AACRAO International
Evaluator Training
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10 Strategies for Success in International Credential Evaluation
The Foundation:
1. Understand your *domestic* admissions policies thoroughly.

- They are the foundation of your international admissions work.
- The evaluator’s role is to *interpret* an international applicant’s profile in the context of the foreign educational system and *compare* it to the profile required for your domestic applicants.
- When issues arise, ask “How would we approach this for a domestic applicant?”
“High School Graduation”

- **In-state Applicants:**
  - Official high school transcript
  - Transcript received directly from the high school

- **International Applicants:**
  - What is the name of the credential?
  - Who issues it?
  - How do you get official documentation?
  - How do you confirm that it is authentic?
  - Where can you find this information?
2. Get good training and keep on learning.

• Master the fundamentals
  • The US educational system
  • The major educational system models, their structures, and key concepts and terminology for each pattern
  • Documentation and grading practices
  • Events that impact on education
  • Methodology of international credential evaluation and comparison to US system

• Identify and rely on reliable sources of accurate information and training.

• Be prepared for change. Education is dynamic. Education systems change. Factors that affect education change.

• Advocate for continuing education resources and keep on learning!
3. Avoid debates on educational systems being “superior” or “inferior”.

- Educational systems are different and reflect a country’s history, culture and economic needs.

- Applicants, their families, your faculty and colleagues all have opinions about the “inferiority” and “superiority” of education in the US and other countries.

- Your goal is to determine whether an applicant is eligible for admission and prepared for academic success in the program for which s/he has applied.
4. Communicate with your colleagues.

- Identify and network with colleagues who have similar responsibilities and concerns.
  - Across the community college system
  - Across the UC system
  - Across the CSU system
  - At other institutions to which your students often transfer
  - In professional associations that support your work
- Ask questions.
- Share expertise.
- Solicit input.
- Seek out a mentor.
- If you don’t have one, start a group for discussion and sharing.
5. Learn the World’s 6 Basic Systems of Education

Structure of Secondary + First-Level Degree:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>US</strong>-based system</td>
<td>12 + 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>British</strong> system &amp; variations</td>
<td>[11+2] + 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bologna</strong> Process &amp; ECTS (Europe)</td>
<td>12 + 3, 3.5, or 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>French</strong> system &amp; variations</td>
<td>12 + 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Soviet/Russian</strong> system &amp; variations</td>
<td>11 + 4 or 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spanish</strong> system &amp; Latin America</td>
<td>12 + 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You don’t have to learn 200+ countries!
Some Countries with a US-Based 12 + 4 Structure

- Afghanistan
- Japan
- Korea (South)
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- PR China
- Greece
- Indonesia
- Liberia
- Vietnam
- Turkey
- Canada (some provinces)
- Middle East (some countries)
- West Africa (some countries)
- Latin America (some countries)
Master the System(s) You See Most Often

- What are the countries you see most commonly?
- Which basic education system model do they represent?
- Identify experts and resources that can help you when you see documents from less common countries.

**Top Places of Origin of International Students, 2014-15:**

*IIE Open Doors, http://www.iie.org/Research-and-Publications/Open-Doors/Data/Fast-Facts#.WI92m1MrIxr*
6. Identify reliable resources and continuously add to your resource toolbox.

• The documents – Your first resource!
  • Save copies of credentials, your discussions about them with colleagues, and your admissions decisions about them.

• Knowledge base
  • US educational system, country educational systems, evaluation methodology, institutional and system-wide policies

• Resource collection
  • Online, print, professional network
  • Educational system, recognition system, curriculum, grading (Ministries of Education, institutions, EducationUSA network)
  • Samples of authentic documents
  • Previous files for reference
  • Information about events that impact education
7. Adopt a reliable evaluation methodology and be consistent in applying it.

- Outline a step-by-step procedure for reviewing applications and documents.
- Follow that same procedure **in every case**.
- **Do the research.** Do not assume that you can take what you see on the document at face value.
  
  (Does “college” always mean postsecondary? Does “high school” always mean “secondary”? Is “good” or “10” an excellent grade or a fair one? Does “bachelor” always mean a degree”? Is a “credit” a unit of study, or a grade, or something else?)

- **Do the work** required to be sure that the documentation is complete and authentic.
8. Practice Due Diligence: The Spectrum of Verification

- Every document must be “verified” = reviewed critically to confirm authenticity.
- The spectrum of “verification” runs from confirming format and content by using standard resources, to contacting the issuing authority regarding unexplained irregularities.

Document format, content and origin confirmed using reliable resources.  
Not sure; consult colleagues and experts for help.  
Document does not appear authentic. Must get verification.
Systemic Fraud: Due Diligence Required!

Best Practice Guides from AACRAO

  [http://www4.aacrao.org/publications/catalog.php?category=6#.WI9tFvJQfdU](http://www4.aacrao.org/publications/catalog.php?category=6#.WI9tFvJQfdU) [$110 Members/$158 Non-Members; 2016; Item #0146 (also available on Amazon Kindle)]


  [http://www.aacrao.org/publications/college_and_university_journal.aspx#.UZ093kpBmSo](http://www.aacrao.org/publications/college_and_university_journal.aspx#.UZ093kpBmSo) [free online]
9. Evaluate for “comparability”, not “equivalency”.

**MYTH:**
Credential A from Country X is *equivalent* to Credential B in the United States.

**REALITY:**
No two academic credentials are *equivalent*.
But by applying an appropriate evaluation methodology, we can determine *comparability*,
and whether the applicant meets the *standard* that is required for the purpose.
(Example: eligibility for admission)
The Myth of High School “Equivalency”
Some examples of the number of years in elementary/secondary sequence

- * Transitioning to a 12-year system
- Iceland
- UK A-levels, Italy, Germany
- U.S., France, Spain, Middle East, Germany, Latin America, Asia
- UK GCSE, Russia, Ukraine, Brazil, some CIS countries, Turkey, Mongolia*
- Philippines*, Myanmar, Mongolia*
Basis for “Comparability”: Ed. System of the United States

“Level” = Structure of educational system

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Master's degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (2 + 2)</td>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>(Associate's degree)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>High school diploma</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
U.S. High School: Level & Scope

• **Level:** Grades 9 through 12, approx. ages 14-18

• **Scope:** Refers to the breadth and depth of curriculum.
  - General education plus curriculum “streams” or options available; all are called “high school”.
  - Required subjects are usually:
    - English: composition, literature, speech
    - Mathematics
    - Science
    - American history, civics
    - Other social sciences
    - Electives (Physical Education, Foreign Languages, Arts, etc.)

U.S. High School: Grading

• Based on continuous assessment (homework and tests graded throughout the semester, plus a final exam in some subjects)

• Grading scale A (4.0) excellent, B (3.0) good, C (2.0) average, D (1.0) poor, F (0.0) failure

  (Other grading scales may be used; check transcript.)

• A GPA is calculated
  • Min. subject passing grade is D (1.0) = poor but passing
  • Min. GPA for graduation is D (1.0) = poor but passing

• Note: Many countries do not have a grade that is comparable to the US “D”. In many systems, the lowest passing grade for subjects and graduation is comparable to the US “C”.

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INTERNATIONAL
U.S. High School: Graduation

• All curriculum and grade/GPA requirements must be met.
• Proficiency / graduation examinations may be required.
• “High school diploma” is the credential awarded to all.
• Diploma is awarded by school or school district.
• Transcript awarded by school.
• Transcript shows cumulative GPA.
• Student may be ranked in graduating class.
• Ranking may be shown on transcript.

• Note: Graduation requirements are not necessarily synonymous with postsecondary admission requirements.
U.S. High School: “Purpose”
To what does U.S. high school graduation give access?

• Further education
  • Higher education
  • Postsecondary technical education
  • Postsecondary occupational training
• Employment where a high school diploma is required
• Military enlistment
• Other
Analyze & Compare

South Korean Secondary (High) School Documents
Korea (South)

High School Certificate of Graduation

Issued in 2014

Graduation in 1983
Korea (South) High School Transcript

Issued in 2014

Graduation in 1983
Apply the Methodology

• Analyze within the Korean system:
  • Level: Elementary, secondary, higher, other?
  • Scope: Curriculum content, type of program, assessment?
  • Purpose: To what does the ed give access?

• Review the applicant’s bio and ed. history
• Confirm this using authentic documentation and reliable resources

• Compare to U.S. system
• How do the program and credential compare?
• Is the applicant eligible for admission?
• What requirements might this education fulfill?
Consult Reliable Resources
Country Profiles and Information Specifically for Elementary/Secondary Education (all free!)

- NAIA International Academic Published Standards: https://www.playnaia.org/page/intldirectory.php
- China Credential Service: Evaluating Primary & Secondary Credentials from China: http://www.chinacredentialservices.com/about/conference-presentations/
Some Korea Resources (**free online)**

- Korea (Republic of [South]) in AACRAO EDGE: [http://edge.aacrao.org](http://edge.aacrao.org)
Korea Basic Information
Education ladder / chart (AACRAO EDGE)

**GRADING SCALE**
**Secondary**
Since 2006, high schools use a 9 rank system for grading a student’s level of standing on a scale of 1 to 9, with 1 as the highest and 9 as the lowest. (Before 2006, Korean high schools used grading system of the Su, Wu, Mi, Yang, Ga system.)
The percentages of students in each level are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Korean</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage Score (%)</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Su</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>Above 90%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wu</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>80–90%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mi</td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>70–80%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yang</td>
<td>Below Average</td>
<td>60–70%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ga</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Postsecondary**
Letter grade scale of ABCDF, with a GPA scale of 4.3. (Some universities use 4.5 as a maximum GPA.)
More Korea Info
UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE), World Data of Education, 2010/11:

**Primary education**

Elementary education is free and compulsory. At the age of 6, children are informed by the residence authority that they should apply for schooling. Once children enter elementary school, they automatically advance to the next grade each year. Elementary education lasts six years.

**Secondary education**

Middle school education is compulsory and partially free. Here "partially" means that only those students in rural areas and students specified under the Special Education Promotion Act can receive the full benefit of a free education. Middle school (or lower secondary) education lasts three years, and is intended for students aged 12 to 15 years. Elementary school graduates are assigned to schools in their residential area through a random method. This random assignment system is applied to both public and private schools: Upon successful completion of the programme, students receive the junior high school diploma. Access to upper secondary education (high school) depends on the results of a high competitive entrance examination. There are general academic and vocational high schools. Vocational high schools offer specializations in agriculture, technology, commerce, fishery, industry and home economics. There are also vocational schools called comprehensive schools, which offer both general and vocational programmes. Furthermore, special high schools have been established for science, arts, foreign languages and physical education. These schools select their students through different admission procedures. Special high schools are responsible for the selection of students, developing curricula, employing teachers, and the management of financial resources according to their own regulations. Civic schools and miscellaneous schools cater to students who, for various reasons, are unable to have access to mainstream schools. At the end of upper secondary education, successful students are awarded the high school or the vocational high school certificate. Graduates must sit the entrance examination (College Scholastic Aptitude Test, introduced in 2004) for entering higher education.
Korean & U.S. High School Comparability

- **U.S. high school graduation:**
  - Represents 12 year system
  - Curriculum: General ed. plus electives or “stream”
  - Grading system A, B, C with D as “poor but passing”
  - Diploma as graduation document; transcript is official record
  - Admits to university

- **Korean high school graduation:**
  - ✓ Represents 12 year system
  - ✓ Curriculum: General ed. or vocational
  - ✓ Grading system has similar ranges with a grade of “poor but passing”
  - ✓ Certificate is graduation document; transcript is official record
  - ✓ Admits to university
Tips for Requesting South Korean Documents

• Official documents are issued in English.
  (However, “English” in Korea is “English as a foreign language”, and English is not the language of instruction.)

• Documents issued in Korean with an English translation are not official in the United States.

• Official documents can be issued for education completed previously.

• Official documents can easily be sent from the issuing institution.

• ADD YOUR OWN TIPS HERE……
Analyze & Compare

Russian Secondary School Documents

[Image of the Russian flag]
SCHOOL-LEAVING CERTIFICATE
(completed secondary education)

NOV 02 2010

This is to certify that

F1

has completed all state and local requirements for graduation
from the Tomsk Humanitarian lyceum
and is hereby granted this school-leaving certificate

70 AA 0017635

Issued: Tomsk, June 26, 2009

SEAL

Tomsk city administration officer sign

School principal (Allifrenko S.V.) sign
Appendix to the “Attestat” (transcript) with final grades
**APPENDIX TO SCHOOL-LEAVING CERTIFICATE**

70 AA 0017635

**FINAL RECORD EXAMS CARD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Russian Language</td>
<td>4 (good)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Literature</td>
<td>5 (excellent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language (English)</td>
<td>5 (excellent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra and Introduction to Calculus</td>
<td>4 (good)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geometry</td>
<td>5 (excellent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian History</td>
<td>5 (excellent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World History</td>
<td>5 (excellent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>5 (excellent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Science</td>
<td>5 (excellent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>5 (excellent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>5 (excellent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>5 (excellent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime Health and Wellness</td>
<td>5 (excellent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Law</td>
<td>5 (excellent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Information and Graphic Design</td>
<td>5 (excellent)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**English translation of the final grade list**
### The Russian Alphabet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printed</th>
<th>Written</th>
<th>Pronounced approximately as (when stressed)</th>
<th>Names of the letters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>А а</td>
<td>А a</td>
<td>a as in father</td>
<td>а</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Б б</td>
<td>Б b</td>
<td>b as in Bob</td>
<td>бэ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>В в</td>
<td>В b</td>
<td>v as in Vera</td>
<td>вэ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Г г</td>
<td>Г g</td>
<td>g as in get</td>
<td>гэ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Д д</td>
<td>Д d</td>
<td>d as in day</td>
<td>дэ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Е е</td>
<td>Е e</td>
<td>ye as in yes</td>
<td>е (йэ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ё ё</td>
<td>Ё ё</td>
<td>yo as in yoke</td>
<td>ё (йо)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ж ж</td>
<td>Ж ж</td>
<td>s as in vision</td>
<td>жэ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>З з</td>
<td>З z</td>
<td>z as in zip</td>
<td>зэ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>И и</td>
<td>И i</td>
<td>ee as in beet</td>
<td>и</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Й й</td>
<td>Й й</td>
<td>y as in boy</td>
<td>й (и краткое)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>К к</td>
<td>К k</td>
<td>k as in skin</td>
<td>ка</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Л л</td>
<td>Л л</td>
<td>l as in bull</td>
<td>эл (эль)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>М м</td>
<td>М m</td>
<td>m as in Mark</td>
<td>эм</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Н н</td>
<td>Н н</td>
<td>n as in note</td>
<td>эн</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>О о</td>
<td>О o</td>
<td>o as in oh</td>
<td>о</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printed</th>
<th>Written</th>
<th>Pronounced approximately as (when stressed)</th>
<th>Names of the letters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>П п</td>
<td>П п</td>
<td>p as in spin</td>
<td>пэ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Р р</td>
<td>Р р</td>
<td>dd as in Eddie</td>
<td>эр</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>С с</td>
<td>С с</td>
<td>s as in Smith</td>
<td>эс</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Т т</td>
<td>Т т</td>
<td>t as in too</td>
<td>тэ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>У у</td>
<td>У у</td>
<td>oo as in boot</td>
<td>у</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ф ф</td>
<td>Ф ф</td>
<td>f as in fire</td>
<td>эф</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Х х</td>
<td>Х х</td>
<td>ch as in Bach</td>
<td>ха</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ц ц</td>
<td>Ц ц</td>
<td>zz as in pizza</td>
<td>цэ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ч ч</td>
<td>Ч ч</td>
<td>ch as in cheap</td>
<td>че</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ш ш</td>
<td>Ш ш</td>
<td>sh as in shock</td>
<td>ша</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Щ щ</td>
<td>Щ щ</td>
<td>shsh as in fresh sheets</td>
<td>ща</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ъ ъ</td>
<td>Ъ ъ</td>
<td>&quot;твердый знак&quot; (&quot;hard&quot; mark)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ы ы</td>
<td>Ы ы</td>
<td>i as in bit</td>
<td>ы</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ь ь</td>
<td>Ь ь</td>
<td>&quot;мягкий знак&quot; (&quot;soft&quot; mark)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Э э</td>
<td>Э э</td>
<td>e as in bet</td>
<td>э</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ю ю</td>
<td>Ю ю</td>
<td>u as in university</td>
<td>ю (йу)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Я я</td>
<td>Я я</td>
<td>ya as in yacht</td>
<td>я (йя)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Russia: Online Resources

Russian Educational System Diagram

Secondary education = 11 years (4 + 5 + 2)

Russian ENIC Web site

Russian version: http://www.russianenic.ru/rus/scheme.html

Russian ENIC

Links to sample documents at all levels, USSR era to present
http://www.russianenic.ru/rus/diplom.html
Russia: Secondary Education


Secondary education

Secondary education includes: basic secondary education (or lower secondary), which lasts five years (grades 5 to 9); complete secondary or ‘profile’ education (grades 10 and 11); and basic vocational education (normally a three-year programme after basic secondary education). General secondary education schools (covering grades 1-11) are the most common type of schools. General education is also offered at gymnasiums (which often focus on humanities), and lyceums, which normally concentrate on technical and scientific subjects. Upon completion of basic secondary education, students sit a final exam and, if successful, they receive the certificate of basic general education which gives access to complete general secondary, basic vocational education or middle-level professional education. At the end of grade 11(12) students sit the final examination (Unified State Examination) and if successful are awarded the certificate of complete general secondary education. Basic vocational education is the first level of vocational education and is offered in vocational secondary education schools, professional lyceums or, less often, in parallel with middle-level professional education at technical or professional institutions. After nine years of general education the duration of programmes is one to two and a half years in the case of vocational programmes, and three to four years for programmes combining vocational and general education (grades 10 and 11) offered at professional lyceums. After eleven years of general education the duration of programmes is one to one and a half years. Basic and complete secondary education are compulsory.

Higher education

Non-university higher education (or middle-level professional education) is provided in institution of vocational training, technical education institutions (technikums), and
**Russia: Upper Secondary Curriculum**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Number of periods for compulsory and elective subjects (grades 10 and 11)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basic level</td>
<td>Profile education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian language (*)</td>
<td>70 (1/1)</td>
<td>210 (3/3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian literature (*)</td>
<td>210 (3/3)</td>
<td>350 (5/5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign languages (*)</td>
<td>210 (3/3)</td>
<td>420 (6/6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics (*)</td>
<td>280 (4/4)</td>
<td>420 (6/6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History (*)</td>
<td>140 (2/2)</td>
<td>280 (4/4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical education (*)</td>
<td>140 (2/2)</td>
<td>280 (4/4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social sciences (*)</td>
<td>140 (2/2)</td>
<td>210 (3/3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural sciences (*)</td>
<td>210 (3/3)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>35 (0.5/0.5)</td>
<td>140 (2/2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>35 (0.5/0.5)</td>
<td>140 (2/2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>70 (1/1)</td>
<td>210 (3/3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>140 (2/2)</td>
<td>350 (5/5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>70 (1/1)</td>
<td>210 (3/3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>70 (1/1)</td>
<td>210 (3/3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer science</td>
<td>70 (1/1)</td>
<td>280 (4/4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>70 (1/1)</td>
<td>210 (3/3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>70 (1/1)</td>
<td>280 (4/4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civics</td>
<td>35 (1/0)</td>
<td>140 (2/2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of periods (max.) over two years

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(30/30)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subjects decided by the region

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>140 (2/2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subjects decided by the school (minimum)

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>280 (4/4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number of periods over two years, six-day week

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(36/36)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number of periods over two years, five-day week

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(35/35)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ministry of Education and Science, *National study plan for general basic secondary education*, 2004/05. Each teaching period lasts 45 minutes. The school year consists of 35 working weeks on the average (34 to 37 weeks). The figures within parentheses refer to the number of weekly periods per subject in each grade.
### Russian Grading: All levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Russian</th>
<th>Transliteration</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ОТЛИЧНО</td>
<td>otlichno</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ХОРОШО</td>
<td>khorosho</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>УДОВЛЕТВОРИТЕЛЬНО</td>
<td>udovletvoritel’no</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ЗАЧЕТ/ЗАЧТЕНО</td>
<td>zachot/zachteno</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>НЕДОВЛЕТВОРИТЕЛЬНО</td>
<td>neudovletvoritel’no</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The grade of ЗАЧЕТ/ЗАЧТЕНО is used in postsecondary education. It designates a pass in a subject that does not have a graded final exam. It may be translated as “credited” or “tested”.

- The grade of НЕДОВЛЕТВОРИТЕЛЬНО (2) is a failing grade and is not shown on the transcript.
Russian & U.S. High School Comparability

- U.S. high school graduation:
  - Represents 12 year system
  - Curriculum: General ed. plus electives or “stream”
  - Grading system A, B, C with D as “poor but passing”
  - Diploma as graduation document; transcript is official record
  - Admits to university

- Russian high school graduation
  - Represents 11 year system
  - Curriculum: General ed. or vocational
  - Grading is verbal or numerical; no grade of “poor but passing”
  - Certificate and appendix together are graduation documents
  - Admits to university
Tips for Requesting Russian Documents

• Official documents are issued in Russian. Use the Russian ENIC resources to confirm document formats.

• Verify documents with the official issuing office:
  • Secondary and vocational schools: Director of the School
  • Higher education institutions: Rector’s Office

• Students receive only one original document. DO NOT TAKE THEIR ORIGINALS!
  • Completion documents (attestat or diplom with addendum) are given to the graduate at a graduation ceremony.
  • For an incomplete higher education program, a transcript (akademicheskaya spravka) is given to the student when s/he officially withdraws.

• There is no standard system for Russian institutions to send official documents to institutions outside of Russia.

• Students can try sending a copy to the issuing office to have it certified as a true copy (“kopiya verna”) or “duplikat” (duplicate), then put into an envelope sealed and stamped by the institution, which the student can send to a US institution. However, this is not a standard procedure.

• Fraud is common in Russia. Be vigilant.
Strategies for Success: A Summary

1. Domestic policy = international policy
2. Get trained, use reliable resources, stay informed.
3. Avoid debates about “superiority” and “inferiority”.
4. Communicate effectively with colleagues.
5. Apply the same evaluation methodology consistently, in every case.
6. Learn the basic educational system models and master the one(s) you see most often.
7. Use and collect reliable resources.
8. Practice due diligence.
9. Evaluate for “comparability” not “equivalency”.

AACRAO INTERNATIONAL
Strategy # 10:

Be confident!!

You know more now than you did when this presentation started.
Keep up the good work!

• Handouts for use in your work:
  • Resources for International Credential Evaluation
  • Ministries of Education
  • Sample documents from Korea and Russia
Thank you!

AACRAO International
www.aacrao.org

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