

# ICAS HANDBOOK

## VOLUME I

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

ROMANIA

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



Prepared by ICAS International Credential Assessment Service of Canada Inc.  
with Series Special Consultant R. O. Ormsby, B.A., M.Ed.

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## Preface

ICAS was established in 1993 to provide professional services related to international education. Our goal is to provide complete, reliable information to help individuals achieve their personal and career goals and to help employers, educational institutions and others to appropriately interpret international education. The *ICAS Handbook* is the latest addition to the services we provide.

The Handbook will help employers, educational institutions and others to interpret international educational documents. This first volume includes information for China, Romania and Russia. Volume II (expected in early 2005) will address Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Later volumes are planned to include the Philippines, Korea, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The information in Volume 1 has been compiled from resources currently available to ICAS plus discussions with relevant officials in each of the three countries and with professional colleagues at educational institutions and other assessment agencies. It includes some general details for each country and tables that describe elementary, secondary, technical/vocational and higher education and suggest the level of education in Ontario to which each credential is comparable.

The comparisons provided are intended as guides for general purposes and should be considered in the context of other relevant factors when determining the suitability of a candidate holding an international qualification for employment or for admission to an educational program. Comparisons apply only if the qualification was issued by a *bona fide* authority (an appropriately recognized school, postsecondary institution and/or examining body).

Although comparisons are made to the current Ontario education system, most can be applied to the other provinces with adaptations required to reflect the difference in the structure of the system in Québec.

ICAS welcomes any comments about the Handbook and any suggestions for countries and information to be included in future volumes.

S Hibbitt  
December 2004



**THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**





# Introduction

## Historical Background

Some researchers of the educational system of China conceptualize the development of the education system into five distinct periods dating back to Imperial Education (pre-1840). Others find it more useful to focus on the three major periods subsequent to 1949. These are: the Soviet-influenced period from 1949 to 1966, the Cultural Revolution period from 1966 to 1976, and the Normalization period or Post Mao Zedong period with increased American influence from 1977 to present. For credential evaluators, the two most recent periods are of greatest relevance.

Recently, the education system of China has been described as “arguably the most complex in the world” (PIER, 2000: xi). Sweeping reforms have occurred in China, particularly in the 1990s, and these reforms make it difficult to formulate unconditional statements about the current state of the education system. It should be noted that, despite reforms, there are leftover aspects from the Soviet period of influence as evidenced by the continuing large number of institutions offering narrow, specialised training, particularly at the higher education level. A further complicating factor is that information presented in the published sources that exist is often vague and may appear to be inconsistent and contradictory. For example, one source will state that a program is normally three years in duration and culminates in a Diploma yet another source will state that the same program is three or four years in duration and results in a Certificate.

Several noteworthy developments in the recent history of China’s education system are:

- I. The re-introduction, in 1977, of university admission examinations (suspended in June 1966)
- II. The expansion of the Adult Education sector since its reintroduction in 1978
- III. The establishment of vocational universities in 1980 in response to the need to expand vocational education in China
- IV. The granting of degrees by Chinese universities as of 1982 after the Cultural Revolution period (1967 - 77) during which universities and colleges were closed and their activities restricted
- V. The replacement of the Ministry of Education by the State Education Commission in 1985 and the recent reversal of this event as of 1998
- VI. The so-called massification of higher education with ever increasing numbers of students entering higher education since 1995

Since 1989, at the university level, the Chinese Communist Party has again assumed a major role and political studies are required of all students. Politics may also influence the conferral of degrees.

## **Compulsory Period of Education**

By law, each child is supposed to have nine years of formal education. However, this is not the reality, particularly in some rural areas.

## **School Year**

At the primary and lower secondary levels, the school year is September to July and consists of two terms and a total of thirty-nine weeks. This comprises thirty-eight weeks of instruction and one week reserved.

At the upper secondary level, the school year runs from early September to early July. The school year comprises forty weeks of instruction and is divided into two terms. In the later grades of upper secondary education, an increasing amount of time is devoted to preparation for examinations.

At the university level, the school year begins in late August or early September and consists of two semesters. The first semester ends in late January. The spring semester runs from late February to early July. The summer vacation is two months. Between the fall and spring semesters, there is a vacation which consists of between twenty and thirty days.

## **Language of Instruction**

The official language of instruction is the Mandarin dialect of Chinese. However, in areas where the majority of the population is from a minority ethnic group, the spoken and written language of that ethnic group may be used for instruction. Also, at the tertiary level, institutions offering foreign language programs and institutions for ethnic minorities may use languages other than Chinese as the language of instruction.

## **Postsecondary Institutions**

Regular institutions of higher education are those that were approved originally by the State Council and later by the State Education Commission/Ministry of Education. An institution can offer degree programs only after it has been authorized to do so by the Academic Degrees Committee.

The number of private higher education level institutions continues to grow in China. Credentials from such institutions should be examined carefully. At the present time, television and radio universities do not have the authority to grant degrees.

A student who has completed a degree program (undergraduate or graduate) at an institution that is not authorized to grant the degree may petition a degree-granting institution to award the degree. If the petition is successful, the Graduation Certificate and transcript will have the name of the institution the student attended, but the degree will bear the name of the institution with degree-granting authority.

## **Credit System**

While there is no standard credit system in place, an American-style credit system is beginning to emerge at colleges and universities (including short-cycle) in China. However, the flexibility inherent in the American credit system is absent from the Chinese system and students must complete all requirements for a four-year bachelor's degree within the prescribed four-year period.

It should also be noted that semesters in China are longer than in North America and, therefore, involve comparatively more classroom contact hours. For example, a three-semester credit course in China may involve sixty contact hours. It is not unusual for Chinese students to complete between eighteen and twenty-four semester credit hours per semester.

It is also not unusual to see a credit system indicated on transcripts for Master's degrees. These degrees normally require a minimum of thirty credits. Although the credit system varies from one institution to another, generally one credit represents approximately sixteen to eighteen hours of instruction per term.

In addition, a credit system is used at the Adult Higher Education level to measure course completion in programs completed through the Central Radio and Television University. Generally, completion of 140 to 150 credits in a television university program equates to two years of full-time college level study. Completion of 184 to 220 credits in a television university program equates to three years of full-time college level study. However, the exact number of credits required for graduation varies from program to program.

## **Grading Practices**

At the secondary school level the passing mark is 60%. The ranges are: A - 80 to 100; B - 70 to 79; C - 60 to 69.

At the postsecondary level, both five and four scales are commonly used. For the five-scale, the grades are: A - Excellent; B - Good; C - Average; D - Satisfactory; F - Fail. For the four-scale, the grades are: A - Excellent; B - Good; C - Satisfactory; F - Fail. The grading scale often appears on the transcript.

## **Documentation**

Currently, there are significant concerns about invalid documents originating from China. According to CNN Student News (August 5, 2002), "widespread use of forged credentials has raised doubts in Western academic and business circles about the qualifications of Chinese students and job applicants". In addition, "State-run Chinese news media reported that the national census in 2000 recorded at least 600,000 more college or university graduates than the actual number of degrees awarded." There have also been reports of fake credentials being sold at bus stations in China.

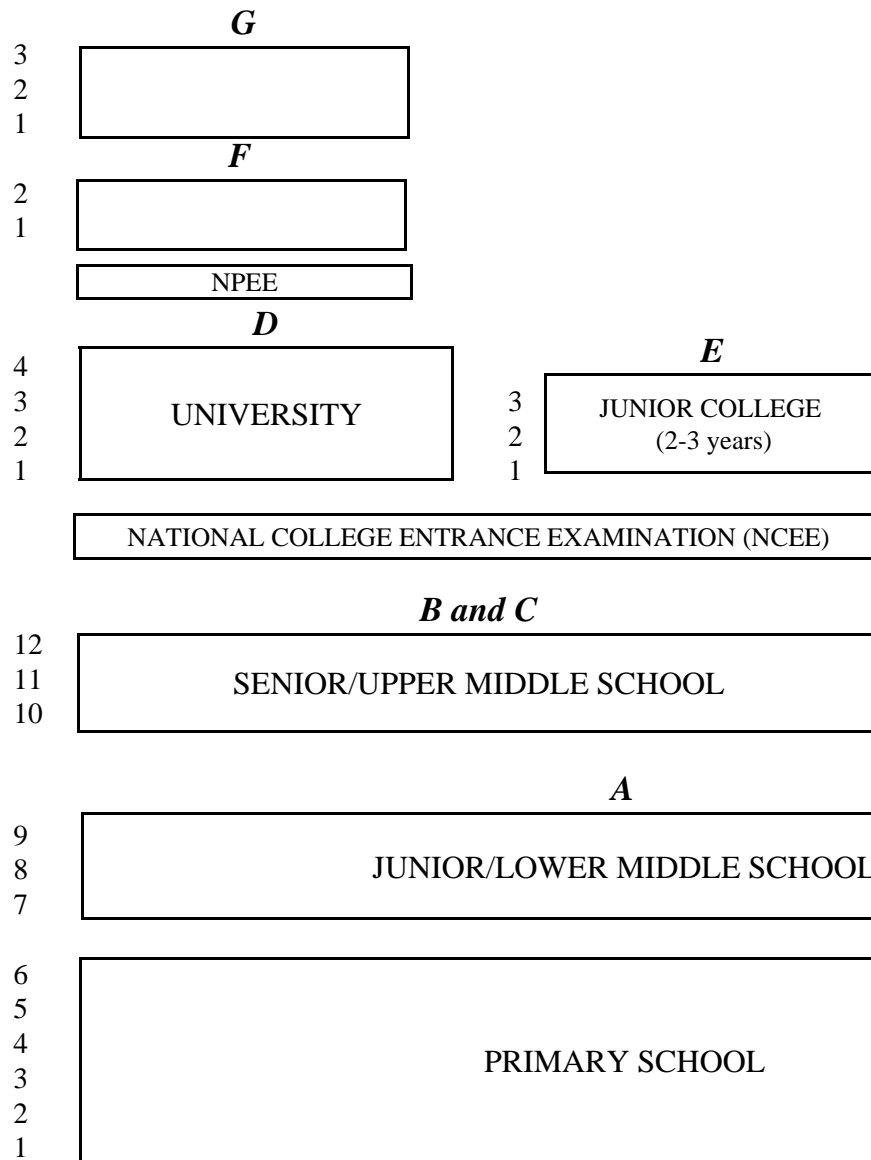
For these reasons, evaluators are cautioned to insist on proper, official documentation attesting to studies. Only credentials issued by the institution completely in Chinese or in bilingual format should be accepted. Notarial certificates confirming the award of academic credentials are prepared by notaries in China; their certificates do not contain school seals or signatures and should not be considered official documents. One must also exercise caution when dealing with translations. Many students prepare English translations of their academic records themselves and have the institution put a seal on such translations. In addition, while most universities will issue transcripts in Chinese with an English translation, translations can be liberal and interpretive; for example, it is not uncommon to see graduate level studies, which do not lead to a Master's degree in China, translated as "Master's studies." It is both prudent and necessary to compare originals with translations and to identify key Chinese characters for documents or titles representing a given credential, type of institution and level of achievement. For example, when trying to determine whether a document represents secondary or higher education, the absence of the specific characters for higher education will indicate that the document is for secondary level education. Similarly, degrees are distinguished from certificates by inclusion of reference to "degree regulations of the People's Republic of China". A transcript listing subjects and hours/credits should be requested. Dates and serial numbers on original diplomas and transcripts should be carefully cross-checked with those on the translation. Class hours and letter grades appear on the transcript and many schools will show both letter grades and numerical scores. All transcripts must bear the original seal of the institution issuing the document and the signature of the official responsible for issuing it. **In no case should a transcript be a substitute for the final graduation/degree diploma confirming conferral of the particular credential. Furthermore, a statement regarding conferral of a degree on a transcript should not be considered the same as presentation of the actual Diploma/Certificate itself.** There is no standard format for Chinese transcripts/grade reports. In addition, certificates/diplomas awarded vary in format from one institution to another.

It is also important to remember that the names of Chinese institutions may have undergone several changes. An institution which is now a university may not have held such status at the time the credential was obtained. As many as 80% of institutions in China have had a name change. In some cases, the change may be due to an institution having been amalgamated into another institution or having coalesced with several institutions to create a brand new institution.

Part-time programs may be represented on transcripts as their full-time equivalent; for example, a graduate of a three-year part-time program may be issued a transcript for a two-year full-time program.

Major changes in the Chinese education system must be taken into consideration when assessing the validity of any credential. For example, since China did not adopt a degree system until 1981/1982, any document representing a university degree prior to 1982 should be viewed circumspectly, as should any claims for degree status from programs representing fewer than four years of full-time study.

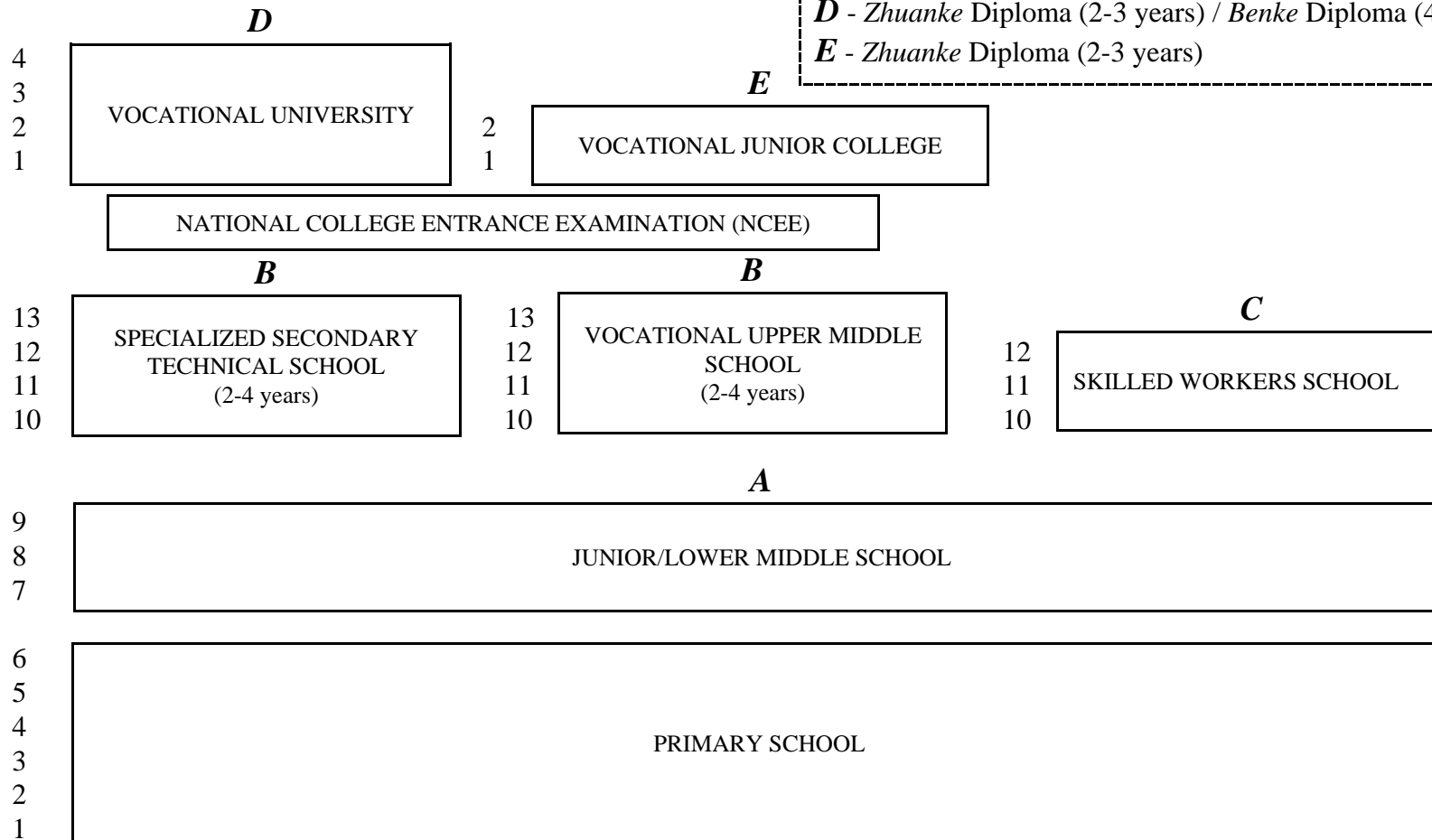
Where doubts exist, the Ministry of Education in Beijing should be contacted for verification.



- A** - Graduation Certificate from Lower Middle School
- B** - Graduation Certificate from Upper Middle School / Senior High School Diploma
- C** - Joint Upper Middle School Graduation Exam
- National College Entrance Examination (NCEE)
- D** - Bachelor's Degree (*Benke*)
- E** - Diploma (*Zhuanke*)
- National Post-graduate Entrance Examination (NPEE)
- F** - Master's Degree
- G** - Doctoral Degree

**STRUCTURE OF THE CHINESE EDUCATION SYSTEM**

**A** - Graduation Certificate from Lower Middle School  
**B** - Graduation Certificate / Certificate of Completion  
**C** - Graduation Certificate / Qualification Certificate  
**D** - *Zhuanke* Diploma (2-3 years) / *Benke* Diploma (4 years)  
**E** - *Zhuanke* Diploma (2-3 years)



**STRUCTURE OF THE CHINESE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM**

### CHINA - Primary

Name of Credential	Admission	Length of Study	Total Years	Access to:	Notes	Comparable Level
Graduation Certificate	Age six or seven	5 or 6 yrs	5 or 6 yrs	Junior/lower middle school	<p>The 5-year system is said to be virtually non-existent in today's China (PIER:7).</p> <p>A graduation examination is given in the 6th grade. However, graduation is based solely on results in Chinese language and mathematics.</p>	Grade V or VI

Preschool education is available in kindergartens for children between age three and six. However, attendance is non-compulsory.

Primary education has, for the most part, consisted of either five or six years of study. Between 1949 and 1966, it consisted of six years. From 1966 until the early 1980s, it generally consisted of five years but could have involved as few as four years; this instability was caused by the Cultural Revolution. Since 1986, the six-year system has been gradually re-introduced with the goal of making it the standard.

Primary schools differ in terms of programs offered, subjects studied and mode of delivery (full-time vs part-time). These variables are often dependent on geographical location, with rural areas offering more limited programs.

CHINA - Lower Secondary (Lower Middle)						
Name of Credential	Admission	Length of Study	Total Years	Access to:	Notes	Comparable Level
Graduation Certificate	Completion of primary education	3 or 4 years depending on previous education	9 years	Upper middle/secondary education	<p>A graduation examination is given.</p> <p>Completion of lower middle/secondary education represents fulfilment of compulsory education.</p> <p>During the Cultural Revolution, lower middle school may have been reduced to only two years of study.</p>	Grade IX

In the past, students were required to pass entrance examinations to be admitted to lower middle schools. These examinations have been eliminated in parts of China where a nine-year compulsory education scheme has been fully implemented. Lower middle school education is officially compulsory, but graduation from this level of education is not universal in China.

The curriculum offered varies according to resources, geographical location and type of school. While lower secondary education is mainly offered in academic lower middle schools, a technical stream of lower secondary education also exists and provides training in singing, dance and acrobatics.



### CHINA - Upper Secondary (Upper Middle) Academic Stream

Name of Credential	Admission	Length of Study	Total Years	Access to:	Notes	Comparable Level
Graduation Certificate from academic upper middle school*	Completion of lower middle school and municipal or provincial entrance exam results with sufficiently high scores; other factors may also be considered.	3 years (currently the norm; has varied in the past)	12 years	Employment  Higher education if appropriate examinations are passed	Students in their final year prepare for the Joint Academic Upper Middle School Graduation Exam (JAUMSGE) and the National College Entrance Examinations. To obtain the Graduation Certificate, a student must pass the JAUMSGE. Further, the JAUMSGE is a prerequisite for sitting the National College Entrance Examination. It should be noted that the JAUMSGE is not a single exam; parts of it are administered at the end of each of the 3 years of upper middle school.	Secondary school graduation
Certificate of Completion from academic upper middle school*	As above	As above	As above	Employment	This certificate is issued when a student fails an examination in the final year of upper middle school. A student can repeat the examination and if successful, can obtain the Graduation Certificate (above). Normally, a student has only 1 year to do this.	Grade XI plus partial grade XII
Upper Middle School Graduation Examination Certificate issued by Shanghai Municipal Education Commission	As above	As above	As above	Employment  Higher education if appropriate examinations are passed	This credential is issued by the Shanghai Municipal Education Commission to students who pass all 13 subjects on the Academic Upper Middle School Graduation Examination (implemented in 1985). They are then eligible to sit the National College Entrance Exams or the Shanghai College Entrance Examination.	Secondary school graduation

\*The format of the certificates is not uniform throughout China. Both the Graduation Certificate and the Certificate of Completion contain *four main* Chinese characters (symbols) but only three of the four characters are identical on each type of certificate. It is crucial that any certificate from this level of education be carefully scrutinized - and the symbols cross-checked with a reliable Chinese symbol glossary - to identify it correctly.

There are key schools offering the academic stream of upper middle school education. The curricula in these schools and in non-key schools are similar. However, until recently, most students who enter university have been graduates of key schools because of their greater chances of success in the National College Entrance Examination. Since 1990 - and since the introduction of the Joint Academic Upper Middle School Graduation Examination - there has been an attempt to shift from a system of streaming students towards either Science streams or Humanities streams by the second year of upper middle school. However, many upper middle schools continue to stream with a focus on National College Entrance Examinations.

**CHINA - Upper Secondary - Technical/Vocational/Skilled-Worker**

<b>Name of Credential</b>	<b>Admission</b>	<b>Length of Study</b>	<b>Total Years</b>	<b>Access to:</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Comparable Level</b>
Graduation Certificate from secondary specialised technical school	Completion of academic lower middle/secondary school and passing of the provincial/municipal middle school entrance exam	2 - 4 years	11 - 13 years	Employment  May be considered for access to higher education depending on length, nature and content of program completed	Training provided for mid-level technicians, nursing, kindergarten teaching  Four-year programs prepare intermediate-level technical personnel.	Varies - secondary school graduation for programs of 3 or 4 years
Certificate of Completion from secondary specialised technical school	As above	2 - 4 years	11 - 13 years	Employment  Access to further study depends on length, nature and content of studies completed	As above	Varies according to program
Graduation Certificate from vocational upper middle school	As above	2 - 4 years	11 - 13 years	Employment	Training provided for skilled workers, farmers, managerial personnel and laborers	Varies - secondary school graduation for programs of 3 or 4 years
Certificate of Completion from vocational upper middle school	As above	2 - 4 years	11 - 13 years	Employment	As above	Varies according to program

<b>CHINA - Upper Secondary - Technical/Vocational/Skilled-Worker</b>						
<b>Name of Credential</b>	<b>Admission</b>	<b>Length of Study</b>	<b>Total Years</b>	<b>Access to:</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Comparable Level</b>
Graduation Certificate from skilled-workers school	Academic lower middle school	2 - 4 years	11 - 13 years	Employment	Training provided for qualified skilled workers	Secondary school graduation
Certificate of Completion from skilled-workers school	Academic lower middle school	2 - 4 years	11 - 13 years	Employment	As above	Varies according to program
Qualification Certificate from skilled-workers school	Academic lower middle school	3 years	12 years	Can practise as a skilled worker at a certain level	As above	Varies according to program
Training Certificate from skilled-workers school	Academic lower middle school	6 months or longer	Varies according to program	Employment	As above	Varies according to program

Vocational/technical secondary education was relatively slow to develop in China. However, by the mid - 1990s, more than fifty percent of upper middle school students were enrolled in the technical/vocational streams. This category of education is offered through three main types of schools: secondary specialised technical schools, vocational middle schools and skilled workers' schools. Some schools may offer more than one type of program and may have more than one name.

A major difference between specialised technical and vocational programs is that a graduate of a secondary specialised technical school can often change his/her residence to the school's region, whereas a graduate of a vocational program cannot do this and must return to his/her original place of residence to seek employment.

Certain specialised technical secondary programs admit graduates from upper middle schools to two or three-year programs. These programs provide vocational education to upper middle school graduates who do not qualify for college or university level study because they achieved insufficient scores on the National College Entrance Examination.

**CHINA - Higher Education - University / College**

Name of Credential	Admission	Length of Study	Total Years	Access to:	Notes	Comparable Level
Bachelor's Degree Certificate ( <i>benke</i> )	National College Entrance Exam*	4 - 6 yrs	16 years minimum	Employment  Graduate education	To confirm a degree, it is necessary to have evidence for both the Bachelor's Degree Certificate and the Graduation Certificate or Diploma. Each document must bear the appropriate Chinese characters. In the late 1980s, however, some institutions may have issued a combined diploma and degree document.	Bachelor's degree
Graduation Certificate or Diploma from a <i>benke</i> program	As above	As above	As above	Employment  Further education	The Graduation Certificate does not confer degree status. A student with this credential may have been denied a degree for any of several reasons including political reasons.	Credit towards undergraduate degree
Certificate of Completion of a <i>benke</i> program	As above	As above	As above	Employment	The Certificate of Completion is awarded when a student has certain deficiencies pertaining to program requirements - e.g., level or quality of work - or when s/he displays disciplinary problems. A student who remedies the problems within a specific time period can then be awarded the Graduation Certificate. However, a student who has received a Certificate of Completion is not eligible to receive a degree.	Credit towards undergraduate degree
Graduation Certificate or Diploma from <i>zhanke</i> program	As above	2 - 3 years	14 - 15 years	Employment  Further education	Diploma holders from a <i>zhanke</i> program can apply to bachelor's programs at colleges and universities. These programs are usually 2 years and are often offered via adult higher education.	College diploma
Certificate of Completion from <i>zhanke</i> program	As above	2 - 3 years	14 - 15 years	Employment  Further education	See above notes concerning the awarding of this document as opposed to the Graduation Certificate.	College study

\*According to PIER (p. 49) “between the late 1980s and mid 1990s, students who did not fully meet the NCEE requirements could still pursue university education if they were able to pay an extra fee to the school”.

The National College Entrance Examination (NCEE) was introduced in 1952, suspended during the Cultural Revolution (universities were closed) and reinstated in 1977. The NCEE is a highly selective national examination and is state-administered. It covers admission to undergraduate degree programs and two and three-year diploma programs. The actual examination subjects will vary according to the particular institutions/programs to which individual students apply. There is no limit on the number of times a student can sit the NCEE. However, the age limit for university admission is twenty-five, except for teacher education programs where it is twenty-eight. Some programs or institutions also impose a health examination and political assessment as part of their terms for admission. The number of subjects to be taken on the NCEE was reduced in 1995 from seven to five and since 2002, a 3+X system of examinations is becoming universal. (Examinations include Mathematics, Chinese Language, a Foreign Language - usually English, and the 3 subject which is determined by the area of study intended at the higher education level.) A small number of national key universities have been given permission by the State Education Commission / Ministry of Education to waive the NCEE requirements for a small number of upper middle school graduates who have demonstrated consistently high academic performance during their entire three-year upper middle school period.

The Shanghai College Entrance Examination is a version of the NCEE and exists for university admission of Shanghai-resident graduates from upper middle schools in Shanghai. The examination consists of four subjects.

Recently, Chinese universities have been making provisions to admit students from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

Higher education is offered at junior colleges (short-cycle), colleges and universities. The influence of the former Soviet-style education system remains in China as evidenced by the number of specialised institutions. Students apply to specific programs at the tertiary level, rather than just to institutions.

*Zhuanke* certificates/diplomas result from completion of short-cycle college programs. *Zhuanke* programs are also offered by a large number of vocational junior colleges and by vocational universities. *Benke* programs may lead to a bachelor's degree. Admission requirements to a *benke* program are higher than those for the *zhuanke* programs. Evaluators must check the Chinese characters of any graduation diploma to determine whether the program was *zhuanke* or *benke*. Often a graduation certificate from either type of program will be translated as Graduation Diploma or Diploma. A given institution may offer both degree and non-degree programs.

Military education is organized by the People's Liberation Army and seeks to ensure the political and ideological outlook of soldiers. Degree programs are offered by military schools; such degrees are subject to recognition by the Academic Degrees Committee and are considered equivalent to credentials issued by non-military institutions. Military schools also offer non-degree programs, evening, correspondence, and self-study programs.

Bachelor's degrees can also be obtained through Adult Higher Education; these degrees require both examinations and a thesis, completion of which has a time limit. Admission to most programs is based on the Unified National Entrance Examinations for adult higher education (NAHEEE). These examinations are different from those for the regular sector of higher education. A bachelor's degree obtained on a part-time basis by correspondence or during the evening via independent self-study mode is considered equivalent to a regular bachelor's degree in China. Most adult higher education programs did not culminate in degrees before the late 1980s. Non-degree programs are also available via adult higher education.

Until recently, there has not been a three-year degree in China; however, some major universities in Beijing have begun offering a three-year accelerated bachelor's degree program and this practice is said to be expanding.

### CHINA - Higher Education-Graduate

Name of Credential	Admission	Length of Study	Total Years	Access to:	Notes	Comparable Level
Master's Degree Certificate	Bachelor's degree or equivalent qualifications and the National Post-graduate Entrance Exam (NPEE)	2 - 3 years	18 years minimum	Doctoral level  Employment	In addition to the academic admission requirements, there is an age limit of 40 years. Health status and political suitability are also factors. Those with a master's degree, those in the final year of a 3-year <i>zhuanke</i> program and those currently in a second bachelor's degree may not apply.	Master's degree
Graduation Certificate from master's degree program	As above	2 - 3 years	18 years minimum	Employment  Further education	This document can be issued to a student who has completed all course work for the degree but not yet completed the required thesis. In such cases, a student has 3 additional years to complete the thesis and obtain the Master's Degree Certificate.	Credit towards master's degree
Certificate of Completion from master's program	As above	2 - 3 years	18 years minimum	Employment	Though rarely seen, this credential is granted in the case of deficiencies.	As above
Doctoral degree	Completed master's degree	3 - 4 years	21 years minimum	Employment  Postdoctoral studies	In addition to the academic admission requirements, there is an age limit of 45 years. Doctoral degrees in clinical medicine and engineering require at least 4 years of study.	Earned doctorate degree
Graduation Certificate from doctoral program	Completed master's degree	3 - 4 years	21 years minimum	Employment	Granted in the case of deficiencies	Credit towards doctorate degree
Certificate of Completion from doctoral program	Completed master's degree	3 - 4 years	21 years minimum	Employment	Though rarely seen, this credential is granted in the case of deficiencies.	Credit towards doctorate degree



The graduate admission process is largely based on the National Postgraduate Entrance Examination (NPEE) results. The NPEE is held once each year and is open to candidates wishing to enter both master's and doctoral programs. In certain cases - as with undergraduate programs - students may be admitted directly to graduate level programs.

The credit system varies from one institution to another. Generally, one credit represents sixteen to eighteen hours of instruction per term. In most cases, a master's thesis and doctoral dissertation are not credit-bearing and are not recorded on transcripts. Doctoral theses must be defended publicly.

Graduate programs were reintroduced after the Cultural Revolution but were only formally reintroduced in 1981. Only two types of graduate degrees are conferred in China: the master's degree and the doctoral degree (Ph.D.) Those who successfully complete a graduate degree receive two certificates: a Graduation Certificate and the Degree Certificate.

Institutions are awarded graduate degree-granting status by the Ministry of Education (formerly by the State Education Commission) and the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council.

Graduate degrees are not available via adult higher education/self-study modes.

Master's and doctoral degrees may also be awarded by research institutes which are affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences or other central or provincial government agencies.

### CHINA - Teacher Education

Name of Credential	Admission	Length of Study	Total Years	Access to:	Notes	Comparable Level
Kindergarten Teacher's Qualification	Graduation from primary school	3 or 4 years	9 or 10 years	Employment as kindergarten teacher	This type of program existed at kindergarten teacher training schools until the end of 1966. Post 1966, the admission requirement was raised to grade IX.	Grade IX or X
Kindergarten Teacher's Qualification	Graduation from lower middle school	3 or 4 years	12 or 13 years	Employment as kindergarten teacher		Secondary school graduation
Primary School Teacher's Qualification	Graduation from lower middle school	3 or 4 years	12 or 13 years	Employment as primary school teacher	Offered at normal schools	Secondary school graduation
Primary School Teacher's Qualification	Upper middle school graduation	2 years	14 years	Employment	As above  Note that this is still considered secondary level education by the Chinese education authorities.	College diploma
Teacher's Diploma for lower middle school teachers	Upper middle school graduation and success in NCEE	2 or 3 years	14 or 15 years	Employment	This type of program is offered at teachers' specialised schools or colleges. Some applicants with completed lower middle school and teaching experience may be admitted.	College diploma
<i>Benke</i> or Bachelor's for teaching at upper middle schools	Upper middle school graduation and success in NCEE and under age 25	4 years	16 years	Employment  Further study	Normal colleges and normal universities offer these programs for upper middle school teaching.	College diploma or Bachelor's degree

A serious shortage of teachers exists in China and there are many unqualified teachers in the schools. Until recently, society in China had a low regard for teachers. Salary and benefits have traditionally been low. However, the situation has changed dramatically. Requirements for teachers are being gradually increased at all levels within the education system. Many teacher education institutions have experienced name changes and have been upgraded in status (e.g., from School to College or University).

At present, there are three main levels of teacher education: kindergarten, primary level, middle school. Kindergarten teachers are trained at specialised upper middle schools for kindergarten teachers (three or four years beyond grade nine). Primary school teachers are trained at normal schools in three and four-year programs beyond grade nine or two-year programs beyond grade twelve. (The latter is still regarded as secondary level education by the Chinese educational authorities.) Lower middle school teachers are trained at teacher training colleges (also called teachers' specialised schools or teachers' junior colleges) in two or three year-programs beyond grade twelve. Upper middle school teachers are trained at normal colleges and normal universities in four year-programs beyond grade twelve and may be awarded bachelor's degrees. According to NOOSR (1996), a few kindergarten teacher training schools have been upgraded to college status at the postsecondary level since 1985.

An elaborate system of in-service teacher training exists in China. There are part-time, independent self-study and radio/television programs available. Some normal colleges and universities have offered two-year certificate programs for teachers at the upper middle school level. In addition, some such institutions offer shortened bachelor's degree programs.

As with all other Chinese credentials, the original Chinese characters must be examined closely to determine the precise status, level and duration of the program and institution attended.

### CHINA - Medical Education

Name of Credential	Admission	Length of Study	Total Years	Access to:	Notes	Comparable Level
In-service training	Completion of primary school or lower middle school	3 - 6 month programs	9 years	Employment at basic level of health care	These programs are for the lowest level of health care in China. They deal with diagnosis and treatment of common illnesses. Practitioners give public health instruction and are involved in areas such as acupuncture, midwifery and birth control.	Should be based on other documents
Diploma	Completion of upper middle school	2 or 3 years	14 or 15 years	Employment at intermediate level of health care	These programs are in areas such as dental technology, laboratory technology, pharmacy, x-ray technology, etc. Programs are offered by hospitals, medical specialised schools or medical colleges.	College diploma
Bachelor of Medicine	Completion of upper middle school	4 - 6 years	16 - 18 years	Employment as physician Graduate program	Students beginning a program from 1978 to 1981 completed a 5-year program. Since 1982, both 5 and 6-year programs have been offered. In 1988, several medical colleges began a pilot scheme of a 7-year medical program.	First professional degree
Enrichment program - complementary/ supplementary/ in-service	Previous medical training	Up to 2 years	Varies	Employment	Programs are offered at many medical colleges lasting up to 2 years for those doctors who completed their training during the Cultural Revolution.	Varies according to program
Master of Medicine	Bachelor's degree	3 years	17 - 21 years	Doctoral program	Can be 7 years beyond senior middle school or 3 years beyond a Bachelor of Medicine degree.	Master of Medical Science
Doctorate	Master's degree	3 years	20 - 24 years	Postdoctoral program		Earned doctorate

CHINA - Nursing Education						
Name of Credential	Admission	Length of Study	Total Years	Access to:	Notes	Comparable Level
Nursing Diploma/ Graduation Certificate	Completion of lower middle school	3 or 4 years	12 or 13 years	Employment	This program is offered at secondary specialised technical schools.	Secondary school graduation and nursing training
Graduate Diploma/ Certificate in Nursing	National College Entrance Exam	2 - 3 years (usually 3 years)	14 - 15 years	Employment Further education	The content of these programs is similar to programs at the upper secondary level, but more in-depth study is required.	College diploma
Graduate Diploma or Certificate or Degree ( <i>benke</i> )	National College Entrance Exam	4 - 5 years	16 - 17 years	Employment Further education	4 or 5-year programs offered at colleges and universities since the mid-1980s. The graduation/degree certificate may state the program was in medicine but should also indicate that the specialization was in nursing.	Degree or college study

There are three levels of health care in China and each involves workers with different levels of education: 1) Practitioners in urban and rural areas with short-term training in public health and basic health care; 2) workers in health centres, clinics or hospitals with two or three-year diploma programs in medical science; 3) physicians in hospitals who have degrees from medical colleges or universities. Prior to 1982, diplomas - not degrees - were awarded by medical colleges and universities.

Most medical colleges were closed between 1966 and 1972. When these institutions were re-opened, three-year diploma programs were offered. Some medical colleges extended their programs to between three and a half and four and a half years.

The holder of a bachelor's degree in medicine is qualified to practise medicine in China. Those wishing to teach medicine and/or engage in medical research must hold a master's degree or doctorate degree in medicine.

## GLOSSARY OF USEFUL ENGLISH-CHINESE TERMS

born/birth	出生
date	日期
date of birth	出生日期
date of entrance	入学日期
date of graduation	毕业日期
day	日
month	月
(academic) year	(学) 年
sex	性别
male	男
female	女
pass	通过(及格)
fail	不通过(不及格)
full time	全日制
part-time	业余
graduation	毕业
graduation project	毕业设计
graduation thesis	毕业论文
major/specialty	主修/专业

## GLOSSARY OF USEFUL ENGLISH-CHINESE TERMS (continued)

school	学校
middle school	中学(中等学校)
lower middle school	初中
upper middle school	高中
secondary specialized school	中等专业学校
Joint Academic Upper Middle School Graduation Examination	普通高中毕业考试
certificate	证书
bachelor's degree certificate	学士学位证书
certificate of attendance	肄业证书
certificate of completion	结业证书
doctoral degree certificate	博士学位证书
graduation certificate	毕业证书
master's degree certificate	硕士学位证书
qualification certificate	资格证书
bachelor's degree	学士(本科)学位
doctoral degree	博士学位
master's degree	硕士学位
four-year full-time degree program <i>benke</i>	本科
university	大学
Regulation Concerning Academic Degrees in the People's Republic of China (translation varies)	《中华人民共和国学位条例》
college	学院
3 year non-degree course <i>zhuanke</i>	专科

### GLOSSARY OF USEFUL ENGLISH-CHINESE TERMS (continued)

	(common)	(formal)
one	一	壹
two	二	貳
three	三	叁
four	四	肆
five	五	伍
six	六	陆
seven	七	柒
eight	八	捌
nine	九	玖
ten	十	拾
eleven	十一	拾壹
twelve	十二	拾貳
thirteen	十三	拾叁
twenty	二十	贰拾
twenty-one	二十一	贰拾壹
excellent	优(秀)	
good	良(好)	
average/fair	中(等)	
satisfactory/pass	及(格)	
unsatisfactory/fail	不及(格)、差	



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