Credential Essentials: China, India, Vietnam, & the Americas

Shelby L. Cearley
International Education Evaluations, Inc.
2019 OACRAO Conference

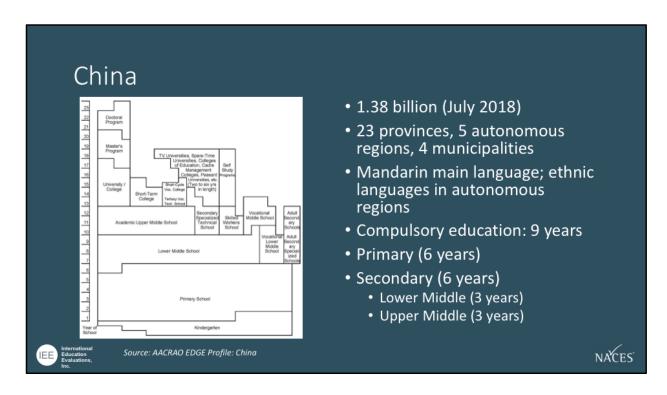




Good morning! My name is Shelby Cearley, and I am a senior evaluator at International Education Evaluators, a NACES-accredited credential evaluation company based in North Carolina. Prior to IEE, I worked in graduate and undergraduate international admissions for sixteen years. Today's session will include a brief overview of education in China, India, Vietnam, and the Americas. Due to time length, sample credentials are available in the handout which accompanies today's presentation. Please leave me your business card or contact information if you would like a copy of the PowerPoint and the handout. There should be time for questions and answers at the end of the session, so please hold your questions to the end.

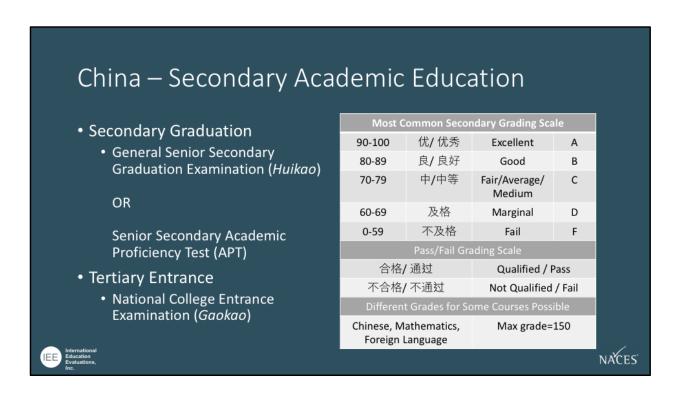


We will begin with China, the top-sending country to the United States according to IIE Open Doors.



Per the Compulsory Education Law of the People's Republic of China in 1986, compulsory education in China consists of Primary School (6 years) and Lower Middle School (3 years), which is a total of 9 years, lasting from ages 6 to 15. Compulsory education is tuition free.

Following lower middle school is upper middle school. It is divided into two tracks: academic given in general senior secondary schools and vocational given in secondary specialized schools, vocational schools or technical schools. Academic track programs are 3 years in length, and graduation is based on provincial/municipal exams (either the Huikao or Academic Proficiency Test). Vocational track programs are between 2-4 years, and graduation is based on school-administered subject exams.



In order to enter university-level programs, a student must complete one of the secondary graduation exams (Huikao or APT) **AND** pass the national college entrance exam.

The Huikao and APT are taken at the end of 12 years of primary and secondary education. They are administered at a unified provincial level. The test contains both theoretical and practical components to ensure both academic and hands-on proficiency of subject matter. Tests are conducted once the course of study is complete for a certain subject (at the end of both junior and senior year of upper middle school). Successful passing of all designated tests results in the student receiving the high school graduation certificate. APT results are now sometimes being taken into consideration for university admission.

The National College Entrance Examination, also known as the Gaokao, is a uniform exam administered nationwide once a year; since 2003, the test is administered in June. Scores determine which higher education institutions and what type of program (short-cycle or long-cycle) the student can attend. Currently, there are two streams: Science and Humanities. There are three subjects common to both streams: Chinese, Mathematics and a Foreign Language. The Science stream also requires Physics,

Chemistry and Biology. The Humanities stream requires History, Geography and Politics. The Gaokao is currently undergoing reforms since 2017, and this reform will eliminate the streams as of 2022. Instead there will be a single 3+3 mode: the 3 common Gaokao exam subjects (Chinese, Mathematics and Foreign Language) plus 3 Academic Proficiency Test subjects.

If the course indicates that the highest grade is 150, then we suggest the following grading scale:

127-150 – A 112-126 – B 90-111 – C 0-89 - F

China – Higher Education

Short-Cycle Zhuanke Programs

- Based on completed senior secondary education
- 2-3 years in length (all lowerlevel)
 - Some appear to be 5 years
- Junior colleges & degreegranting institutions
- Leads to Graduation Certificate only

Long-Cycle Benke Programs

- Based on completed senior secondary education
- 4-5 years in length
- Zhuanke graduates can be admitted to the 3rd year of a benke program
- Leads to Graduation Certificate and Degree Certificate (if all requirements have been met)





Undergraduate academic education in China is divided into short-cycle Zhuanke and long-cycle Benke programs. The Zhuanke requires completed secondary senior education for admission. Programs are 2-3 years in length, although some may appear to be 5 years; these "5" year programs are in fact 3 years of upper secondary and 2 years tertiary level study. All courses are lower-level, even the ones that are three years in length. Zhuanke programs can be taken at junior colleges and degree-granting institutions. The Zhuanke leads to a Graduation Certificate only since this is not a degree program. Students will also have an academic transcript.

Benke programs also require completed secondary senior education for admission. Programs are 4-5 years in length. Zhuanke graduates can be admitted to the third year of a Benke program, which is how we know that Zhuanke courses are all lower-level. The Benke leads to a Graduation Certificate and a Degree Certificate, if all requirements have been met; if requirements are lacking, then there may only be a Graduation Certificate. Students will also have an academic transcript.

China – Higher Education

Graduation Certificate

- Completion of an undergraduate or graduate program
- Type of program (Zhuanke, Benke, master's, doctoral)
- Program length
- Academic major
- Program format (in some cases)

Degree Certificate

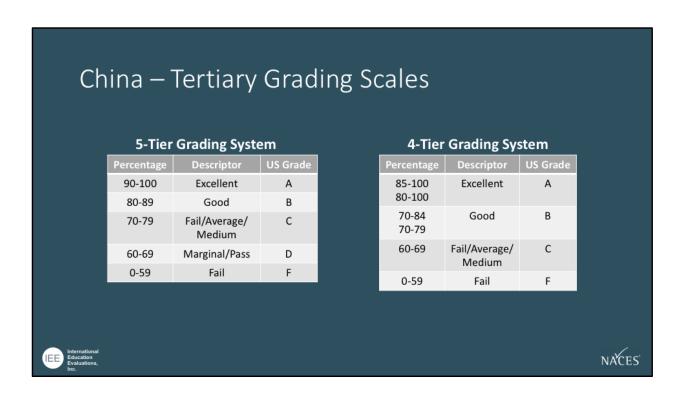
- Type of program (Zhuanke, Benke, master's, doctoral)
- Academic major
- Award of the degree
- Type of degree





Nowadays, students should submit both the Graduation Certificate and Degree Certificate to confirm completion of the program and graduation. Both will have the student identifying information and institution name. So what are the differences between the two? A graduation certificate confirms completion of the course requirements of an undergraduate or graduate program, the type of program, the length of the program, the academic major, and, in some cases, the program format. The degree certificate confirms the type of program, academic major, the awarding of the degree, and the type of degree.

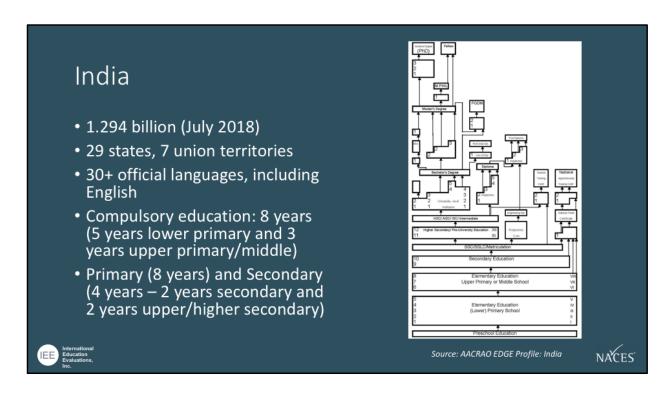
If the student has only a graduation certificate (and the certificate has been issued after 1991), it is highly likely that the student completed the coursework requirements but has NOT satisfied all of the degree requirements, such as completing the thesis, required foreign language proficiency, maintaining a certain GPA, et cetera).



Chinese schools typically use either a 5-tier grading scale or a 4-tier grading scale. However, other scales may be possible, so check the grading scale on the transcript, if a scale is provided. Sometimes the scale is only on the Mandarin version.



Now we will briefly discuss education in India.



India currently has an estimated population of 1.294 billion people. It consists of 29 states and 7 union territories. English is a subsidiary official language. However, there are 30 official languages. These languages are the languages of everyday usage. English is used in schools but with varying levels of proficiency. Also, at the higher education level, English is technically the language of instruction. However, most institutions will allow courses to be taught in the local language if a majority of students request it.

Compulsory education consists of 8 years of lower primary (5 years) and upper primary or middle school (3 years). Secondary education is divided into secondary (2 years) and senior or higher secondary (2 years). Education oversight is the responsibility of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. At the secondary level, there are several bodies which administer school leaving examinations: Central Board of Secondary Education, the Council for the Indian School Certificate of Education, and the National Institute of Open Schooling, in addition to state boards of secondary education and of higher secondary or intermediate education.

India – Secondary School Examinations

Standard X Examinations

- Typically taken at the end of BOTH grades 9 and 10
- Can be called:
 - Secondary School Examination
 - Secondary School Certificate
 - Matriculation Examination

Standard XII Examinations

- Typically taken at the end of BOTH grades 11 and 12
 - Allows access to university admission
- Can be called:
 - Higher Secondary School Certificate
 - Senior School Certificate
 - Pre-University Examination
 - Intermediate Examination





There are two primary secondary examinations: Standard X and Standard XII. Standard X is taken at the end of both grades 9 and 10. It can be called Secondary School Examination, Secondary School Certificate, or Matriculation Examination. This is the end of secondary studies for students in technical/vocational schools. Standard XII examinations are taken at the end of grades 11 and 12. This is the credential that allows for access to university admission. This can be called several things, depending on what state or exam body is responsible.

Some students who complete only Standard X exams (typically in technical fields) are eligible to enter three-year diploma programs at technical institutions. If they successfully complete the three-year diploma program, they are eligible to transfer into the second year of a four-year bachelor's degree program. Otherwise, students must complete the Standard XII exams to be eligible to enroll in university programs.

Marks statements are issued by whichever body conducted the exam, NOT the school the student attended. Recent exam results are often verifiable on the body's website. Older exam results are seldom archived.

This is a high-stake examination-driven system. The academic year is 30 weeks,

typically from June to March/April, and is divided into 3 terms. The language of instruction is one of the regional languages, although Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations schools teach in English.

India – Tertiary Education Institution Types • Responsible for UGC-authorized to Establish curricula classroom create own Usually conducts instruction admission exams standards, curricula, Affiliated to a Always award assessment university degrees methods Differ in size and Conduct own exams scope Degrees awarded by affiliated university NACES.

Many universities have more than 250,000 students, which makes it difficult to house them on a single campus. Instead, most students attend either an affiliated college or an autonomous college. Affiliated colleges they provide the instruction for university-established curricula and exams. However, marksheets and degree certificates for students at affiliated colleges should be issued by the university. Autonomous colleges have more autonomy than affiliated colleges, since they have University Grants Commission authority to create their own admissions standards, curricula, and assessment methods. They conduct their own exams, but the degree is awarded by the affiliated university. For students at autonomous colleges, the college is able to issue its own marksheets but degree certificates are issued only by the university. Some students do attend the actual university, which establishes its own curricula and exams, and it issues its own marksheets and degree certificates.

India – UGC vs AICTE

University Grants Commission

- Established in 1945
- Statutory body in 1956
- Advises gov't on university establishment; maintains list of approved universities
- Maintains standards in higher education
- Distributes funding
- Established National Assessment and Accreditation Council in 1994

All India Council for Technical Education

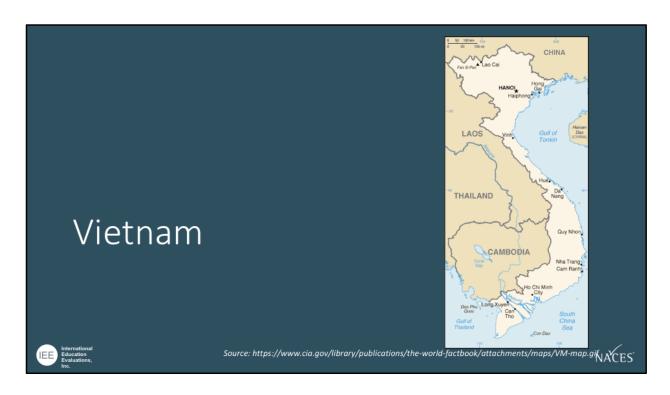
- Established in 1945 to oversee technical education standards
- Diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate levels
- Approves start of new technical/business schools and programs
- Established National Board of Accreditation in 2014



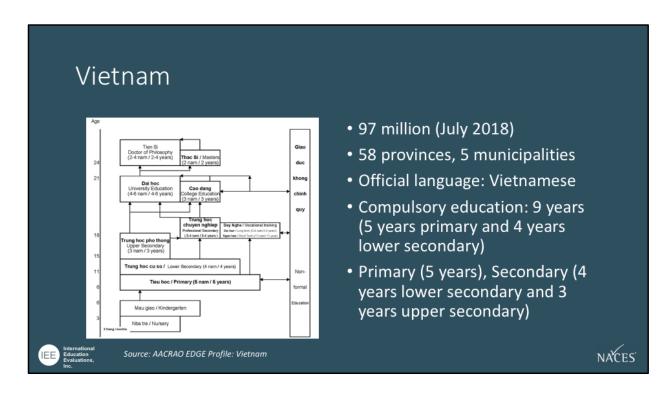


There are two statutory bodies which oversee the creation of new tertiary schools/programs: UGC and AICTE. Recognition from one of these bodies is equivalent to regional accreditation in the US. Please note that UGC or AICTE recognition is mandatory under Indian law, except for certain special purpose schools. However, both bodies have created accreditation arms. NAAC, which is under UGC, is voluntary accreditation, so it is possible to be UGC-recognized but NAAC-unaccredited. AICTE's NBA accreditation is mandatory as of 2014, but due to the sheer volume of AICTE schools (more than 10,000), most AICTE schools are not yet NBA-accredited. However, NBA accreditation is required if the institution is seeking autonomous status or an Association of Indian Universities equivalence of a post-graduate diploma in Business to an MBA.

UGC and AICTE are the *usual* bodies responsible for higher education oversight. However, in rare situations, an institution will not appear on either entity's list of approved institutions because it is a special purpose school under the authority of a different ministry. Examples include certain agriculture schools under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farm Workers and some hospitality-related schools are under the control of the Ministry of Tourism. The handout for today's session has additional recognition sources for India.



Next we will quickly discuss Vietnam.



Now we will discuss education in Vietnam. Vietnam has a population of 97 million. It has 58 provinces and five municipalities. The official language is Vietnamese.

Compulsory education consists of 9 years: 5 years of primary education and 4 years of lower secondary. Primary and secondary education is a total of 12 years: 5 years primary, 4 years lower secondary, and 3 years of upper secondary education. The academic year is typically from September through May. The government body with educational oversight is the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET).

Vietnam — Secondary Education Academic 3 years Certificate of Secondary School Graduation Allows access to tertiary education Technical/Vocational 3-4 years Vocational Training 1- to 3-year long programs <1-year short programs 1-year short programs Technical/Vocational

Secondary education in Vietnam has three tracks: Academic, Technical/Vocational, and Vocational Training. For the academic track, students complete the Secondary School Leaving Examination at the end of grade 12 and receive the Certificate of Secondary School Graduation upon completion. They can then sit the National University Entrance Examination. The technical/vocational track is 3 to 4 years. The vocational training track consists of two types of programs: long programs, which are 1 to 3 years in length, and short programs, which are up to 1 year in length.

Grading is typically on a 10-point scale, although you may also see a 40-point scale.

Vietnam - Colleges Vocational Education Graduation Diploma Graduation Diploma I-2.5 years following upper secondary OR (most are 3 years) 3-4 years after lower secondary Graduates eligible to continue to university. May receive up to 2 years of transfer credit.

Vietnamese undergraduate education is similar to the US in that there are formal opportunities for both vocational and academic higher education. Vietnamese higher education institutions are separated into Colleges and Universities. Colleges can offer one of three diplomas. First is the Vocational Education Graduation Diploma. This can be earned after 1 to 2.5 years following upper secondary or after 3-4 years following lower secondary. The second is the Junior College Graduation Diploma, which can last between 2 and 3.5 years, although most are 3 years in length. Finally, Vietnam offers an Associate's Degree, which is between 2 and 3.5 years and offered at a junior college. Graduates of all three diplomas are eligible to transfer into a university program and may receive up to 2 years of transfer credit.

Vietnam - Universities Bachelor's Degree Master's Degree **Doctor of Philosophy** 4-6 years 1.5-2 years 4+ years 4 years: 180-210 credits 40 credits plus thesis Requires dissertation 5 years: 270 credits 6 years: 320 credits Two phases: Requires bachelor's degree and If admission based on bachelor, 1. Phase I – General Education entrance examination for then program is 4+ years and 2. Phase II – Specialized Education admission includes an integrated master's degree NACES

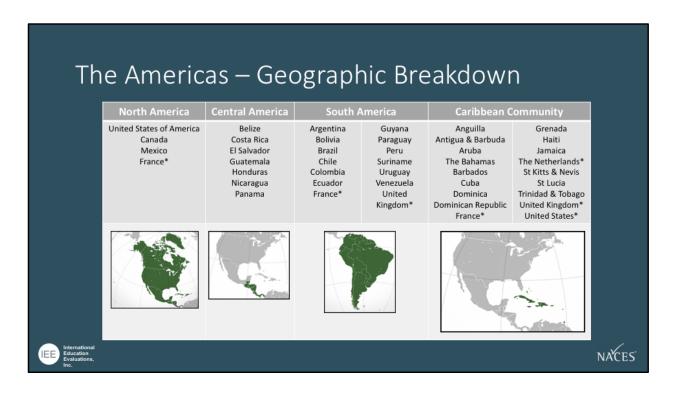
Vietnam's universities offer bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. These are very similar in format to those offered in the US. Bachelor's degrees are between 4-6 years and are divided into two phases: General Education and Specialized (or majorspecific) Education. The credit value of the degree depends on the length and the institution. Master's degrees are between 1.5 and 2 years and require 40 credits and thesis for completion. Students must have a bachelor's degree and take a required entrance examination for admission consideration. Doctoral degrees start at 4 years and require a dissertation. Direct admission after the bachelor's degree is possible, but then the program is more than 4 years and requires an integrated master's degree.

Issuing body for all credentials are universities (*Trường Đại hoc or Đại hoc*). Minimum duration in years is set by Ministry of Education and Training, although it is common for universities to add requirements to programs.

Grading is typically on a 10-point scale, although some schools have adopted a US-style 4-point scale.



Now we will briefly discuss education in the Americas.



"The Americas" is a rather generic descriptor, so it's easier to think about the Americas in terms of geographic regions: North America, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

This chart shows the breakdown by those regions.

Why are France, the Netherlands, the UK, and the US on here? France has the overseas department of St Pierre et Miquelon in North America; French Guiana in South America; and Guadeloupe, Martinique, St Barthelemy, and St Martin in the Caribbean. The United Kingdom has the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands in South America and Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and Turks & Caicos Islands in the Caribbean. The Netherlands has Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, St Eustatius, and St Maarten. The US has Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands in the Caribbean.

The Americas – N	lorth America	a
Country	Primary	Secondary
Canada Alberta, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Prince Edward Island, Quebec	6 years	6 years
Canada <i>Manitoba, Ontario</i>	8 years	4 years
Canada New Brunswick, Saskatchewan	9 years	3 years
Canada Nova Scotia	7 years	6 years
Canada _{Yukon}	7 years	5 years
Mexico	6 years	6 years
St Pierre et Miquelon	5 years	7 years (academic) 6-8 years (technical)
International Education		

Primary and secondary education in North America is primarily 12 years, though it is 13 years in Nova Scotia and between 13-14 years for technical secondary school in St Pierre et Miquelon. Mexico has different tracks at the secondary level which lead to different school leaving credentials based on the particular track.

_,		
The Americas –	Central Americ	a
Country	Primary	Secondary
Belize	8 years	4-6 years
Costa Rica	6 years	5 years (academic) 6 years (vocational)
El Salvador	9 years	3 years
Guatemala	6 years	5 years (academic) 6 years (vocational)
Honduras	9 years	2 years (academic) 3 years (vocational)
Nicaragua	6 years	5 years
Panama	6 years	6 years

Primary and secondary education in Central America tends to be between 11 and 12 years, although since Belize uses the Caribbean Examinations Council examinations, theirs is slightly different. We will discuss CXC exams later in this presentation. Also, there is a distinction between academic secondary and technical/vocational secondary education in most Central American countries, so it is possible to have more than one secondary leaving credential in a country.

The Americas – S	South Americ	a
Country	Primary	Secondary
Argentina	6-7 years	3-4 years
Bolivia, Chile	8 years	4 years
Brazil, Paraguay	9 years	3 years
Colombia	5 years	6 years
Ecuador, Uruguay	6 years	6 years
Falkland Islands, Guyana	6 years	Secondary: 5 years Pre-University: 2 add'l years
French Guiana	5 years	7 years (academic) 6-8 years (technical)
Peru	6 years	5 years
Suriname	6 years	Secondary: 6 years Pre-University: 7 years
Venezuela	9 years	2 years

South America is similar to Central America in that there is generally 11-12 years of primary and secondary education. Like Central America and Mexico, most countries allow students to go into an academic track or a vocational track. There can be different school leaving credentials for those tracks.

The South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands are also a part of South America and belong to the UK, but these islands are scientific outposts and do not have a permanent population. Consequently, there are no schools on these islands.

The Americas – C	aribbean (N	on-CXC)
Country	Primary	Secondary
Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten	6 years	4 years (vocational) 5 years (academic) 6 years (pre-university)
The Bahamas	6 years	5 years
Bermuda (US Pattern)	6 years	6 years
Cuba	6 years	6 years (academic) 5-7 years (technical/vocational)
Dominican Republic	8 years	4 years
Guadeloupe, Martinique, St Martin, St Barthelemy	5 years	7 years (academic) 6-8 years (technical)
Haiti	6 years	7 years
Montserrat	6 years	Secondary: 5 years Pre-University: 2 add'l years

Most countries in the Caribbean use the Caribbean Examinations Council examinations as their secondary school leaving exam. We will discuss them on the next slide. However, there are a few countries on this slide which have their own secondary school leaving requirements.

The Americas – Caribbean (CXC)

Participating Countries					
Antigua & Barbuda	British Virgin Islands	Guyana	St Lucia		
Anguilla	Cayman Islands	Jamaica	Turks & Caicos		
Barbados	Dominica	Montserrat	St Vincent & the Grenadines		
Belize	Grenada	St Kitts & Nevis	Trinidad & Tobago		

- Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC)
- Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE)
 - CAPE Certificate
 - CAPE Diploma
 - CXC Associate Degree
- Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ)



The Caribbean Examinations Council, known as CXC, offers a series of examinations throughout 16 nations of the Caribbean, plus Saba, St Maarten, and Suriname. These exams include the CSEC, CAPE and CVQ.

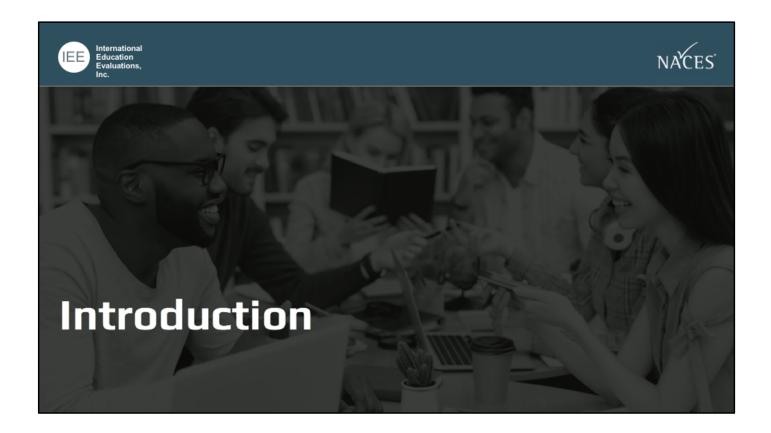
The CSEC, first offered in 1979, is the exam taken at the end of primary and lower secondary school. This represents the equivalent of completion of high school in the US. The CSEC is graded on a 6-point scale of Grade I through Grade VI.

After CSEC, students can continue for an additional two years in Form 6 upper secondary/pre-university schools, community colleges and private institutions and can sit for the CAPE, which replaced the British A-levels in 1998. There are three CAPE qualifications:

- 1. CAPE Certificate successful completion of any CAPE Unit
- 2. CAPE Diploma successful completion of six CAPE Units
- 3. CXC Associate Degree successful completion of ten CAPE Units in a specific course of study; prior to 2018, only eight units were required. There are nine subject areas and 21 possible majors.

CAPE qualifications are graded on a 7-point grading scale, Grade I to Grade VII. CAPE subjects are structured as 1-Unit or 2-Unit courses. Each unit consists of three modules, which is allocated 150 hours. Each 2-Unit course consists of two —Unit courses. Individual modules carry no credit. Only 1-unit and 2-unit CAPE courses should be considered for advanced standing credit, not the individual modules taken as part of the unit. Some school transcripts may list unit modules as courses with credits attached, but these represent institutional grades and are *NOT* comparable to CXC grades. Therefore, only the official results from CXC should be considered when awarding advanced standing credit. **Partial credit for completion of individual modules is not recommended.**

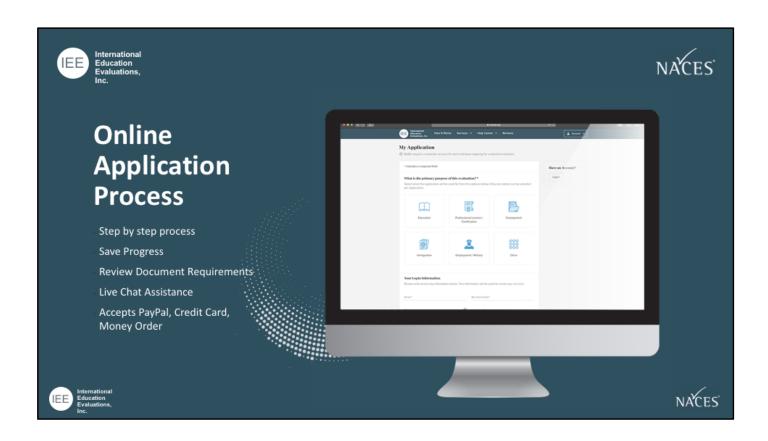
Grading scales for CSEC and CAPE are available in the handout of today's presentation.



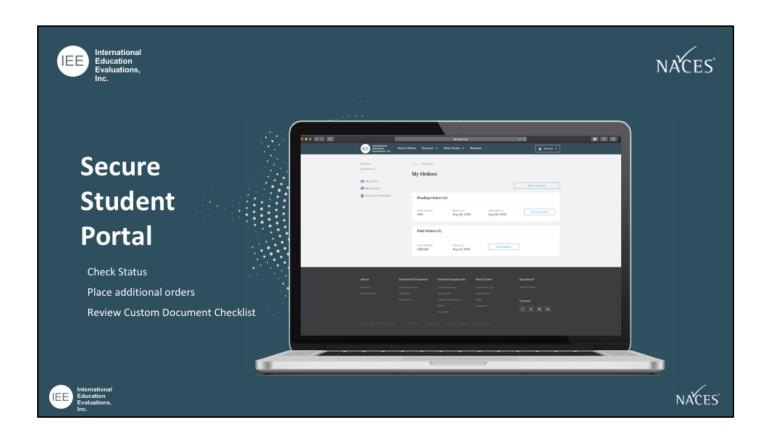
As I mentioned, I work for International Education Evaluations, a NACES-accredited foreign credential evaluation company. We work with both individuals and institutions, and today I'd like to take a few minutes to introduce IEE plus a new service we now have for institutions.



IEE recently launched a new streamlined website, available at myiee.org.



Individuals and institutions can now apply for evaluations online, save their progress, and see a customized list of documents required. Live chat assistance is available, and the site accepts PayPal and credit/debit cards, or applicants can send a money order.



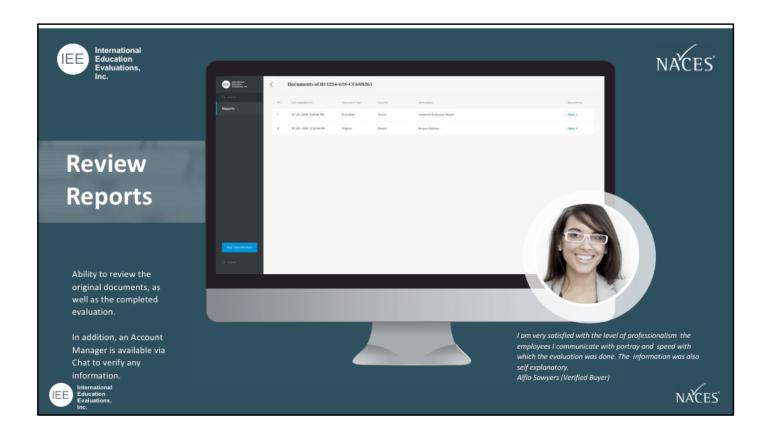
Upon submission, individual applicants have access to the secure Student Portal, where they can check the status of their evaluation in real-time, review their custom document checklist, and place additional orders.



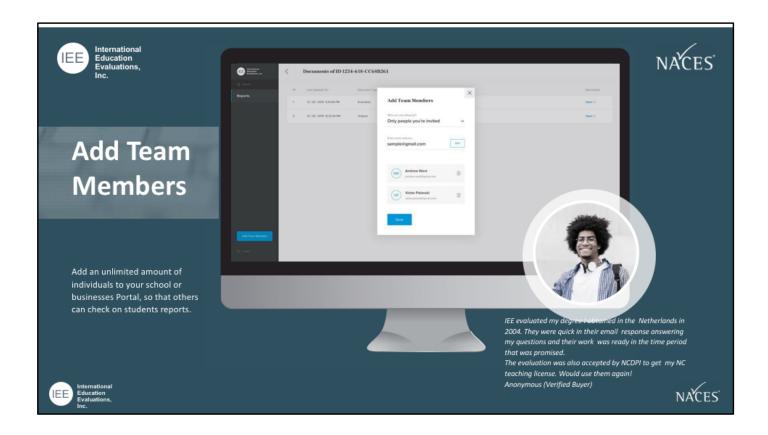
We now also have a portal just for institutions.



Register to review all of your reports in one place. Check the status of your orders, review documents, and securely receive the evaluation report from your dashboard.



In the portal, you have the ability to review the verified documents (as the scanned documents are uploaded to the student's file after verification) as well as the completed evaluation. Also, an account manager is available via the chat feature to answer any questions.



Add as many users to your Institutional portal as you need.







Receive Evaluations Electronically



Review Original Documents Provided by Customer



Check Status of



Dedicated Account

Manager for Institutions



Invite Team Members



Optional: Billing and Invoicing





Set up is easy! Go to: - access.myiee.org - Institution name - Your name - E-mail - Password - "Register"

NACES.

Questions?

- Thank you for attending today's session!
- Please leave your business card if you would like a copy of today's presentation plus a handout with additional information.

Shelby L. Cearley shelby@foreigntranscripts.com International Education Evaluations, Inc.



