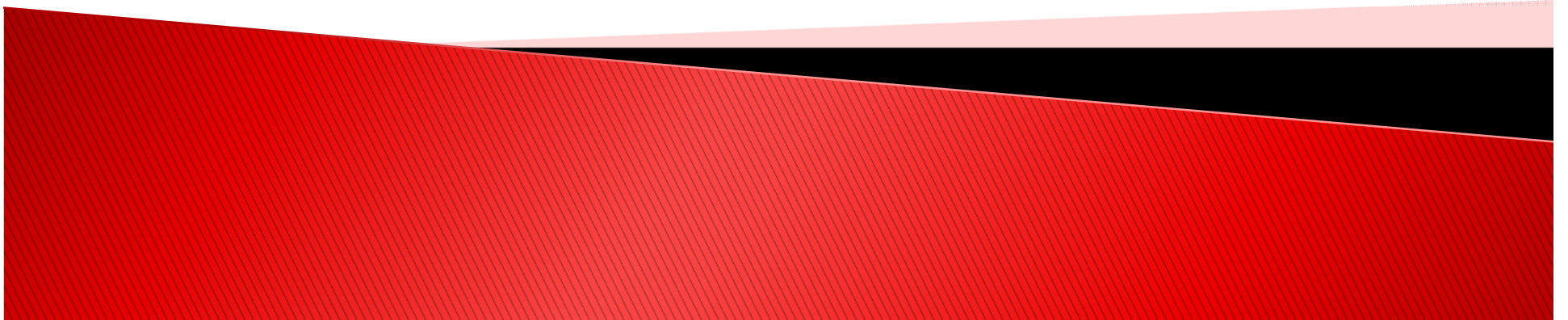


Foreign Academic Credentials: The Arab States

Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait, the Gulf States, Israel

Allison Duff
McGill University
December 16, 2011



General information

National schools

Secondary education

- ▶ National exams (except in the Gulf States)
- ▶ Grading scales:
 - On 100 (70 is the passing grade)
 - The French *Baccalauréat* grading scale, i.e., on 20
 - Other scales, which should be indicated on the transcript



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General information

National schools (cont'd)

Postsecondary

- ▶ System of colleges, universities and technical/vocational institutions
- ▶ Numerous private schools teaching in a foreign language
- ▶ Overseas campuses include:
 - Carnegie Mellon University, in Qatar
 - University of Waterloo, in the UAE

Egypt

Secondary education

- ▶ Four years
- ▶ The Egyptian baccalaureate: Split in two parts, with exams after grades 11 and 12
- ▶ Grading scale: on 100

Note: It may be difficult to obtain transcripts from Egyptian high schools

Egypt

Postsecondary education

- ▶ Four years
- ▶ Al-Azhar University: Religious curriculum, only graduates of Al-Azhar high schools may apply
- ▶ For most Egyptian universities, the grades for the fall semester are not available before February

Lebanon

Secondary education

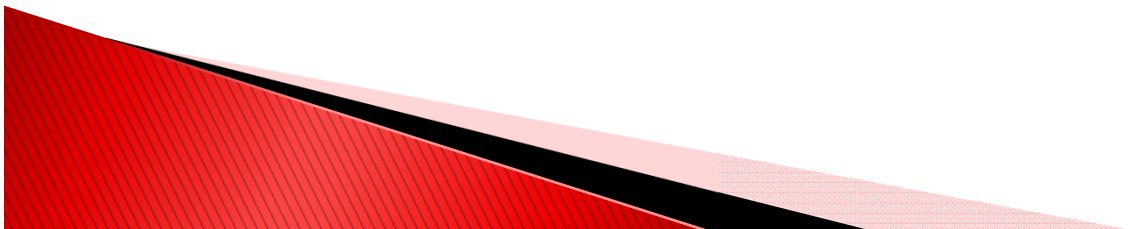
- ▶ Three years
- ▶ Lebanese Baccalaureate: Three years of studies, followed by national exams
- ▶ Numerous grading scales used, but the most common are on 20 or 100

Note: The Lebanese Baccalaureate is not equivalent to the French *baccalauréat*

Lebanon

Postsecondary education

- ▶ A minimum of four years
- ▶ Several options available: Universities, colleges, and technical/vocational institutes
- ▶ No standardized grading scale, but the most common are on 20 or 100



Jordan, Kuwait, the Gulf States

Secondary education

Jordan

- ▶ Two years in either an academic (pre-university) or vocational stream
- ▶ All students must pass the national exams at the end of their secondary education

Kuwait

- ▶ Four years
- ▶ In grade 11, students select a specialization: Arts, science, religion, or special education

Jordan, Kuwait, the Gulf States

Secondary education

Bahrain

- ▶ Three years
- ▶ Credit-hour system: Science, Literature, Business or Textiles stream = 156 credit-hours, Technical stream = 210 credit-hours

Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar

- ▶ Three years
- ▶ First year: General curriculum, with Arts or Sciences specialization for grades 11 and 12

Jordan, Kuwait, the Gulf States

Secondary education

Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, UAE and Qatar

- ▶ Four years of university education
- ▶ Most universities in the region use a credit-hour system
- ▶ Numerous foreign universities and international campuses in the region

Israel

Secondary education

- ▶ Three years
- ▶ Students must pass national exams at the end of grade 12 (Bagrut)
- ▶ Bagrut: Specific topics, e.g., Hebrew, the Bible, mathematics, English, as well as a range of electives

Israel

Secondary education

- ▶ Three or four years
- ▶ Applicants must pass the Bagrut, admission exams and, occasionally, an interview
- ▶ No standardized grading scale

Note: Most Israeli high school graduates delay the start of their postsecondary education to do their military service first

Israel

One-year university programs

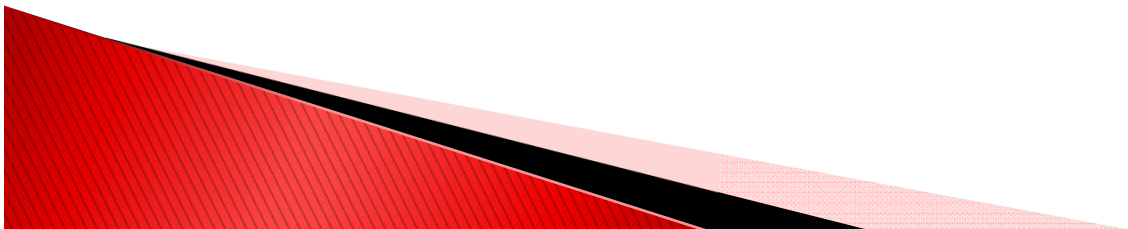
- ▶ One-year programs for international students
- ▶ Although these programs are university level, they do not lead to admission to Israeli universities
- ▶ These programs are aimed at students who want to experience life in Israel, and learn about Jewish traditions, history and culture

Other programs

- ▶ Credentials outside the national systems: International Baccalaureate, French *baccalauréat*, American high school diploma, etc.
- ▶ SABIS – International School of Choueifat: Most offer students the option of selecting one of two specific streams
- ▶ Secondary schools in the Indian education system

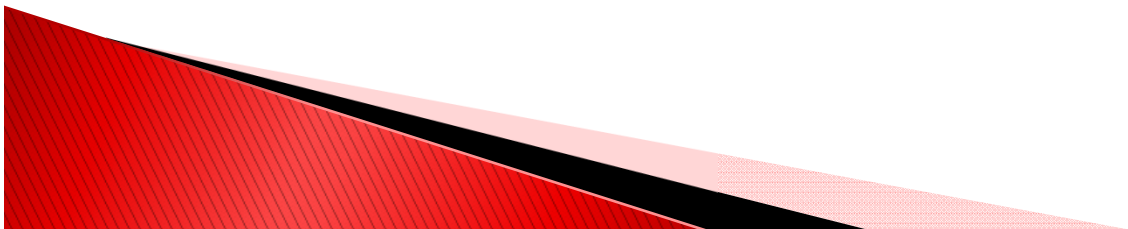
To consider

- ▶ Do students from this region have difficulty succeeding academically in Canada?



To consider

- ▶ A question of accreditation: How can we determine the legitimacy of the diplomas and attestations?



To consider

- ▶ How should we handle the issue of grade inflation?

