

# Establishing a Transfer Credit Policy that Works

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*NAFSA Region VI, Louisville, KY  
October 16, 2017*

# Session Plan

- French-based education system
- British-based education system
- Hybrids and outliers – Cameroon
- International Baccalaureate
- Germany and Italy ... are there others?
  
- Academic institution vs professional credential evaluators – a debate
  
- Tips for establishing a transfer policy that works

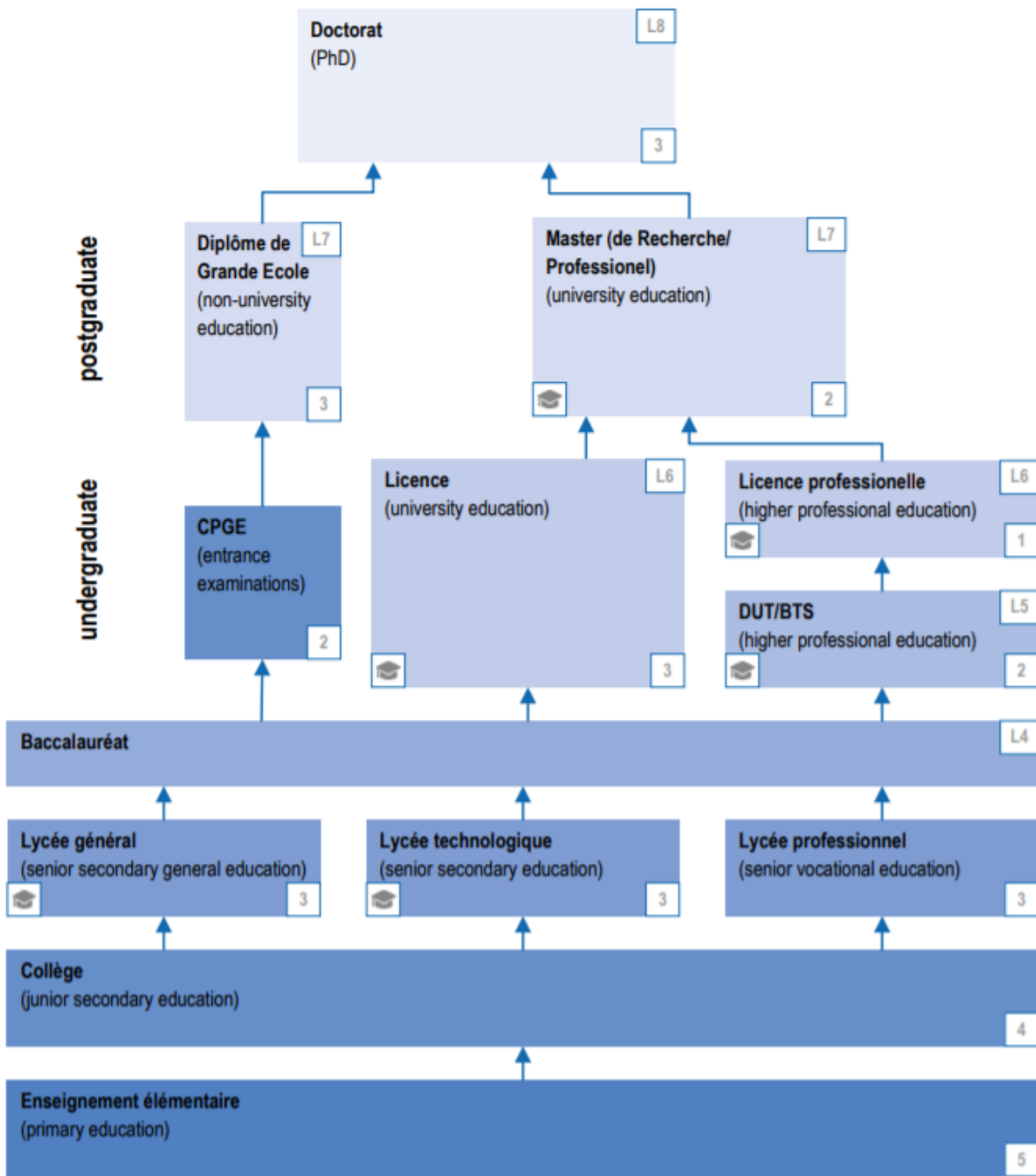


# France and French-Based Education Systems

- French Baccalaureate (“Bac”) demonstrates completion of secondary education
- Typically completed at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> academic year
- 5+4+3



# Education system France



## Types of institutions and identifying levels:

Preschool

Elementary

Middle?

High?



| ÉCOLE MATERNELLE |    |    | ÉCOLE ÉLÉMENTAIRE |     |     | COLLÈGE |     |                | LYCÉE          |                |                |                     |                 |                 |
|------------------|----|----|-------------------|-----|-----|---------|-----|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| CYCLE 1          |    |    | CYCLE 2           |     |     | CYCLE 3 |     |                | CYCLE 4        |                |                | CYCLE DÉTERMINATION | CYCLE TERMINAL  |                 |
| PS               | MS | GS | CP                | CE1 | CE2 | CM1     | CM2 | 6 <sup>e</sup> | 5 <sup>e</sup> | 4 <sup>e</sup> | 3 <sup>e</sup> | 2 <sup>de</sup>     | 1 <sup>re</sup> | T <sup>le</sup> |



# Understanding the changing placement recommendations

- 1964 – “May receive *some* advanced standing. It is recommended that they be granted up to 1 year of credit based on courses.”
- 1988 – “May be considered for freshman admission with *possible* advanced standing”
- 2007 – “Freshman admission”

Passage rate:

40% (1960s)  78.3% (1999)  87.9% (2014)



## Purdue University:

French Baccalaureate - can be used to demonstrate completion of secondary school education for both freshman and transfer admissions. However, no college credit is awarded to the French Baccalaureate exams.

Link to institutional policy: <http://www.iss.purdue.edu/Admission/intlEd.cfm#french>  
(French Baccalaureate)



**International Students and Scholars**



## Other Francophone Countries

The Baccalaureate credentials earned in the other Francophone countries can also be used to demonstrate completion of secondary school education for both freshman and transfer admissions (e.g. Moroccan Baccalaureate Exam). However, no college credit is awarded to any of the Baccalaureate exams completed in the other Francophone countries.

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Algeria                  | Lebanon    |
| Benin                    | Luxemburg  |
| Burkina Faso             | Madagascar |
| Cameroon                 | Mali       |
| Central African Republic | Martinique |
| Chad                     | Monaco     |
| Congo                    | Niger      |
| Cote d'Ivoire            | Reunion    |
| French Polynesia         | Rwanda     |
| Guinea                   | Senegal    |
| Haiti                    | Somalia    |
|                          | Togo       |
|                          | Tunisia    |



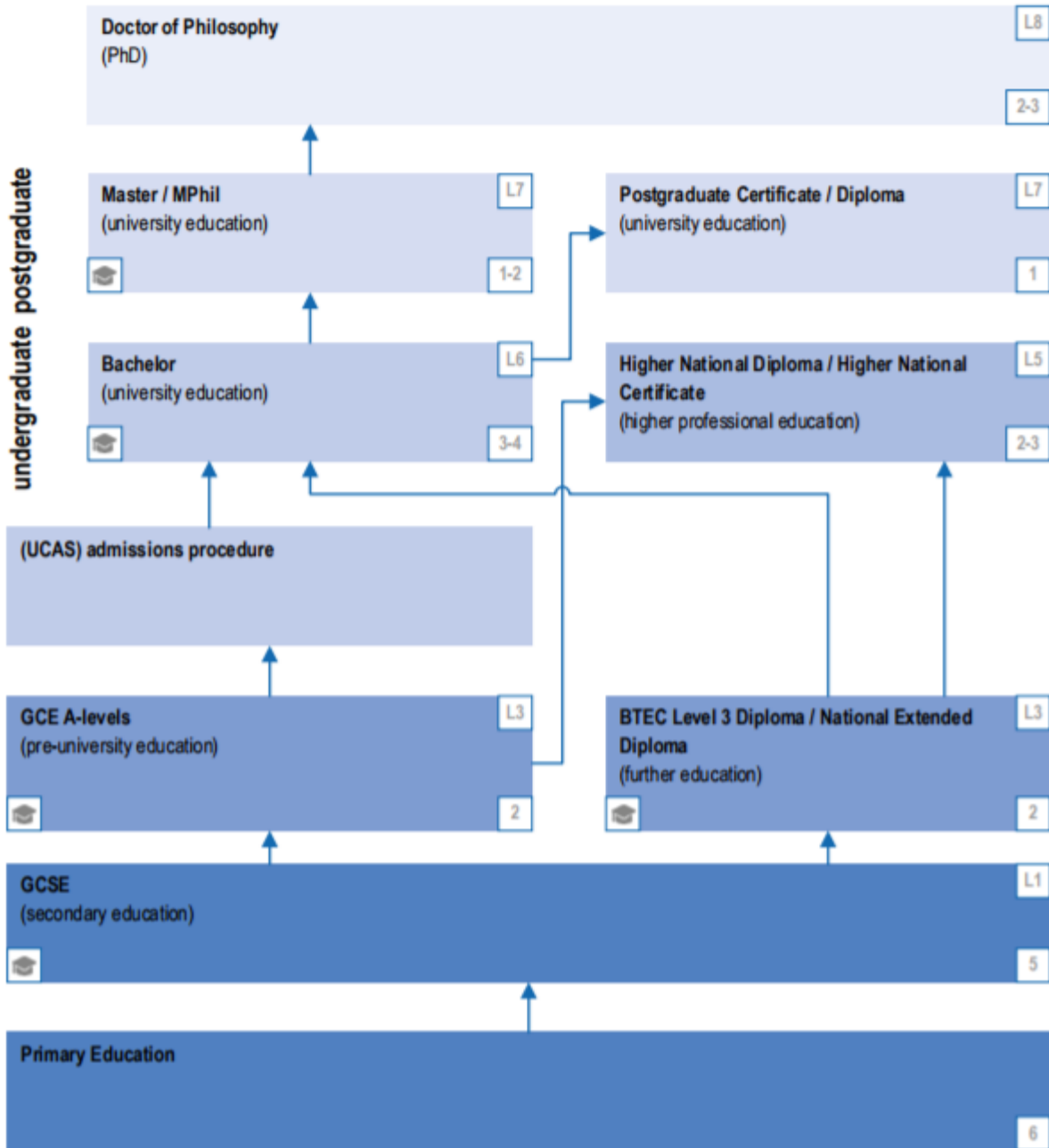


# United Kingdom and British-Based Education Systems

- Secondary school years are called “forms” – Form V, the final year of secondary schools grants access to the GCSE or O-level exams
- Form VI is a 2-year pre-university program leading to GCE A-levels.
  - AS levels may be taken after year 1 of Form VI
- University admission typically requires 2-3 A-level passes
- 6+5+2



# Education system United Kingdom



# AS and A level Reform

## New AS-results 2016, A-results 2017

1. Assessment will be mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
2. AS and A levels will be assessed at the end of the course. AS assessments will typically take place after 1 year's study and A levels after 2. The courses will no longer be divided into modules and there will be no exams in January.
3. AS and A levels will be decoupled – this means that AS results will no longer count towards an A level, in the way they do now.
4. AS levels can be designed by exam boards to be taught alongside the first year of A levels.
5. The content for the new A levels has been reviewed and updated. Universities played a greater role in this for the new qualifications than they did previously.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-the-facts-gcse-and-a-level-reform/get-the-facts-as-and-a-level-reform>



# The Ohio State University

- We award credit for any exam beyond the GCSEs that is recognized by the AQA or any of the other five examinations agencies in the U.K and Ireland.
- We award for AS level exams as well as A level exams



## Purdue University:

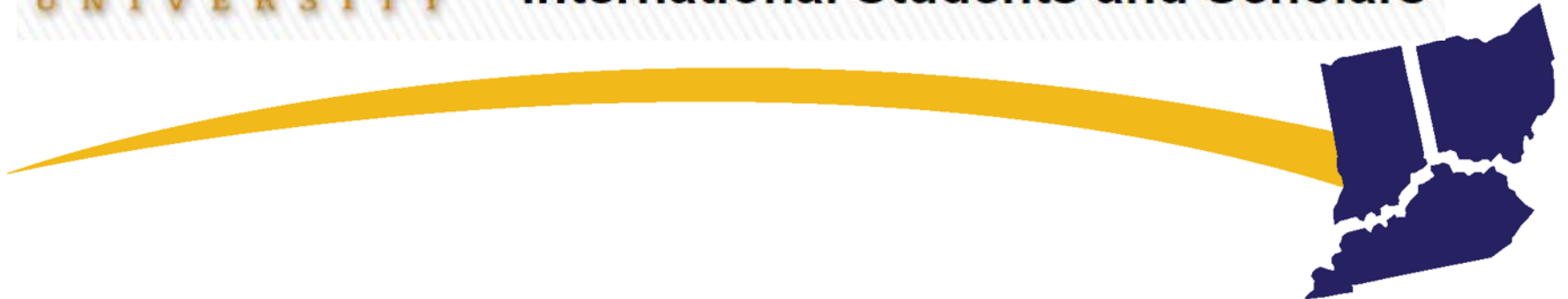
United Kingdom - GCSE, IGCSE, and GCE O-level exams can be used to demonstrate completion of secondary school education for both freshman and transfer admissions. Students who receive a grade of B or above in the First Language English subject in any of these 3 exams are exempt from providing proof of English proficiency when applying for admission. At the moment, college credits are awarded to A-level exams with grades B and A. No college credit is awarded to AS exams. Students with A/S exams and A-level grades below a B will be encouraged to test out. Links to institutional policies:

<http://www.iss.purdue.edu/Admission/intlEd.cfm#general> (United Kingdom)

<http://www.iss.purdue.edu/admission/ugrad/alevel.cfm> (A-level)

**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY

**International Students and Scholars**

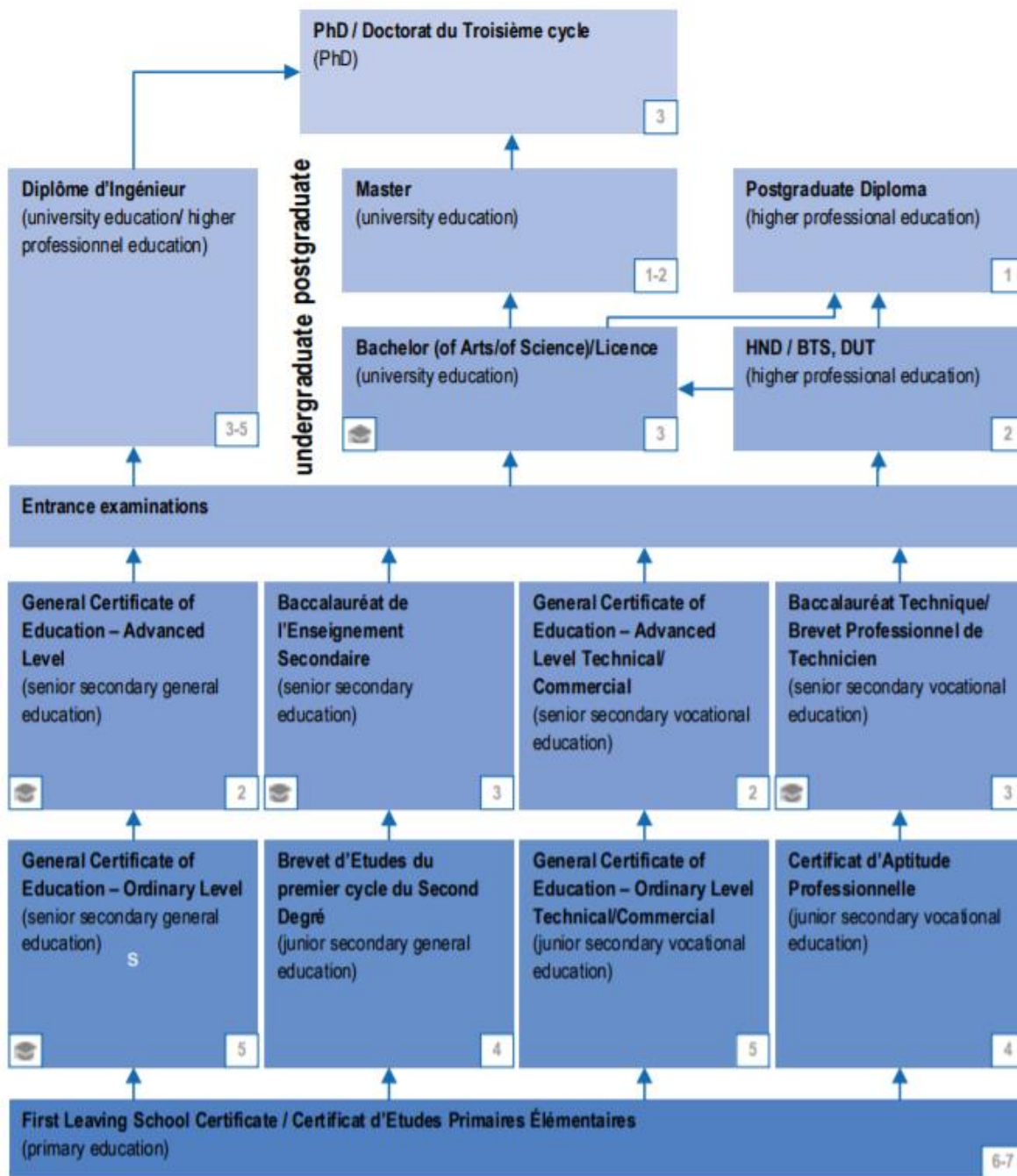


# Cameroon – One country, two systems, and more...

- One country, two education systems
  - Anglophone: 7+5+2 (6+5+2 after 2008)
  - Francophone: 6+4+3
- Simple solution? Not quite – Baccalaureat reforms never took place in Cameroon.



# Education system Republic of Cameroon



# Admission Requirements



University of Buea

The admission requirements set out below are the minimum requirements which may entitle an applicant to a place in the University for First Degree Courses:

- The GCE O/L, with passes in five approved subjects including English Language prior to sitting the GCE A/L
- One of the following requirements in the GCE A/L:
  - Two GCE/AL passes at the same sitting.
  - The BAC in the series appropriate to the intended field for specialization.

Individual departments may impose additional and specific requirements.

Students whose language of instruction was not English, will be required to pass a prescribed English Language test, unless they have successfully completed the Special Intensive English Language Course.

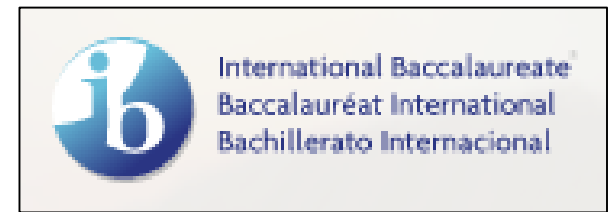
[https://www.go-student.net/final/public/index.php/admission\\_programs](https://www.go-student.net/final/public/index.php/admission_programs)





# International Baccalaureate

- Founded in 1968, registered in Geneva, Switzerland
- Four highly respected programs of international education (ages 3 to 19)
  - Primary Years Program (Ages 3-12)
  - Middle Years Program (Ages 11-16)
  - **Diploma Program (Ages 16-19)**
  - Career-related Program (Ages 16-19)
- As of November 7, 2016, 5,907 programs offered worldwide at 4,546 schools.



## Purdue University:

International Baccalaureate - College credits are normally awarded for IB HL exam subjects only, but there are a few exceptions. College credits are awarded for scores 5-7. Students with scores lower than 5 are encouraged to test out for college credits. Link to institutional policy:

<http://www.iss.purdue.edu/admission/ugrad/ib.cfm> (International Baccalaureate)


## General guidelines:

- Exams can be taken at either the Subsidiary Level (SL) or at the Higher Level (HL) credit normally will be awarded for HL subjects only, but there are a few exceptions
- Exams are scored 7 – 1 (7 = A+, 6 = A, 5 = B, 4 = C); credit will be awarded for 7 – 5; students with lower grades should be encouraged to test out



International Students and Scholars



|     | A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | B                                     | C                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| 2   | <p>The university policy index captures the recognition policies reported to the IB by universities from around the world. This index allows you to filter by country and/or university name. The IB Student Registry (<a href="https://registry.ibo.org/">https://registry.ibo.org/</a>) is the newly launched IB platform to connect IB schools and students with universities &amp; colleges. The registry allows universities to create profiles outlining the various components of their IB recognition policies, including credits and scholarships awarded. This new platform will eventually replace this index. While the IB Student Registry is being introduced, this index will remain available to interested parties. But please note that the information presented here was last updated October 2015. We recommend visiting the university websites for the most up to date information and recognition policies. If you have any questions about recognition or the IB Student Registry, please email us at <a href="mailto:recognition@ibo.org">recognition@ibo.org</a> or <a href="mailto:registry@ibo.org">registry@ibo.org</a></p> |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| 5   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 6   | <b>Country</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>University</b>                     | <b>Policy</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 109 | CANADA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation | Any Canadian student in his or her final year of high school or CEGEP may apply for a CMSF scholarship. CMSF scholarships support talented high school graduates, for undergraduate studies at Canadian universities, and are the most valuable and unique in Canada. CMSF scholars demonstrate: academic excellence, service to the community, leadership potential, and entrepreneurial energy. In partnership with twenty-five Canadian universities, we fund talented students from across Canada, to study on Canadian campuses, to the benefit of their future and our country.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 110 | CANADA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Cape Breton University                | <p>Students will be considered for admission using the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma with a minimum score of 24. IB Certificate applicants will be considered individually based on coursework.</p> <p>Students admitted to CBU who have completed the IB Diploma are eligible to receive a maximum of 30 credits (5 full courses). Of these possible 30 credits, 18 credits can be awarded for standard level courses with a minimum grade of 5, with the remaining 12 credits awarded on the basis of higher level coursework with a minimum grade of 5.</p> <p>IB Certificate holders are eligible to receive university credit to a maximum of 18 credits for higher level courses or standard level courses on a course by course basis subject to a minimum score of 5.</p> <p>IB final and predicted results may be used to consider applicants for early fall admission and entrance scholarship.</p> <p>For further information please visit <a href="http://www.cbu.ca/admissions">www.cbu.ca/admissions</a></p> |
| 111 | CANADA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Capilano University                   | Students who have completed part or all of the IB Diploma Program may be granted credit upon admission to Capilano University. For further information please contact the Registrar's Office at <a href="mailto:admissions@capilanou.ca">admissions@capilanou.ca</a> For up to date credit information, please visit: <a href="http://www.capilanou.ca/future/calendar/current/general/admission/trans.html">http://www.capilanou.ca/future/calendar/current/general/admission/trans.html</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 112 | CANADA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Centennial College                    | The IB diploma is considered equivalent to an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Completion of the diploma including English and any other required courses with passes in at least six subjects: three Higher Level and three Standard Level. Please submit your transcript directly to the Office of Admissions, Centennial College.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|     | CANADA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | College of New Caledonia              | Transfer credit may be granted to students who complete International Baccalaureate Program courses with a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

Excel Spreadsheet with University Policy Index includes self-reported policy information provided by universities through October, 2015 – see:

<http://www.ibo.org/globalassets/publications/university-admission/university-policy-index-en.xlsx>



## University credit for secondary school coursework in North America

Tuesday, November 22, 10:10 – 11:10

UK NARIC 2016

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[amorawski@foreigncredits.com](mailto:amorawski@foreigncredits.com)

[www.foreigncredits.com](http://www.foreigncredits.com)

For more information on transfer credit policies, please see **“University credit for secondary school coursework in North America”** presented at UK NARIC conference, November 2016, London, UK

<https://www.foreigncredits.com/Resources/Presentations/University-Credit-for-Secondary-School.pdf>



# German Abitur

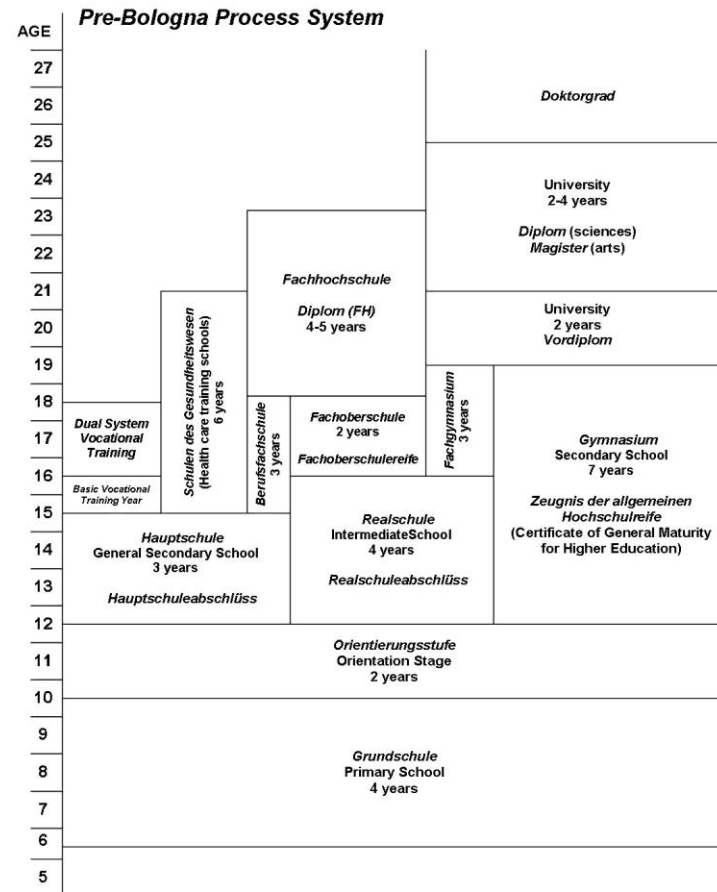
- Formally known as the *Zeugnis der Allgemeinen Hochschulreife* (Certificate of General Maturity for Higher Education)
- Issued to candidates who have passed the final examinations for upper secondary after 12 or 13 years of schooling
- Enables students to attend university
- Equivalent to the U.S. high school diploma



# German Educational Ladder: Pre-Bologna

- Primary-secondary education is 4+2+7
- Secondary school (Gymnasium) lasts 7 years
- Total primary-secondary is 13 years

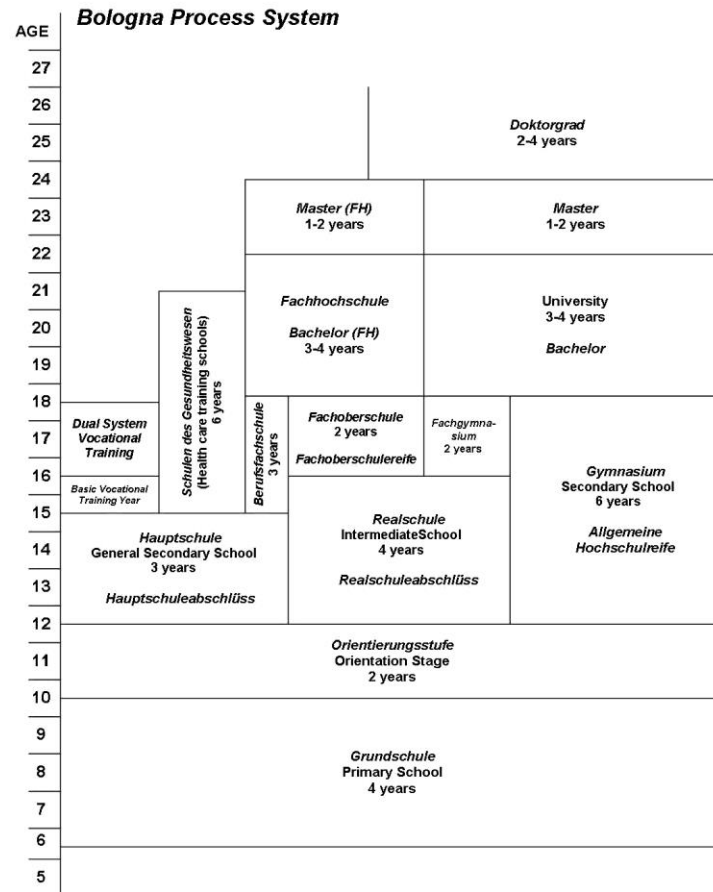
## GERMANY – EDUCATIONAL LADDER (PRE-BOLOGNA)



GERMANY – EDUCATIONAL LADDER (BOLOGNA)

# German Educational Ladder: Bologna

- Primary-secondary education is 4+2+6
- Secondary school (Gymnasium) lasts 6 years
- Total primary-secondary is 12 years



# German Abitur – changes?

- The length of the *Gymnasium* has been reduced by one year as of AY 2012-2013 in most states (länder)
- The number of instructional hours and examinations has remained the same
- Should you treat the 12-year and 13-year Abitur equally?







# Abitur final examinations

3. Seite des Zeugnisses der allgemeinen Hochschulreife

## II. Ergebnisse in der Abiturprüfung

mstehenden  
ulreife wird  
24. Juni 2016

| Prüfungsfach              |                     | Prüfungsleistung |          |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------|
|                           |                     | schriftlich      | mündlich |
| 1. Deutsch                | (eA <sup>3)</sup> ) | 04               | 12       |
| 2. Mathematik             | (eA <sup>3)</sup> ) | 03               | --       |
| 3. Englisch               | (eA <sup>3)</sup> ) | --               | 04       |
| 4. Religionslehre (r.-k.) |                     | 03               | 09       |
| 5. Kunst                  |                     | --               | 08       |

# Transfer credit?

## Yes

- Until recently, it represented 13 years of education
- Often, courses are taught at a higher level compared to corresponding ones at U.S. high schools

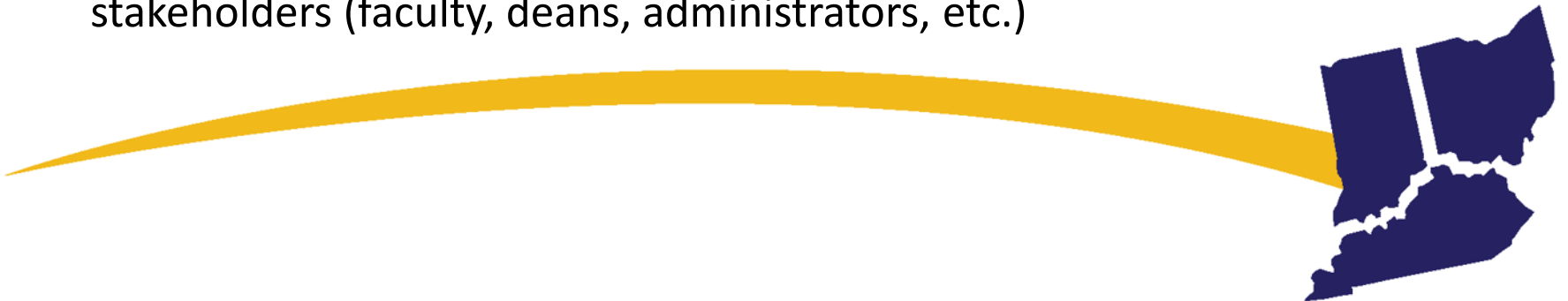
## No

- The *Abitur* is a secondary education credential
- No advanced standing credit is awarded in Germany



# Considerations and Recommendations

- Some examinations are taken at the advanced level (*Leistungsfach*) and some at the basic level (*Grundsfach*)
- If awarding credit, advanced level should be weighted more (e.g. 8 credits per subject); basic level should be weighted less (e.g. 4 credits per subject)
- Take into consideration the grade
- Total awarded credit should not exceed one year of undergraduate study (24-30 credits)
- Course equivalencies should be awarded in accordance with institutional policy and with prior consultation with relevant stakeholders (faculty, deans, administrators, etc.)



# Examples

## 1. University of South Florida (USF)

<https://www.systemacademics.usf.edu/credit-by-exam/?page=exam&exam=ABITUR>

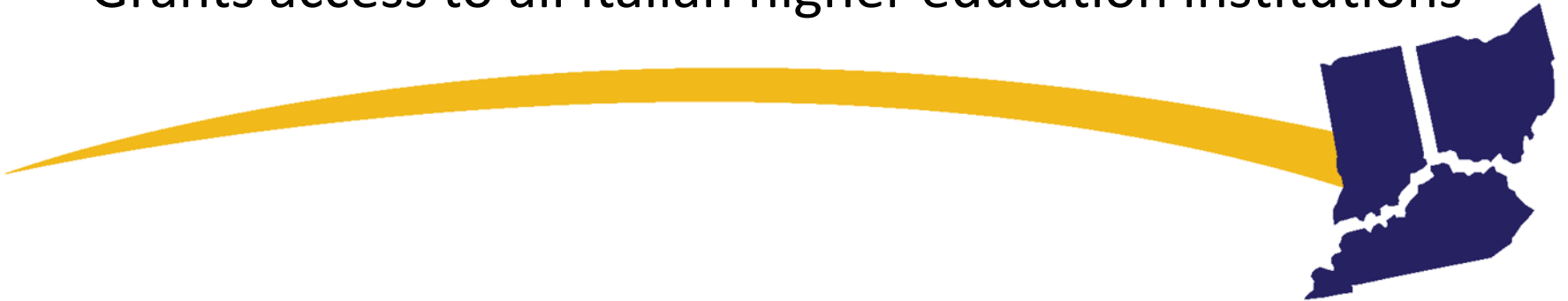
## 2. Penn State

<http://admissions.psu.edu/info/future/international/credit/>

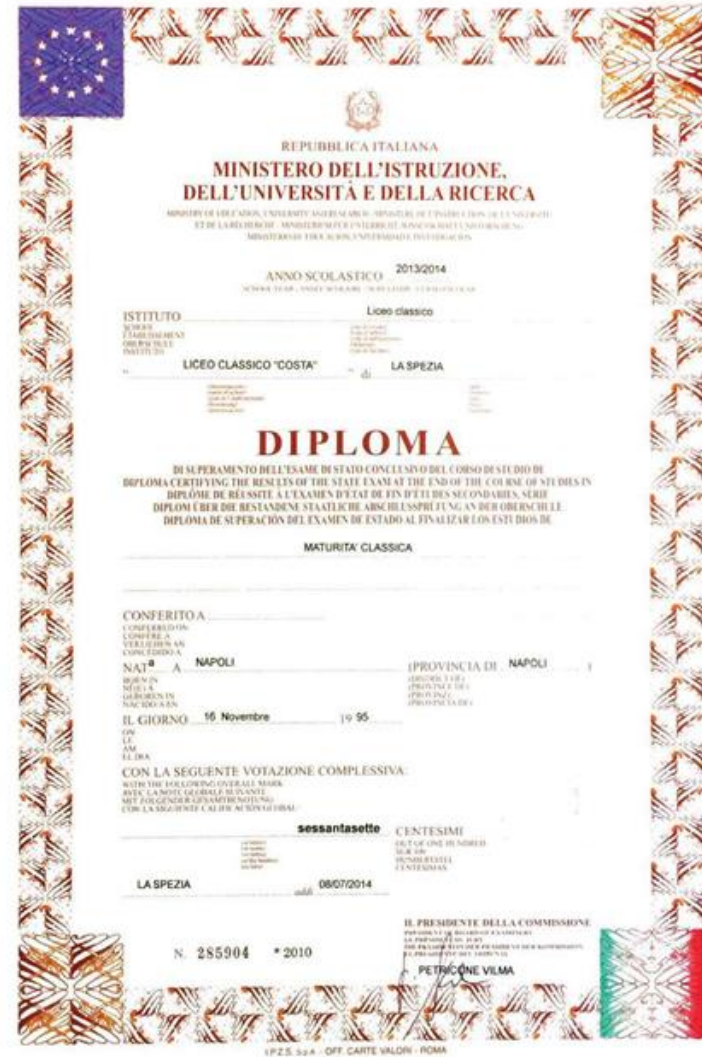


# Italian Maturità

- Long name is *Diploma di superamento dell'esame di Stato conclusivo dei corsi di Istruzione Secondaria Superiore* usually called Diploma di Maturità or simply Maturità
- Represents 13 years of total schooling (5+3+5)
- Different tracks: Classical, Linguistic, Scientific, Technical, Professional
- Grants access to all Italian higher education institutions



# Maturità Example



The image shows a sample of an Italian Maturità diploma. It features a decorative border with a repeating geometric pattern. At the top left is the European Union flag, and at the top center is the Italian coat of arms. The text is in Italian, with some parts in English and German. The diploma is for the year 2013/2014, issued by the Ministry of Education, University and Research. It is for a student from the Liceo Classico 'Costa' in La Spezia. The student's name is blank. The diploma certifies the successful completion of the course of studies. The overall mark is 67/100 (sessantasette/centesimi). The diploma is signed by the President of the Commission, Petrone Vilma, on November 16, 2014. The number of the diploma is 285904 \* 2010.

REPUBLICA ITALIANA  
**MINISTERO DELL'ISTRUZIONE,  
DELL'UNIVERSITÀ E DELLA RICERCA**  
MINISTERE DE L'EDUCATION, L'UNIVERSITÉ ET DE LA RECHERCHE - MINISTERIO DE EDUCACIÓN, UNIVERSIDAD E INVESTIGACIÓN -  
MINISTÈRE DE L'EDUCATION, UNIVERSITÀ E RICERCA

ANNO SCOLASTICO 2013/2014  
SCUOLA 1048 - VIALE MARIANO COMENIUS - 19100 SPEZIA

ISTITUTO Liceo classico  
10488 - VIALE MARIANO COMENIUS - 19100 SPEZIA  
LICEO CLASSICO "COSTA" LA SPEZIA

**DIPLOMA**  
DI SUPERAMENTO DELL'ESAME DI STATO CON LUSINGO DEL CORSO DI STUDI DI  
DIPLOMA CERTIFYING THE RESULTS OF THE STATE EXAM AT THE END OF THE COURSE OF STUDIES IN  
DIPLOME DE RÉUSSITE À L'EXAMEN D'ÉTAT DE FIN D'ÉTUDES SECONDAIRES, SERIE  
DIPLOM EBER DIE BESTANDENE STAATLICHE ABSCHLUSSPRÜFUNG AN DER OBERSCHULE  
DIPLOMA DE SUPERACION DEL EXAMEN DE ESTADO AL FINALIZAR LOS ESTUDIOS DE

MATURITA' CLASSICA

CONFERITO A \_\_\_\_\_  
CONFERITO A \_\_\_\_\_  
CONFERIT A \_\_\_\_\_  
CONFERIT A \_\_\_\_\_

NAT<sup>2</sup> A NAPOLI (PROVINCIA DI NAPOLI)  
REGIONE DI \_\_\_\_\_  
MUNICIPIO DI \_\_\_\_\_  
CATEGORIA DI \_\_\_\_\_  
NOME E COGNOME \_\_\_\_\_

IL GIORNO 16 Novembre 19 95  
ORA \_\_\_\_\_  
L. \_\_\_\_\_  
M. \_\_\_\_\_  
S. \_\_\_\_\_

CON LA SEGUENTE VOTAZIONE COMPLESSIVA:  
WITH THE FOLLOWING OVERALL MARK:  
AVEC LA NOTE GÉNÉRALE SUIVANTE:  
MIT FOLGENDER GESAMTBENOTUNG:  
CON LA SIGUIENTE CALIFICACIÓN GLOBAL:

sessantasette CENTESIMI  
OUT OF ONE HUNDRED  
DE CENTS  
HUNDRETHS  
CENTESIMAS

LA SPEZIA 08/07/2014

N. 285904 \* 2010

IL PRESIDENTE DELLA COMMISSIONE  
MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION  
LE PRESIDENT DE LA COMMISSION  
EL PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISION  
PETRONE VILMA

IPZS 304 - OFF. CARTE VALORI - ROMA

# Maturità structure

- State examination with 3 or 4 written examinations and an oral examination.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> exam is common (Italian)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> examination is based on the core subject (e.g. Physics in the Science track)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> examination varies depending on the examination commission but is often multidisciplinary





# Award Credit?

## Yes

- Represents 13 years of schooling
- Some coursework at a higher level than U.S. high schools

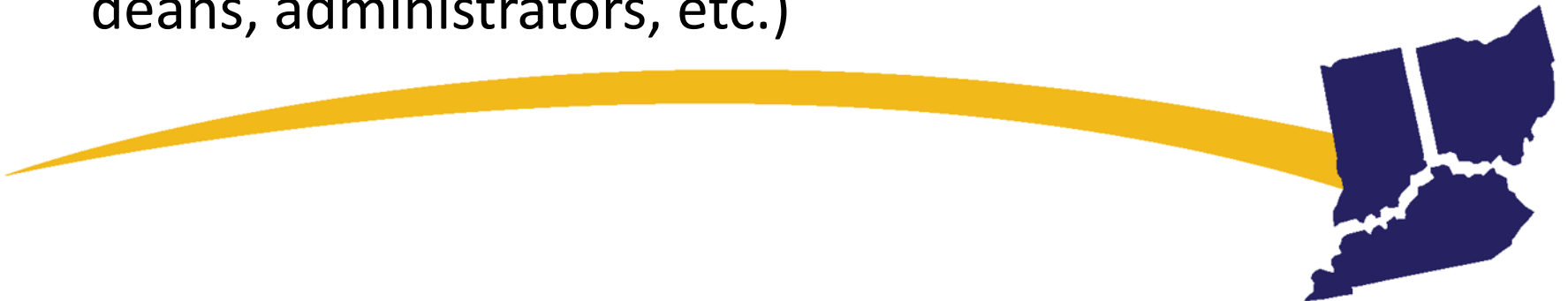
## No

- Secondary school credential
- No university credit is awarded in Italy



# Considerations and Recommendations

- Advanced standing for Italian language a possibility
- Advanced standing for English not recommended
- Credit consideration for the written examinations only
- Course equivalencies should be awarded in accordance with institutional policy, and with prior consultation with relevant stakeholders (faculty, deans, administrators, etc.)



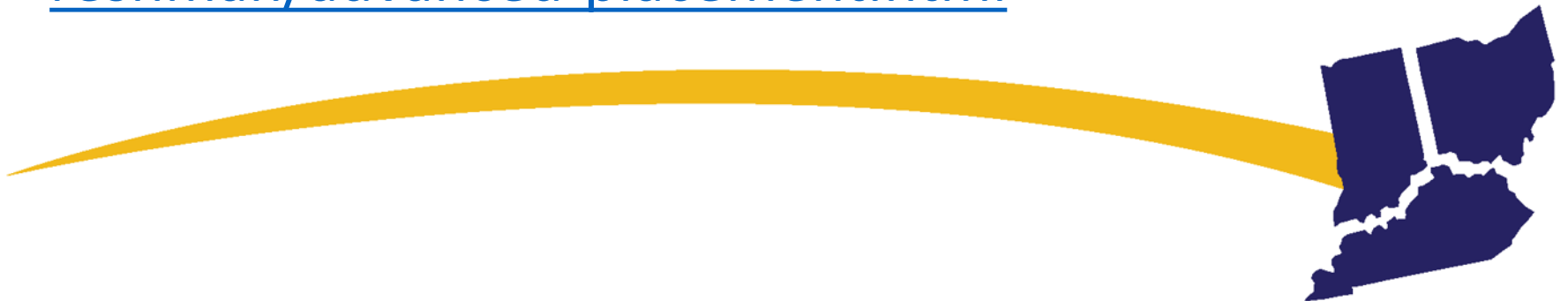
# Examples

## 1. Boston University

[http://www.bu.edu/admissions/files/2012/01/italian\\_maturita.pdf](http://www.bu.edu/admissions/files/2012/01/italian_maturita.pdf)

## 2. Boston College

<https://www.bc.edu/admission/undergrad/process/freshman/advanced-placement.html>



## Discussion Questions:

Why would US universities even give any credit? Shouldn't we treat all secondary school students the same and have them earn the credit in our classrooms?



Does your institution award additional credits to students who receive higher grades on the IB/A-level/AP, and less to those with lower scores?



Do you think that awarding credit for  
secondary school work is a useful  
recruitment tool?



Can I rely on a credential evaluation report to tell me if I should award transfer credit?



# Establishing a transfer credit policy that works:

- Review the domestic transfer credit policy and registrar's rules and regulations
- Consider the education system of the specific country *and* the time period
- Review your peer institutions' policies
- Track students performance and obtain faculty input
- Publish!





# Questions, comments?

## Thank you!

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Alex Popovski

[alex@ucredo.com](mailto:alex@ucredo.com)



<https://www.foreigncredits.com/Resources/Presentations/>

