- *Diplome D'etudes Superieures (Higher Studies Diploma)*: awarded after two years of study beyond the *licence* or the professional degree.
- *Docteur en Medecine (Doctor in Medicine)*: medical qualification obtained after a six-year program of university study.
- *Doctorat (Doctorate)*: awarded after variable amounts of course work beyond the *licence*. In most instances, the *doctorat* will be awarded after three years beyond the *licence*, including submission of a dissertation. Because of the variable amounts of study, it is recommended that the *doctorat* degree be carefully evaluated.

Key Universities

University of Kinshasa
University of Kisangani
University of Lubumbashi

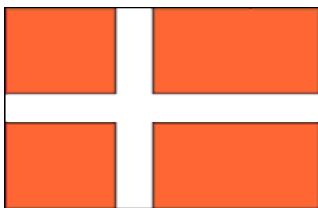
Prior to 1981 these three universities were combined to form the National University of Zaire.

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
90-100 plus grande distinction	A / greatest
80-89 grande distinction	A- / great distinction
70-79 distinction	B / distinction
50-69 satisfaction	C / satisfactory
0-49 ajourne	F / fail

Recommendations and Comments

The *licence* is the minimum required qualification to be considered for graduate admission.



DENMARK

Northern Europe



Area: 43, 094 sq. km. (16,640 sq. mi.)

Population: 5.4 million

Cities: Capital – Copenhagen; Aarhus, Odense, Aalborg

Languages of instruction: Danish, English

Education: Years compulsory-9

Literacy: 100%

System of Education

Higher education in Denmark is offered through universities, academies and schools that are almost entirely financed by the government. There are a few private universities. Although most institutions receive considerable direction from the Ministry of Education, there is a significant degree of autonomy. Access to higher education is highly controlled. There are admission quotas in all disciplines based on trends in future employment, capacity of institutions, and geographic distribution of students and schools. A national coordinating admissions office is responsible for processing applications to all higher education institutions.

Degree Significance

- *Examinus Atrium/Scientiarum (Humanities/ Science Examination)*: awarded after two years of basic studies for teaching qualification
- *Bachelorgraden (Bachelor's Degree)*: the first cycle of the *kandidatus* degree, awarded after three years of university study. Two-thirds of course work focuses on the major subject, and a final research project is required.
- *Handelsvidenskabelif afgangseksamen (Business School Leaving Diploma)*: awarded after three or three and one-half years in business administration and sometimes in economics.
- *Teknikumingenior/adademiingenior (Technical Engineer)*: awarded after four years of study in engineering.
- *Kandidatus a philosophiae (Candidate in Philosophy)*: awarded after one year of study beyond the bachelor's degree. Minimum qualification to teach upper secondary schools.
- *Kandidatus (Candidate)*: awarded after two years of study beyond the *bachelorgraden*. A written thesis based on independent research is required.

- *Magister (Master)*: awarded after as much as six years of higher education.
- *Ph.D-graden (PhD)*: requires three years of study beyond the *kandidatus* including a dissertation; formerly known as *licentiatus*.
- *Doktorgraden (Research Doctorate)*: in-depth research degree which may require ten to fifteen years of study and research.

Key Universities

Aalborg University
 University of Copenhagen
 Aarhus University
 University of Odense
 Engineering Academy of Denmark
 Roskilde University
 Technical University of Denmark

Grading System

The thirteen-point grading scale used in Denmark is actually a ten-point scale because the marks of twelve, four, and two are not used.

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
10-13	A
7-9	B
6 C	
5 F*	
Below 5	F

*May sometimes be considered as minimal passing mark. Some transcripts may have grades of pass (godkendt or bestael), or fail (ikke godkendt or ikke bestael).

Recommendations and Comments

A Danish degree representing at least four years of higher education is the minimum qualification for consideration for graduate admission.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Caribbean



Area: 48,442 sq. km. (18,704 sq. mi.)
 Population: 8.95 million
 Cities: Capital – Santo Domingo; Santiago de los Caballeros
 Language of instruction: Spanish
 Education: Years compulsory-10
 Literacy: 84.7% (female 84.8, male 84.6%)
 Academic year: August – June

System of Education

Higher education in the Dominican Republic is offered through government-approved universities (offering degree programs) and through private institutions (offering specialized and technical training programs). The Autonomous University of Santo Domingo is the only state university. Access to higher education is open to holders of the *bachillerato*, or the *maestro normal*, secondary school leaving certificates. Universities tend to have open admissions policies.

Degree Significance

Some four-year degrees may be completed in a three-year format. The three-year concentrated degrees are equivalent to a four-year degree of the same title.

- *Técnico (Technician)*: a two- to three-year technical program
- *Licenciatura/licenciado (Licentiate)*: awarded after three to six years of university study
- *Ingeniero (engineer), arquitecto (architect)*: five- to six-year professional degree
- *Doctor*: five- to seven-year professional degree in dentistry, law, medicine, pharmacy, or veterinary medicine.
- *Certificado de postgrado (Postgraduate Certificate)*: usually a one-year program beyond the *licenciatura*.
- *Maestría*: awarded after approximately two years of study beyond the *licenciatura*. Requires thesis or original research project.

Key Universities

Cibao Technological University
 University Nordestana San Francisco de Macoris
 Central University of the East
 Catholic University Madre y Maestra
 Technological University of Santiago Autonomous
 Autonomous University of Santo Domingo
 Catholic University of Santo Domingo
 National University Pedro Henriquez Urena
 University ‘APEC’

Grading System

There is no uniform method of grading in Dominican universities. Grading tends to be stricter than in U.S. institutions. Listed below are two types of grading scales.

Transcript Grade	Description	US Equivalent
96-100 or 4	Outstanding	A
86-95 3	Very Good	B
76-85 2	Good	C
70-75 1	Sufficient	D
0-69 0	Failure	F

Recommendations and Comments

Three-year concentrated *licenciatura* or *ingeniero* are equivalent to four-year degrees.



ECUADOR

Western South America

Area: 283,600 sq. km. (109,483 sq. mi.)
 Population: 13.4 million
 Cities: Capitol – Quito; Guayaquil, Portoviejo
 Language of instruction: Spanish
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 92.5% (female 91%, male 94%)
 Academic year: October – July



System of Education

Higher education in Ecuador is similar in design and structure to other education systems in Latin America. Access to higher education is open to holders of the *bachillerato*, representing completion of twelve years of primary and secondary education. Programs of study vary in length, depending on the faculty and the school. Private universities, usually Catholic, are the strongest in the country.

Degree Significance

- *Tecnologo* (Technologist): professional title awarded after completion of three years of university study.
- *Licenciado* (Licentiate): awarded after completion of four to six years of university study depending on the field.
- *Maestro/Magister* (Master): requires *licenciado* for admission. Awarded upon completion of two years of study and presentation and defense of a thesis.
- *Doctorado* (Doctorate): a postgraduate degree in such fields as Education, Arts and Humanities, Theology and Law. The *doctorado* requires two or three years of study beyond the *licentiatura* and the presentation and defense of a thesis.

Key Universities

Technical University of Ambato
 Technical University of Babahoyo
 Catholic University of Cuenca
 University of Cuenca
 Catholic University of Guayaquil
 University of Guayaquil
 National University of Loja
 Technical University of Loja
 Central University of Ecuador
 National University of Technology
 Pontifical Catholic University of Equador

Grading System

There is no standard grading system used by universities in Ecuador. Transcripts normally have information on the Spanish descriptions of numeric grades. Different faculties within the same university may use different numeric scales, but the Spanish descriptions of numeric grades remain constant.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
40	Sobresaliente	Excellent (A)
35-39	Muy Bueno	Very Good (A)
30-34	Bueno	Good (B)
24-29	Regular	Average (C)
0-23	Arrastre	Failure (F)

Recommendations and Comments

A completed degree program representing a minimum of four years of university study is the minimum requirement for a student to be considered for graduate admission.



EGYPT

North Africa

Area: 1 million sq. km. (386,000 sq. mi.)
 Population: 77.5 million
 Cities: Capital – Cairo; Alexandria, Giza, Shubra el Khema, El Mahalla el Kubra
 Languages of instruction: Arabic, English, French
 Education: Years compulsory-8
 Literacy: 57.7% (female 49.6%, male 68.3%)
 Academic year: October – June



System of Education

University history in Egypt can be traced back to 970 A.D. with the founding of Al-Azhar University in Cairo. However, most of Egypt’s present universities were founded in the 20th century. Egypt has a total of 14 universities and higher institutes of technical and professional training, both public and private. Grades earned in secondary school are neither required nor considered in the process of undergraduate admission. Admission is based on results of a national examination. Large class enrollment tends to promote an emphasis on rote learning and heavy reliance on end-of-year examinations.

Degree Significance

- *Technical Institute Diploma*: two years of study at an industrial, commercial or technical institute.
- *Higher Diploma in Technology*: three years of technical study beyond secondary school.
- *Baccalaureos* (Bachelor’s degree): four to six years of multidisciplinary study in basic subjects.
- *Magistr* (Master’s Degree): two to five years of training beyond the bachelor’s in individual research work and culminating in the submission of a thesis.
- *Doctora/PhD*: at least two years of study following the master’s. Candidates must have obtained the mark of “good”. Research work and thesis required.

Key Institutions

Ain Shams University
 Al-Azhar University
 Alexandria University
 Assiut University
 American University in Cairo
 Cairo University
 Mansoura University
 Tanta University
 Zagazig University

Grading System

Grading scales vary. Refer to scale on transcript.

90-100	Excellent	A
80-89	Very Good	A-
65-79	Good	B
50-64	Pass	C
35-49	Weak	D
below 35	Fail	F

Above used in the faculties of arts, language, Islamic studies, archaeology, commerce, economics, political science, law, and mass communications.

Other Scales

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
75-100	Excellent	A
65-74	Very Good	B
50-64	Good	C
0-49	Fail	F

Recommendations and Comments

A bachelor’s degree is the minimum degree required to pursue graduate studies. One set of photocopies of all official documents are issued in English.



EL SALVADOR

Central America



Area: 21,476 sq. km. (8,260 sq. mi.)
 Population: 6.7 million
 Cities: Capital – San Salvador; Santa Ana, San Miguel
 Language of instruction: Spanish
 Education: Years compulsory-8
 Literacy: 80.2% (female 77.7%, male 82.8%)
 Academic year: February – December

System of Education

In the 1980's El Salvador witnessed an increase in the establishment of higher learning institutions, many of which were established as independent private centers for higher learning. The increase in the number of post-secondary education programs led the Salvadoran government to establish norms and standards. The Universidad del Salvador/UES, a public university, and the private Jesuit Universidad Centroamericana/UCA, are the most established and prestigious higher-learning institutions. However, students are increasingly turning to newer universities, many of which are expanding in the areas of computer science and business administration.

Degree Significance

- *Bachillerato* (Bachelor): 3-year secondary education degree
- *Tecnico* (Technician): two or three-year postsecondary technical program
- *Profesor* (Teacher): three-year program in primary, secondary, or special education
- *Licenciado/Licenciatura* (Licentiate): first university degree varies in length from 5 to 5 ½ years. Requires completion of a theses or graduation project.
- *Ingeniero* (engineer); *Arquitecto* (architect): first professional degree programs requiring 5 to 5 ½ years.
- *Doctor en Medicina/Medicao* (medical doctor); *Abogado* (lawyer): are first and only degrees offered in the field of medicine or law. Each requires 5 to 7 years of full-time study.
- *Maestria* (master degree): usually a two-year post-*licenciado* program, requiring completion of a thesis.
- *Doctor/Doctorado* (doctorate degree): Undertaken after completion of an undergraduate program, it requires three additional full-time years of study, or one year beyond the *maestria*.

Key Universitites

Universidad de El Salvador/EUS
 Universidad Centro Americana “Jose Simeon Canas”/UCA
 Universidad Albert Einstein
 Universidad Dr. Jose Matias Delgado
 Universidad Politecnica

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
9-10	A
7-8	B
6	C (minimum pass)
0-5	F

Recommendations and Comments

Applicants who have received the *licenciatura/licenciado* or a professional degree of at least 4 years may be considered for admission to graduate programs.



ETHIOPIA

Eastern Africa



Area: 1,127,127 sq. km. (700,364 sq. mi.)
 Population: 73 million
 Cities: Capital-Addis Ababa; Dire Dawa, Gondar, Bahir Dar
 Language of instruction: English
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 42.7% (female 35.1%, male 50.3%)
 Academic year: July-September

System of Education

Ethiopia is unique among African countries in that, with the exception of Italian occupancy during WWII, it has maintained its independence. In 1974 a military junta deposed Emperor Selassie and established a socialist state. Torn by bloody coups, drought, and refugee problems, the regime was toppled in 1991. A constitution was adopted and Ethiopia's first multiparty elections were held in 1995.

After four years of secondary education, students wishing to enter higher education must take the Ethiopian Higher Education Entrance examination. Technical and vocational education and training is institutionally separate from the regular education system.

Degree Significance

- **Advanced Diploma:** signifies completion of a three-year program in engineering.
- **Bachelor:** a four-year degree in arts, science, agriculture and education.; a five-year degree in engineering and law; six in medicine.
- **Master's:** awarded by a university and signifying completion of a program of at least two years beyond the Bachelor's Degree.
- **Doctor of Philosophy:** awarded by a university and signifying completion of at least three years of study beyond the Master's Degree.

Key Universities

Addis Ababa University
 Alemaya University of Agriculture

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
A	4.0
B	3.0
C	2.0
F	0

An overall grade average of at least 2.0 is required for graduation from a bachelor's degree program.

Marks are sometimes out of 100 with the lowest pass being 60.

Recommendations and Comments

A Bachelor's degree requiring at least four years of higher education is required for admission to graduate study.



FINLAND

Northern Europe



Area: 338,145 sq. km. (130,558 sq. mi.)
 Population: 5.2 million
 Cities: Capital – Helsinki; Tampere, Turku
 Languages of instruction: Finnish, Swedish, French, English, German, Russian
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 100%
 Academic year: September – May

System of Education

The Finnish higher education system is comprised of polytechnics and universities. Polytechnics are oriented towards vocational skills while universities are characterized by scientific research. All universities are owned by the state. In the 1990's, the university degree system was revised to develop a two-stage system in nearly all fields. Universities select their students independently and competition for places is fierce.

Degree Significance

The reformed education framework (post 1990s) is a three-plus-two system.

- *Kandidaatti* (Candidate): first degree which should be considered equivalent to the U.S. bachelor's degree. It requires a minimum of 120 credits and takes at least three years to complete. The degree consists of basic and intermediate studies in the major subject, as well as a thesis, studies in one or more minor subjects, and language studies.
- *Diplomi-insinööri/Diplomingenjör* (Degree of Engineer): a four and one-half year program beyond secondary school
- *Maisteri* (Master): second degree considered equivalent to the U.S. master's degree. It usually takes at least five years of full-time study to complete or a further two years following the *kandidaatti*.
- *Lisensiaatti/Licentiat* (Licentiate): a two-year program following the *maisteri*.
- *Tohtori/Doktor* (Doctorate): awarded in all fields after four years of study after the *maisteri* or two years beyond the *Lisensiaatti*. Requires a dissertation.

The number of years required to complete a program is based on 40 credits equal to one year of full-time study.

Key Universities

Abo Akademi
 University of Helsinki
 University of Tampere
 Helsinki University of Technology
 University of Kuopio

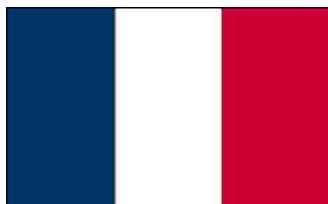
Grading System

<u>University Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US</u>
<u>Equivalent</u>		
3 <i>Erinomaiset tiedot</i>	Excellent	A
2 <i>Hyvää tietoa</i>	Good	B
1 <i>Tyydyttävä tietoa</i>	Satisfactory	C
<u>Polytechnic Grade</u>		
5 <i>Kiiteettävä</i>	Excellent	A
4 <i>Erittäin hyvä</i>	Very Good	A-/B+
3 <i>Hyvä</i>	Good	B
2 <i>Erittäin tyydyttävä</i>	Very Satisfactory	B-/C+
1 <i>Tyydyttävä</i>	Satisfactory	C
0 <i>Hylätty</i>	Fail	F

Only passing grades will be recorded on transcripts. If a student fails a course or is unsatisfied with the grade, s/he may retake the exam.

Recommendations and Comments

In the reformed system (post 1990s), the *kandidaatti* is equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree. Under the old system the student must possess the *lisensiaatti* to be eligible for graduate studies.



FRANCE

Western Europe

Area: 543,965 sq. km. (210,026 sq. mi.)
 Population: 60.7 million
 Cities: Capital – Paris; Marseilles, Lyons, Toulouse, Nice, Strasbourg
 Language of instruction: French
 Education: Years compulsory-10
 Literacy: 99% (female/male 99%)
 Academic year: September – June



System of Education

Higher education in France is characterized by a dual system. The universities are open to a large number of students and their programs are generally geared toward research and its applications. Entrance is based on completion of the *baccalaureat*. Limited enrollment permits faculty to know and follow student progress closely. University education is organized according to three consecutive cycles: the first cycle requires two years of university study beyond a baccalaureate (high school diploma); the second cycle consist of an additional two or three years of study beyond the first; and the third cycle consists of three to five years of further study beyond the second cycle.

Degree Significance

- *Diplome D'etudes Universitaires Generales* (Diploma of General University Studies--*DEUG*): awarded after two years of university study.
- *Licence* (Licence): awarded after one year of study beyond the *DEUG*.
- *Maitrise* (Master): awarded after one year of study beyond the *licence* and is considered comparable to a U.S. bachelor's degree.
- *Diplome D'ingenieur* (Diploma of Engineer): usually a three-year program following the *DEUG*.
- *Maîtrise (Master) des Sciences et Techniques* (in Sciences and Technology): two-year program requiring the *DEUG*.
- *Magistere* (Master): three-year degree requiring the *DEUG*.
- *Mastaire* (Master): national diploma created in 1999 in response to the Bologna Process. It represents 5 years of higher education.
- *Diplome D'etudes Approfondies* (Diploma of Advanced Studies—*DEA*): awarded after one year of study beyond the *maitrise*

- *Diplome D'etudes Superieures Specialisees* (Diploma of Higher Specialized Studies--*DESS*): awarded after one year of study beyond a master's degree, a professionally oriented program.
- *Doctorat* (Doctorate): three to five years of study beyond a master's requiring extensive research.

Key Institutions

The *Grandes Ecoles* were established by the government to train engineers and technicians, and are the Ivy League of France. Besides the *baccalaureat*, students must take competitive exams based on one to two years of preparatory studies offered by *lycees*. The government spends three to four times more on a student enrolled at a *Grande Ecole* than on a university student. The traditional program stresses applied sciences, economics, math, and social sciences. The largest institution is the *Institut National des Sciences Appliquees de Lyon*. *HEC*, the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales* is the most prestigious of the *Grandes Ecoles*.

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>		<u>US Equivalent</u>	
16-20	<i>Tres bien</i>	A	Very Good
14-15	<i>Bien</i>	A-	Good
12-13	<i>Assex bien</i>	B	Quite good
10-11	<i>Passable</i>	C	Satisfactory

Grades of sixteen and above are rarely given. In general, students work to pass a course rather than to score a high mark. In some subjects, marks in the range of 8.0-9.9 may be considered passing.

Recommendations and Comments

The minimum required degree for admission to graduate studies is the *maitrise* or a two year *DEUG* plus two additional years of higher education. *Classes preparatoires* at a *lycee* may be counted as the first cycle of higher education.



GEORGIA

Southwestern Asia

Area: 70,000 sq. km. (27,027 sq. mi.)

Population: 4.7 million

Cities: Capital – T'bilisi; Gori, Sokhumi, Zugdidi

Languages of instruction: Abkhazian, Azerbaijani,

Armenian, Georgian, Russian, English, German

Education: Years compulsory – 8

Literacy: 99% (female 98%, male 100%)

Academic Year: September – June



System of Education

In the Soviet era, the Georgian population achieved one of the highest education levels in the Soviet Union. In the 1990s, the basic structure of Soviet education was still in place in Georgia, although the Soviet-style propaganda and authoritarian teaching methods have gradually disappeared. Higher education classes are taught almost exclusively in Georgian.

A competitive entrance examination and a Certificate of Completion signifying three years of secondary education are required to enter university.

Degree Significance

- *Diplomi* (Diploma): awarded by an Institution of Occupational Education, it takes two to three years after three years of secondary education or three to four years after primary education.
- *Bakalavris diplomi* (Bachelor's Diploma): usually four years of university study. Students with excellent marks are awarded a *Diplomi Tsarchinebit* (Diploma with Honour).
- *Magistris Khariskhi* (Master's degree): two years of study beyond the bachelor's.
- *Metsnierebata Kandidati* (Candidate of Sciences): Master's students who have obtained a Diploma with Honour may continue on to this degree. It requires at least three years of study and presentation and defense of a thesis.
- *Metsnierebata Doktor* (Doctor of Science): open to those who have obtained Candidate of Sciences Diploma. Signifies completion of advanced scholarly research leading to presentation and defense of a thesis.

Key Universities

Georgian Technical University

Tbilisi State University

Grading System

<u>Transcript grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
5 Priadi	A Excellent
4 Kargi	B Good
3 Damakmakopilebeli	C Satisfactory
2 Aradamakmakopilebeli	F Unsatisfactory
Archatvla	Incomplete

Recommendations and Comments

The four-year *Bakalavris diplomi* is required for admission to graduate study.



GERMANY

Central Europe



Area: 357,000 sq. km. (137,821 sq. mi.)
 Population: 82.4 million
 Cities: Capital – Berlin, Bonn (seat of government); Hamburg, Munich, Cologne
 Language of instruction: German
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 99%
 Academic year: October – July

System of Education

The German higher education system is based on the principle of “Lehrgreiheit und Lernfreiheit” (freedom to teach and freedom to learn). Professors are granted freedom to teach as they see fit. Students proceed at their own pace and are not bound by attendance regulations or performance in class. The sole indication of progress is the examination required to obtain the degree. German institutes of higher education consist of universities, technical universities, teacher training colleges, music and art schools, and polytechnic universities. Entrance is based on completion of secondary school or *gymnasium* and an entrance exam called the *Abitur*.

Degree Significance

Non-university education is provided by *Fachschulen* or *Adademien*.

- *Diplom-FH* (Diploma from a *Fachhochschule* [technical college]): programs are three to four years long and include practical training. At the end of the course, students are awarded a qualification for entry to a profession.
- *Diplom-Ingenieur* in Engineering, *Diplom-Betriebswirt* in Business. The word *Berufsakademie* (vocational academy) or the initials BA are added to these titles. *Fachschulen* also confer Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees.

University level studies: Each degree program is divided into two distinct phases: Basic Studies (*grundstudium*—four semesters) and Main Studies (*hauptstudium*—two to four additional semesters).

- *Diplom* (Diploma): degree earned for advanced studies (*Hauptstudium*) in science, psychology, and social sciences. *Vordiplom* (before diploma) after four semesters, *diplom* after six to eight semesters.
- *Magister* (Master): degree earned for study predominantly in the arts; *Zwischenprüfung* after four semesters; *magister artium* after six to eight semesters.
- *Promotionsurkunde* (Doctoral Certificate): German doctoral degree, requiring two to four years of independent study beyond the degrees listed above.

Newer degrees include a bachelor’s of six semesters from a university, a bachelor’s from a *Fachhochschule* of six to eight semesters, and a master’s degree from a university. The master’s may be two years if post-bachelor or 4 to 5 years if entered directly from gymnasium.

Key Universities

- Freie Universität Berlin
- Ludwig-Maximilians Universität (Munich)
- Technische Universität Berlin
- Technische Universität Hamburg-Harburg
- Universität Augsburg
- Universität zu Köln (Cologne)
- Universität Dusseldorf
- Universität Heidelberg
- Padagogische Hochschule Kiel
- Staatliche Hochschule für Musik (Freiburg)

Grading System

Transcript Grade	Description	Points	US Equivalent
Sehr Gut	Very Good	1.0-1.5	A
Gut	Good	1.6-2.5	A-
Befriedigend	Satisfactory	2.6-3.5	B
Ausreichend	Sufficient	3.6-4.0	C
Mangelhaft	Deficient	4.1-4.3	D
Ungenugend	Inadequate	4.4-6.0	F

Conversion (to be used for unofficial GPA only)

Transcript Average	US GPA
1	4.0
2	3.8
3	3.0
3.8	2.0

Recommendations and Comments

The minimum requirement to pursue graduate studies is a *vordiplom* or *zwischenprüfung* plus two additional semesters (total of six semesters minimum). University tract secondary education is 13 years. A study book (*studienbuch*) is a record of classes that a student registered for, but does not confirm completion and not to be considered official.



GHANA

West Africa

Area: 238,537 sq. km. (92,100 sq. mi.)
 Population: 21 million
 Cities: Capital – Accra; Bolgatanga, Kumasi, Tamale, Nsawam
 Language of instruction: English
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 74.8% (female 67.1% male 82.7%)
 Academic year: September – June



System of Education

Traditionally, Ghana has followed the British model of education, but is now moving toward a system more like that of the U.S. A four-year bachelor's degree program has replaced the three-year program of the former system. Universities have switched to semester, course-credit systems. Prior to restructuring, universities were considered elite institutions designed to turn out administrators and bureaucrats for government positions. The recent (1990) reforms were designed to increase access to education. Entry into university requires a school-leaving certificate, plus an entrance examination.

Degree Significance

- *Certificate*: offered in a variety of fields and represents completion of one year of study.
- *Diploma*: represents two years of study.
- *Bachelor's Degree*: takes three years to complete in the social sciences and four years in the applied sciences.
- *Graduate Diploma*: *Master's* program requires one year of course work and a thesis. The two-year *Master of Philosophy* requires a year of course work followed by research and a thesis. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree.
- *Doctorate*: open to graduates of approved universities with *Master's* or *Master of Philosophy* degrees. Programs generally last three years and require two to four semesters of study, research, and a dissertation.

Key Universities

University of Ghana
 University of Cape Coast
 Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology

Grading System

Transcript Grade

First Class Honours
 Second Class Honours, Upper
 Second Class Honours, Lower
 Pass

US Equivalent

A
 A-/B+
 B
 C

Other Scale

Transcript Grade

80-100
 70-79
 60-69
 50-59
 40-49
 Below 40

US Equivalent

A
 A-
 B
 C
 D
 F

Recommendations and Comments

A bachelor's degree in Ghana is considered equivalent to a bachelor's in the United States.



GREECE

Southern Europe



Area: 131,957 sq. km. (51,146 sq. mi.)
 Population: 10.7 million
 Cities: Capital – Athens; Thessaloniki, Piraeus, Patras, Larissa, Iraklion
 Language of instruction: Greek
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 97.5% (female 96.5%, male 98.6%)
 Academic year: September – June

System of Education

University-level education is offered through fourteen public institutions that are supervised and financed by the state. While there are some private higher education institutions operating in Greece, none is officially recognized by the government. In addition, there are a number of American universities operating in Greece. Admission is highly competitive and has become progressively more difficult. Admission to all higher education institutions is based on scores of national exams and grades during the second and third years of study.

Degree Significance

- *Ptychio* (Diploma): students who have completed the *ptychio* from a four-year program (five years in engineering and six in medicine) in a university-level institution may be considered for graduate admission.
- *Ptychio Metaptychiakon* (Diploma of Graduate Studies): requires completion of *ptychio* and one to two years of study which may be carried out and completed at a university outside Greece. The degree, however, is awarded in Greece.
- *Didaktoriko* (Doctorate): requires at least an additional three years of study and the public defense of an original thesis.

Key Universities

University of Athens
 University of Thessaloniki
 University of Ioannina
 University of Thrace
 School of Fine Arts
 National Technical University

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
8.0-10	A
6.0-7.9	B
5.0-5.9	C
0-4.9	F

Recommendations and Comments

The *ptychio* (or bachelor's degree) is the minimum required degree to pursue graduate studies.



GUATEMALA

Central America



Area: 108,780 sq. km. (42,000 sq. mi.)
 Population: 14.7 million
 Cities: Capital – Guatemala City; Quetzaltenango, Escuintla
 Language of instruction: Spanish
 Education: Years compulsory-7
 Literacy: 71% (female 63.3%, male 78%)
 Academic year: January – November

System of Education

Higher education in Guatemala is offered at one public and four private universities. The state university, San Carlos de Guatemala, was founded by decree from Spain in 1676, making it the oldest university in Central America.

The main campuses of all five universities are located within the capital, Guatemala City. During the last decade regional centers have been established to cater to students in other areas.

Degree Significance

- *Tecnico* (Technician): two- to three and one-half year programs
- *Profesor* (Teacher) two- to four-year program
- *Baccalaureatus* (Baccalaureate): three and one-half to four-year program, no thesis
- *Licenciado/Licenciatura* (Licentiate): the first university degree varying in length from four to six years, usually requiring a thesis.
- *Ingeniero* (engineer); *Arquitecto* (architect); *Abogado* (lawyer); *Administrador de Empresas* (business manager): professional degree programs requiring four to six years and a thesis or graduation project.
- *Maestría/Magister* (Master): requires one to two years of study beyond the first degree and the submission of a thesis.
- *Doctorado* (Doctor): awarded after two consecutive years of postgraduate study and upon submission of a thesis in Law, the Humanities, Education, Economics and Social Sciences.

Key Universities

Universidad San Carlos de Guatemala
 Universidad del Valle de Guatemala
 Universidad Francisco de Marroquín
 Universidad Mariano Galvez de Guatemala
 Universidad Rafael Landívar

Grading System

Transcript Grade	Description	US Equivalent
91-100	Excelente (excellent)	A
80-90	Muy Bueno (very good)	B
51-79	Bueno (good)	C
0-50	Reprobado (fail)	F

Recommendations and Comments

Determining the level of post-secondary study of a title may be difficult, particularly when only the specialization is stated on the credential. Evaluators should pay special attention to the length of the program leading to the vocational title. Applicants with a *licenciado* degree, the *baccalaureatus* from the *Universidad del Valle*, or one of the first professional degrees may be considered for graduate admission.

The *maestría* or *magister* may be considered comparable to a U.S. master's degree.



GUINEA

Western Africa

Area: 3,399 sq. km. (2112 sq. mi.)
 Population: 9.5 million
 Cities: Capital – Conakry, Kankan
 Language of instruction: French
 Education: Years compulsory-6
 Literacy: 35.9% (female 21.9%, male 49.9%)
 Academic year: October-June



System of Education

Guinea gained its independence from France in 1958, but did not hold democratic elections until 1993. Unrest in Sierra Leone and Liberia has spilled over into Guinea on several occasions threatening stability and creating humanitarian emergencies. Guinea remains among the less developed and highly indebted countries.

The higher education system of Guinea consists of two universities and three professional institutes. Only one-third of the candidates sitting for the entrance test is admitted to higher education; rate of student success varies from 62% to 87% depending on schools. The proportion of females students and faculty at the universities is low.

Degree Significance

- *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur* (Degree of Superior Technician): 3-year degree offered by professional schools to train mid-level personnel.
- *Diplome d'Etudes Universitaires Generales— DEUG* (Diploma of General University Studies): awarded after two years in Arts and Humanities.
- *Licence* (Licence): awarded after three years.
- *Maitrise* (Master)/*Diplome d'Etudes superieures— DES* (Diploma of Higher Studies): a further year beyond the Licence or two years beyond the DEUG.
- *DEA* (Diploma of Advanced Studies): the third cycle of higher education. Entry is based on the *Maitrise* and lasts for at least one year. Students must complete a research project.

Key Universities

University of Conakry
 University of Kankan

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
16-20	<i>Tres bien</i> A	Very Good
14-15	<i>Bien</i> A-	Good
12-13	<i>Assex bien</i> B	Quite good
10-11	<i>Passable</i> C	Satisfactory

Recommendations and Comments

The *Matriese* or the *DES* is the equivalent of the US bachelor's degree.



HAITI

Caribbean

Area: 27,750 sq. km. (10,714 sq. mi.)
 Population: 8.1 million
 Cities: Capital – Port-au-Prince; Cap Haitien
 Language of instruction: French
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 53% (female 51.2%, male 54.8%)
 Academic year: October – June



System of Education

Education in Haiti is modeled after the French education system, with similar structures and titles. The last significant education reform occurred in 1982. Formal higher education is offered through one university, the State University of Haiti. There are a variety of vocational schools offering specialized training at a level similar to a US community college. Higher education is open to holders of a secondary school leaving certificate. The State University requires the *baccalaureate* for admission.

Degree Significance

- *Certificat Professionnel* (Professional Certificate): two years of study
- *Diplome de Fin d'Etudes* (Diploma of Completion of Studies): awarded after three to five years of university study
- *Licence (Licentiate)*: awarded after three to four years in most fields, a five-year program in accountancy.
- *Diplome d'Ingenieur* (Diploma of Engineer): engineering degree awarded after four to five years.
- *Maitrise* (Master): graduate degree awarded after two years of study beyond the first university degree, requiring independent research and a written study. Graduate study in Haiti is rare; most students opt for graduate study abroad.
- *Doctortat* (Doctorate): highest graduate degree, awarded after two years of study beyond the *maitrise*. This degree is offered in only two fields: anthropology and development sciences. Dissertation defense is required

Key University

State University of Haiti

Grading System

The grading system for the State University uses coefficients to weight subjects. A subject with a coefficient of one will have a total of 100 points on an examination; a subject having a coefficient of two will have 200 points.

<u>Transcript Grade</u>		<u>US Equivalent</u>
80-100	tres bien	A
70-79	bien	B
60-69*	assez bien/passable	C
0-59**	mal/nul	F

*64 is the minimum passing grade in some university faculties.

** For some subjects, grades in this range may be considered passing.

Recommendations and Comments

A degree representing at least four years of university study is the minimum requirement to be considered for graduate admission.

Special attention should be paid to the grading system, which assigns more weight to certain subjects. Thus a lower score in one field may still be considered as passing.



HONDURAS

Central America



Area: 112,100 sq. km. (43,270 sq. mi.)
 Population: 7 million
 Cities: Capital – Tegucigalpa; San Pedro Sula
 Language of instruction: Spanish
 Education: Years compulsory-7
 Literacy: 76.2% (female 76.3, male 76.1%)
 Academic year: February – November

System of Education

Higher education is provided by public and private universities and specialized institutes. The Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras/UNAH is an autonomous, decentralized state institution responsible for organizing, directing, and developing the country's higher education programs. UNAH is responsible for granting academic degrees for all Honduran institutions, public and private.

There are four types of institutions of higher education:

- 1) Universities, the highest level undergraduate and graduate institutions;
- 2) Institutes, which offer concentrations in one academic area, leading to the training of professionals;
- 3) Schools, responsible for one academic concentration with emphasis on training; and
- 4) Academies, which offer vocational programs.

Degree Significance

The *unidad de medida academica* or UMA is the unit of academic measure and represents one hour of classroom work combined with two hours of homework.

- *Tecnico* (Technician): a two-year degree, may be terminal or lead to further study in a technical field
- *Licenciatura/Licenciado* (Licentiate): awarded after four or five years.
- *Bachillerato universitario*: mainly conferred in technological fields after four years.
- *Ingeniero* or *Arquitecto* (Engineer or Architect): five-year professional degrees in engineering or architecture
- *Doctorado en Medicina y Cirugia* (Doctor of Medicine and Surgery): 6 to 8 years beyond secondary school
- *Especialidad* (Specialization): only conferred in medicine, it requires 30 credits and three years' internship.
- *Maestría* (Master): 2 to 3 additional years beyond *licenciado* or *bachillerato*. Requires defense of a thesis.

Key Universities

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras
 Universidad Católica de Honduras
 Universidad de San Pedro Sula
 Universidad Tecnológica Centroamericana

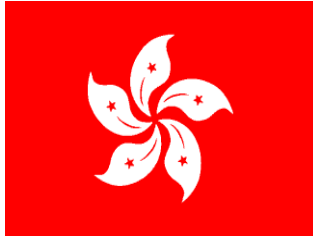
Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
90-100	Sobrasaliente (outstanding)	A
80-89	Muy Bueno (very good)	B
60-79	Bueno (good)	C
0-59	Insuficiente/Aplazado (fail)	F

Recommendations and Comments

Applicants who have received the *licenciado* degree, a four-year *bachiller universitario**, or a five-year professional degree may be considered for graduate admission. The *maestría* may be considered comparable to a U.S. master's degree.

* Degree eliminated in 1989 and gradually being phased out.



HONG KONG

East Asia



Area: 1,092 sq. km. (678 sq. mi.)
 Population: 7 million
 Cities: Hong Kong comprises Hong Kong Island, the New Territories, and numerous small islands.
 Languages of instruction: Chinese, English
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 92% (96% male, 88% female)
 Academic year: September – June

System of Education

Like most institutions in Hong Kong, the colleges and universities kept most of their distinctiveness after Hong Kong passed from its status as a British Colony to its new status as a Special Administrative Region of China in 1997. Hong Kong has a high-quality education system based on the British model: six years of primary school and up to seven years of secondary school. After the fifth year of secondary school, students can qualify for the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination. Successful applicants can then go on to do the two-year Hong Kong Advance Level Examination required for admission into local universities.

Degree Significance

- *Bachelor's degree*: three or four years of study beyond the 13 years of secondary education depending on the university.
- *Bachelor of Medicine* and *Bachelor of Surgery*: five years of study after high school.
- *Master of Engineering*: four years of study beyond secondary school.
- *Master's degree* and the *Master of Philosophy* (MPhil): awarded after one or two years of study beyond the bachelor's degree.
- *Doctor of Philosophy* (Ph.D.): awarded after two or three years of study beyond the master's degree and includes a thesis and special examination.
- *Doctor of Medicine* (MD): awarded after five years of study beyond the first university.

Key Universities

University of Hong Kong
 Chinese University of Hong Kong
 Hong Kong University of Science & Technology
 The Hong Kong Baptist University
 City University of Hong Kong
 Lingnan College

Grading System

The grading system differs according to the institution, with many institutions utilizing some variation of the U.S. letter grading system. While it is customary for students to receive grades, they are not published on transcripts. Transcripts tend to only show if a student has passed from one year to another. After final examinations, students are ranked into one of the following five divisions (based on exams and course work):

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
First-class honors	A
Second-class honors division one	A-
Second-class honors division two	B+
Third-class honors	B
Pass	C

Recommendations and Comments

Bachelor's degrees granted from key universities and some unaccredited institutions may be considered for graduate study. Some diploma programs may be considered for graduate admission. The following private institutions are able to grant bachelor's degrees: Canton College, Chu Hai College, Far East College, Great Union College, Hong Kong Buddhist College, Hong Kong College, Hwa Kiu College, Tak Ming College, Tsing Hua College, Hong Kong Lutheran College, Sun Yat Sen College, Ping Jing Evening College, and Wan Han College. Graduates of Hong Kong Polytechnic do not have the equivalent academic background.

Levels of English fluency have declined as Mandarin Chinese becomes more prominent with the Chinese takeover.

An Honors Bachelor is required for graduate admission. Honors refers to depth of study in a particular discipline, rather than quality of study.



HUNGARY

Eastern/Central
Europe

Area: 93,000 sq. km.
(36,000 sq. mi.)
Population: 10 million
Cities: Capital – Budapest; Debrecen, Miskolc, Szeged, Pécs
Language of instruction: Hungarian
Education: Years compulsory-10
Literacy: 99.4% (female 99.3%, male 99.5%)



System of Education

Hungarian higher education has a dual system consisting of colleges and universities. Some colleges are associated with universities and a university can also offer college level courses. Tenure of training at the college level is minimum 3 year, maximum 4 years. The tenure of education at university level is minimum 4 years, maximum 5 years (6 years at medical universities). Higher education is open to those holding the secondary school certificate and passing marks on an entrance examination.

Degree Significance

- *Bizonyítvány* (certificate): awarded upon completion of secondary school
- *Foiskolai Oklevel* (College Degree): a 3- or 4-year professional diploma awarded from a college. It entitles holders to practice a profession or to continue higher education. May also be called *bachelor*.
- *Tanító/Tanítói Oklevel* (Lower Primary Teacher's Diploma): teacher training degree awarded after 3 years of higher education.
- *Tanári Oklevel* (Upper Primary Teacher's Diploma): teacher training degree awarded after 4 years.
- *Egyetemi Oklevel* (University Degree): awarded after 4 to 6 years of study.
- *Doktori Bizonyítvány* (Doctoral Certificate): awarded by a university after 3 years of coursework and thesis defense; university degree required for admission.
- *Tudományok Doktorának Oklevele* (Doctor of Sciences): awarded by the Committee of Scientific Qualifications; requires extensive research and publication; doctoral certificate required for admission.

Key Universities

Budapest University of Economics
Eotvos Lorand University
Technical University of Budapest
Kossuth Lajos University
University of Miskolc
Janus Pannonius University

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
4.51-5.0 (Kivalo)	A
3.51-4.50 (Jo)	B
2.51-3.50 (Kozepes)	C
2.00-2.5 (Elegeseges)	D
below 2.0 (Elegtelen)	F

Recommendations and Comments

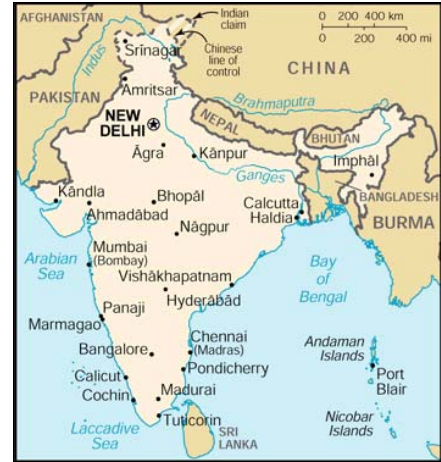
A college or university degree representing at least four years of study is the minimum requirement to be considered for graduate admission.



INDIA

Southeast Asia

Area: 3.3 million sq. km. (1.3 million sq. mi.)
 Population: 1.1 billion
 Cities: Capital – New Delhi; Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad
 Languages of instruction: Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil, Urdu
 Education: Years compulsory-6
 Literacy: 59.5% (female 48.3%, male 70.2%)
 Academic year: July – April



System of Education

Once the nearly exclusive domain of the wealthy, since independence higher education has become the aspiration of almost every student completing high school. There are three kinds of colleges in India: government colleges found in those states where private enterprise is weak, colleges managed by religious organizations and the private sector, and professional colleges consisting of teacher-training, medicine, engineering, and law colleges. Education in India is based upon the English system. A student's performance is determined by adding points to a base of zero, instead of reducing points from a maximum of one-hundred, as in the U.S. Often, transcripts will have only a few grades because grading stress is placed on end-of-year exams. Degrees are awarded with a ranking, which is the most effective means of determining a student's performance. Grading tends to be harsh, particularly in the science fields.

Degree Significance

- *Bachelor*: requires 3 or 4 years of full-time study.
- *Master*: generally requires 1 ½ to 2 years of study after first degree.
- *M.Phil.*: a 1 to 2-year preparatory program for doctoral level. Master's degree required for admission.
- *Ph.D.*: involves 2 years of research study, submission of a thesis, and an oral examination.

Key Universities

University of Allahbad
 Birla Institute of Technology
 University of Rajshah
 University of Bombay
 University of Calcutta
 University of Delhi
 Indian Institutes of Technology
 Gujarat University
 University of Madras
 Mahatma Gandhi University
 Osmania University
 University of Poona

Grading System

Mark sheets are provided for each year of study for all yearly examinations. Grades are given out of a maximum score and a minimum pass score, which can vary depending upon the course. Score must be converted to a relative percentage.

Typical

Grade	Equiv.	Grade	Equiv.
60-100	A	I (1 st Division)	A
55-59	B+	II (2 nd Division)	B/B+
50-54	B	III (3 rd Division)	C/C+
43-49	C+		
*35-42	C		
0-34	F		

*At some schools, a lower score may be passing.

Student may be given extra points to one failing grade to allow him to pass.

IIT, Madras		IIT, Bombay or Kanpur	
8.0-10.0	A	8.5-10.0	A
6.5-7.9	A-	6.5-8.4	A-
5.0-6.4	B	5.0-6.4	B
IIT, Delhi or Kharagpur		Birla	
7.5-10.0	A	8.6-10	A
6.5-7.4	A-	5.8-8.5	B
5.0-6.4	B	4.0-5.7	C

Recommendations and Comments

A four-year bachelor's or a combined bachelor's/master's degree is the minimum requirement to pursue graduate studies. Overall standing is weighted to final year and major subject. One set of photocopies of all official documents is issued in English.



INDONESIA

Southeast Asia

Area: 2 million sq. km. (736,000 sq. mi.)
 Population: 242 million
 Cities: Capital – Jakarta; Surabaya, Medan, Bandung
 Language of instruction: Indonesian
 Education: Years compulsory-5
 Literacy: 87.9% (female 83.4%, male 92.5%)
 Academic year: July – June



System of Education

The National Education Law of 1989 set new standards for education at all levels in Indonesia. Higher education is offered by state, private, and religious institutions. These include academies, polytechnics, advanced schools, institutes, and universities. Admission to higher education in Indonesia is based on a competitive national examination. Some institutions have merit-based admission programs.

Degree Significance

- *Akta* (Teacher Certification): one- to four-year programs depending on level of teaching sought.
- *Sarjana* (Degree) *strata satu* (stage one): four-year academic and professional degree considered to be the first university degree.
- *Magister* (Master) *strata dua* (stage two): two-year program beyond first degree.
- *Doktor* (Doctor) *strata tiga* (stage three): two to four years beyond *magister*. Students must pass examinations that are organized every year to check their research progress.

Professional diplomas are offered in some higher education institutions. The highest diploma level, known as DIV (D4), is the only diploma that may be considered for graduate admission, and only for admission to a graduate program very closely related to the major subject.

Key Institutions

University of Indonesia
 Bandung Institute of Technology
 Gadjah Mada University
 Airlangga University
 Hasanuddin University
 University of North Sumatra
 Padjadjaran University
 Diponegoro University
 Bogor Institute of Agriculture
 Brawijaya University

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A 4	Excellent (<i>istimewa</i>)
B 3	Good (<i>baik</i>)
C 2	Fair/average (<i>cukup, sedang</i>)
D 1	Poor (<i>kurang/lulus bersyarat</i>)
E/F 0	Fail (<i>gagal/tidak lulus</i>)

Recommendations and Comments

The *sarjana* is the minimum degree required for graduate admission. The DIV (D4) professional diploma may be considered if the subject matters is very closely related to the intended field of study. The *magister* is comparable to a U.S. master's degree and the *doktor* is comparable to the U.S. doctorate.



IRAN

Middle East



Area: 1,648,000 sq. km. (636,293 sq. mi.)
 Population: 68 million
 Cities: Capital – Teheran; Mashhad, Isfahan, Tabriz
 Language of instruction: Persian
 Education: Years compulsory-8
 Literacy: 79.4% (female 73%, male 85.6%)
 Academic year: September – June

System of Education

The 1979 revolution affected every segment of Iranian society. The strong emphasis of the government on Islamic principles has carried over into the realm of education. Higher education in Iran is well developed and offered through universities, colleges of technology, and teacher-training centers. The secondary school leaving certificate (*Diplom*) and passing grades on the national competitive examination are required for admission to higher education.

Degree Significance

An academic credit in Iran is equivalent to 6/7 of a US academic credit. Transcripts are translated by the Ministry of Justice and will always refer to degree programs using U.S. terminology.

- *Kardani* (Higher Diploma): awarded by some universities and technical institutions upon completion of 70-74 credits (two years).
- *Karshenasi* (Bachelor's degree): awarded after completion of 140-148 credits and lasting four years.
- *Karshenasi-arshad* (Master's degree): awarded after 32 credits beyond *Karshenasi*, usually lasting two years.
- *Doctorate* (PhD): awarded after completion of 24 credits beyond the *Karshenasi-arshad*. Submission of a dissertation is required

Key Universities

Esfahan University
 Shiraz University
 Ferdowsi University
 University of Tabriz
 University of Tehran
 Iran University of Science & Technology
 Sharif University of Technology
 Iran University of Medical Sciences
 Tabriz University of Medical Sciences

Grading System

Some higher education institutions use a 0-20 grading scale, with 10 being the minimum passing grade. Others use the same scale, with 13 as the minimum passing grade. A letter system of A, B, C, D, F, corresponding to the US 4.0 grading scale, is used by some Iranian universities.

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
16-20	A
14-15	B
12-13	C
10-11	D
0-9	F

Recommendations and Comments

The *Karshenasi*, representing four years of higher study, is the minimum requirement for graduate admission.



IRAQ

Middle East

Area: 437,072 sq. km. (168,754 sq. mi.)
 Population: 26 million
 Cities: Capital –Baghdad, Mosul, Kadhimain, Adhamiva, Basrah
 Languages of instruction: Arabic, English
 Education: Years compulsory-5
 Literacy: 40.4% (female 24.4%, male 55.9%)
 Academic Year: September – June



System of Education

Prior to the US-Iraqi war, education was provided by the government through a centrally organized school system. The number of students pursuing higher education in the 1980s increased dramatically. Accordingly, new universities were created. With the outbreak of war, the regime was unwilling to draft university students and exempted them from military service until graduation. U.N. sanctions hampered teaching and research for over a decade. Faculty and students lacked access to up-to-date publications, computers and software, and international conferences. The collapse of the Baath regime in 2003 resulted in the looting of universities and the dismissal of thousands of professors and deans by occupation authorities. The long-term impact of the American/British occupation on higher education in Iraq is difficult to predict at this time.

Degree Significance

- *Baccalaureate*: secondary school credential (4 years)
- *Diploma*: two-year program after secondary school
- *Bachelor's Degree*: Admission requires Baccalaureate. Four-year program in arts, education and science; five years in engineering and six in medicine
- *Master's Degree*: Admission requires bachelor's degree. Two-year program: one year of coursework and one year of thesis research
- *Higher Diploma*: two-year clinical program requiring the Bachelors of Medicine
- *Doctorate*: three years beyond master's degree: one year of coursework and two years of thesis research.

Key Universities

Al-Anbar University
 Al-Qadisiya University
 University of Baghdad
 University of Tikrit

Grading System

Science/Technology Programs

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
70-100 Excellent	A
60-69 Medium	B
50-59 Pass	C
0-49 Fail	F

All Other Post-Secondary Programs

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
80-100	A
60-79	B
50-59	C
0-49	F

Recommendations and Comments

The Bachelor's degree is the required document for admission to graduate studies. All original official documents and one complete set of photocopies are issued in English.



IRELAND

Western Europe



Area: 70,282 sq. km. (27,136 sq.mi.)

Population: 4 million

Cities: Capital – Dublin; Cork, Limerick, Galway, Waterford

Language of instruction: English

Education: Years compulsory-8

Literacy: 98%

Academic Year: September – July

System of Education

Higher education in Ireland is offered through two universities: University of Dublin/Trinity College, and the National University of Ireland, which is composed of eight colleges. Other institutions of higher education include the National College of Art and Design and the Dublin Institute of Technology. Regional technical colleges are located in smaller cities and offer one- to three-year programs in applied business, technical and scientific fields. Applications to higher education are processed by a Central Applications Office. Higher education is open to holders of the leaving certificate, the secondary education diploma.

Degree Significance

- *National Diploma* (Higher Technician’s Diploma): awarded after three years at a technical college
- *Bachelor’s Degree*: awarded after varying amounts of study, depending on the major: three years in some arts and science programs; four years in some arts and science programs, engineering, and agriculture; five years in architecture, dentistry, and veterinary medicine; and six years in medicine. The bachelor’s degree may be awarded as a General Degree, an Honours Degree or a BA (Special Degree).
- *Graduate Diploma*: Usually one year of coursework following the Bachelor’s. Can be undertaken on a part-time basis. Also called Higher Diploma or Postgraduate Diploma.
- *Master’s Degree*: awarded after two years of study beyond the bachelor’s degree. Students may elect to complete a minor thesis and an examination, or a major thesis only.
- *Doctorate*: awarded after two years of study beyond the master’s degree or five years beyond the master’s, and completion of a dissertation.

Key Universities

- University of Dublin (Trinity College)
- Dublin City University
- University of Limerick
- National University of Ireland
- University College Dublin
- University College Cork
- University College Galway
- St. Patrick’s College
- Our Lady of Mercy College of Education
- Mary Immaculate College of Education
- St. Angela’s College of Education

Grading System

Some institutions use the British classification system, and others use a numerical grading scale. The grading scales shown below are the most widely used.

National University Ireland		Technical College	
<u>Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>US</u>
70-100	A	70-100	A
66-69	A-	65-69	A-
62-65	B+	60-64	B+
50-61	B	50-59	B
45-49	B-	45-49	C+
40-44	C	40-44	C
0-39	F	0-39	F

Classification System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
First Class	A
Second Class, upper	B+
Second Class, lower	B-
Third Class	C
Pass	D
Fail	F

Recommendations and Comments

A bachelor’s degree of four years is the minimum requirement for graduate admission. The Irish master’s degree and doctorate are equivalent to the U.S. degrees.



ISRAEL

Middle East



Area: 20,770 sq. km. (8,019 sq. mi.)
 Population: 6.3 million
 Cities: Capital – Jerusalem; Tel Aviv, Haifa
 Languages of instruction: Hebrew, English
 Education: Years compulsory-11
 Literacy: 95.4% (female 93.6%, male 97.3%)
 Academic year: October – June

System of Education

The traditional university bachelor’s degree in the arts and sciences is a three-year dual major. This varies from institution to institution. Those who select a single major will have studies in two departments during the first year and will take classes in two or three other departments for the remainder of the degree program. This program structure gives more breadth than the dual major, but both programs are regarded equally.

Since there is mandatory military service in Israel, most high school students go straight into the military before college. Therefore, most university graduates tend to be two to three years older than the average U.S. student.

Degree Significance

- *Bachelor’s Degree*: usually requires three years of study with some exceptions, such as Architecture, Engineering, Law and Medicine.
- *Diploma*: usually two years following the bachelor’s, available in a few areas
- *Master’s Degree*: generally two years of study following the bachelor’s. Those that require a thesis give access to doctoral study.
- *Doctor of Philosophy*: a minimum of two years after the Master’s. Thesis is required.

Key Universities

Bar-Ilan University
 Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
 University of Haifa
 Hebrew University of Jerusalem
 Tel Aviv University
 Technion-Israel Institute of Technology
 Weizmann Institute of Science

Grading System

Universities

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
75-100	A
61-74	B
50-60	C
0-49	F

Non-university Institutions

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
84-100	A
75-83	B
65-74	C
55-64	D
0-54	F

Note: Grading in Israeli universities tends to be severe and not inflated. The student provides transcripts in English upon request.

Recommendations and Comments

The four-year bachelor’s degree is considered the minimum degree acceptable for graduate study. Grading tends to be severe and not inflated. One set of photocopies of all official documents is issued in English.



ITALY

Western Europe

Area: 301,225 sq. km. (116,303 sq. mi.)

Population: 58.1 million

Cities: Capital – Rome; Milan, Naples, Palermo, Genoa, Bologna, Florence

Language of instruction: Italian

Education: Years compulsory-9

Literacy: 98.6% (female 98.3%, male 99%)

Academic year: November – October



System of Education

Italy has 76 institutions of higher education that confer the *Diploma di Laurea*. In general, admission is open to all graduates of upper secondary schools, leading to overcrowding in some universities. No entrance examination or any aptitude testing is required. The first- and second-year dropout rate averages forty percent. Students take only the year-end examination to get credit for a course. Typically three professors question a single student. Each professor assigns a grade ranging from zero to ten and these scores are averaged for the final grade.

Degree Significance

Recent (1999) reform of the higher education system provides for the adoption of a 3+2+3 scheme.

- *Curso di Laurea, CL* (Bachelor): first degree requires 3 years or 180 credits.
- *Corsi di Laurea Specialistica, CLS* (Course of Specialist Bachelor): second degree, 2 years of study after the *Laurea*.
- *Laurea Specialistica, LS* (Specialist Bachelor): awarded to graduates of *CLS* who have obtained a total of 300 credits. The writing of a dissertation is compulsory.
- *Dottorato di Ricerca* (Research Doctorate): third degree, minimum of 3 years after a *Laurea Specialistica*. Admission is subject to passing of very competitive examinations. Original dissertation required.
- *Diploma di Specializzazione* (Diploma of Specialist): post-graduate level, 2-5 years.

Prior to 1999, the *laurea* required four years of study for most programs. Chemistry and architecture required five years, and medicine required six years.

Key Universities

- University of Bari
- University of Florence (Firenze)
- University of Genoa (Genova)
- University of Messina
- University of Milan
- University of Naples
- University of Padua (padova)
- University of Palermo
- University of Parma
- University of Pavia
- University of Perugia
- University of Pisa
- University of Rome
- University of Sassari
- University of Turin (Torino)

Grading System

Grades are awarded for the year-end examination known as the *esame di promo*. The maximum possible score is thirty. Eighteen is the minimum passing grade.

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
29-30	A
25-28	B
21-24	C
18-20	D
0-17	F
In Engineering	
<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
27-30	A
24-26	B
21-23	C
18-20	D

Recommendations and Comments

Prior to 1999, the *laurea* should be considered the minimum required degree for graduate studies. In the new university system, the *Curso di Laurea* followed by an additional year of higher education is the minimum requirement.



JAMAICA

Caribbean

Area: 10,991 sq. km. (4,244 sq. mi.)
 Population: 2.7 million
 Cities: Capital – Kingston; Montego Bay, Spanish Town
 Language of instruction: English
 Education: Years compulsory-6
 Literacy: 87.9% (female 91.6%, male 84.1%)
 Academic year: August – May



System of Education

Jamaica’s higher education system is based on the United Kingdom’s. Jamaica is affiliated to the University of the West Indies, a regional institution with campuses in Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad. The Mona campus is located in Kingston, the site of the central administration. The University of Technology is Jamaica’s only national university. There are three accredited private institutions.

Degree Significance

- *General Certificate of Education, Advanced Level:* awarded after 13 years of secondary education, it is the credential required for admission to higher education
- *Diploma:* awarded by non-university postsecondary institutions after a two-year course
- *Bachelor’s Degree:* normally takes three years (six in medicine). At the University of Technology it takes four years.
- *Master’s Degree:* requires two years of study beyond the bachelor’s degree and submission of a thesis.
- *Doctorate:* three years of study following the master’s degree and submission of a thesis.

Key Universities

University of the West Indies
 University of Technology

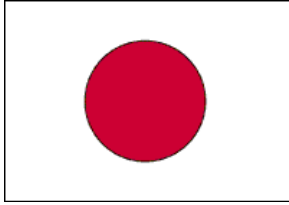
Grading System

Subject grading is the same as the U.S. grading system, but the *bachelor’s degree* is awarded at the following levels:

<u>Classification</u>		<u>US equivalent</u>
First Class Honours	70-100	A
Upper Second Class Honours	60-69	A-/ B+
Lower Second Class Honours	50-59	B
Pass	40-49	C
Fail	0-39	Fail

Recommendations and Comments

The *bachelor’s degree* is the minimum required degree for graduate study



JAPAN

East Asia

Area: 377,765 sq. km. (145,856 sq. mi.)

Population: 127.4 million

Cities: Capital – Tokyo; Yokohama, Osaka, Nagoya, Sapporo, Kobe, Kyoto

Language of instruction: Japanese

Education: Years compulsory-9

Literacy: 99% (female 99%, male 99%)

Academic year: April – March



System of Education

Public universities are mainly financed from national and local funds. Private universities and colleges are financed by students' fees and private funds. The national government provides private institutions with grants for about one-third of current expenditures. Junior colleges provide two- to three-year courses that do not lead to a first degree, but credits obtained may be counted as part of the credits leading to a degree. Colleges of technology offer five-year courses, the last two of which are at post-secondary level. They train technicians, but do not grant university-level qualifications. Holders of Technicians' Certificates may, however, apply for admission to the third year of a university course. Two national universities, the Technological University of Nagaoka and Toyohashi University of Technology, provide four-year graduate courses. Admission is based on entrance examinations.

Degree Significance

- *Shuryo shosho* (Certificate of Completion or Associate Degree): awarded after two or three years at a Junior College
- *Shosho* (Diploma): awarded after five years of study in a college of technology
- *Gakushi-go* (Bachelor's Degree): awarded after four years of university study (six years for medicine and dentistry).
- *Shushi-go* (Master's Degree): awarded after two additional years of study. It requires a research thesis and a final examination.
- *Hakase-go* (Doctoral Degree): awarded after three or more years beyond the *master's* degree.

Key Universities

Kyoto University
 Osaka University
 Kyushu University
 Keio University
 Sophia University
 Waseda University
 Kobe University
 Nagasaki University

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
80-100	A
70-79	B
60-69	C
0-59	F

Recommendations and Comments

The *bachelor's* degree is considered the minimum required degree for graduate study. One set of photocopies of all official documents is issued in English.



JORDAN

Middle East

Area: 91,860 sq. km (35,467 sq. mi.)
 Population: 5.8 million
 Cities: Capital – Amman; Irbid, Az-Zarqa
 Languages of instruction: Arabic, English
 Education: Years compulsory-10
 Literacy: 91.3% (female 86.3%, male 95.9%)
 Academic year: September – June



System of Education

Access to higher education is open to holders of the General Secondary Education Certificate who can then choose between private community colleges, public community colleges or universities. The credit-hour system has been adopted at universities, which entitles students to select courses according to a study plan. Higher education has developed along two separate lines, with traditional universities on the one hand, and non-university level institutions (community colleges) on the other.

Degree Significance

- *Tawjihi* (Secondary Education Certificate): awarded after passing of national examination.
- *Intermediate University Certificate or Diploma*: awarded upon completion of two years of higher education.
- *Bachelor's degree*: normally takes four years. In Dentistry, Pharmacy and Engineering, studies last for five years, six years in Medicine. The bachelor's degree requires a total of 132-223 credit hours depending on the subject.
- *Professional Diploma/Diploma of Higher Studies*-- awarded after one year of study beyond the bachelor's degree. Provides additional training in one specific area.
- *Master's Degree*: awarded after two years of study beyond the bachelor's degree. It can be obtained by course work and a thesis or by course and a comprehensive examination.
- *Doctorate Degree*: awarded after three to five years of further study and the submission of an original dissertation.

Key Universities

Al al-Bayt University
 University of Jordan
 Yarmouk University
 Mutah University

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
80-100	A
70-79	B
60-69	C
50-59	D
0-49	F

Check transcript for grading explanation. Grading systems may vary slightly.

Recommendations and Comments

It is important to consider a student's departmental rank as well as grade-point average. Top students in some science faculties rarely score above 70, and top liberal arts students may score only 75 to 80.

The bachelor's degree is the minimum requirement for admission to graduate study. One set of photocopies of all official documents is issued in English.



KAZAKHSTAN

Central Asia



Area: 2,717,300 sq. km (1,688,451 sq. mi.)

Population: 15.2 million

Cities: Capital – Astana; Almaty, Karaganda, Shymkent

Languages of instruction: Kazakh, Russian, English, German, French, Chinese, Arabic

Education: Years compulsory-9

Literacy: 98.4% (female 97.7%, male 99.1)

Academic year: September – June

System of Education

Kazakhstan is the ninth largest nation in the world and the second most populated country in Central Asia. It is a bilingual country with Kazakh being the state language and Russian the official language used routinely in business.

During the years of Soviet power, Kazakhstan acquired an education system that had a vertical structure and was fully financed by the government. The duration of each phase of schooling is fixed, and when each is completed, a certificate or degree is awarded. Students are paid a stipend depending on their success, and teachers' earnings are related to their duties, experience and qualifications. Kazakhstan lags behind the developed countries in the level of investment in education. The republic spends 12 times less per student than the United States.

Degree Significance

- *Diploma of Specialist*: awarded at end of a five-year course in a particular field of study (former system).
- *Bachelor*: conferred after four years of study.
- *Kandidat Nauk* (Candidate of Sciences): study lasts for three years. Submission of a thesis is required.
- *Master*: degree conferred after two years of study beyond the Bachelor's degree.
- *Doktor Nauk* (Doctor of Sciences): awarded after the *Kandidat Nauk* after completion of a thesis based on original research.
- *Doktoratura* (Doctorate): In the new system a PhD is conferred after two to three years of study beyond the Master's Degree.

Key Universities

Almaty Abai State University

Karaganda State E.A. Buketov University

Kazakh State National University Al Farabi

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
5 excellent	A
4 good	B
3 satisfactory	C
2 unsatisfactory	D
1 totally unsatisfactory	F

Other main grading systems

90-100 %	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D

Recommendations and Comments

Either the Diploma of Specialist or the Bachelor's degree is required for entrance to graduate study.



KENYA

East Africa

Area: 592,747 sq. km. (228,861 sq. mi.)
Population: 33.8 million
Cities: Capital – Nairobi; Mombasa
Language of instruction: English
Education: Years compulsory-8
Literacy: 85.1% (female 79.7%, male 90.6%)
Academic year: October – July



System of Education

A new system of education, known as the 8-4-4 system, was introduced in 1985. Under this system, eight years of primary schooling are followed by four years of secondary schooling, and four years of first-degree studies at university. This scheme replaces one that was based on the English pattern. The introduction of the new system has led to tremendous changes in the secondary school curriculum, preparing students for self-reliance, vocational training and further education.

Degree Significance

- *KCSE*: Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education
- *Diploma*: a two-year program based on high school certificate, three years for teachers
- *Technician Certificate*: three-year program offered by technical schools.
- *Bachelor's Degree*: awarded after four or five years, depending on the area of study, six years in architecture or medicine.
- *Master's Degree*: requires one to three years of study after the *bachelor's degree*.
- *Doctorate Degree*: awarded one to two years after the *master's*, or four years after the *bachelor's*.

Key Universities

University of Eastern Africa
Egerton University
Maseno University College
Moi University
University of Nairobi

Grading System

<u>Transcript</u>	<u>US equivalent</u>
70-100	A
60-69	A-
60-64	B+
50-59	B
45-49	C+
40-44	C
0-39	F

Recommendations and Comments

Minimum requirement for graduate studies is the 4- year *bachelor's degree*. Language of instruction is English. One set of photocopies of all official documents is issued in English.



KOREA, SOUTH

Republic of Korea
East Asia



Area: 99,016 sq. km. (8,230 sq. mi.)
Population: 48.4 million
Cities: Capital – Seoul; Pusan, Taegu, Kwanju, Taejon
Language of instruction: Korean
Education: Years compulsory-9
Literacy: 97.9% (female 96.6%, male 99.2%)
Academic year: March – December

System of Education

Korea has a 6-3-3 system. Primary education last for six years, middle school for three, and high school for three. High school is not compulsory and is provided by three different types of schools: academic (general), vocational, and special purpose. Admission to higher education is based on secondary school graduation and the results of a scholastic achievement examination.

Degree Significance

- *Associate Degree or Certificate*: two-year degree, mainly for acquiring vocational or technical skills for careers in nursing, business, agriculture, etc.
- *Bachelor's Degree*: awarded after four years. Students must have completed between 140 and 150 credit hours. In Medicine, studies last for six years and students must have completed 180 credit hours.
- *Master's Degree*: two or more years of further study beyond the bachelor's degree are required in the same subject.
- *Doctoral Degree*: awarded after a minimum of three years after the master's degree. Submission and defense of a dissertation is required.

Key Universities

Seoul National University
Pusan National University
Kyunapuk National University
Korea University
Yonsei University
Ewha Woman's University
Sogong University
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology

Grading System

Many universities in Korea use a grading scale similar to that of the United States. The letter grades A-D are used; some schools add an O to middle range grades (i.e. A+, AO, A-).

Other Scale

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>U.S. Equivalent</u>
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

See China for the GPA conversion of the 90-100 grading Scale.

Recommendations and Comments

The *bachelor's degree* is required for graduate studies. One set of photocopies of all official documents is issued in English.



KUWAIT

Middle East



Area: 17,820 sq. km. (6,880 sq. mi.)
 Population: 2.3 million
 Cities: Capital – Kuwait; Ahmadi, Jahra, Fahaheel
 Languages of instruction: Arabic, English, French
 Education: Years compulsory-8
 Literacy: 83.5% (female 81.7%, male 85.1%)
 Academic year: September – June

System of Education

Primary education lasts four years, followed by four years of intermediate school. Secondary education is not compulsory and lasts four years. Kuwait University, comprised of 30 departments, is the only university in the country. Admission is based on secondary school performance.

Schools were not in session during the Gulf War of 1990-1991. All transcripts and records of students were secured and were not subjected to damage. Students may have attended universities abroad, but if they remained in Kuwait during the war, they did not lose a year. The period of August 1991 through July 1992 was divided into two equal parts and an intensive program was offered for each period.

Degree Significance

- *Shahadat Al-Thanawiya-Al-A'ama*: secondary school leaving certificate
- *Diploma programs*: technical training degrees available in education, business, health sciences and technology. Programs last two to four years depending on the area.
- *Bachelor's Degree*: conferred after four years of study, five years in engineering.
- *Master's Degree*: awarded after two additional years of study beyond the *bachelor* and considered the equivalent of an American *master's degree*

Key University

Kuwait University

Grading System

Kuwait University's grading scale is equivalent to that of the United States.

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
Distinction	4	A
Very Good	3	B
Good	2	C
Pass	1	D
Fail	0	F

Recommendations and Comments

A *bachelor's degree* is the minimum requirement for graduate study. One set of photocopies of all official documents is issued in English.



LATVIA

Eastern Europe



Area: 64,599 sq. km. (25,742 sq. mi.)
Population: 2.3 million
Cities: Capital – Riga; Daugavpils, Liepaja, Jalgava, Jurmala
Languages of instruction: Latvian/Lettish, Russian, English
Education: Years compulsory-9
Literacy: 99.8% (female 99.8%, male 99.8%)
Academic year: September – June

System of Education

After 9 years of basic education, secondary education is provided in general secondary schools (3 years, vocational schools 2 to 3 years, and vocational secondary schools (4 years). All universities and other institutions are state run. In addition, there are a number of private institutions some of which are state-recognized. All recognized institutions enjoy autonomy. Recognition of higher education institutions and programs is based upon quality assessment, which is carried out as self-assessment followed by an evaluation visit with the participation of foreign experts. Higher education institutions confer academic degrees and professional higher education qualifications.

Degree Significance

- *Diploms* (Diploma): Since 1999, studies in “college programs” of two to three years lead to a professional education Diploma. Holders are eligible to continue on towards the *Bakalaura*s degree or towards a higher degree in professional education.
- *Bakalaura*s (Bachelor): varies from three to four years of study and in most cases requires the preparation of a thesis.
- *Augstakas profesionalas izglitibas diploms* (Higher professional education diploma): four to six years
- *Magistrs* (Master): one to two years of study beyond the *Bakalaura*s and equivalent to the US master’s degree. Presentation of a thesis is required.
- *Doktors* (Doctor): awarded three to four years after completion of the *Magistrs* and public defense of a thesis. Considered to be the equivalent of a US Ph.D.

Key Universities

University of Latvia
Latvia University of Agriculture
Riga Technical University
Latvian Academy of Sciences

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
10 Izcili	with Distinction	A
9 Teicami	Excellent	A-
8 Loti Labi	Very Good	B+
7 Labi	Good	B
6 Gandriz Labi	Almost Good	B-
5 Viduveji	Satisfactory	C
4 Gandriz Viduveji	Almost Satisfactory	C-
1-3 Neapmierinosi	Unsatisfactory	F

To obtain grades 9 and 10, students usually must fulfil additional (and more complicated) tasks in the examination. Some institutions use grades 9 and 10 as normal highest marks and some use 5 or 6 as pass marks.

Recommendations and Comments

A four year *bakalaura*s, or a three-year bachelor’s degree plus one year additional study, is required for graduate studies.



LEBANON

Middle East

Area: 10,400 sq. km. (4,015 sq. mi.)
 Population: 3.8 million
 Cities: Capital – Beirut; Tripoli, Sidon, Tyre, Zahleh
 Languages of instruction: Arabic, English, French
 Education: Years compulsory-5
 Literacy: 87.4% (female 82.2%, male 93.1%)
 Academic year: October – June



System of Education

Secondary education lasts for three years and is divided into literary and technical tracks following six years of primary and four years of intermediate education. Selection of the track is decided on the basis of students' aptitude as shown by examination results. Switching tracks upon entrance to higher education usually requires an additional year of study. Admission to higher education institutions is based on the *Baccalauréat* and an entrance examination. Most higher education is based on the French degree structure.

Degree Significance

- *Diplome* (Diploma): two to four years of study depending on the area, in a technical field
- *Licence*: awarded after three or four years of study, depending on the institution.
- *Bachelor's degree*: three- to five-year degree in an American-style university.
- *Maitrise* (Master): four years beyond the secondary education degree
- *Diplome d'études approfondies/supérieures* (DEA/DES—Diploma of Advanced/Higher Studies): one to two years beyond the four-year Licence or the Maitrise
- *Magistere* (Master's degree): one to two years of study beyond the first degree
- *Doctoraat* (Doctor): awarded after two to five years of study beyond the DEA/DES or the *Magistere* and a thesis

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US equivalent</u>
16-20/Tres Bien	Very Good	A
14-15.9/Bien	Good	A-
12-13.9/Assez Bien	Quite Good	B
10-11.9/Passable	Satisfactory	C

Other Scales:

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
18-20/Excellent	A
16-18/Tres Bien	A-/B+
14-16/Bien	B
12-14/Assez Bien	B-/C+
10-12/Passable	C
7-10	Considered passing for some courses

The American University of Beirut and Beirut Arab University have an American grading system.

Comments and Recommendations

The length of study must be carefully reviewed to determine if four years of university have been completed.



LITHUANIA

Eastern Europe



Area: 65,200 sq. km. (40,515 sq. mi.)
Population: 3.6 million
Cities: Capital – Vilnius; Kaunas, Klaipėda, Šiauliai
Languages of instruction: Lithuanian, English, German, French
Education: Years compulsory-10

System of Education

The system of Lithuanian education has been reformed since the reestablishment of independence in 1990 and is still being reformed. Reforms to higher education include the establishment of non-state institutions, a dual study system of colleges and universities, the internationalization of higher study, the introduction of a credit system and a system of evaluation and accreditation, and the three-stage study system. University study is available for almost everyone seeking higher education.

Brandos Atestatas (Maturity Certificate) is the qualification needed to enter higher education.

Degree Significance

- *Aukštojo Mokslo* (Professional Qualification): indicates 3 to 4 years of professional study. Non-university higher education does not give the right to enter a master's program.
- *Bakalauras* (Bachelor's Degree): awarded after 4 years of basic or professional studies.
- *Aukštojo mokslo* ((Higher Education Diploma): special professional studies lasting 1 ½ to 2 years. Generally does not give right to enter doctoral studies.
- *Magistrantūra* (Master): integrated studies of 1½ to 2 years after completion of the Bachelor's Degree.
- *Meno Licenciatas* (Postgraduate Arts Degree): intended to train higher education art teachers and specialized artists. Studies last 2 years beyond the Master's.
- *Doktora Mokslo Laipsnis* (Doctor): 3 to 4 years of course work, research and the preparation and defense of a thesis.

Key Universities

Kaunas University of Technology
Klaipėda University
Šiauliai University
Vilnius Gediminas Technological University
Vilnius Pedagogical University
Vilnius University

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>		<u>US Equivalent</u>
10	Excellent	A
9	Very good	A-
8	Good	B+
7	Fair	B
6	Satisfactory	C
5	Pass	C-
1-4 *	Fail	F

*4 is a passing grade at Vilnius Pedagogical University.

Recommendations and Comments

The *Bakalauras* is the degree necessary to enter graduate studies.



MALAYSIA

Southeast Asia

Area: 329,749 sq. km. (127,317 sq. mi.)
Population: 24 million
Cities: Capital – Kuala Lumpur
Languages of instruction: English, Malay
Education: Years compulsory-9
Literacy: 88.7% (female 85.4%, male 92%)
Academic year: July – March



System of Education

Primary education lasts for six years; secondary education covers seven years, divided into three stages: lower, upper, and pre-university. Most students go to academic schools in Arts or Science, while the others apply to vocational or technical schools. There is selective entry to the upper and pre-university. At the end of the pre-university course, pupils take the *Siji Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia* for entry to higher education.

Degree Significance

- *Sarjana Muda* (Bachelor's Degree): programs last for three to five years, depending on the secondary education of the student. In Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine and Architecture, the *bachelor's degree* is awarded after five or six years.
- *Diplomas*: awarded after three years in a technical institute
- *Sarjana* (Master's Degree): conferred after two years of further study. Students must hold an Honours bachelor's degree of at least a Second Class level.
- *Doktor Falsafah* (Doctor of Philosophy): awarded after a minimum of two years' further study and research. Candidates must pass oral examinations and, in some cases, written examinations and defend a thesis.

Key Universities

International Islamic University
University of Technology Malaysia
University of Malaya

Grading System

Degree Classification

Degree Classification	US Equivalent
First Class Honours	A
Second Class Honours (upper div.)	A-/B+
Second Class Honours (lower div.)	B
Third Class Honours (also Pass)	B-/C+

*The International Islamic University uses letter grades: A-F

Recommendations and Comments

Since students who earn a three-year bachelor's degree may have had an extra year of secondary school, a three-year degree may be sufficient for entry into graduate studies. A transcript of secondary education may be required. One set of photocopies of all official documents is issued in English.



MEXICO

Southern
North America



Area: 1,972,500 sq. km. (761,600 sq. mi.)
 Population: 106.2 million
 Cities: Capital – Mexico City; Guadalajara, Monterey, Puebla
 Language of instruction: Spanish
 Education: Years compulsory-10
 Literacy: 92.2% (female 90.5%, male 94%)
 Academic year: August – June

System of Education

Education is compulsory from ages 5 to 15. Primary education lasts for six years and secondary for three years leading to the *Bachillerato* (general or technical). Higher education consists of three types: universities, technological colleges, and teacher-training institutes. There are private and public institutions of all three types, but public institutions are more numerous and usually larger, with over 80 percents of students attending public universities and colleges. Each state has at least one public university, often having campuses in different cities. Most students pursuing graduate work do so outside Mexico. Entrance to higher education is based on the *Bachillerato* and an entrance examination.

Degree Significance

- *Licenciado* (Licentiate): vary from three to five years. Medicine requires six years. Programs tend to be more specialized than US undergraduate programs; there are no electives and study is career oriented.
- *Titulo* (Title): program is similar to that for the Licentiate, but students must participate in social service, prepare a thesis, and sit for an examination. Holders of the degree have the title (*titulo*) of the profession.
- *Especialisa programs* (Specialization): specialized programs that last one semester to four years beyond the *licenciado*.
- *Maestria* (Masters): represent one to two years study beyond the *licenciado*.
- *Doctorado* (Doctorate): two years of full time study after the completion of the *Maestria* and a dissertation.

Key Universities

The Autonomous University System of Mexico
 Universidad de Guadalajara
 Universidad Ibero Americana
 Universidad de Sonora
 Universidad de las Americas
 Universidad de Veracruz

Grading System

Transcript Grade	Description	US Equiv
9-10	90-100	Muy Bien (Very Good) A
8	80-89	Bien (Good) B
6-7	60-79	Regular/Suficiente (Average/Sufficient) C
0-5	0-59	Reprobado/ No Suficiente (Fail/ Not Sufficient) F

At some universities, 7 or 70 may be considered the minimum passing grade.

Recommendations and Comments

The minimum requirement for graduate studies is four years of higher education. This can mean having either the four- or five-year *licenciatura*, or a three-year degree with an additional year of university study. *Titulo* and not the diploma is confirmation of degree.



MONGOLIA

Northern Asia



Area: 1,545,000 sq. km. (604,250 sq.mi.)
Population: 2.8 million
Cities: Capital – Ullanbaatar; Altay, Bayanhongor, Darhan
Language of instruction: Mongolian
Education: Years compulsory- 8
Literacy: 97.8% (female 97.5%, male 98%)
Academic year: September – June

System of Education

In 1992 the Mongolian Constitution established the right to free education. Private schools may operate in conformity with government requirements. Mongolia is undergoing a transitional period from a centrally planned system to a free and market-oriented one. Administrative authority on education has been transferred to local governments. Each university can directly consult with the central education authority regarding its own budget, and can secure its own funding.

Students complete four years of primary education, four years of lower secondary education, and two years of upper secondary education. The secondary school leaving certificate gives access to higher education institutions. Students must also sit for an entrance examination.

Degree Significance

- *Gerchilgee* (Certificate of Complete Secondary Education): required for admission to post-secondary education
- *Certificate of Profession*: vocational credential awarded after one year of study
- *Diploma*: three-year program after completion of secondary education
- *Bachelor's Degree*: four-year post-secondary program or one year program after diploma.
- *Master's Degree*: one-year program after earning the bachelor's degree
- *Doctor of Philosophy*: requires advanced level courses and completion and defense of a dissertation.

Key Universities

The National University of Mongolia
Mongolian Technical University

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
A	A
B	B
C	C
D	F

Recommendations and Comments

The four-year Bachelor's rather than the three-year diploma is the required document for graduate admission.



MOROCCO

North Africa

Area: 446,550 sq. km. (172,413 sq.)
Population: 32.7 million
Cities: Capital – Rabat; Casablanca, Fez
Languages of instruction: Arabic, French
Education: Years compulsory-7
Literacy: 51.7% (female 39.4%, male 64.1%)
Academic year: October – June



System of Education

After basic education of 6 years, students enter either general secondary education or technical education for 3 years. General secondary education offers three options: letters, sciences or mathematics leading to the *Baccalaureat*. Technical education leads to the *Baccalaureat technique*. Holders of the *Baccalaureat* are eligible to apply to a university. Many schools require an admission examination (*concours*). Students must attend the university closest to their residence.

Degree Significance

Morocco has a multi-stage educational system; a degree is awarded after the completion of each stage.

Stage One: two years of broad-based studies at a university

- *Certificat universitaire d'Etudes litteraires* (CUEL): in Arts and Humanities
- *Diplome D'etudes Universitaires Generales* (DEUG): in General Studies
- *Diplome d'Etudes universitaires de Technologie* (DEUT): in Applied Sciences

Stage Two:

- *Licence* (Licenciate): two years of in-depth training. CUEL or DEUG required for admission
- *Maitrise es Sciences Specialisees* (Master in Applied Sciences): two years of in-depth training. DEUT required for admission
- *Diplome d'Ingenieur d'Etat* (State Engineer Diploma): a total of five years' study beyond secondary school.

Stage Three:

- *Diplome d'Etudes Superieures Approfondies*—DESA (Extended Higher Studies Diploma): awarded after two years of study following the *licence* or *maitrise*.
- *Diplome D'etudes Superieures Specialisees*—DESS (Specialized Higher Studies Diploma): a two-year terminal program requiring the *licence* or *maitrise*.

Stage Four:

- *Doctorat* (Doctorate): three to five years of research beyond the DESS. Requires defense of a written thesis. This is considered the equivalent of a Ph.D.

Key Universities

Cadi Ayyad University
Chouaib Doukkali University
Ibn Tofail University
Universite Mohamed

Grading System

15+	tres bien (very good)	A
13-14.9	bien (good)	A-
12-12.9	assez bien (quite good)	B +
11-11.9	passable (satisfactory)	B
10-10.9	moyen (sufficient)	C
0.0-9.9	insuffisant (insufficient)	F

Recommendations and Comments

Any of the Stage Two degrees will meet the requirement to be considered for graduate admission.



MOZAMBIQUE

East Africa



Area: 799,380 sq. km. (303,073 sq. mi.)
 Population: 19.4 million
 Cities: Capital – Maputo
 Language of instruction: Portuguese
 Education: Years compulsory-7
 Literacy: 47.8% (female 32.7%, male 63.5%)
 Academic year: February – December

System of Education

Education in Mozambique is a legacy of Portuguese colonization whose administrators did little to create anything beyond a rudimentary educational structure. Primary education lasts seven years with ten percent of students going on to five years of secondary education. Higher education is taught at one university, several teacher training colleges, and vocational schools. Students wishing to continue on to higher education must pass a national competitive examination.

Degree Significance

- *Bacharelato/Bacharel* (Baccalaureate/Bachelor): awarded after three years of study beyond secondary school.
- *Licenciatura/Licenciado* (Licentiate): a five-year program after secondary school or two years following the *bacharelato*. Only students having obtained the grades "good" or "very good" in the *bacharelato* may study for the *licenciatura*. The final year usually involves research for a thesis.
- *Licenciatura en Medicina* (Licentiate in Medicine): a seven-year program following secondary school.
- *Mestrado* (Master): recently implemented, studies last at least two years after the *Licenciatura*.

A doctoral degree lasting three to five years after the *Mestrado* is planned.

Key Universities

University Eduardo Mondlane

Grading System

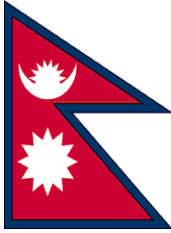
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Point</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equiv</u>
18-20	90-100	5	Excellent Pass	A
15-17	70-89	4	Good Pass	B
12-14	60-69	3	Better Pass	C
10-11	50-59	2	Low Pass	D
0-9	0-49	1	Fail	F

Other Scale

Bacharelato may use a scale of Pass, Good and Very Good.

Recommendations and Comments

The *licenciatura* is required for graduate studies.



NEPAL

Southeast Asia

Area: 140,979 sq. km. (54,362 sq. mi.)
Population: 27.7 million
Cities: Capital – Kathmandu
Languages of instruction: English, Nepali
Education: Years compulsory-7
Literacy: 45.2% (female 27.6%, male 62.7%)
Academic year: July – June



System of Education

Curriculum was developed with assistance from the United Nations and was greatly influenced by United States models. Higher-secondary education stresses workforce requirements and preparation for higher education. National development goals are emphasized throughout the curriculum. Entrance to higher education requires the Proficiency Certificate, representing 12 years of education, and the passing of a nationally administered examination. Despite general accessibility, growth in literacy and number of education institutions, the quality of education has not necessarily improved. There are few top-notch teachers, low morale, and few research facilities.

Degree Significance

- *Bachelor's Degree*: three-year programs, four years in forestry and engineering
- *Postgraduate diplomas*: one to two years
- *Master of Philosophy*: conferred after one-and-a-half years in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics.
- *Master's Degree*: two-year credential following the Bachelor's Degree in such fields as Engineering, Humanities and Social Sciences, Sanskrit Studies and Public Health.
- *Bachelor degree in medicine*: six and on-half-year program following secondary school
- *Doctor of Philosophy*: a further three years of study after the master's degree.

Key Universities

Tribhuvan University
Magendra Sanskrit University
Kathmandu University
Purbanchai University

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
Division I Distinction	A
Division II Merit	B
Division III Pass	C

Refer to transcript for individual numerical percentage.

Recommendations and Comments

Since the length of study for a bachelor's degree varies, a total of four years post-secondary studied is required for graduate studies.



NETHERLANDS

Western Europe

Area: 41,473 sq. km. (16,464 sq. mi.)
 Population: 16.4 million
 Cities: Capital – Amsterdam; The Hague, Rotterdam, Utrecht
 Language of instruction: Dutch
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 99%
 Academic year: September – June



System of Education

There are two types of higher education in the Netherlands. Universities prepare students for independent scientific work in an academic professional setting. *Hogescholen* offer higher professional education concentrating on applied science and providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary for specific professions. The secondary school credential required for admission to university-level studies is the *VWO Diploma (Voorbereidend Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs)*, representing 13 years of education.

Degree Significance

- *Getuigschrift Hoger Beroepsonderwijs—HBO* (Higher Professional Education Degree): Four-year program in applied arts and sciences awarded by *hogescholen*.
- *Doctoraal Examen* (Doctoral Degree): awarded by universities in traditional or engineering fields. Programs take four to five years of study to complete. *Doctorandus* is a graduate of the general doctoral program; *Ingenieur* is a graduate of the engineering program; *Meester* is a graduate of the law program.
- *Doctor* (Doctorate): completion of at least four years of research following HBO or Doctoraal.

Key Universities

Delft University of Technology
 Eindhoven University of Technology
 Erasmus University of Rotterdam
 Leiden University
 Open University of the Netherlands
 University of Amsterdam
 University of Groningen
 University of Limburg
 University of Utrecht

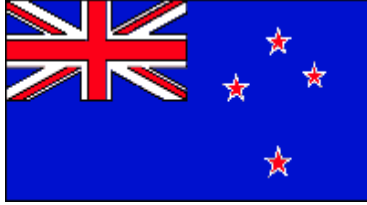
Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>U.S. Equivalent</u>
8.0-10.0	A
7.0-7.75	B
6.0-6.75	C
5.0-5.75	*
0-4.75	F

*A grade of 5 to 5.75, though not acceptable as an average, may be considered passing in a single subject.

Recommendations and Comments

A degree representing four years of higher education is the requirement for admission to Graduate School. Traditionally, less importance is placed on obtaining high grades than on obtaining passing grades



NEW ZEALAND

South Pacific



Area: 270,534 sq. km. (104,440 sq. mi.)
 Population: 4 million
 Cities: Capital – Wellington; Auckland, Christchurch
 Languages of instruction: English, Maori
 Education: Years mandatory-11
 Literacy: 99%
 Academic year: February – November

System of Education

Primary education lasts eight years; secondary education lasts three years, with a 12th year necessary for admission to college. Admission to a university is based on the University Entrance (UE), which may be obtained in two ways: by “accrediting” when a school principal certifies that the student is capable of undertaking university study or by passing the UE examination. A student must pass four subject tests with a combined score of 200.

Degree Significance

- *Sixth Form Certificate*: a secondary education certificate, awarded on a single subject basis after one year of study beyond the required three years of secondary education.
- *Bachelor's Degree*: usually a three-years program, four in engineering and law.
- *Bachelor with Honours* degree: one year beyond the Bachelor's Degree.
- *Bachelor of Education and Diploma of Teaching*: a four-year program of study
- *Master's Degree*: one to two years of study beyond the bachelor's. Typically awarded on the basis of a piece of research through the presentation of a thesis. Becoming more common are master's degrees by coursework (often including research) or by coursework combined with a thesis.
- *Doctorate*: following the master's, two to four years of supervised research or coursework with research and presentation and defense of a thesis.

Key Universities

University of Auckland
 University of Canterbury
 Lincoln University
 Massey University
 University of Otago
 University of Waikato
 Victoria University of Wellington
 Wellington Polytechnic

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
A	A
B	B
C	C
Restricted or Compensation Pass	D
D and E	F

Some schools may also have pluses and minuses for each grade.

Recommendations and Comments

An honours bachelor or a bachelor's degree with a minimum of four years of study is required for graduate study.



NICARAGUA

Central America



Area: 130,688 sq. km. (50,446 sq. mi.)
 Population: 5.5 million
 Cities: Capital – Managua; Leon, Granada, Jinotega, Matagalpa, Chinandega
 Language of instruction: Spanish
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 67.5% (female 67.8%, male 67.2%)
 Academic year: March – December

System of Education

Nicaragua underwent sweeping political changes in 1990, as the Sandinista government was defeated by the National Opposition Union. These political changes have directly influenced changes in the educational system. Several private universities have opened since then, and there is a trend towards flexibility in programs of study, as opposed to the former system which allowed few electives. Nicaragua's state universities remain poorly funded and their facilities are in need of modernization.

Secondary education lasts for five years divided into two cycles: basic and diversified. It leads to the *Bachillerato* in Humanities or Science which is one of the prerequisites for access to higher education. Students must also sit for the *Prueba de Ingreso* (entrance examination). In technical secondary education students are awarded the title of *Técnico medio* after three years.

Degree Significance

- Diploma of *Tecnico Superior* (Higher Technician): two or three-year program in business, economics, marketing
- *Titulo de Professor de Educacion Media* (Title of Secondary Education Teacher): four-year program
- *Licenciado* (Licentiate): usually awarded after four or five years of study, depending on the subject.
- Title of *Ingeniero* (Engineer) or *Arquitecto* (Architect): five to five and one-half-year programs
- *Maestría* (Master): conferred after two years study beyond the *licenciado*. Students must present a thesis.

Key Universities

Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Nicaragua
 Universidad Centroamericana

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
90-100 Sobresaliente (outstanding)	A
80-89 Muy Bueno (very good)	A-
70-79 Bueno (good)	B
60-69 Regular (average)	C
0-59 Reprobado (fail)	F

Other Scales:

Some schools use a pass/fail system.

Recommendations and Comments

Applicants who have received the title of *licenciado* or one of the four-year professional degrees may be considered for graduate admission.



NIGERIA

West Africa



Area: 923,853 sq. km. (356,700 sq. mi.)
 Population: 128.8 million
 Cities: Capital – Abuja; Lagos, Ibadan, Ogbomoso, Kano
 Language of instruction: English
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 68% (female 60.6%, male 75.7%)
 Academic year: October – July

System of Education

Higher education takes place in universities, technical colleges, and advanced teacher-training colleges. Pupils who complete junior high school are streamed into senior high school, technical college, vocational training, or an apprenticeship. The Senior School Certificate, representing 12 years of education is required for entry to university. In addition, they must pass the University Matriculation examination (UME). Students who do not have the proper background for admission must take a year of preliminary study.

Degree Significance

- *National Diploma*: two years of technical/vocational study
- *Nigerian Certificate of Education*: three years of study at an advanced teachers' college
- *Higher National Diploma*: two years of study beyond the National Diploma
- *Bachelor's Degree*: usually four years of study. The *bachelor's degree* may be awarded as an honours degree, indicating greater achievement than a pass degree, though course work is similar.
- *Master's Degree*: usually awarded one year after the bachelor's degree but, increasingly, when the qualification depends on research, it becomes a two-year course.
- *Doctorate Degree*: conferred two to three years after the master's degree or three to five years beyond the bachelor's.

Key Universities

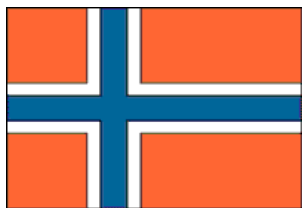
Ahmadu Bello University
 Lagos State University
 Nigerian University
 University of Benin
 University of Ibadan
 University of Lagos

Grading System

Grade	or	Grade	US Equivalent
70-100		A/AB	A
60-69		B/BC	B+
50-59		C/CD	B
45-49		D	C+
40-44		E	C
0-39		F	F

Recommendations and Comments

A four-year bachelor's degree is the minimum requirement for graduate admission.



NORWAY

Northern Europe

Area: 324,220 sq. km. (125,182 sq. mi.)
Population: 4.6 million
Cities: Capital – Oslo; Bergen, Trondheim, Stavanger
Language of instruction: Norwegian, English
Education: Years compulsory-10
Literacy: 100%
Academic year: August – June



System of Education

Extensive restructuring of the higher education system in Norway occurred in 2001. Higher education includes the university sector and the college sector. Norwegian degrees are measured in *vekttal*, or credit units. One semester of full-time study is equal to ten *vekttal*. Admission to university study requires the secondary school credential, *Vitnemal fra den Videregaende Skolen*, representing 12 years of education.

Degree Significance

- *Høgskolekandidat* (College Candidate): represents two years of study. This degree may be built upon to obtain a Bachelor's degree.
- *Bachelor's Degree*: awarded after a minimum of three years of study. National university colleges offer a four-year bachelor's degree.
- *Candidatus/Candidata Magisterii (cand.mag.)*: in the old system, normally obtained after three-and-a-half years in Mathematics and Natural Sciences; and four years in Arts and Social Sciences.
- *Embetsstidoer* (professionally oriented degree programs): lead to degrees in a specific profession of two to seven years' duration.
- *Candidatus/Candidata (cand.)*: a higher degree usually consisting of one-and-a-half to two years of additional study. The degree is followed by the name of the field of study. Requires independent research in the form of a thesis.
- *Master's Degree*: created by the reforms of 2001, consists of two years of study beyond the bachelor.
- *Doctor's Degree*: three years of research following completion of the second level degree or other professional degree program.
- *PhD*: created by the 2001 reform, consists of three years of study beyond the master.

Key Universities

Hedmark College
Norwegian University of Science and Technology
University of Bergen
University of Oslo
University of Tromsø
University of Trondheim

Grading System*

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
1-2.3	A
2.4-2.8	B
2.9-4.0	C
4.1-6.0	F

*There are many different grading scales in Norway. Check the transcript for grading scale.

Recommendations and Comments

A completed degree program, and a total of four years of higher education is required for graduate studies.



OMAN

Middle East

Area: 212,460 sq. km. (132,023 sq. mi.)
Population: 3 million
Cities: Capital – Muscat; Salalah, Sur, Nizwa, Suhar
Language of instruction: Arabic, English
Education: Years compulsory-none
Literacy: 75.8% (67.2% female, 83.1% male)
Academic year: September– June



System of Education

In 1970, Qaboos bin Said Al Said ousted his father and has ruled as sultan ever since. His extensive modernization program has opened the country to the outside world and has helped to maintain good relations with the UK and all Middle Eastern countries. Education and training have developed at a staggering pace. The Ministry encourages the private sector to establish colleges and institutes of higher education. The majority of subjects are taught in English and the teaching of English has assumed increasing importance in recent years. Children start to learn English as their first second language when they begin school. The new ten-year basic education is divided into two cycles (grades 1 thru 4 and grades 5-10) followed by two years of secondary education. Higher education is provided by one university, several specialized institutes, technical and vocational colleges and six teacher training colleges. The *Thanawiya amma* is the secondary-school leaving certificate.

Degree Significance

- General National Vocational Qualification (GNVQ): a year of foundation studies followed by two years of technical training.
- Bachelor's Degree: 18 months of foundation courses in science and English followed by courses in specialty. Science, medical science, education, agriculture, arts and social sciences take a total of 4 years to complete. Engineering, biology, chemistry, math and physics take 5 years.
- Bachelor's Degree in Medicine: 3 years of study in clinical medicine following the Bachelor of Medical Science and a one-year internship.
- Master's Degree: conferred after two years of study following the Bachelor's Degree.

Key Universities

Sultan Qaboos University

Grading System

The university follows the American grade point system: 4-0 with 1 as pass or A-F with A as excellent, D as pass and F as fail.

Recommendations and Comments

A Bachelor's degree from the university is the required document for graduate studies.



PAKISTAN

Southeast Asia



Area: 796,095 sq. km. (307,374 sq. mi.)
 Population: 162.4 million
 Cities: Capital – Islamabad and Rawalpindi; Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad
 Languages of instruction: English, Urdu
 Education: Years compulsory-10
 Literacy: 45.7% (female 30.6%, male 59.8%)
 Academic year: September – June

System of Education

Universities are autonomous organizations founded by the central or provincial parliament. Pakistan's first university for women, Fatima Jinnah Women's University, has opened in Rawalpindi. It offers degree programs in Business Administration, Computer Science, Economics, English, Fine Arts and Islamic Studies. Grading is based on end-of-year exams. The *Intermediate Certificate*, representing 12 years of education, is requested by all institutions of higher learning.

Degree Significance

- *Bachelor's Degree: Pass degrees* are normally obtained after two years of study, and *honours degrees* after three years in Arts, Science, or Commerce. First degrees in Engineering take four years, and in Medicine five years. New universities have also introduced a three-year *bachelor degree*.
- *Master's Degree:* requires two years of study after a pass degree and one year after an honours degree.
- *Doctor of Literature (DLitt), Doctor of Science (DSc) and Doctor of Law (LLD):* awarded after five to seven years of study.

Key Universities

Allama Iqbal Open University
 University of Baluchistan
 Gomal University
 University of Karachi
 University of Engineering and Technology (Lahore)
 University of Punjab

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
Division I	A
Division II	B/B+
Division III	C/C+

Other Scale:

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
60-100	A
55-59	B+
50-54	B
43-49	C+
35-42	C
0-34	F

Recommendations and Comments

Students need to have the bachelor's degree, with additional years of study to equal four years of higher education in order to be considered for admission to graduate studies. All original official documents and one complete set of photocopies are issued in English.



PANAMA

Central America

Area: 77,381 sq. km. (29,762 sq. mi.)
 Population: 3 million
 Cities: Capital – Panama City; Colon, David
 Language of instruction: Spanish
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 92.6% (female 91.9%, male 93.2%)
 Academic year: April – December



System of Education

Traditionally, higher education in Panama has been available from three universities: two public (University of Panama and University of Technology of Panama) and one private (University of Santa Maria la Antigua). In the later part of the 1980's several other universities began operating in Panama. In accordance with regional trends toward privatization of higher education, we can expect new post-secondary institutions to emerge and gain local accreditation in the coming years.

The *bachillerato* or *bachiller* (bachelor) is the secondary school credential required for admission to all higher education.

Degree Significance

- *Tecnico* (Technician): two- to three-year courses leading to professional qualification.
- *Profesor* (Teacher): three-year program
- *Licenciado/Licenciatura* (Licentiate): generally conferred after four to five years of study
- *Maestría* (Master): conferred after two years of further study beyond the *licenciatura*. Students must submit a thesis.

Key Universities

Universidad de Panama
 Universidad Technologica de Panama
 Universidad Santa Maria La Antigua
 Florida State University, Panama Canal Branch
 Panama Canal College (similar to US com col)

Grading System

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
91-100	sobresaliente (outstanding)	A
81-90	bueno (good)	B
71-80	regular (average)	C
61-70	minima de promocion (minimum pass)	D
0-60	fracaso (fail)	F

Recommendations and Comments

The *licenciatura* degree is the minimum requirement for graduate studies.



PARAGUAY

Central South America

Area: 406,750 sq. km. (252754 sq. mi.)
 Population: 6.3 million
 Cities: Capital –Asuncion; Capiata, Ciudad del Este, Luque, San Lorenzo
 Language of instruction: Spanish, Guaraní
 Education: Years compulsory-8
 Literacy: 94% (female 93%, male 94.9%)
 Academic year: March–November



System of Education

Since 1989 Paraguay has been trying to establish a democracy. Access to higher education is extremely limited due to the inadequate availability of secondary education. There is also insufficient research being conducted at the universities. Current levels of funding do not allow a change in conditions.

The *bachillerato* or *bachiller* (bachelor) is the secondary school credential required for admission to all higher education. In addition, an entrance exam is necessary to enter universities.

Degree Significance

- *Título de Técnico Superior* (Title of Superior Technician): not an academic degree, but gives access to higher studies and the exercise of a profession.
- *Licenciatura* (Licentiate): usually conferred after 4 to 6 years of study in medicine, engineering or law.
- *Especialista* (Specialist): one-year university program of specialization in a professional field after completion of Licentiate.
- *Magister* (Master) : two-year postgraduate program aims at deeper knowledge of field studied.
- *Doctorado* (Doctorate): usually 3 years of in-depth study and research.

Key Universities

Autonomous University of Asuncion
 Autonomous University of Paraguay, Asuncion
 Catholic University, Asuncion
 Columbian University of Paraguay
 National University of Asuncion
 University Americana, Asuncion
 University of the North
 National University of the East

Grading System

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
5	sobresaliente (outstanding)	A
4	distinguido	A-
3	bueno (good)	B
2	regular (average)	C
1	reprobado (fail)	F

Recommendations and Comments

The *licenciatura* degree is the minimum requirement for graduate studies.



PERU

South America

Area: 1,285,217 sq. km. (496,225 sq. mi.)
 Population: 27.9 million
 Cities: Capital – Lima/Callao; Arequipa, Trujillo, Chiclayo
 Language of instruction: Spanish
 Education: Years compulsory-10
 Literacy: 90.9% (female 86.8%, male 95.2%)
 Academic year: April – December



System of Education

Admission to higher education in Peru is extremely competitive. Though open to all secondary school graduates, admission is based upon an entrance examination and upon available spaces in university departments. Available spaces are determined by the number of trained personnel needed in a particular field. Only the very top students from each secondary school are assured admittance.

Degree Significance

- *Certificado, Diploma, Tecnio* (Certificate, Diploma, Technician) : awarded upon completion of two to four years at higher technological or pedagogical institutes.
- *Bachiller* (Bachelor): awarded upon completion of at least five years of university study, depending on academic field and university requirements.
- *Licenciatura/Licenciado* (Licentiate): successful submission of a thesis is required and normally takes six months to a year after the Bachelor's Degree.
- *Maestro* (Master): at least two years of additional education during which candidates must defend original research work. Must be proficient in one foreign language.
- *Doctor*: at least two years of additional education during which candidates must defend original research work. Must be proficient in two foreign languages.

Key Universities

- National University of San Agustín
- National University of San Antonio Abad del Cusco
- National University of San Marcos
- University of Lima
- University San Martín de Porres
- Pontifical Catholic University of Peru

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>		<u>US Equivalent</u>
15-20	90-100	A
13-14	80-89	B
11-12	70-79	C
0-10	0-69	F

Recommendations and Comments

The *bachiller*, with two years general study and two years specialized study, is equivalent to that of a U.S. bachelor's degree. The *licenciatura* is also equal to that of a bachelor.



PHILIPPINES

Southeast Asia



Area: 300,000 sq. km. (117,187 sq. mi.)
 Population: 87.9 million
 Cities: Capital – Manila; Davao, Cebu
 Languages of instruction: English, Spanish, Tagalog
 Education: Years compulsory-6
 Literacy: 92.6% (female 92.7%, male 92.5%)
 Academic year: June – March

System of Education

From the onset of US colonial rule, Filipinos internalized the American ideal of a democratic society in which individuals could get ahead through attainment of a good education. Middle-class parents make tremendous sacrifices in order to provide secondary and higher education for their children. Since independence in 1946, the national language Pilipino, has been increasingly emphasized. Higher education is the direct responsibility of the national government with financing coming from the national treasury, although localities may supplement national appropriations.

Degree Significance

- *Certificate, Diploma* programs: technical or vocational programs lasting one to four years and leading to skills proficiency.
- *Bachelor's Degree*: generally conferred after four years of study; considered comparable to the U.S. bachelor's degree
- *Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma*: one to two years of study beyond the Bachelor's Degree, **not** the equivalent of a master's degree
- *Master's Degrees*: usually two years of study beyond the bachelor's degree. To be admitted to the *master's degree* programs, students must have a B average.
- *Doctor*: a minimum of two to three years of study following the Master's degree and a dissertation. An average of at least 1.75 in the master's program is required for admission.

Key Universities

Central Luzon State University
 Central Philippine University
 Mindanao State University
 Saint Louis University
 University of St. La Salle
 University of Manila
 University of the Philippines
 University of Santo Tomas

Grading System

<u>Grade</u>	or	<u>Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
1.0-1.5		91-100	A
1.75-2.25		85-90	B
2.5-3.0		75-84	C
4		-	*
5		0-74	F

*Conditional failure or conditional pass

Recommendations and Comments

Four years of university study with a *bachelor's degree* is required for graduate study. All original official documents and one complete set of photocopies are issued in English.



POLAND

Eastern/Central



Area: 312,680 sq. km. (120,725 sq. mi.)
Population: 38.6 million
Cities: Capital – Warsaw; Lodz, Krakow, Wroclaw, Poznan, Gdansk
Language of instruction: Polish
Education: Years compulsory-11
Literacy: 99.8% (female 99.7%, male 99.8%)
Academic year: October – June

System of Education

University education in Poland involves four to five years of study leading to the *dplom*. The first two years of university education include general education courses as well as specialized work. In the last years of the program, students take less course work and concentrate on their area of specialization. A thesis is required, but is not ordinarily an original contribution to a field. Practical work is a part of university education; students are placed in practical training in line with their respective fields of study and future plans. The *Świadectwo Dojrzałości* (Maturity Certificate), representing 13 years of education, is the secondary school leaving certificate required for admission to higher education.

Degree Significance

- *Dplom* (Diploma) indicating *Tytul Licencjata* (Title of Licentiate): completion of three to four years of study depending on the field.
- *Dplom* (Diploma) indicating *Tytul Magister* (Title of Master): a four- to six-year program, it is considered comparable to the *bachelor's degree*. Though literally translated as “master”, it is not equivalent to a U.S. master’s degree. Preparation and defense of a thesis is required.
- *DoktorNauk* (Doctor of Science): three-year (minimum) degree conferred to those who hold the *magister* and who have successfully passed doctorate examinations. Students must also submit and successfully defend a doctoral thesis.

Key Universities

Adam Mickiewicz University
Catholic University of Lublin
Cracow University of Technology
Jagiellonian University
University of Gdansk
University of Lodz
University of Warsaw
University of Wroclaw
Warsaw University of Technology

Grading System

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equiv</u>
5	bardzo dobry (excellent)	A
4	dobry (good)	B
3	dostateczny (satisfactory)	C
2	niedostateczny (fail)	F

Other Scales

A six-point scale may also be used, with 6 and 5 both the equivalent of an A.

Recommendations and Comments

The *dplom* with *Tytul Magister* is the required degree for graduate studies.



PORTUGAL

Western Europe



Area: 92,389 sq. km. (35,672 sq. mi.)
Population: 10.6 million
Cities: Capital – Lisbon; Oporto
Language of instruction: Portuguese
Education: Years compulsory-9
Literacy 93.3% (female 91.3%, male 95.5%)
Academic year: October – July

Educational System

Higher education in Portugal is divided into two subsystems: university and non-university (polytechnic) higher education provided by both public and private institutions. Private institutions must be recognized by the Ministry of Education. The university and polytechnic institutions are linked and it is possible to transfer from one to the other. It is also possible to transfer from a public institution to a private one and vice-versa.

Admission to university-level studies requires the secondary school credential, *Diploma de Ensino Secundario*. Students must also sit for an entrance exam, *Concurso nacional* for public institutions or *Concurso local* for private institutions. In addition to passing entrance exams, students must fulfil particular prerequisites for the chosen course. Enrollment is limited; each year the institution establishes the number of places available.

Degree Significance

- *Bacharel* (Bachelor): awarded after 3 years, the first stage in a polytechnic higher education program
- *Licenciado* (Licentiate): four years of polytechnic education including the *bacharel* years or a four-year university degree
- *Mestre* (Master): an advanced degree in a specific scientific field, indicating ability to conduct practical research. Two years of study beyond the *Licenciado* and preparation and discussion of an original dissertation required.
- *Doutor* (Doctor): three to four years after the *Mestre* or five to six years after *Licenciado* and defense of an original thesis.

Key Universities

- Catholic University of Portugal
- Technical University of Lisbon
- University of Algarve
- University of Coimbra
- University of Lisbon
- University of Minho
- University of Porto

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
15-20	A
12-14	B
10-11	C
0-9	F

Recommendations and Comments

Four years of higher education are needed to be considered for graduate studies, which can mean additional years of study beyond the *bacharel*.



ROMANIA

Eastern/Central
Europe

Area: 237,499 sq. km. (91,699 sq. mi.)

Population: 22.3 million

Cities: Capital – Bucharest; Constanta, Iasi, Timisoara, Cluj-Napoca, Galati

Language of instruction: Romanian

Education: Years compulsory-8

Literacy: 98.4% (female 97.7%, male 99.1%)

Academic year: October – June



System of Education

Higher education in Romania is offered in both public and private higher education institutions. These include universities, academies, polytechnics, institutes and colleges, organized in specialized departments. Stringent entrance exams limit the number of applicants. Students are continuously assessed through coursework and written and oral examinations held at the end of each semester in order to be accepted into the next year of study. The final examination for degree involves a paper or project plus a general and specialty test. The *Diploma de Bacalaureat*, awarded after 5 years of secondary education, is required for entry to higher education.

Degree Significance

- *Diploma de Stat* (State Diploma): awarded after studying three years in a specialized subject.
- *Diploma de Licenta* (Diploma of Licentiate): four to five years of study and a passing grade on a final exam
- *Diploma de Subinginer* and *Diploma de Inginer* (Diploma of Lower-Level Engineer and Diploma of Engineer): awarded after two to three years and five years of study respectively
- *Diploma de Studii Aprofundate* (Diploma of Advanced Studies): one to two years of study beyond a lower diploma and successful completion of an examination
- *Diploma de Doctor*: awarded upon completion of three to five years of study beyond a four-year *Licenta* or a higher diploma

Key Universities

Bucharest University
 Polytechnic University of Budapest
 Technical University of Cluj-Napoca
 Polytechnic University of Timisoara

Grading System

Grade	Description	US Equivalent
9-10	<i>Excelent</i>	A
7-8	<i>Bun</i> (Good)	B
5-6	<i>Suficient</i>	C
0-4		F

Recommendations and Comments

Students who have completed four years of university study and earned one of the corresponding degrees may be considered for graduate admission.



RUSSIA

Northern Asia/
Eastern Europe

Area: 17 million sq. km. (6.5 million sq. mi.)
 Population: 143.4 million
 Cities: Capital – Moscow; St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk
 Language of instruction: Russian
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 99.6% (female 99.5%, male 99.7%)
 Academic year: September – June



System of Education

Higher education in Russia is changing to a U.S. model. Four-year bachelor’s degrees (*bakalavr*) and two-year master’s degrees (*magistr*) have been implemented in universities throughout Russia. Entry to university is based on merit. Priority in admission is granted to students who have excellent academic performance followed by those who score highest on the admissions tests. There is also an admissions interview. The first two years of university are devoted to social and natural sciences; the following years are devoted to the major field of study. With the exception of medicine and education, students must prepare a thesis or project that must be defended before a board of examiners. If the student fails the exam, it may be retaken within three years.

Degree Significance

- *Diplom o Srednem Professionalnom Obrazovanii* (*Diploma of Non-University Level Higher Education*): 2-4 years of study of technical or professional training. This certificate may be used as a stepping-stone to the bachelor’s.
- *Bakalavr* (Bachelor’s): at least 4 years of full-time university-level study lead to *dyplom* (diploma). The program follows a specific curriculum with a schedule of about 27 hours per week. Students must complete a final research paper, and pass an examination. In Medicine, the first stage lasts for six years.
- *Magistr* (Master): two years of study beyond the *bakalavr*. Students must carry out a year of research, prepare and defend an original thesis, and sit for final examinations.
- *Kandidat Nauk* (Candidate of Sciences): a three-year program beyond a master’s focusing on research for dissertation preparation and defense.
- *Doktor Nauk* (Doctor of Sciences): advanced research and dissertation that makes a significant contribution to the field of specialization

Key Universities

Kazan State University
 Moscow State University of Technology
 Moscow State University
 Moscow State Pedagogical University
 St. Petersburg State University
 St. Petersburg State Technical University
 Rostov State University
 Russian Academy of Sciences

Grading System

Grade	Description	US Equiv
5	<i>Otlichno</i> (Excellent)	A
4	<i>Khorosho</i> (Good)	B
3	<i>Udovletvoritel’no</i> (Satisfactory)	C
-	<i>Zachet</i> (Passed)	*
2	<i>Neudovletvoritel’no</i> (Fail)	F

*A grade of “Pass” is awarded in cases where no final examination is offered for a course. Failing grades are not reported.

Recommendations and Comments

The *Bakalavr* is the minimum requirement for graduate studies.



RWANDA

East Africa

Area: 26,338 sq. km. (10,169 sq. mi.)
 Population: 8.4 million
 Cities: Capital – Kigali
 Language of instruction: French
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 70.4% (female 64.7%, male 76.3%)
 Academic year: October – June



System of Education

It was not until 1963 that the state established the National University of Rwanda. Since then the combined efforts of church, state, and the private sector have yielded 11 more institutions of higher education. The civil war of 1990-1994 destroyed much of the educational infrastructure of the country.

The *Diplôme de Fin d'Etudes*, the secondary school leaving certificate, is required for entrance to higher education.

Degree Significance

- *Baccalauréat/Bachelier* (Bachelor): awarded after three to four years, depending on the institution.
- *Maitrise* (Master): awarded after two years of study beyond the *baccalaureat*.
- *Diplome de Ingenieur* (Diploma of Engineering): awarded after three years of study beyond the *baccalaureat*.
- *Docteur en Médecine* (Doctor of Medicine): conferred after a total of seven years of higher education

Key University

Universite National du Rwanda
 Kigali Institute of Science, Technology & Managment

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equiv.</u>
90-100	la plus grande distinction	A
80-89	grande distinction	A-
70-79	distinction	B
50-69	satisfaction	C
0-49	fail	F

Recommendations and Comments

A degree representing at least four years of higher education is the minimum requirement to be considered for graduate admission.



SAUDI ARABIA

Middle East



Area: 1,960,582 sq. km. (1,176,349 sq. mi.)
 Population: 26.4 million (5.6 million non-nationals)
 Cities: Capital – Riyadh; Jeddah, Makkah, Dammam, Khobar, Dhahran
 Language of instruction: Arabic, English
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 78.8% (female 70.8%, male 84.7%)
 Academic year: October – July

System of Education

Between 1983 and 1989, the number of university students in Saudi Arabia increased 95 percent, with a 132 percent increase in the number of women students. Expansion of the university system has enabled the kingdom to limit financial support for study abroad, a goal of conservatives who feared the negative influences on Saudi youth. From 1984 to 1992, the number of students studying abroad dropped from 10,000 to 5000. Most universities accept both men and women except in engineering. English is used as the medium of instruction in technological and scientific fields; all other subjects are taught in Arabic. Access to higher education is available to all high school graduates.

Degree Significance

- *Diploma/Certificate*: two-year degrees beyond a high school degree
- *Bachelor's Degree*: conferred after four years, except in Pharmacy and Medicine (four years plus hospital training), Engineering, and Veterinary Medicine (five years).
- *Master's Degree*: requires two years of coursework following the bachelor's degree and a dissertation.
- *PhD*: requires a master's degree with a 3.5 average. Three years of coursework and a dissertation.

Key Universities

Iman Mohammed Bin Saud Islamic University
 Islamic University
 King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals
 King Faisal University
 King Saud University
 Umm Al-Qura University

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
5 (90-100)	A
4 (80-89)	B
3 (70-79)	C
2 (60-69)	D
1 (0-59)	F

Other Scales:

Some institutions use 4 point grading scale identical to that of the U.S.

Recommendations and Comments

A *bachelor's degree* is required for admission to graduate studies. The languages of instruction include English and Arabic, depending on the institution. One set of photocopies of all official documents is issued in English.



SENEGAL

Western Africa



Area: 196,190 sq. km. (76,000 sq. mi.)
 Population: 11.1 million
 Cities: Capital –Dakar, Mosul, Thies, Kaolack
 Languages of instruction: French
 Education: Years compulsory-5
 Literacy: 40.2% (female 30.7%, male 50%)
 Academic Year: October – July

System of Education

The first stage or cycle of higher education is two years and offers multidisciplinary and basic studies. The second stage (one further year of specialization) leads to the Licence. Students holding the Licence may take a one-year post-graduate course leading to the Maitrise.

Degree Significance

- *Diplome universitaire d'Etudes litteraires (DUEL)*: two years' study in Humanities
- *Diplome universitaire d'Etudes scientifiques (DUES)*: two years in science
- *Diplome d'Etudes juridiques generales (DEJG)*: law
- *Economiques generales (DEEG)*: economics
- *Licence*: one year of study beyond any of the diplomes
- *Maitrise*: one year of study beyond the Licence or two years beyond the DEJG or DEEG
- *Diplome d'Etudes approfondies (DEA)*: at least one year's research following the Maitrise
- *Doctorat de troisiem Cycle*: two years of research beyond the matrise and presentation of a thesis

Key Universities

Dakar University
 Gaston Berger University of Saint Louis
 Polytechnic Institute
 University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar

Grading System

<u>Transcript grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
16-20 Tres Bien	A Very Good
14-15 Bien	A- Good
12-13 Assez Bien	B Quite Good
10-11 Passable	C Pass
9	D
0-8 Ajourne	F Fail

Recommendations and Comments

The minimum required degree for admission to graduate studies is the maitrise.



SINGAPORE

Southeast Asia

Area: 618 sq. km. (239 sq. mi.)
 Population: 4.4 million
 Cities: Capital – Singapore
 Language of instruction: English



System of Education

The goal of education in Singapore is to develop the talents of every individual so that each can contribute to the economy to make Singapore productive and competitive in the international marketplace. The result is an education system that stresses assessment, tracking, and sorting of students into appropriate programs. The combination of a school system emphasizing testing and tracking with the perception of education as the key to social mobility and desirable jobs has led to high levels of competition and public attention. Higher education is provided by two types of institutions: universities and specialized institutions. Universities offer degree programs and post-graduate diplomas and certificates. Specialized institutions of higher education offer technical and vocational programs leading to a two-year qualification. Admission to university requires the *Singapore-Cambridge General Certificate of Education*, awarded after six years of primary and six years of secondary education, and sometimes an entrance exam.

Degree Significance

- *Certificate/Diploma*: two-year programs in technical or vocational training
- *Bachelor Degrees*: usually awarded after 3 years. Dentistry, Law, Engineering, Building and Estate Management require four years, Architecture and Medicine require five. An “*aergratat*” degree may be awarded to students who have completed the course but were unable to sit for the final examinations, which are necessary for the award of the regular degree.
- *Bachelor’s Degree (Honours)*: one-year program beyond the bachelor’s degree.
- *Master’s Degree*: obtained after one to three years of postgraduate study. Candidates must hold a good honours degree and submit a thesis.
- *Doctor’s Degree*: awarded after a minimum of two years additional study following the master’s degree. Candidates are required to submit a thesis.

Key Universities

Nanyang Technological University
 National University of Singapore

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
Class I	A
Class II Division I	A-/B+
Class II Division II	B
Class III	C

Other Scales:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
Dist	Distinction (awarded by Examinations Board)	
A	Excellent	4.0
B+	Very Good	3.5
B	Good	3.0
C +	Good Credit	2.5
C	Credit	2.0
D+	Good Pass	1.5
D	Pass	1.0
D-	Subsidiary Pass	0.5
F	Fail	0

Recommendations and Comments

A four-year *bachelor’s degree* is required for graduate studies. One set of photocopies of all official documents is issued in English.



SLOVAKIA

Slovak Republic
Eastern/Central
Europe



Area: 48,995 sq. km. (18,917 sq. mi.)
Population: 5.4 million
Cities: Capital – Bratislava; Kosice
Languages of instruction: English, Slovak
Education: Years compulsory-9
Literacy: 99.6% (99.6% female, 99.7% male)
Academic year: September – August

System of Education

The Revolution of 1989 ended Communist control in Czechoslovakia and in 1993 the Slovak Republic became an independent, sovereign and autonomous state. Education at all levels underwent considerable change with students and faculty having greater control over curriculum, hiring, admission requirements and accreditation, areas once controlled by the Communist Party.

Institutions of higher education are divided into the following categories: classical universities, technical institutions, agricultural institutions, schools of economics, theological institutions, and academies of science. Passing grades and a *Maturitne vysvedcenie*, the secondary school-leaving certificate, are required for admission to university studies. However, due to space limitations, not all students who qualify can be admitted; the number of students admitted is the decision of the dean.

Degree Significance

- *Bakalar* (Bachelor): a three or four-year program. The three-year *Bakalar* is the most common bachelor's degree.
- *Inzinier* (Engineer): a five-year degree awarded in agriculture, economics, and engineering. *Bakalar* not a prerequisite.
- *Magistr/Magister* (Master): represents a total of four to six years of study, primarily in research. The *bakalar* is not necessarily a prerequisite.
- *Doktor* (Ph.D.): requires three years of full-time study, or five years of part-time study beyond the *Magistr*. Defense of a thesis is required.

Key Universities

Comenius University
Slovak Technical University
Technical University of Kosice
University of Agriculture

Grading System

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
1	Vyborny (Excellent)	A
2	Vel'mi Dobry (Very Good)	B
3	Dobry (Good)	C
5	Nevyhovel (Fail)	F
	Zapocitane	Credit or Pass

Recommendations and Comments

A completed degree program representing four years of study is the minimum requirement for graduate studies.



SOUTH AFRICA

Southern Africa



Area: 1,221,030 sq. km. (471,440 sq. mi.)

Population: 44.3 million

Cities: Capital – Pretoria; Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Randburg

Languages of instruction: Afrikaans, English

Education: Years compulsory-9

Literacy: 86.4% (female 85.7%, male 87%)

System of Education

From the 1950s to the mid-1990s, schools in South Africa taught and practiced apartheid. Many young people during the 1980s were committed to destroying the school system because of its identification with apartheid. Student strikes, vandalism, and violence seriously undermined the schools' ability to function. By the early 1990s, shortages of teachers, classrooms, and equipment had taken a further toll.

With the end of apartheid, a more standardized education system is being implemented. Until these changes are institutionalized, credentials under the former system are still widely seen. The education system is modeled after the British system. A *technicon* is a university of technology. Access to higher education is open to students who have received the *Senior Certificate* or the *Matriculation Certificate*, secondary school leaving certificates.

Degree Significance

- *Bachelor Degree*: awarded by universities and technicons after three to six years of study. Humanities, Commerce, and Science are three-year programs; Agriculture, Law, Engineering, Pharmacy and Education - 4 years; Veterinary Medicine and Architecture - 5 years; Medicine and Theology - 6 years.
- *Honours Bachelor Degree*: one year of study in one major subject following a bachelor's degree.
- *Bachelor Degree of Technology (BTech)*: a four-year degree from a technicon that includes one year of experience training.
- *Post-Graduate University Diploma*: one year of study following the bachelor's degree.
- *Master's Degree*: awarded by universities and technicons and requiring a minimum of one to two years of research. An honours degree, or a bachelor of technology is required for admission.

- *Doctor*: awarded by universities and technicons after a minimum of two years of additional study following a master's degree. Thesis is required.

Key Universities

University of Cape Town

University of Natal

University of the Orange Free State

University of Pretoria

University of South Africa

University of Stellenbosch

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
75-100 (First Class)	A
70-74 (Second Class, Div. One)	A-
60-69 (Second Class, Div. Two)	B
50-59 (Third Class)	C
0-49 (Fail)	F

Recommendations and Comments

A degree representing a minimum of four years of higher education is the minimum requirement to be considered for graduate admission.



SPAIN

Western Europe

Area: 504,750 sq. km. (194,884 sq. mi.)

Population: 40.3 million

Cities: Capital – Madrid; Barcelona, Valencia, Seville, Zaragoza, Malaga

Languages of instruction: Catalan, Spanish, Basque, Galician

Education: Years compulsory-10

Literacy: 97.9% (female 97.2%, male 98.7%)

Academic year: October – July



System of Education

The Socialist government that came to power in 1982 established three categories of schools: free public schools, secular private schools, and religious schools financed by the state. Whether private or state university, all curricula is similar, must be approved by the Ministry of National Education, and meet rigid requirements. In recent years, Spain has made great strides in higher education, especially for women.

The *Título de Bachillerato*, which represents 12 years of education, is the requirement for admission to higher learning.

Degree Significance

- *Diplomado* (Diploma Holder): a first stage degree lasting three years. May lead to second stage degree.
- *Licenciado* (Licentiate): five years of university study, six in medicine. Considered equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree.
- *Ingeniero* or *Arquitecto* (Engineer or Architect): professional title awarded after five or six years. It is comparable to the *licenciado* (bachelor's degree).
- *Doctor*: the highest degree available, it requires three years of study and research beyond the *Licenciado* and submission and defense of a thesis.

Key Universities

Autonomous University of Barcelona
 University of Barcelona
 Technical University of Cataluna
 University of Granada
 Autonomous University of Madrid
 Complutense University of Madrid
 University of Salamanca

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
10 (matricula de honor)	Distinction	A
9-9.9 (sobresaliente)	Outstanding	A
7-8.9 (notable)	Good	B
5-6.9 (aprobado)	Satisfactory	C
0-4.9 (suspendo)	Unsatisfactory	F

Recommendations and Comments

The *licenciado/licenciatura* is the minimum requirement for graduate studies. The king must personally sign each diploma so confirmation of degree may be delayed for over a year.



SRI LANKA

Southeast Asia



Area: 65,610 sq. km. (25,332 sq. mi.)
 Population: 20.1 million
 Cities: Capital – Kieve
 Languages of instruction: English, Sinhalese, Tamil
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 92.3% (female 90%, male 94.8%)
 Academic year: October – June

System of Education

After 6 years of secondary education, students take the Sri Lanka GCE O-levels. They must pass in six subjects including math and their native language. Successful students go on to a two-year collegiate course at the end of which they site for the GCE A-level examination in three subjects. The Sri Lankan General Certificate of Education Advanced Level (GCE A-level) is the secondary school leaving certificate and is required for admission to any higher education.

Degree Significance

- *Certificates and Diplomas*: conferred after one to two years. Students must sit for a number of written papers and submit an essay, a term paper, or a dissertation on an approved subject.
- *Bachelor's Degree (General)*: conferred after three years. Students read three subjects and sit for three annual examinations.
- *Bachelor's Degree (Special)*: conferred after four years. Students studying for the special degree specialize in one subject.
- *Postgraduate Diploma*: one to two years of study beyond the bachelor's degree.
- *Master's Degree*: two years of study after the bachelor's degree. Requires a dissertation in addition to theory papers.
- *Doctorate*: usually conferred after two to three years of research beyond the master's degree and submission of a thesis.

Key Universities

Open University of Sri Lanka
 University of Colombo
 University of Moratuwa
 University of Peradeniya

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
70-100	A
55-69	B+
40-54	B
30-39	C
0-29	F

Other Scale

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
First Class	A
Upper Secondary	B+
Lower Secondary	B-
Pass	C

Recommendations and Comments

A *specialized bachelor's degree* is four years of study; this is equivalent to the U.S. bachelor's degree. One set of photocopies of all official documents is issued in English.



SWEDEN

Northern Europe



Area: 449,964 sq. km. (173,800 sq. mi.)
 Population: 9 million
 Cities: Capital – Stockholm; Göteborg/Gothenburg, Malmö,
 Languages of instruction: Swedish, English
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 99%
 Academic year: August – June

System of Education

Higher education is divided into undergraduate studies (courses combined towards a first degree) and postgraduate studies. University colleges offer undergraduate studies with a limited number of first degree programs. Universities offer a wider range of degree studies and also offer graduate programs and research opportunities. Instruction is given in the form of lectures and seminars. Some programs require a practical training phase. Laboratory work is very important in the sciences and engineering. Examinations are given continuously in written and oral form. Some programs require a final degree project or thesis. The medium of instruction is Swedish, but many advanced courses are taught in English. The secondary school leaving certificate, *Slutbetyg Från Gymnasieskola*, is usually required for admission to higher education.

Degree Significance

- *Högskoleexamen* (Diploma): awarded after the completion two years of full-time study.
- *Kandidatexamen* (Bachelor's Degree): conferred after the completion of three years of full-time study. In the major subject, in-depth studies of at least three terms are required, including an independent special project.
- *Magisterexamen* (Master's Degree): awarded after the completion of four years of full-time study or one year after completion of the *Kandidatexamen*. In the major subject, in-depth studies of four terms are required, including an independent special project.
- *Licentiatexamen* (Licentiate): two years of study and research, including a larger thesis after the bachelor's degree.
- *Doktorsexamen* (Doctor): four years of seminars, surveys and research beyond the bachelor's degree or two years beyond Licentiate. Thesis must be published and publicly defended.

In addition to academic degrees, there are some 50 *professional degrees* (*yrkesexamen*). The professional degrees vary in length between four and five ½ years.

Key Universities

Göteborg University
 Karolinska Institute
 Royal Institute of Technology
 Stockholm University
 Uppsala University

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
VG Väl Godkänd	Distinction
G Godkänd	Pass
U Underkänd	Fail

The grading scale used in Sweden does not lend itself to a U.S. grading scale equivalency. *Val Godkänd* is awarded less than 10% of the time.

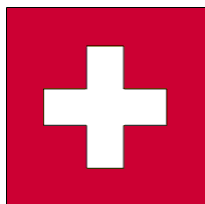
Other Scales

Some programs use only pass/fail. Some engineering programs use the 3-5 scale, where 5 is highest on the scale and 3 is pass level.

Note: Subjects with failing grades are not reported on transcripts. Students may retake a final exam until they pass.

Recommendations and Comments

A degree representing four years of university study is the minimum requirement for graduate studies. Many advanced courses are taught in English.



SWITZERLAND

Western Europe

Area: 41,288 sq. km. (15,941 sq. mi.)
 Population: 7.5 million
 Cities: Capital – Bern; Zurich, Basel, Geneva, Lausanne
 Languages of instruction: French, German, Italian
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 99%
 Academic year: October – July



System of Education

Studies in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy, Chemistry and Surveying must follow national requirements and are regulated by the Federal Government. Private universities are found only at the post-graduate level. A Federal Maturity Certificate is required for admission to a university. Language of instruction is either French, Italian, or German depending on where the institution is located.

Degree Significance

- *Grundstudium* (First stage): one to three years devoted to broad-based studies and ending with intermediate examinations called *Vordiplomprüfungen*, *Akzessprüfung*, *Demi-licence* or *Propadeutika*, depending on subject and university;
- *Hauptstudium* (Second stage): devoted to in-depth study often with specialization. *Licence*, *Lizentiat* (Licentiate) is conferred after an additional two years in Arts, Law and Science. A further two and one-half years are required for the *Diplom* in engineering.
- *Nachdiplomstudium* (Third stage): The *Doctorate* is regarded as a stage of postgraduate education. Duration of study varies. Defense of a doctoral thesis is required or written and oral examinations. Shorter postgraduate courses lead to the award of *Zertifikat* (Certificate) or *Diplom* (Diploma). They are usually part-time courses and have a vocational orientation. Some universities are offering further training to be known in the future as *Master of Advanced Studies*, a program of at least 60 credits.
- *Habilitation* (Fourth stage): highest academic degree awarded only in German-speaking universities. After submitting a thesis, candidates must give a public lecture.

Key Institutions

Swiss Federal Institute of Technology of Lausanne
 Swiss Federal Institute of Technology of Zurich
 University of Basel
 University of Berne
 University of Fribourg
 University of Geneva
 University of Lausanne
 University of Zurich

Grading System

Grade	US equivalent
7-10 or 5.5-6 or 1.5-1	A
6 or 4.5-5.4 or 2.5-1.6	B
5 or 3.0-4.4 or 3.0-2.6	C
0-4 or 0.0-2.9 or Above 3	F

Recommendations and Comments

The *licence*, *lizentiat*, *diplom*, or *diplome* is required for graduate studies. This system of first degrees will continue to exist until 2010 at the latest when the Bologna Reforms will be in place (3-year bachelor followed by a two-year master's degree).



SYRIA

Middle East

Area: 184,004 sq. km. (71,044 sq. mi.)
 Population: 18.4 million
 Cities: Capital – Damascus; Aleppo, Homs
 Language of instruction: Arabic
 Education: Years compulsory-6
 Literacy: 76.9% (female 64%, male 89.7%)
 Academic year: September – June



System of Education

Since 1963, Syria has witnessed dramatic political and socio-economic changes. Education has been at the center of these changes. All higher education institutions are state controlled and state financed. The government pays great attention to the democratization of education and to improving quality and performance. Admission to university is offered to students who receive the highest scores on the General Secondary Examination and within quotas specified by the government.

Degree Significance

- *Licence/Licentiate* (Bachelor's Degree): awarded after four to six years, depending on the subject.
- *Postgraduate diploma*: conferred after one year's study beyond the bachelor's.
- *Master's Degree*: awarded after a minimum of two years of further study.
- *Doctorate*: awarded after three years of study following the master's degree. It involves personal research work and the defense of a thesis.

Key Universities

Aleppo University
 Damascus University
 Tishreen University

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
90-100	Honors	A
80-89	Excellent	A
70-79	Very Good	A-
60-69	Good	B
50-59	Pass	C
0-49	Fail	F

Recommendations and Comments

The *licence* or *licentiate* degree is considered the minimum required degree for graduate study.



TAIWAN

Republic of China
East Asia



Area: 32,260 sq. km. (14,000 sq. mi.)
 Population: 22.9 million
 Cities: Capital – Taipei; Kaohsiung, Taichung, Tainan, Keelung
 Language of instruction: Chinese
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 94%
 Academic year: August – July

System of Education

In the past twenty years, private universities and the number of college students grew rapidly. Students who graduate from a two-, three-, or five-year junior college receive a diploma, not a degree. Higher education is provided by universities, 4-year colleges, and junior colleges, both public and private. There are also institutes of technology, and national and municipal open universities. To qualify as a university an institute must consist of three or more colleges or faculties. Admission is based on results obtained in an entrance examination

Degree Significance

- *Bachelor's Degree*: courses last four years, seven in medicine, and seven to eight years at the Open University.
- *Master's Degree*: normally requires two years study following a *bachelor's degree*.
- *Doctorate*: requires a minimum of a further two years of specialization and research

Key Universities

National Taiwan University
 National Chengchi University
 National Cheng Kung University
 National Chiao-Tung University
 National Tsing Hua University
 Soochow University
 Tamkang University
 Tunghai University

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
80-100	A
70-79	B
60-69	C
0-59	F

Conversion (to be used for unofficial GPA only)

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US GPA</u>
97-100	4.0
93-96	3.9
88-92	3.8
84-87	3.7
80-83	3.6
79	3.5
78	3.4
77	3.3
76	3.2
75	3.1
74	3.0
73	2.9
72	2.8

Recommendations and Comments

A total of 128 credits are required for a bachelor's degree, the minimum requirement for graduate studies. One set of photocopies of all official documents is issued in English.



THAILAND

Southeast Asia



Area: 514,001 sq. km. (198,457 sq. mi.)
 Population: 65.4 million
 Cities: Capital – Bangkok; Chiang Mai, Hat Yai, Nakon Ratchasima
 Languages of instruction: English, Thai
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 92.6% (female 90.5%, male 94.9%)
 Academic year: June – March

System of Education

Students in the upper secondary program can choose either academic or vocational courses. A core curriculum is common to both tracks, but the academic program focuses on preparation for university entrance. Entry to university is by state examination (except for the open university). There is so much competition for so few seats that many faculties also require a locally administered aptitude test for admission.

Degree Significance

- *Diploma, Associate Degree*: two-year degrees in technical or professional studies or the fine arts.
- *Bachelor's Degree*: studies require four years, six in medicine. Students must maintain at least a 2.0 average.
- *Master's Degree*: requires a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 2.5 and two years of further study. Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average.
- *Doctorate*: requires 3 years of intensive research. A doctoral thesis is expected to contribute to the highest level of academic advancement in the discipline.

Key Universities

Chulalongkorn University
 Kasetart University
 Mahidol University
 Silpakorn University
 Thammasat University
 Ramkhanhaeng University (Open University)

Grading System

The grades in this scale are the same as American letter grades:

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
A	4.0
B+	3.5
B	3.0
C+	2.5
C	2.0 (minimum pass for degree award)
D+	1.5
D	1.0
F	0

Recommendations and Comments

The *bachelor's degree* is the required degree for graduate studies. One set of photocopies of all official documents is issued in English.



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Caribbean



Area: 5,128 sq. km. (1,980 sq. mi.)
Population: 1.1million
Cities: Capital – Port-of-Spain
Language of instruction: English
Education: Years compulsory-6
Literacy: 98.6% (female 98%, male 99.1%)
Academic year: September – July

System of Education

Trinidadian education is similar to that of the British system. Higher education is offered at the St. Augustine branch of the University of the West Indies, and through technical training institutes. Based on entrance exams, some students are admitted into three-year bachelor programs (normal matriculation), and some are admitted into four-year programs (ordinary matriculation).

Degree Significance

- *Certificate, Diploma, Associate Degree*: two-year programs in technical or professional studies.
- *Bachelor's Degree*: awarded after three or four years of study, six years in medicine.
- *Master's Degree*: conferred by the University of the West Indies two years to three years after the bachelor's Degree. A research-based master's leads to a Master of Philosophy.
- Postgraduate Diploma: awarded two years after the bachelor's degree.
- *Doctorate*: usually requires a further two years after the master's degree

Key Universities

University of the West Indies (St. Augustine branch)

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
First Class Honours	A
Second Class, Upper Division	A-/B+
Second Class, Lower Division	B
Pass	C

Recommendations and Comments

A *bachelor's degree* (three or four years), is the minimum requirement for graduate studies.



TUNISIA

Northern Africa



Area: 163,610 sq. km. (63,378 sq. mi.)
 Population: 10.1 million
 Cities: Capital –Tunis, Tozeur, Sfax, Bizerte, Medenine
 Languages of instruction: Arabic, French
 Education: Years compulsory-10
 Literacy: 74.2% (female 64.4%, male 84%)
 Academic Year: September – June

System of Education

The government established the *Ecole normale superieure* to train secondary school teachers, the *Ecole nationale d'admission* for future civil servants, and the *Ecole superieure du droit* to develop the legal profession. The University of Tunisia was established in 1960 to offer education in the arts and sciences; medicine was added in 1965 and engineering in 1969. In 1986, UT was divided into three universities: Tunis, Center and Sfax-South. Soon after Tunis was divided into subject-based universities. Finally, in 2000, three of the four were reorganized into five geographically based, multidisciplinary universities. Although enrollment doubled through the 80s, growth was held back to some extent by a climate of political and social instability.

Degree Significance

- *DiplomeUniversitaires d'Etudes* (University Diploma of Studies): Admission requires high school diploma and lasts two years.
- *Licence or Maitrise* (License or Master): equivalent to Bachelor's Degree. Based on 2 years of study beyond the university diploma.
- *Diplome d'Ingenieur* (Diploma of Engineer): three years of study beyond the university diploma
- Diplome d'Etudes Superieures Specialisees (DESS—Diploma of Higher Specialized Studies):one year of study following the Maitrtise
- *Doctorat* (Doctor): two to three years of study beyond the Licence or Maitrise

Key Universities

University of Letters, Arts and Human Sciences (Tunis I)
 University of Sciences, Techniques and Medicine (Tunis II)
 University of Law, Economics and Management (Tunis III)
 University of the South in Sfax
 University of the Centre

Grading System

<u>Transcript grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
15+ Tres Bien	A Very good
13-14.9 Bien	A- Good
12-12.9 Assez Bien	B+ Quite good
11-11.9 Passable	B Satisfactory
10-10.9 Moyen	C Sufficient
8-9.9	*
0-8 Insuffisant	F Failed

* May be considered passing if entire year is passed.

Recommendations and Comments

The *Licence* or *Maitrise* is required for admission to graduate study.



TURKEY

Southeast Europe/
Southwest Asia

Area: 779,452 sq. km. (3000,947 sq. mi.)

Population: 69.7 million

Cities: Capital – Ankara; Istanbul, Izmir, Adana, Bursa

Languages of instruction: English, French, German, Turkish

Education: Years compulsory-8

Literacy: 86.5% (female 78.7%, male 94.3%)

Academic year: October – July



System of Education

Secondary education may be vocational, technical or general. Three years of general high school prepare students for higher education. Students obtain the Lise Diploması, the prerequisite for entry to university and take the Student Selection Examination.

Degree Significance

- *Onlisans Derecesi* or *Diploması* (Pre-Licentiate or Associate Degree): awarded after successful completion of two years of university studies.
- *Lisans Diploması* (Licentiate Diploma): awarded after four or five years of postsecondary education. The *lisans diploması* may be considered equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree.
- *Muhendis Diploması* (Engineering Diploma): four-year degree which may also be considered equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree.
- *Yuksek Lisans Diploması* and *Yuksek Muhendi Diploması* (Higher Licentiate Diploma or Higher Engineering Diploma): two years with thesis or non-thesis options, considered equivalent to the U.S. master's degree.
- *Doktora Diploması* (Doctoral Diploma): conferred after two years' study and on completion of doctoral thesis (four years total). Candidates must hold *Yuksek Lisans* and sit for an examination.

Many transcripts now list degree programs as *bachelor's* and *master's degrees*.

Key Universities

Ankara University
Bilkent University
Bogazici University
Gazi University
Hacettepe University
KOC University
Istanbul Technical University
Middle East Technical University

Grading System

Grade	Description	US Equiv
9-10	Pek İyi/Very Good	A
7-8	Iyi/Good	B
5-6	Orta/Average	C
0-4	Gecmez/ Failure	F

Other Scale

Transcript Grade	US Equivalent
85-100	A
65-84	B
50-64	C
0-49	F

Comments and Recommendations

The *Lisans* is considered the minimum required degree for graduate study.



UGANDA

Eastern Africa

Area: 236,036 sq. km. (91,134 sq. mi.)
 Population: 27.3 million
 Cities: Capital – Kampala; Moroto, Lira, Mbale, Mbarara
 Language of instruction: English
 Education: Years compulsory – 11
 Literacy: 69.9% (female 60.4%, male 79.5%)
 Academic Year: October – July



System of Education

Universities, both public and private, a polytechnic, teachers' colleges and technical colleges provide higher education. The University Council is the key body responsible for planning university education in consultation with the appropriate government agencies such as the Ministry of Education.

Degree Significance

- *Certificate, Diploma:* certificates are awarded after six months to a year of study. Diplomas are awarded after two years study and an entrance examination (conferred in Music, Dance, and Drama).
- *Bachelor's Degree:* requires three (Arts, Science, Law), four (Engineering, Agriculture, Forestry, Agricultural Engineering) and five years (Medicine, Pharmacy, Engineering) of study.
- *Diploma, Master's Degree:* Diploma is conferred after one year of postgraduate education, or two years after the Post-Higher School Certificate. The Master's Degree is conditional upon the student's being a resident of the University; it is conferred after eighteen months of study after the bachelor degree. Candidates must submit a thesis and, in some cases, must do course work as well.
- *Doctor's Degree:* The Doctor's Degree is offered in all fields except Law and Technology. There must be a minimum of three years' research subsequent to the Master's Degree. Candidates must submit a thesis. The Doctor's Degree is a professional title (Doctor of Medicine, MD) awarded at least one year after the Bachelor's Degree after the submission of a thesis.

Key Universities

Makerere University

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
First Class Honours	A
Second Class Honours, Upper	A-/B+
Second Class Honours, Lower	B
Pass	C

Other Scale

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
1-2	Very Good	A
3-6	Credit Pass	B
7-8	Pass Grade	C
9	Fail	F

Recommendations and Comments

The length of study must always be carefully reviewed to determine if the required four years of university study has been completed. One set of photocopies of all official documents is issued in English.



UKRAINE

Eastern/Central Europe

Area: 604,001 sq. km. (233,206 sq. mi.)
 Population: 47.4 million
 Cities: Capital – Kiev
 Languages of instruction: English, Russian, Ukrainian
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 99.7% (female 99.6%, male 99.8%)
 Academic year: September – June



System of Education

After the Ukraine's independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted a "Law of Education". The old system had only one stage of undergraduate studies, the degree of "Specialist", awarded after 5 years of study. The new system is comprised of two stages: undergraduate and graduate, with several degree levels. The *Atestat* is the Certificate of Completed Secondary Education. It includes a matriculation examination and permits access to higher education.

Degree Significance

- *Dyplom Molodshogo Spetsialialista* (Junior Specialist Diploma): two- or three-year vocational program.
- *Bakalavr* (Diploma of Bachelor): generally awarded after four years of successful study (six years for Medicine).
- *Dyplom Spetsialista* (Specialist Diploma): five-year or six-year program, depending on the type of institution.
- *Magister* (Master's Degree): awarded on the basis of a bachelor's degree or Specialist's qualification generally after one to two years. Students must pass final examinations and defend a thesis.
- *Kandydat Nauk* (Candidate of Sciences): obtained after three or four years of study by submitting and publicly defending a thesis and passing the required examinations.
- *Doktor Nauk* (Doctor of Sciences): awarded to candidates already holding a *Kandidat Nauk* on the successful presentation and defense of the *habilitation* dissertation. The *habilitation* dissertation should represent a major contribution to the development of a field of learning and must be published.

Key Universities

Kharkov State Polytechnic University
 National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
 National Technical University of Ukraine
 University of Kiev-Mohyla Academy

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
5	Excellent (Very Good)	A
4	Good	B
3	Satisfactory	C
2	Fail	F

Some Ukrainian schools have adopted grading scales similar to that of the U.S.

Recommendations and Comments

The *bakalavr* or *Dyplom Spetsialista* is the minimum requirement for graduate studies.



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



Middle East

Area: 82,880 sq. km. (sq. mi.)
Population: 2.6 million
Cities: Capital – Abu Dhabi; Dubai, Sharjah
Languages of instruction: Arabic, English
Education: Years compulsory-6
Literacy: 77.9% (female 81.7%, male 76.1%)
Academic year: September – June

System of Education

The United Arab Emirates is a desert country rich in oil, the third largest producer in the Gulf. The UAE's per capita GDP is on par with those of leading West European nations. Only 15-20% of the population are citizens. The rest include significant numbers of other Arabs as well as many others. Educational standards are rising rapidly with citizens and temporary residents taking advantage of facilities throughout the country.

Higher technical and vocational studies are offered by a dozen colleges of technology and are designed to produce skilled para-professionals in engineering, business, health and communication technologies. In recent years degree programs have been organized leading to the Bachelor's Degree. *Shahadat Al-Thanawiya Al-Amma* is the secondary school leaving certificate required for admission to higher education.

Degree Significance

- Higher Diploma: obtained after three years of technical or vocational studies. Students must have obtained at least 60% in secondary school and some are required to take a foundation year. English is the language of instruction.
- Bachelor's Degree: four years of study at a university, five in engineering, six plus residency in medicine. Courses taught in Arabic except in engineering, health and sciences. Foundation year required in most cases.
- Licence: the degree conferred in *Sharia* (the law system of Muslims) requires 4½ year of university study
- Master's Degree: conferred after one year's further study in business, engineering, and environmental sciences.
- Postgraduate Diploma: offered by the College of Education of a university.

Key Universities

Ajman University of Science & Technology
United Arab Emirates University
Zayed University (for women)

Grading System

<u>Transcript Average</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
90-100	A
85-89	B+
80-84	B
75-79	C+
65-69	D+
60-64	D
0-59	F

Other grading system

4.0 system similar to U.S. is also used, but with 2.0 being the lowest passing grade.

Recommendations and Comments

A Bachelor's Degree is required for admission to graduate study.



UNITED KINGDOM

Western Europe



Area: 244,820 sq. km. (94,525 sq. mi.)

Population: 60.4 million

Cities: Capital – London; Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds, Sheffield, Liverpool

Language of instruction: English

Education: Years compulsory-11

Literacy: 99%

Academic year: October – July

System of Education

Institutions providing higher education are universities, the polytechnics, colleges and institutes of higher education. The polytechnics are usually large institutions that stress the development of skills that can be used in a work environment. Colleges and institutes tend to have smaller enrollments than polytechnics and a narrower range of programs. At age 16, British high school students take a series of examinations called GCSEs, which determine basic educational skills. Those wishing to enter university then must complete a two-year Liberal Arts degree where they concentrate on three particular subjects. Examinations at the end of this period determine eligibility to university. Admission to university requires the General Certificate of Education Advanced Level.

Degree Significance

- *Ordinary Certificate/ Diploma or Higher National Certificate/Diploma*: vocational qualifications earned after one to three years of study.
- *Bachelor's degrees, Pass/Ordinary and Honours*: three or four years of study. The Honours Degree indicates more specialized study. Three-year bachelor degrees are considered equal to an American bachelor degree.
- *Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma*: two additional years of professional study following Higher National Certificate/Diploma. In some cases they are the equivalent to a master's degree.
- *Master's Degree*: one to two years of study; may consist of pure research or instruction/research. Considered comparable to a U.S. master degree.
- *Doctor of Philosophy*: three to five years of supervised research beyond the master's degree.

Key Universities

Aberdeen (Scotland)
 Cambridge University
 Oxford University
 Bristol
 Cardiff University (Wales)
 Edinburgh (Scotland)
 London University
 Essex
 Leeds University
 Manchester University

Grading System

Classification	US Equiv
First Class Honours	A
Second Class Honours Upper Div.	A-/B+
Second Class Honours Lower Div.	B
Third Class Honours	B-
Pass	C

Other Grading System

<u>Transcript Average</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
70-100	A
65-69	A-
60-64	B+
50-59	B
45-49	C+
40-44	C
0-39	F

Recommendations and Comments

A three- or four-year bachelor's degree may be considered for graduate admission. (One year of college credit is given for the 13th year. Keep in mind that grading is harsh throughout the British system.)



URUGUAY

Southern South America

Area: 176,220 sq. km. (109,503 sq. mi.)
 Population: 3.4 million
 Cities: Capital: Montevideo; Salto, Paysandu, Las Piedras, Rivera
 Language of instruction: Spanish
 Education: Years compulsory-8
 Literacy: 98% (female 98.4%, male 97.6%)
 Academic year: March–December



System of Education

In regards to education, Uruguay has a very Spanish mindset. The Spaniard educates himself to become a better man, not to make it possible to do more work. The quality of education in Uruguay is rated among the highest in Latin America. Higher education is free and open to all those possessing a *bachillerato*, the secondary school credential. Even though tuition is free, access tends to be limited to children of upper- and middle-class families. Those of the lower class must work to supplement the family income.

Degree Significance

- *Titulo Intermedia* (Intermediate Diploma): short studies leading to a professional qualification after two (medical sciences), three (engineering, business) or four (nursing) years of study.
- *Licenciatura* (Degree): four to six years of study depending on the subject.
- *Especializacion* (Specialization): one-year program after university degree leading to specialization in a field.
- *Magister* (Master): two-year postgraduate program aims at deeper knowledge of field studied. May include research.
- *Doctorado* (Doctorate): a minimum of 3 years of in-depth study and research after specialization or master.

Key Universities

ORT University of Uruguay
 University of the Republic
 Catholic University of Uruguay
 University of Montevideo

Grading System

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
11-12	sobresaliente (outstanding)	A
8-10	muy bueno (very good)	A-
5-7	bueno (good)	B
3-4	regular (average)	C
0-2	deficiente (deficient)	F

Recommendations and Comments

The *Licenciatura* is the minimum requirement for graduate studies.



VENEZUELA

Northern South America



Area: 912,050 sq. km. (352, 143 sq. mi.)
 Population: 25.4 million
 Cities: Capital – Caracas; Maracaibo, Valencia, Barquisimeto
 Language of instruction: Spanish
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 93.4% (female 93.1%, male 93.8%)
 Academic year: September – July

System of Education

Secondary education is divided into two options: Diversified, to train *bachilleres* in science, art, and humanities (two years) and Professional, to train technicians (three years). *The bachiller* is required for university schooling. Admission is based on a national admissions system. Each student is assigned to an educational institution through a computerized priority system, such as grade average, socioeconomic status, etc. Higher education is through two kinds of institutions: (1 institutes and university colleges, mainly for short courses of study (two-and-one-half to three years) leading to title of *Tecnico superior* and 2) universities, mainly for long courses of study (five or six years) leading to award of *Licenciado* or an equivalent professional title.

Degree Significance

- *Tecnico Superior* (Higher Technician): diploma awarded after two-and-one-half to three years of technical education at a technological institute or university college. Does not offer access to graduate education.
- *Licenciado* (Licentiate): awarded after four to five years of study, six in Medicine. Considered comparable to a U.S. bachelor's degree.
- *Ingeniero* (Engineer), *Profesor* (Teacher): four to five years of study after secondary school.
- *Magister* (Master): awarded after the Licentiate at the end of two to three years of specialization and research. Studies are comprised of courses followed by examinations and/or submission of a thesis.
- *Doctorado* (Doctorate): usually lasts three years beyond the *magister*. It requires passing of examinations and submission of a thesis.

Key Universities

University of Carabobo
 Central University of Venezuela
 University of the Andes
 Catholic University Andres Bello

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
16-20	A
13-15	B
10-12	C
0-9	F

Conversion (for unofficial GPA only)

<u>Transcript Average</u>	<u>US GPA</u>
20	4.0
19	3.9
18	3.8
17	3.7
16	3.6

Other Scale:

5	A
4	B
3	C (Aprobado/Pass)

Recommendations and Comments

The *licenciado* is the minimum required degree for graduate study. *Bachiller* denotes an upper secondary school graduate.



VIETNAM

Southeast Asia



Area: 329,556 sq. km. (127,242 sq. mi.)
 Population: 83.5 million
 Cities: Capital – Hanoi, Danang, Hue, Ho Chi Minh City, Nha Trang
 Language of instruction: Vietnamese
 Education: Years compulsory-9
 Literacy: 90.3% (female 86.9%, male 93.9%)
 Academic year: September – June

System of Education

Higher education is provided by universities, two open universities, specialized colleges, community colleges and junior colleges. The Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) promulgates and manages admissions, the general structure of curricula, examinations and the granting of degrees. Admission to university studies requires a secondary school leaving certificate (*Bang Tot Nghiep Pho Thong Trung Hoc*) and an entrance examination. Undergraduate courses are divided into two stages: general higher education, lasting three years following high school and specialized higher education lasting four to six years.

Degree Significance

- *Bang Tot Nghiep Cao Dang* (Diploma of Graduation from Higher School): programs at a junior college are vocationally oriented and last one to three years.
- *Chung Chi Dai Hoc Dai Cuong* (Certificate of General Higher Education): a two-year program after secondary school.
- *Bang Tot Nghiep Cu Nhan* (Specialized Bachelor Degree): After completion of the *Certificate*, requires an additional two years to three years depending on field, an additional four years in medicine.
- *Bang Thac Si* (Master's Degree): usually conferred after two years of further study and the defense of a thesis.
- *Bang Tien Si* (Diploma of Doctor): requires two years of concentrated research beyond the master's. Students must pass an exam in their second year and then complete and defend a thesis.

Key Universities

Hanoi University of Technology
 National University of Hanoi

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
8-10 (Excellent)	A
6-7 (Good)	B
5 (Pass)	C
0-4 (Fail)	F

Recommendations and Comments

The *Bang Tot Nghiep Cu Nhan* degree representing four years of university study is required for graduate study.



ZAMBIA

Southern Africa



Area: 752,614 sq. km. (467,674 sq. mi.)
 Population: 80.6 million
 Cities: Capital – Lusaka; Livingstone
 Language of instruction: English
 Education: Years compulsory-7
 Literacy: 80.6% (female 74.8%, male 86.8%)
 Academic year: September – June

System of Education

More than 70 languages are spoken in Zambia. The country chose to make English (the language of its former colonial ruler, Britain) the official language of education, business, and politics. Since the University of Zambia opened in 1966, enrollment has escalated until today it is approximately 5000 students. Students pay 25% of the annual tuition. Funds from the government are not always made available on a timely basis. Given the deteriorating economic situation in the country and the resultant impoverishment of the universities, the brain-drain problem threatens to become severe.

Degree Significance

- Certificate: undergraduate credential offered in law or adult education indicating completion of one year of study.
- Diploma: undergraduate credential indicating two years of study in adult education, three years in social work or technology.
- Bachelor’s Degree: four to seven years to completion depending on the area.
- Master’s Degree: generally a two-year program requiring bachelor’s degree for admission.
- Doctorate: offered in a limited number of specializations and taking up to four years to complete.

Key Universities

Copperbelt University
 University of Zambia

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
86-100	A
76-85	A-
66-75	B+
56-65	B
46-65	C+
36-45	C
0-35	F

Recommendations and Comments

The Bachelor’s Degree and not a Diploma is the credential required for admission to graduate study.



ZIMBABWE

Southern Africa



Area: 390,580 sq. km. (242,706 sq. mi.)
Population: 12.7 million
Cities: Capital – Harare; Bulawayo
Language of instruction: English
Education: Years compulsory-7
Literacy: 90.7% (female 87.2%, male 94.2%)
Academic year: August – June

System of Education

As in the British system of education, secondary school lasts six years and includes a four-year Ordinary Level cycle whose graduates receive a General Certificate of Education (CGE) and a two-year Advanced Level cycle where graduates receive the Cambridge Higher School Certificate (HSC) or CGE A Level Certificate. Selection to A-Level is restricted on the basis of merit.

Degree Significance

- Diploma/Certificate: Open to holders of O or A level certificates, these undergraduate credentials indicate completion of two years of professional studies. Students with good grades may apply to university.
- Bachelor’s Degree: Open to holders of a Diploma or A Level Certificate. Studies vary in length from three years for the Bachelor of Arts to five years for the Bachelor of Medicine.
- Master’s Degree: one to three years of coursework and a dissertation after bachelor’s degree .
- Master of Philosophy: one to three years of research.
- Doctorate: requires a minimum of three years’ specialization and research and the presentation of a thesis.
- Higher Doctorate: awarded in Law (LLD, Humanities (Dlitt) and Science (DSc) after submission of published work and after at least eight years of study following the Bachelor’s Degree.

Key Universities

Africa University
National University of Science & Technology
University of Zimbabwe

Grading System

<u>Transcript Grade</u>	<u>US Equivalent</u>
First Class Honours	A
Second Class Honours, Upper	A-/B+
Second Class Honours, Lower	B
Third Class Honours	B-
Pass	C

Recommendations and Comments

The Bachelor’s Degree and not a Diploma is the credential required for admission to graduate study. A three-year bachelor’s degree might be considered.

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