
Global Glossary of Terms

A collaborative initiative by NACADA's
Global Initiatives Committee (GIC)



2022 Edition

GLOBAL GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Because the language of higher education varies by country, The Glossary of Terms has been established as a living document to help the Global Community navigate those variances and reach a shared understanding of how we structure and define our institutions and programs. Contribution to the Glossary are welcome.

To make a submission, please email Karen Sullivan-Vance ksvance@ksu.edu.

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NEW IN THE 2022 UPDATE:

The Glossary of Terms is a work in progress. Members' contributions continue to be welcomed. For this edition, the GIC used the following themes to group academic advising terms:

- [Academic Credential](#) (p. 4)
- [Academic Support Services](#) (p.24)
- [Enrollment Management](#) (p.35)
- [Higher Educational Structure](#) (p.39)
- [Legislation](#) (p.66)
- [Special Populations/Specific Cohorts](#) (p.71)
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- [Student Support and Services](#) (p.94)

The Glossary of Terms uses country spelling in definitions. For instance Advisor in the United States and Adviser in the United Kingdom.

A

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Canada: Scholarly behaviour that demonstrates the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage in all forms of scholarly behaviour.

United Kingdom: Scholarly behaviour that demonstrates the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage in all forms of scholarly behaviour. Students are often required to sign a declaration at the commencement of their studies to say that they will behave with academic integrity and not engage in practices such as plagiarism or other forms of cheating.

ACCREDITATION

Australia: The Australian regulation and accreditation body for universities is the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA). It holds the National Register for Providers and Courses which is the source of registered higher education providers in Australia.

Canada: A process by which an organization is externally assessed and recognized for adhering to a set of professional standards to award a certain credential. Students may also work towards completion of a professional certification.

China: [学历学位认证] Accreditation of Academic Qualifications or Degrees is the process of verifying the legitimacy of academic qualifications or degrees obtained abroad.

Japan: [認証] Japan's higher education institutions must be accredited by the approved organizations by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) every seven years since 2004. The Standards for Establishing University (SEU) is applied by the Establishment-Approval System (EAS), which is known as the Quality Assurance and Accreditation System (QAAS). QAAS' checking points include overall conditions in education, research, organization, management, facilities, and equipment as stated in Article 109, the School Education Law. QAAS expects higher education institutions to conduct self-evaluation before the final checking of SEU standards. Currently, there are five accreditation organizations for four-year universities, three for two-year colleges, and one for polytechnic institutions.

Kenya: Means the procedure by which the Commission formally recognizes an institution or an academic program of a university.

Netherlands: The Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) was established by the Dutch and Flemish governments as an independent accreditation organisation tasked with providing an expert and objective assessment of the quality of higher education in the Netherlands and Flanders. The main tasks of NVAO are to assess and assure the quality of Dutch and Flemish higher education and promote a culture of

quality in higher education. NVAO fulfills these tasks with an international perspective and in the context of the European Bologna process.

South Africa: A status granted to a programme by a quality assurance provider having met the minimum standards of quality. The accreditation process is closely linked and dependent on the process of registration with the state which providers of education and training (schools, FET colleges and adult learning centres) are obliged to comply (Ref: S.A.Constitution1995).

United Kingdom: The term does not have the same meaning as in the US. In the UK a higher education institution cannot be "accredited" or "unaccredited". Instead there is a system of quality assurance, with reviews carried out by a government-appointed agency and external examiners appointed to ensure comparability of academic standards across institutions. There is also government control over degree-awarding powers and the right to be called a university, the exact details of which vary between different countries of the UK.

Within a higher education institution, voluntary accreditation may be sought for individual degree programmes from relevant statutory or professional bodies associated with the discipline (e.g., a Psychology programme may seek accreditation from the British Psychological Society, a Computer Science programme may seek accreditation from the British Computer Society). If achieved, such accreditation simply indicates that the educational provision of that programme meets a recognised external standard, and that students who awarded that degree may be exempted from some or all aspects of subsequent professional registration in that field. It does not have any implication for the ability of the institution to award the degree.

United States: Accredited is the official recognition that a college or university meets the standards of a regional or national association. Although international students are not required to attend an accredited college or university in the United States, employers, other schools and governments worldwide often only recognize degrees from accredited schools.

AMERICAN COLLEGE TEST (ACT)

United States: A standardized college entrance exam administered by the American College Testing Program. Four separate, multiple-choice tests measure knowledge of English, math, reading and science, and one optional writing test measures essay planning and writing skills. Most students take the ACT during their junior or senior year of high school, and most colleges and universities accept scores from either the ACT or SAT. Some schools may recommend, but not require, international students to take the ACT or SAT.

AMENDMENT/PROGRAM CHANGE

United States: A formally approved change to a program, course, major, sub-major or minor.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM (AP)

United States: A program offered by the College Board, a U.S.-based nonprofit educational organization, that allows students to take college-level courses while in high school. Students can then take standardized AP exams; those with qualifying scores can earn credit at certain colleges and universities.

AREA CODE/CATALOG NAME

United States: Courses are allocated an area code or catalog name for administrative purposes. For instance, an English course may have the code/section ENG followed by a catalog number 101.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Canada: An undergraduate credential that is not available in all regions of Canada. Where available, they are often two year programs and require a breadth of study. They are equivalent to a diploma, which is a more focused area of study.

Japan: [短期大学士 (Before 2005, 準学士)] In October, 2005, the School Education Act was partially amended, and graduates earn associate degrees. This change was made expecting the academic background, knowledge and skills gained at Japanese junior college institutions properly evaluated internationally and promoting international exchange programs.

Kenya: An undergraduate degree program whose duration is two years as opposed to the usual four years taken for a bachelor's degree and whose objective is to offer basic fundamental skills needed for students' professional growth in the industry

Netherlands: Associate's Degree is a higher professional degree of study that usually takes two years. This is a diploma at level 5 of the NLQF (see [Qualification Framework](#)).

United States: (Associate's) An undergraduate degree awarded by a college or university upon successful completion of a program of study, usually requiring two years of full-time study. An associate's is typically awarded by community colleges; it may be a career or technical degree, or it may be a transfer degree, allowing students to transfer those credits to a four-year bachelor's degree-granting school.

Typically requires 60-65 hours of courses to complete; usually comes from a community or technical college.

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES

Netherlands: In the Association of Universities in the Netherlands, Dutch universities work together for a strong university sector. The 14 Dutch universities within the VSNU are models for fulfilling their social function; formulating shared ambitions relating to academic education, research, and valorization; and lobbying for the preconditions needed to realize these shared ambitions.

B

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Australia: Undergraduate degree. Three years in Australia. High-achieving students may apply for an Honours year - often includes a short thesis. Closely aligned to the UNITED KINGDOM model.

Canada: An undergraduate credential offered at a post-secondary institution. Generally offered as a three or four year program.

Japan: [学士] With the Standards for Establishing Universities (SEU. see Accreditation) Article 32, students need to take more than 124 credits minimum of four-year enrollment. If students use transfer credits toward their graduation, it cannot exceed 60 credits (SEU Article 28). Many universities also have institutional graduation requirements. One of them is good academic standing. Due to institutional differences, the particular required GPA cannot be stated here, but students must be on good academic standing to earn a bachelor's degree.

Kenya: Means an award, above the level of a diploma, conferred by a university/institution upon the decision of Senate, signifying that the recipient has satisfactorily completed a course of study at the specified level. Students graduate with Bachelor degree classification as follows First Class, Upper Second Class Honors and Lower Second Class Honors.

Netherlands: After having obtained 240 credits (4 years of 60 credits), students are awarded a bachelor's degree (B) of an Applied University/HBO, being level 6 according to NLQF (see [Qualification Framework](#)). A bachelor of science and a bachelor of art at a university take 3 years of 60 ECTS to complete.

South Africa: A qualification with an NQF exit level of 7 or 8 and minimum total credits of 360 or 480. It emphasises general principles and theory in conjunction with procedural knowledge to provide students with a thorough grounding in the knowledge theory principles and skills of the profession or career concerned and the ability to apply these to the professional context.

United Kingdom: The bachelor's degree with Honours meets in full the requirements for a higher education qualification at Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications and is a first-cycle, end-of-cycle award in the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area established by the Bologna Process. The UK does not use the Grade Point Average system, instead Bachelor's degree outcomes are classified with the following classifications:

- First
- Upper Second Class (this is normally considered a good degree by employers such as the Civil Service and is frequently the minimum required for a student to progress to postgraduate study; a student with a lower degree class would be unlikely to receive funding)
- Lower Second Class
- Third
- Pass

A Bachelor's degree normally requires three or four years of study.

United States: An undergraduate degree awarded by a college or university upon successful completion of a program of study, typically requiring at least four years (or the equivalent) of full-time study. Common degree types include bachelor of arts (B.A. or A.B.), which refers to the liberal arts, and bachelor of science (B.S.). A bachelor's is required before starting graduate studies.

Awarded after the completion of the requirements of a specific program; most are four years of study.

C

CAS

United States: "Council for the Advancement of Standards" - a self-study process across a number of functional areas, mostly for student affairs areas. CAS provides standards that colleges and universities across the globe use as benchmarks in program assessment. Information regarding CAS Standards for Academic Advising (AAP) are available on the NACADA website: "The Standards, the '**must**' statements in **bold** print, are baseline expectations for programs. The Guidelines for Practice (the 'should' statements in regular print) are a roadmap to program excellence."

CURRICULUM

United States: A program of study made up of a set of courses offered by a school.

D

DEGREE

Canada: See Bachelor's Degree and Associate Degree for undergraduate degrees. Graduate degrees include Masters, Doctorate and Post-Doctorate.

China: [学位] China has a three-tiered degree system for higher education consisting of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. Any citizen who meets the requirements of higher education institutions either through being an autodidact, or more commonly through the normal channels of undergoing formal schooling can apply for corresponding degrees from degree-conferring units. In China, degree programs are divided into 12 program categories: philosophy, economics, humanities, law, natural sciences, technology, agriculture, medical sciences, history, pedagogy, management and military affairs. They can also be categorized into Academic Degree and Professional Degree. Academic Degree is reserved as a general term for degrees received in the fields of humanities and natural sciences, e.g. Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master of Arts, Master of Science, focusing on theoretical and academic research. Professional Degrees require a professional background and are offered to those possessing high-level expertise in particular occupations, such as Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Architecture, Master of Business Administration, M.D., Master of Law, Master of Engineering, and others in this category.

In terms of the degree conferral right and degree management, China implements a state authorization system and a three-level management system. The Central Committee has established the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council, following which provincial- and regional-level academic degree committees have been created. Moreover, universities and research institutions implementing graduate education have their own university-level academic degree evaluation committees. All degrees at each level are printed by the office of the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council and issued by degree-conferring units. For the purpose of computer network querying and searching and anti-counterfeiting check, the national unified numbering system is applied for every degree diploma. In a like manner, all professional degree diplomas are printed by office of the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council. Pilot professional degree conferring units can apply for degree grants from the office of the Academic Degrees Committees of the State Council and are regularly supervised and controlled by the aforementioned office.

Japan: [学位] There are six different degrees after post secondary education. They are 1. diploma (two-year technical schools), 2. advanced diploma (four-year technical schools), 3. associate degree (junior colleges and polytechnic schools), 4. bachelor's degree (four-year universities and colleges), 5. master's degree (two-year post baccalaureate), and 6. doctor's degree.

There are some professional degrees for medical, dentistry, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine with six years of academic programs. For master's degrees, there are also professional degrees such as law and education.

Kenya: Refers to an award, above the level of a diploma, conferred by a university/institution upon the decision of Senate, signifying that the recipient has satisfactorily completed a course of study at the

specified level. A certificate awarded to students' who have successfully completed their bachelor's, master's or doctoral studies in an Institution of higher learning.

South Africa: A long-term learning programme compliant with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) that can take three to four years to complete. These qualifications enable graduates to illustrate knowledge and competencies required for access into the job markets, further education and training, postgraduate studies, or expert practice in a wide range of career fields. These include undergraduate and postgraduate learning programmes (i.e. Bachelor;s degree; Honors degree, Master;s degree, Doctoral degree).

United Kingdom: An award conferred by a higher education institution upon a recipient who has satisfactorily completed a course of study at the specified level.

DEGREE PATHWAY

Canada: A pathway program is designed for the students who do not meet their direct entry requirements into a bachelor's degree. These students may enter a diploma program and then go into the bachelor's degree. The same applies for the Master's degree.

DISCIPLINE ASSESSMENT

China: [学科评估] The process of evaluating quality of the first degree subjects or disciplines conducted by National Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center. The assessment covers 81 first degree disciplines (except the discipline of military science) which are in the Catalog of Disciplines with Doctor and Master Degree Programs issued by the Degree Committee of the State Council and the Ministry of Education. The institutions may volunteer to participate in the assessment whose resultant information is used to rank those evaluated.

DISSERTATION

Canada: Scholarly research that is much longer than a thesis and written for a doctoral degree. Requires defense/viva voce. Contributes something new to the field.

Kenya: It is a comprehensively written document which is a culmination of a research study that includes background to the study, statement of the problem, review of related literature, objectives, data analysis, major findings and recommendations. It also refers to a research report written by a postgraduate student and supervised by suitably qualified academic staff and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the award of a doctoral degree.

Netherlands: The report of a bachelor's or master's research at the end of the course can be called a thesis. A dissertation is an original scientific essay written by a PhD student to obtain the doctoral degree.

South Africa: The supervised written research report which contributes significantly towards a final assessment for a (higher) degree. The written report varies in composition per degree. A mini dissertation (Master's degree) usually comprises between 20 000 and 30 000 words or two publishable/ while for a Doctoral degree , a dissertation between 30 000 and 50 000 words or two publishable articles. (University of the Free State Policy, 2022)

United Kingdom: A dissertation is a piece of original written work submitted as part of the assessment of a taught Master's degree. In the case of a Master's degree by research, the dissertation will usually constitute the entirety of the assessment.

DOCTORATE DEGREE

Australia: A doctorate may refer to a professional doctoral degree but most commonly refers to a PhD (Doctor of Philosophy). The PhD is the highest level of degree and demonstrates that the holder has undertaken a substantial piece of original research presented in a thesis. It demonstrates authority in the candidate's field and must make a significant contribution to world knowledge.

Canada: A doctorate degree usually follows a Master's degree and supports the further development of expertise in a field. May be course-based or involve a dissertation and defense.

China: [博士] Doctorate degree is the highest academic degree granted, by institutions of higher education and research institutes authorized to confer academic degrees by the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council, to those who have completed a set of courses at the Doctorate Degree level in a field of study, satisfied the requirement of evaluations for those courses, and successfully defended a thesis/dissertation as required. The length for the completion of a Doctorate Degree program is normally three years.

Kenya: A degree awarded by an institution of higher learning to a candidate who has successfully completed his or her post-master's degree studies. It is the highest level of academic qualification in a University which enhances knowledge at the most advanced frontier of the discipline or field of study.

South Africa: A postgraduate qualification with an NQF exit level of 10 and minimum total credits of 360. The defining characteristic of this qualification is that the candidate is required to demonstrate high-level research capability and make a significant and original academic contribution at the frontiers of a discipline or field.

United Kingdom: A doctorate refers to a PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) or professional doctorate (e.g., EdD - Doctor of Education) degree, but the term is commonly used to refer to a PhD degree. The PhD is a university-awarded research higher degree for original contribution to world knowledge and is examined by an original thesis or dissertation.

DOUBLE DEGREE

China: [双学位] Refers to the confirmation of an academic degree to a student who has successfully completed courses of a different field of study or academic program and satisfied the program's requirement, in addition to receiving a degree for having completed courses of his/her chosen academic program and satisfied that program's requirement. This practice of allowing students to complete interdisciplinary students is part of the efforts to explore innovative ways of developing talents with competence in multiple disciplinary areas.

F

FORECLOSURE

United States: Bound to a single choice with limited exploration of strengths and values. Ex. A student who decides they want to be a nurse, because both of their parents were nurses.

H

HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION

China: [高等教育学历] The study experience of learners for gaining knowledge or skills and academic credentials they obtain from the legally approved institutions of higher education. Students studying in different higher institutions can obtain three types of academic credentials respectively for academy students/three years' college students, undergraduates and graduates/postgraduates.

M

MAJOR

Canada: The concentration of a program of study within a degree program (e.g. a bachelor's degree with a major in history).

China: [专业] Also called "specialized field", refers to the academic program in institutions of higher education that is responsible for curriculum design and its delivery. Major is found at three levels: graduate, undergraduate and specialized.

Greece: An academic major is the academic emphasis which an undergraduate student officially chooses to complete. In order for student to complete their degree, there are specific required major courses, usually all from the same department. Students complete the Greek National Examination once a year (usually every June with a maximum of 3 times), and based on their test results, students are able to select a few major options.

However, the final test score that specific schools require changes yearly based on the market needs and student demand. Unfortunately, this means that many students are not able to attend their dream school and need to major in their 3rd or 4th option. That is the reason many Greek students go to other European countries and the US, in order to study what they really like. They also attend some American Universities (private or non-profit) that exist in Greece and follow the American system.

Japan: [専攻] Unlike in the United States where there are a lot of liberal arts colleges, most students in Japan have to decide their majors before entrance examinations, because the examinations are different by schools. Students, therefore, first decide their big majors such as economics or law when they are still in high schools, and sometime after entering the universities, usually by the end of the second year, decide small majors such as labor economics or international law.

Kenya: A subject area or discipline that is given main focus or more emphasis during one's undergraduate study. It usually takes 4 years to graduate.

South Africa: A subject that a student studies in all three years at university. For a subject to be considered a major a student must complete at least 64 credits at an NQF exit level 7 in that subject.

United Arab Emirates: The student's main field of study. A major is required for higher education degree completion.

MASTER'S DEGREE

Australia: There are two forms of Master's degrees - one by coursework and one by research. A two-year coursework degree may align to a professional degree, eg. Law, Medicine. A two-year research degree is by thesis in a defined discipline.

Canada: A graduate credential that is course-based, project-based, or thesis-based that usually follows a Bachelor's degree.

China: [硕士] Master's degree is the second highest academic degree granted, by institutions of higher education and research institutes authorized to confer academic degrees by the Academic Degree Committee of the State Council, to those who have completed a set of courses at the master's level in a field of study, satisfied the requirement of evaluations for those courses, and successfully defended a thesis/dissertation as required. The length for the completion of a master's degree program is normally two years to three years.

Japan: [修士号] Usually two years are required to get a master's degree. A dissertation or thesis is also required. See also Professional Degree.

Kenya: Means an award, above the level of a degree, conferred by a university/institution upon the decision of Senate, signifying that the recipient has satisfactorily completed a course of study at postgraduate level. It is designed to provide additional education or training in the student's specialized branch of knowledge.

South Africa: A postgraduate qualification that provides education and training to graduates who can contribute to the development of knowledge at an advanced level, such that they are prepared for advanced and specialised professional employment. It is an NQF exit level 9 with a minimum of 180 credits. (University of the Free State, 2022)

United Kingdom: The master's degree is awarded for one or two years of postgraduate study in a specific subject. Master's degrees are often taught programmes of study, but it is also possible to achieve a Master's by Research (MRes) degree which is not a taught programme and is examined by an original thesis or dissertation. Most master's degrees are awarded with a classification of pass, merit or distinction.

An integrated master's degrees (e.g. Master of Engineering, MEng) is a taught degree in a specific subject which combines 3 or 4 years of undergraduate level study with typically 1 year of postgraduate study. Confusingly, students enroll as undergraduate students yet are awarded a postgraduate qualification upon completion of their studies. More confusingly, the outcome of an integrated master's degree is not classified in the same way as other master's degrees and uses the same classifications as an undergraduate bachelor's degrees (see Bachelor's Degree).

At Oxford and Cambridge (commonly referred to as Oxbridge), students may be awarded a master's degree some years after graduation on payment of a fee. A Scottish Masters of Arts (MA) typically refers to a first degree in humanities or social sciences awarded by certain universities in Scotland (St Andrews, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt, and Dundee).

MINOR

Canada: An optional program that allows a student to study in an area outside of their Honours, Major, or General Program area. It would count as a part of the degree requirement.

Greece: A set of courses that a student takes, usually using the electives section of their degree, to complement their major. Generally, students who wish to earn a minor have to take about six to seven courses that relate to the minor area.

Japan: [副専攻] Rarely seen in Japanese universities, but modeled after the cases in the US, the number of major and minor practices has been increasing recently.

Kenya: A subject area or discipline that is given less focus or less emphasis during one's study but ensures that a student completes all the required work in the area of study.

Netherlands: A minor subject that is studied during the bachelor's degree which usually requires 30 ECTS.

South Africa: A subject specialisation compulsory to second-year level. This subject academically supports or adds value to major subjects. Minor subjects ensure that a student has the required number of credits at NQF exit level 6 in their degree programme.

United Arab Emirates: Secondary field of study typically requiring 18 or more credits. This is supplementary and therefore not required for higher education degree completion.

P

POSTGRADUATE

Kenya: Refer to studies undertaken after successful completing undergraduate studies or bachelor's degree program. The studies help deepen knowledge in a given specialization or discipline area. Post graduate studies usually result in a post graduate certificate or diploma.

South Africa: A multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary learning pathway in nature that serves to strengthen and deepen the student's knowledge in a particular discipline or profession. The primary purpose of the qualification is to enable working professionals to undertake advanced reflection and development by means of a systematic survey of current thinking, practice, and research methods in an area of specialisation. This qualification demands a high level of theoretical engagement and intellectual independence, as well as the ability to relate knowledge to a range of contexts to undertake professional or highly skilled work. (University of the Free State, 2018). **United Kingdom:** A student who has received a bachelor's degree or equivalent and who is enrolled in a program leading to a master's or doctoral degree. The student is described as a postgraduate taught (PGT) student if they are studying a postgraduate programme, which consists almost entirely of taught instruction, or postgraduate research (PGR) student if their studies consist almost entirely of independent research.

PREREQUISITE

United States: Sometimes referred to as a "pre-req"; course that must be taken prior to enrolling in an advanced course.

PROBATION/PROBATIONARY STUDENTS

Canada: Students whose academic performance falls below an institution's definition of good standing.

Greece: If a student has a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 or above, they are in good standing. When student's cumulative grade point average falls below a 2.00, they are placed on academic probation and will be subject to some restrictions. At the beginning of the semester, students on probation receive notification of probation and information regarding the suspension policy. As long as the student maintains a 2.0 semester GPA, the student will be able to continue taking courses, even though the student may remain in probationary status if their cumulative GPA remains below a 2.0. If the student's semester GPA drops below a 2.0 during the probationary period, they will be placed on academic suspension.

Japan: Same as in Canada.

Kenya: Students with academic warning are put on probations to monitor improvement in their academic performances. Supplementary exams are usually given to these students to offer them a second chance

PROFESSIONAL DEGREE

Japan: [専門職学位] Offered by professional graduate schools and is equivalent to a master's degree. However, a dissertation or thesis is not necessarily required.

T

THESIS

Canada: Scholarly research/review of what is already known, but demonstrates competence in the field. Written for a master's degree.

Kenya: It is a comprehensively written document which is a culmination of a research study that includes background to the study, statement of the problem, review of related literature, objectives, data analysis, major findings and recommendations. It also refers to a research report written by a postgraduate student and supervised by suitably qualified academic staff and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the award of a masters degree.

Netherlands: The report of a bachelor's or master's research at the end of the course can be called a thesis.

United Kingdom: For a doctorate (PhD, etc.), the written work is called a thesis.

U

UNDERGRADUATE

United Kingdom: Someone studying for a bachelor's degree is considered an undergraduate student.

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE QUALIFICATION

Canada: A post-secondary admissions process, which includes the following: high school grades, transfer credit from other post-secondary institutions, external tests or English proficiency verifications, as well as other requirements.

Japan: [大学入学資格] Qualifications or conditions for the students to enter colleges or universities.

Kenya: Standard requirements either in form of successful completion of a specific program or passing of a mandatory examination/test or by way of meeting certain threshold or set out expectations by the admitting body/institution.

Netherlands: Known as admissions requirements.

United Kingdom: In most parts of the United Kingdom, GCSEs (taken at 16), Advanced Supplementary Levels (at 17), and Advanced Levels (at 18) are still the most common school-leaving qualifications. Most institutions would require applicants to have three good A levels, or two good A levels and two at AS. However, a much wider range is now apparent; many institutions offer the International Baccalaureate or European Baccalaureate, which require students to study more subjects, and an English Baccalaureate is being introduced. A Welsh Baccalaureate also exists. In Scotland, students take Standard Grades, followed by Highers, which will enable them to enter many Scottish universities; Advanced Highers also exist. Most English universities would require Scottish students to have at least two good Advanced Highers and three Highers.

UPGRADING

Canada: The process by which a student takes the courses, or upgrades their academic performance, to meet the academic requirements of their target program.

W

WAITLIST

United States: when all seats in a class are full, some classes allow you to be put on a list where you wait for others to drop the class

A

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Canada: An adaptation in instruction, environment, evaluation, or any combination of the preceding for the purpose of eliminating barriers to academic achievement for students experiencing learning difficulties. Accommodations allow students with disabilities, or other limitations, to fully access the curriculum through support measures which may include adjustments to their learning opportunities and environment.

ADVISING

Canada: Providing coaching, guidance, and skill-building to post-secondary students with the goal of supporting student success (see Advisor) and academic progress.

China: [大学生学习指导] In China, Studying Guidance is widely used instead of Academic Advising. Higher Education Evaluation Center for the Ministry of Education defined Studying Guidance for College Students as ‘a guide provided by an institution for its students with information on academic and non-academic issues, curricular and extra-curricular activities, learning and life-long learning practices and concepts, and career planning. Such information intends to provide some specific help on understanding learning goals, academic program requirement, learning styles and methods, personal development and ethical development. It is hoped that with such information, students can maximize their efforts in widening their college experience, developing their learning styles, and completing their college education successfully.

Kenya: The process of helping students to reach their full potential by way of monitoring, and analyzing their academic progress and suggesting areas of improvement. There are no designated paid advisors but usually the faculty and the registrar help with advising.

South Africa: A developmental teaching and learning process which assists students in the clarification of their life/ career goals in the development of educational plans for the realisation of these goals. A decision-making process by which students realise their maximum educational potential through communication. (Centre for teaching and learning, UFS, 2012).

United Kingdom: A synonym for personal tutoring, but the term advising is less used in the UK.

ADVISING MISSION

Canada: The purpose and outcomes one can expect from an advising unit or advising exchange.

ADVISING MODELS

Canada: Centralized, decentralized, shared. Pardee (2004, para 2) identified three organizational structures for the delivery of advising: Centralized: faculty or professional advisors are housed in one academic or administrative unit responsible for all advising services. Decentralized: faculty or professional advisors are located in their respective academic or student service departments. Shared: advising responsibilities are distributed between a centralized office and various academic units.

ADVISING PHILOSOPHY

Canada: An approach to advising based on a value system, knowledge, practice, and experience.

C

CAREER COUNSELING

Netherlands: Study career counseling is an overarching concept for supervising students (not science content related). It concerns the phases from secondary school with information, recruitment, and selection, to progress and career counseling during the study. The final phase focuses on labor market orientation and transition to the labor market. During this entire period, a chain of activities and facilities are offered for the benefit of the student and in line with the needs and questions that arise. The chain of support options consists of activities and facilities offered by the faculties/programs, as well as activities and facilities offered by the central services and agencies.

United Kingdom: Universities offer specialized careers centres, which students are encouraged to visit by the beginning of their second year. They offer a wide range of services, including help with preparing applications and curriculum vitae (CVs), information about employers, and helping students to develop transferable skills. Career centres will organize regular careers fairs when employers visit the university. Some careers advisers have links to particular academic departments. Because the careers advisers are specialists, personal tutors or academic advisers do not normally give careers advice but encourage students to visit the careers centre.

D

DEGREE AUDIT TOOL

Canada: Institutional administrative software developed to help students navigate degree requirements. Acts as a checklist showing how completed/current courses fulfill program requirements and highlights requirements yet to be completed.

E

EXPLORATORY ADVISING

Canada: Specialized advising that supports all students who are uncertain of the degree program or educational pathway they want to pursue. This advising seeks to help students better understand themselves and their educational/career goals to facilitate informed decision-making on program choice. Exploratory Advising may work with a range of student populations including prospective students, current undecided or undeclared students, or Open Studies students. Exploratory Advisors are well versed in program content, requirements, regulations/policies, student/career development theories, and educational planning.

F

FLIPPED ADVISING

United States: Students complete assigned exercises prior to meeting with their advisor.

L

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Canada: A software application for the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting, automation, and delivery of educational courses, training programs, or learning and development programs.

United Arab Emirates: Software application typically used in schools and in higher education by faculty to deliver educational content, track student progress, and report on learning outcomes. There are many such software applications available in the market such as Blackboard and Moodle.

Japan: [ラーニングマネジメントシステム] Learning Management System (LMS) is utilized to provide a learning environment online. It is used to post learning materials and assignments, provide prompt feedback, and have an environment where students can communicate with each other outside class. There are multiple commercial and open source LMS systems, but many institutions are developing their own system.

Kenya: All-encompassing approaches employed in handling and organizing learning activities, resources and documentation in an institution of learning usually through an online software.

South Africa: A Learning Management System is a software that is designed to create, distribute, track, and manage the delivery of educational content. Examples of common LMSs utilised in South Africa: Blackboard, Moodle, SAKAI etc.

United Kingdom: A software application and/or tool that is designed to facilitate, create, distribute, track, and manage the delivery of learning and teaching educational content/materials. An LMS facilitates blended/hyflex learning and teaching practices.

P

PERSONAL TUTORING

Kenya: Individualized teaching and learning. Sometimes referred to as individual tuition. This is usually a paid service that is negotiated between the student and the tutor.

United Kingdom: A synonym for academic advising. This is a process of providing holistic guidance and support to students through a nominated representative of the institution, normally an academic faculty member. Although the focus is on academic guidance, the process can also encompass the provision of careers guidance and support and act as a first point of contact with the institution for students experiencing issues of a pastoral or personal nature. Broadly synonymous with faculty advising in the US.

S

STUDY ABROAD

Japan: [海外留学] Has been strongly encouraged by the MEXT since around 2010. Students are expected to acquire skills of intercultural communication and understanding in more diverse societies like the US and some Asian countries. One of the biggest areas where skilled academic advisors are urgently needed.

T

TUTORING

Canada: One-on-one support or small group studies intended to supplement traditional lectures. Tutoring can be part of the course structure as a meeting outside of the lecture or can be privately paid to supplement learning. Tutoring is more individually-focused support than a lecture and generally helps students to focus on the materials they are finding most difficult in a subject.

Kenya: A method of teaching through tutorials (small groups/individual). The service is offered by individuals referred to as tutorial fellows.

South Africa: A process of teaching by individuals (peers/senior students) who are not professional teachers. It involves people from similar social and educational groupings helping each other to learn collaboratively. It is also referred to as peer learning which is the acquisition of knowledge and skill through active helping and supporting among status and equal or matched companions. (Centre for teaching and learning, UFS, 2021)

United Kingdom: Usually a shorthand term for referring to personal tutoring (see personal tutoring).

V

VENTURE START-UP GUIDANCE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

China: [大学生创业教育指导] It provides information for college students to learn and develop their awareness and ability for venture start-up. In addition to integrating venture education into regular curriculum, a series of lectures, competitions, club activities, and training on venture start-up are provided to enrich students' understanding and experience of venture start-up related activities while on campus.

C

CLASS

Canada: A period of time spent on reviewing academic content, normally, led by a professor. The class can be a program or a degree requirement. May be connected to a Lab or Tutorial that supplements learning.

China: [班级] A class is a basic unit of education and teaching, and it is also a fundamental organizational unifier for studying and living in Chinese universities and colleges. As such, Chinese classes have the following features:

- a) Different from the class-selection system in western countries, students in Chinese classes focus on maintaining a long-term stability and harmony. In other words, in China, a class is formed first, and only then students in the class are enrolled to take different courses;
- b) A class in western countries is mainly used for teaching; however, in China, within the class, class-level student organizations exist (e.g. class monitor, class committee) that manage the class by self-governing or through assisting the class teacher which form a special social community.
- c) As one of student management levels, classes in China undertake a large amount of management and education work.
- d) A class in China is not only a learning community, but also an organization that students live together and are educated and managed together. This cohesive learning community has its unique ecological environment.

Kenya: A group of students or a cohort undertaking a specific course. In most universities in Kenya, class could refer to a particular cohort (students admitted in a particular year and expected to complete their studies after a given period (e.g. a class of 2020, or 2021 or 2022).

P

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT

Canada: Any student who is considering attending the institution and has not yet been admitted or matriculated into a degree program. A Prospective Student may be in high school, have some or all of high school completed with no postsecondary education, or may have some postsecondary education completed. Prospective Students are generally the purview of recruitment and admissions offices, with the goal of converting Prospective Students into current students.

R

RETENTION

Japan: [中退] Dropout rates are used instead. It is because we focus more on those who leave the universities than those who stay there, assuming that the former has some special reasons and should be taken care of. The rate, in four years, has been less than 10%, which is comparatively low. The latest research shows that the rates for national and private universities were 2.7% and 8.7% respectively (Yomiuri Newspaper, 2016).

211 Project Universities

China: [“211工程”大学] The universities admitted to be included in the "Project 211" initiated in 1994 by the Chinese Government. "Project 211" is the product of the Reform for Chinese Higher Education in the face of challenges of the 21st Century, and is one of the two pivotal government programs for developing 100 first-class universities and a number of key fields of research by the early 21st century. The universities involved have markedly improved their infrastructure, strengthened their capacity of educating students, upgraded their research work, and improved their services for society and come up with a host of influential research results and findings.

985 Project Universities

China: [“985工程”大学] The universities admitted to be included in the "Project 985" initiated by the Chinese Government. The Ministry of Education included them in its Revitalization Plan of Education of 21st Century. The goal of providing priority support for some of the select universities is to develop themselves as world-class universities.

A

ACADEMIC DRESS/REGALIA

United States: The components of dress all graduates are required to wear at a graduation ceremony.

ACADEMIC YEAR

United States: Annual period during which a student attends and receives formal instruction at a college or university, typically from August or September to May or June. The academic year may be divided into semesters, trimesters, quarters or other calendars.

Kenya: A period of teaching and examination organized in a full year in either two, three or four segments.

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES

Japan: [大学協会（国立大学協会、公立大学協会、日本私立大学協会、日本私立大学連盟）] There are the Japan Association of National Universities established in 1950, and the Japan Association of Public Universities established in 1949. See National University as well as Public University, because they are different in Japan.

For private universities, there are the Association of Private Universities of Japan, established in 1946, and the Japan Association of Private Universities and Colleges, established in 1951. Currently 86 institutions in the Japan Association of National Universities, 98 in the Japan Association of Public Universities, about 400 in the Association of Private Universities of Japan, and 125 in the Japan Association of Private Universities and Colleges.

The Japan Association of National Universities conducts 1. projects promoting high quality education and academic research, 2. surveys and research for policy proposals related to higher education and academic research, 3. international exchange projects, and 4. provides management support for national university corporations.

Both associations of private universities aim to 1. enrich and improve the educational and research conditions of private universities, 2. establish a management base, and 3. enrich the welfare of faculty members and student life. They also aim to contribute to society which continuously develops through the educational improvement of private universities.

Netherlands: In the Association of Universities in the Netherlands, Dutch universities work together for a strong university sector. The 14 Dutch universities within the VSNU are models for fulfilling their social function; formulating shared ambitions relating to academic education, research, and valorization; and lobbying for the preconditions needed to realize these shared ambitions.

C

CAMPUS/UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Kenya: A University campus is a small unit of a university which has adequate resources to support its student population which shall mirror those of the main university. Its usually headed by an appointed member of the University cabinet.

United States: The grounds and buildings where a college or university is located.

CHANCELLOR

Canada: Titular head of a university. Confers degrees, is a member of Senate and a Board of Governors and performs other roles to support the advancement of the university.

Japan: [理事長] The Board of Trustees plays an important role that represents the school corporation and has the authority to decide the business of the school corporation. The chancellor is appointed by the Board of Trustees as a president from its members.

The Chancellor is responsible for 1) convening the Board of Trustees, 2) submitting proposals to the Board of Trustees and asking for their opinions, 3) reporting the settlement of accounts to the Board of Trustees and asking for their opinions, as well as overseeing the internal affairs of the school corporation.

Kenya: The University Chancellor is the overall head of a university but whose role is ceremonial. In most private and public universities in Kenya, a Chancellor is a ceremonial position held by a government or University Council appointee for a specified period. The role of the Chancellor is mostly to confer awards of degrees, diplomas and certificates.

South Africa: The ceremonial head of the university and is generally a prominent figure in society. The chancellor is responsible for the leadership of the Governing Authority. (University of the Free State, 2021)

United Kingdom: The ceremonial figurehead of the University, with formal responsibilities that are set out in the University's legislation, including conferring degrees at Degree Congregations (graduation ceremonies).

United States: The chief administrative officer of a university and/or college system.

CHEA

United States: Council for Higher Education Accreditation: <https://www.chea.org/about-accreditation>.

COED

United States: Open to both men and women (often used to describe a school that admits both sexes and a dormitory that houses both genders).

COHORT

Canada: A group of students who move through their credentialing together.

COLLEGE

Australia: Sometimes used in place of the term "Faculty" - an organisational unit consisting of a range of specialised academic departments based on discipline, eg. College of Arts and Social Sciences. Often used as a term relating to a place of residence for students, eg. residential college.

Canada: Can or does provide the first level of post-secondary education. Normally an institution that is smaller than the regional universities. Colleges may offer shorter term training and include high school level upgrading, skills/ trade training, and academics (programs up to 2-3 years). Colleges may also offer degrees. Classes in college are typically smaller than traditional university lecture halls.

China [学院] According to Provisional Regulations on the Establishment of HEI which was promulgated on September 28, 2006 by MOE, colleges should accord with the following regulations: full-time enrollment students of 5,000 or more; offering of one or more major disciplines from humanities, social sciences, sciences, engineering, agriculture and forestry, medicine, and management; three or more primary disciplines for undergraduate programs from each of the major disciplines; at least 280 full-time faculty members, at least 30% of whom with a graduate level qualification; no less than 30% of the total full-time teaching staff with junior level professional certificates, among whom, 10 more or with full professorship; two or more full-time teaching staff responsible for teaching general compulsory courses and compulsory courses in the major; one or more full-time teaching staff with junior level professional certificates responsible for teaching compulsory courses in the major; for every discipline, there should be at least one full-time teaching staff with senior professional certificate; the total area for the campus should be of required size (500 mu), with a building area of at least 150,000 square meters.

Kenya: A college means a semi-autonomous component of a chartered university whose academic affairs are governed by the Senate of the university. Tertiary/middle level college: An institution that admits post-secondary students for various courses/programs geared for the award of certificates and diplomas.

“Constituent college” means a semi-autonomous component of a chartered university whose academic affairs are governed by the Senate of the university.

South Africa: A public or private educational institution that provides continuing education and training on a full time, part-time or distance learning basis and which is established, declared, or registered under the continuing education and training act,2006.

United Kingdom: A post-secondary education institution. Typically the term is a synonym for a further education college (see Further Education), an institution which admits students from the age of 16 upwards and delivers higher secondary and post-secondary education, as well as vocational and

apprenticeship training. Colleges grant a wide range of academic qualifications. Although they may offer programmes of higher education, colleges do not have powers to award degrees in their own rights, and where such provision exists it is validated or accredited by a higher education institution (university).

The term college can also be used to describe an organisational unit within a higher education institution (e.g., College of Agriculture) which is a grouping of academic disciplines/departments. It is synonymous with the UK usage of the term faculty.

Some UK universities (for instance, Cambridge, Oxford, London, etc.) are federal, being composed of different colleges, and students apply for admission to a particular college. Degrees are awarded by the university, but most teaching takes place in the college to which the student has been admitted, although it is possible to take some classes in a different college in the same institution. The facilities of the university as a whole are open to students from all colleges. For example, a student may apply, and be admitted, to King's College London and study in that college, but will be awarded a degree from the University of London and will be able to use the University Library, Sports Centre, Students' Union, etc., as well as the facilities offered by King's College.

United States: College/School is an academic division that contains administration and several academic departments; example- the School of Business or the College of Liberal Arts.

COMMENCEMENT

United States: A graduation ceremony where students officially receive their degrees, typically held in May or June at the end of the academic year, though some colleges and universities also hold August and December ceremonies.

COMMON APPLICATION

United States: A standard application form that is accepted by more than 750 member colleges and universities for admissions. Students can complete the form online or in print and submit copies to any of the participating colleges, rather than filling out individual forms for each school. However, international students will typically need to submit additional application materials unique to each college.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Japan: [短期大学/短大] Two year college.

Kenya: An institution that offers middle level learning and teaching for either academic or professional qualifications and is believed to be a project run and owned by people living in one particular area or people who are considered as a unit because of their common interests, social grouping, or nationality. Another name for a community college in Kenya is a Polytechnic. The aim of a polytechnic is to graduate self employment for its graduates.

United States: A public, two-year postsecondary institution that offers the associate degree. Also known as a "junior college." Community colleges typically provide a transfer program, allowing students to transfer to a four-year school to complete their bachelor's degree, and a career program, which provides students with a vocational degree.

CONDITIONAL ADMISSION

United States: An acceptance to a college or university that is dependent on the student first completing coursework or meeting specific criteria before enrollment. For an international student, this can include a requirement to attain a certain level of English-language proficiency if the student's TOEFL score doesn't meet the minimum required.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Canada: Department within an institution that offers learning for personal and professional development. Available to all learners within the community and often courses are developed by community leaders with subject-area expertise. Offers courses, seminars, certificates, and in some cases, diplomas that are outside the general bachelor/masters/PhD degree structure.

CO-OP/COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

Canada: Experiential learning through an alternate paid work terms for students accepted into a Co-operative Education Program (co-op), working for employers in their field of study. Students who successfully complete all work terms earn a Co-op designation on their degree.

United States: Cooperative education programs allow students to work – often full time – to gain skills and experience in their chosen field. Students participating in a full-time co-op don't take classes, but they are still enrolled at their college or university. Co-ops often last longer than internships, and they are usually paid. These programs are common in engineering and technology fields.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

United States: Mandatory courses that students are required to complete to earn a degree.

COURSE

United States: A regularly scheduled class on a particular subject. Each college or university offers degree programs that consist of a specific number of required and elective courses.

COURSE LOAD

United States: The number of courses or credits a student takes during a specific term.

CREDITS

United States: Units that a school uses to indicate that a student has completed and passed courses that are required for a degree. Each school defines the total number and types of credits necessary for degree completion, with every course being assigned a value in terms of "credits," "credit hours," or "units."

D

DEAN

Kenya: The Dean of Students in a University or college is an administrator in charge of students' welfare and co-curricular activities.

United States: Administrative head of college, division, or school.

DEPARTMENTAL CHAIRS

United States: Full-time professors who have administrative duties in addition to their teaching responsibilities.

DUAL SECTOR

Australia: Where an university offers both degree-based (academic) education and vocational (skills-based) education. There are six dual sector universities in Australia.

E

EDUCATION FOR ALL-ROUND DEVELOPMENT

China: [素质教育] It has the fundamental purpose to observe the national education policy, focus on the needs of the educated and social long-term development and comprehensively improve the basic quality of all students. It has the basic feature to focus the training on students' attitudes and capabilities and encourage their active and proactive development in their ethical and moral development, knowledge acquisition, physical development, and aesthetics appreciation.

F

FACULTY

Australia: An organisational unit consisting of a range of departments based on discipline. The Faculty is led by a Dean, the senior academic appointment in the Faculty. Not used to describe a person or role.

Canada: A faculty is a group of related departments or schools. Faculty are also members of the regular teaching staff, including professors, associate professors, and assistant professors or instructors.

China: [教师] Academic staff of various levels including lecturer, professor of practice, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor.

Japan: [学部] In Japanese higher education, the term faculty is used to represent a department. It also represents faculty members.

Netherlands: A department of a university or applied university.

South Africa: A collection of schools and departments focusing on similar fields of study.

United Arab Emirates: Academic staff of various levels including lecturer, professor of practice, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor.

United Kingdom: A grouping of academic schools or departments: for instance, the School of English and the School of History are in the Faculty of Arts; the School of Chemistry is in the Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, etc. The head of a faculty is the dean, who may be supported by a pro-dean for learning and teaching and one for research. Not used in the UK to mean academic staff.

United States: Academic professionals with teaching (and often research) responsibilities. Some faculty have academic advising responsibilities, although at some institutions, academic advising is done primarily by professional staff members.

FAFSA

United States: Free Application for Federal Student Aid in the USA; required for students wishing to obtain financial aid; must be filled out each year.

FURTHER EDUCATION

China: [继续教育] A supplementary higher educational learning experience (completion of post-secondary learning activities and programs) sought by those who have already obtained an academic degree, and/or qualification in a profession, as a means to update, enrich and expand their knowledge, and improve their abilities.

Kenya: Means education pursued after graduating with a first degree.

United Kingdom: Further education refers to any study after secondary education that is not taken as part of a degree, as distinct from degree-level study, which is called higher education. Some universities now franchise the first level of their degree programmes out to an associated college of further education.

G

GRADUATE STUDENT

Canada: A student who has earned a bachelor's degree or equivalent and who is enrolled in a program leading to a master's or doctoral degree.

Japan: [大学院生] Students who are pursuing post baccalaureate degrees.

Kenya: Means a student enrolled in post-bachelor's degree program – master's or doctoral studies.

South Africa: An individual who has successfully completed and earned a qualification in line with the National Qualifications Framework and its associated minimum standards.

United Kingdom: Not a standard term in the UK (see [Postgraduate](#)).

United States: Student working towards a master's degree or higher degree.

H

HIGHER EDUCATION

Australia: Higher Education Sector. Higher education in Australia relates to providers of post-secondary education that offer educational qualifications including bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees, some certificates and diplomas

Japan: [高等教育] There are seven different paths in higher education. They are 1. polytechnic schools, which is a six-year program with high school diplomas, 2. two-year technical schools, 3. four-year technical schools, 4. junior colleges, 5. four-year universities and colleges, 6. master's degree (two-year post baccalaureate), and 7. doctor's degree.

Kenya: Refers to education offered at institutions of higher learning that awards degrees at various levels.

Netherlands: Higher education is a form of education that follows secondary education. It includes higher professional education that is taught at universities of applied sciences (HBO) and scientific education that is taught at universities (WO).

HBO courses are provided by colleges. In contrast to universities, higher vocational education programs focus primarily on the development of skills in close connection with professional practice in addition to the transfer of subject-theoretical knowledge. Higher professional education also has an associate degree. This usually takes two years and is a diploma at level 5 of the NLQF (see [Qualification Framework](#)). After obtaining 240 credits, students are awarded a bachelor's degree (see [Bachelor's Degree](#)).

South Africa: All learning programmes must be registered in accordance with the provisions of the National Qualifications Framework Act, 2008 (Act 67 of 2008) as a qualification or part-qualification on the HEQSF, regardless of whether such programmes are in fact registered on the sub-framework or not.

United Kingdom: Higher education refers to any study after secondary education that is taken as part of a degree (i.e., bachelors, masters or doctoral degrees).

HIGHER VOCATIONAL COLLEGE

China: [高等职业院校] It refers to an educational institution that takes as its mission training of students with basic professional knowledge, and strong application capabilities. According to Provisional Regulations on the Establishment of Higher Vocational Schools which was promulgated on March 15, 2000, higher vocational colleges should accord with the following regulations: having a faculty body with both full-time and part-time status, a campus size (150 mu) that can accommodate those academic program offerings; sufficient facilities for teaching, laboratories, and administration; having all needed spaces for workshops and training, teaching equipment, and library materials. Curriculum design should emphasize the school's mission, with 40% of practicum course load in the total course load. Presently, there are some higher specialized schools, called Vocational High Schools, established in the same manner as higher vocational colleges, and these higher specialized schools are under the same managerial system.

HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTIONS (HSI)

United States: An institution that has an enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic students at the end of the award year immediately preceding the date of application.

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCUs)

United States: Institutions of higher education in the United States that were established before the Civil Rights Act of 1964 with the intention of primarily serving the African-American community they were created because white institutions excluded/segregated populations.

INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS

China: [独立学院] Independent Institutions refers to institutions which are cooperatively operated by the regular institutions of higher education with undergraduate courses or above and non-governmental organizations or individuals. Independent institutions offer regular college courses at undergraduate level or at a higher level with no-state financial support. It is an important part of private higher education.

INTERSESSION COURSE

United States: An accelerated or compacted course that meets outside of (often in between) a regular semester; typically equivalent of a full semester course.

IPEDS

United States: The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. . It is a system of interrelated surveys conducted annually by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). IPEDS gathers information from every college, university, and technical and vocational institution that participates in the federal student financial aid programs.:
<https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>

M

MEXT

Japan: [文部科学省] One of the abbreviations of Monbukagakusho in English, because its official name is very long. See also Monbukagakusho.

MONBUKAGAKUSHO

Japan: [文部科学省] Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. It covers and leads education policies from kindergarten to university, which means that it has huge influence on education in Japan as a whole on one hand. On the other hand, however, taking it into account that Japan's public spending on education, as a share of GDP, has been the second from the bottom among OECD countries for years, the Ministry does not seem very powerful among other ministries

MONKASHO

Japan: [文科省] One of the abbreviations of Monbukagakusho. See Monbukagakusho.

MSI

United States: Minority Serving Institutions such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AAPISIs).

N

NAIA

United States: The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics is a college athletics association for small colleges and universities in North America.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Japan: [国立大学] Higher education institutions established by the central government. “National” in this case does not mean nation-wide. They could be local because every prefecture (47) has at least one national university due to the law. As of February 2022, there are 86 national universities, all of which are 4-year universities and are under the guidance of the MEXT. There are a few other universities established by the central government but are not under the MEXT. For example, the Ministry of Defense has the National Defense Academy of Japan.

NCAA

United States: National Collegiate Athletic Association regulates student athletes in North American institutions and conferences.

NJCAA

United States: National Junior College Athletic Association is the governing association of community college, state college and junior college athletics throughout the United States.

O

ONLINE TEACHING PLATFORM

China: [在线教学平台] Due to the breakout of Covid 19, most universities in China started to make use of technology and software as their online teaching platforms to deliver courses to students. The most widely used platform is Rain Classroom developed by Tsinghua University and Xuetang X. It is an interactive and easy-to-use platform for multiple modes of online teaching. It covers main functions such as previewing, tests and quizzes, and real-time data analysis.

Japan: [オンライン授業のプラットフォーム] Rarely used until the end of 2019, but has become popular since the spread of COVID-19 in 2020. Zoom, Teams, and Google Meet are the three major platforms so far.

OPEN STUDIES

Canada: An admission or registration category where students are admitted to the institution and can take for-credit undergraduate-level courses, but are not admitted to a faculty, division, or school. Open Studies is non-degree granting and usually limits the number of courses a student can take. Open Studies can be a pathway for students seeking admission to an undergraduate, professional or graduate program.

P

PDP

United States: "Postsecondary Data Partnership" - a nationwide (USA) dataset of outcomes and metrics for higher education institutions

PRESIDENT

Canada: The head of the institution, whose title is usually president and vice-chancellor, as summarized in the University Act. As the chief executive officer of the university or college, the president is responsible for providing overall leadership. The president directs operations, including academic work, business affairs, alumni relations, government relations, and engagement with the broader community.

Japan: [学長] A top management of the university. He or she often doubles as a board member.

Kenya: Not a commonly used term in the Kenyan context. This could be the equivalent of the Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor in the Kenyan context.

United Kingdom: See [Vice Chancellor](#).

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

China: [民办高等学校] Refers to institutions of higher learning which are approved by the state and operated according to the state's standards, offering higher education of academic or non-academic qualifications for the public. Private Institutions of Higher Education are supported financially by all sectors of society, including enterprises, institutions, public organizations or groups as well as individual citizens with non-state finance in accordance with law.

PRIVATE SCHOOL

Canada: Schools that do not receive their primary operating expenses from the government but rather from fee payers. Organized like public schools, the curricula and approach can differ considerably, from experimental to traditional. Private schools include boarding schools, single-sex schools, charter schools, schools sponsored by religious groups, and independent schools.

Kenya: An institution of learning that is not funded by the Kenya Government. They are institutions of learning owned and managed as individual or corporate enterprises.

South Africa: Schools that are not owned by the government. They are usually owned and operated by a trust, church or community, or by a for-profit company. Not all private schools in South Africa charge high school fees. Certain private schools also receive a grant from the state, depending on the community served and fees charged.

PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES

Canada: A regulating body that provides oversight of professional degrees established through provincial legislation, such as Veterinary Science, Law, and Medicine.

Kenya: These are institutions in the community that offer professional courses for instance, College of Accountancy, Computer College.

United Kingdom: Some professional institutions are colleges. Examples are the Royal College of Nursing, the Royal College of Physicians, and the Royal College of Surgeons.

PROFESSIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL

Japan: [専門職大学院] Graduate schools that offer degrees and curriculum in more practical fields such as accounting, business, public administration and fashion than traditional academic graduate schools.

PUBLIC SCHOOL

Canada: Publicly funded, primary and secondary public schools (Kindergarten to grade 11 or 12) in Canada are the responsibility of individual provincial departments of education. Provincial departments of education allocate funds, set policy, and certify teachers.

Japan: [公立学校] Government schools. In most cases, schools are established by the local governments. As far as elementary and high schools are concerned, public schools overwhelm private ones in numbers, but not in the case of higher education.

Kenya: Institutions whose programs are funded, regulated, and staffed by the government.

South Africa: Public School According to the South African Schools Act No 84 of 1996 refers to public school as any school which was established or was deemed to have been established in terms of any law governing school education in the Republic of South Africa and which existed immediately prior to the commencement of this Act, other than a private school referred to in section 53 is deemed to be a public school.

United Arab Emirates: Uses the term government school (vs. private school). Government schools receive funding from the government and follow the UAE National Education Curriculum

United Kingdom: An independent, fee-paying school, usually one of the more prestigious (and expensive) ones, providing education to secondary level. Public schools are also known as private schools, but there are many private, fee-paying schools which are not normally known as public. State schools are those funded by the government.

The term is not used in the UK in connection with higher education.

PUBLIC UNIVERSITY

Japan: [公立大学] Literally, higher education institutions established by the central government and the local governments. However, they often and usually mean the latter only. The former is called national universities. See also National University.

Q

QUALIFICATION FRAMEWORK

Europe: The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) is a common European reference framework for standardization across different countries. The framework provides qualifications at all levels and an overview of qualifications in the 39 countries currently linking their framework to the EQF. This allows countries to be transparent about their education systems and easily understand other qualification systems.

Netherlands: The Dutch qualifications framework (NLQF) is a framework for the classification of all possible qualifications from basic education to a doctorate. NLQF makes it possible to compare formally regulated qualifications to non-formal qualifications (often provided by private institutions). The framework is useful for employers so that they can see what a (potential) employee knows and is able to do and provides insight for further career development. The levels of the NLQF are linked to the levels of the EQF: European Qualification Framework.

The framework consists of eight levels and one entry level. Each of the 8 levels is defined by a set of descriptors indicating the learning outcomes relevant to qualifications at that level. The levels are based on descriptions of what someone knows and is able to do after completion of a learning process, regardless of where and, to an extent, in what timeframe this took place. These descriptions of the levels of knowledge, skills, autonomy, and responsibility are referred to as learning outcomes.

South Africa: Also known as the National Qualification Framework (NQF) is a strategy in response to ever-changing economic sectoral demands. It provides a framework within which the South African Qualifications system is constructed, representing a national effort at integrating education and training. The NQF is the set of principles and guidelines by which records of learner achievement are registered to enable national recognition of acquired skills and knowledge, thereby ensuring an integrated system that encourages life-long learning.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

China: [高等教育质量保障体系] Quality Assurance System of Higher Education. It refers to the regulatory system of organization and implementation of quality assurance in higher education so as to establish stakeholder confidence that provision including input, process and outcomes fulfils expectations or measures up to threshold minimum requirements. It consists of external quality assurance and internal quality assurance.

Japan: [質保証] Made up by the following two systems (NIAD-QE, 2019): 1) Approval/notification system for establishment of universities and colleges 2) Certified evaluation and accreditation system.

R

RECTOR

Canada: An alternate name from President for an academic head/leader of a college or university.

Japan: [学長] For the title of the top leader of the university, president is much more common.

Kenya: An appointed head of an institution or higher-level college and more often than not belonging to a religious organization.

South Africa: The chief executive and accounting officer of a higher education institution appointed by the Council. Also referred to as the Vice-Chancellor/Principal, this individual is known as the one that provides operational and strategic direction (Amended institutional statute UFS, 2018)

Netherlands: Rector Magnificus (or rector) is the title of the professor-director of a university, a member of the executive board. They are usually elected (in Belgium) or selected (in the Netherlands) because they are a respected member of the professor corps and would like to fill the position.

United Kingdom: In Scotland, the Rector chairs meetings of the University Court, the governing body of the university, and is elected by the students at regular intervals (usually every three years to enable every undergraduate who obtains a degree to vote at least once). The Rector has a key role in supporting students, attends meetings of Court, works with the Students' Union or Students' Representative Council, and brings student concerns to the attention of the management of the university. The Rector is frequently a well-known public figure: recent Rectors at Scottish universities have included the actor Sir Patrick Stewart, the Member of Parliament Charles Kennedy, and the prominent human rights lawyer Amer Anwar.

REGISTRAR ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Kenya: A member of university management responsible for the day-to-day operations of academic affairs (teaching, learning, examination, students; progression) in the University. He couples as the secretary to the University Senate.

S

SCHOOL

Australia: A term used to describe an organisational unit that consists of a range of departments, eg. School of Historical and Philosophical Studies. A term also used for K-12 education. Never used for tertiary education.

Canada: Usually refers to grades Kindergarten to grade 11 or 12. The term can also be used colloquially to refer to college or university or may be used to refer to a specific faculty or group of departments (e.g. School of Business).

Kenya: School and faculty are used interchangeably to refer to an academic division that houses several departments which are academic units/sections charged with the day to day operations of academic matters.

United Arab Emirates: Refers to primary or secondary educational institution. Some American Curriculum Universities may include a school at the higher education level.

United Kingdom: An organisational unit within a university (e.g. the School of Dentistry and Medicine). This term is not used in the UK to mean an institution of higher education but to refer to a primary or secondary school, where students go from the age of 5 to 18. A person saying, “I go to school at . . .” would never be understood as going to college or university.

SEVIS

United States: The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is the web-based system that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) uses to maintain information regarding:

- Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified schools.
- F-1 and M-1 students studying in the United States (and their F-2 and M-2 dependents). F-1 and M-1 are different student visas for international students studying in the US.
- U.S. Department of State-designated Exchange Visitor Program sponsors.
- J-1 visa Exchange Visitor Program participants (and their J-2 dependents).

On behalf of DHS, SEVP manages SEVIS. The system is a critical tool in SEVP’s mission to protect national security while supporting the legal entry and stay of the more than one million F, M and J nonimmigrants coming to the United States for educational and cultural exchange programs.

SIGNPOST

Kenya: A board with specific information meant to guide people on what to look for, which direction to take or where to locate a specific building et cetera.

United Arab Emirates: See [Learning Management System](#).

United Kingdom: A colloquial term meaning to refer a student to professional support services within the institution

T

TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION (TAFE)

Australia: Technical and further education is provided by government and privately registered institutions. These offer vocational or practical qualifications in workplace skills and training. Similar to a community college in the USA. They are not considered part of the higher education sector. Vocational courses may provide a pathway to higher education.

U

“UNI”

Australia: Term used by students and others to describe university. Closest to the US "school" - eg. "I'm going to uni next year" or "which uni are you at?"

UNIVERSITY

Australia: A university provides educational courses that lead to a degree: bachelors, masters or doctorates

Canada: A post-secondary institution that has undergraduate (bachelor's) degrees, and many have graduate (master's and doctoral) programs. Although they receive funding from provincial governments, each institution is self-governing and regulates its own programs, admissions, and faculty. Undergraduate degrees usually take 3 to 4 years to complete, depending on the province, with full-time study. Many universities also offer professional programs, such as medicine, dentistry, and law, as well as continuing studies for professional development and personal interest.

China: [大学] According to Provisional Regulations on the Establishment of HEI which was promulgated on September 28, 2006 by MOE, universities should accord with the following regulations: full-time enrollment students of 8,000 or more; offering of three or more major disciplines from humanities, social sciences, sciences, engineering, agriculture and forestry, medicine, and management; three or more primary disciplines for undergraduate programs from each of the major disciplines; more than 20 areas/fields of academic studies/programs at undergraduate level and at least two at master's level; at least 50% of the faculty body with a graduate level qualification; no fewer than 400 full-time teaching staff with senior level professional certificates, among whom, 100 more or with full professorship; 10 or more master level programs; with more than five years master-level graduates. There are also additional requirements for research and teaching achievement.

Japan: [大学] Same in the USA.

Kenya: 1. “private university” means a university which is established or maintained out of funds other than public funds; 2. public university” means a university established and maintained or assisted out of public funds. The mandate of a University is to teach, research and disseminate knowledge and award mostly degrees to graduating students means an organization founded for purposes of university education and research.

Netherlands: An educational institution for higher education and scientific research.

South Africa: A post-schooling and/or higher education institution that offers post-high school education and training ranging between NQF exit level 7 to NQF exit level 10 ("Colleges - How To Choose the Right One » Colleges", 2022)

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Canada: All post-secondary institutions have an admission process, including marks gained in high school (generally grade 12, but some schools also consider grade 11 marks). Entrance qualifications also include any external tests or English proficiency verifications that might be required.

Netherlands: Known as admissions requirements.

UK: In most parts of the UK, GCSEs (taken at 16), Advanced Supplementary Levels (at 17), and Advanced Levels (at 18) are still the most common school-leaving qualifications. Most institutions would require applicants to have three good A levels, or two good A levels and two at AS. However, a much wider range is now apparent; many institutions offer the International Baccalaureate or European Baccalaureate, which require students to study more subjects, and an English Baccalaureate is being introduced. A Welsh Baccalaureate also exists. In Scotland, students take Standard Grades, followed by Highers, which will enable them to enter many Scottish universities; Advanced Highers also exist. Most English universities would require Scottish students to have at least two good Advanced Highers and three Highers.

V

VICE CHANCELLOR

Canada: Chief executive officer of a post-secondary institution. The President is also the Vice-Chancellor.

Kenya: Chief Executive Officer and academic head of the University and one responsible for the day today running of the Institution.

South Africa: Vice-Chancellor Vice-Chancellor, the highest managerial position of a tertiary institution (Nelson Mandela University,2022)

United Kingdom: The principal academic and administrative officer of the University. They are normally supported by Pro-Vice-Chancellors, with varying portfolios such as Research, Learning and Teaching, Student Experience.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

Japan: Has two different meanings. One is community's small institutions for vocational training. The other is more like community colleges focusing on specific careers such as nurses, cooks, and engineers, and, therefore, is sometimes called vocational colleges.

Kenya: Means an institution providing training leading to awards below the level of diploma. They offer training meant to equip the learner with lifelong skills)

Netherlands: In contrast to universities, higher vocational education programs focus primarily on the development of skills in close connection with professional practice, in addition to the transfer of subject-theoretical knowledge. Secondary vocational education (MBO) offers courses such as construction, technology, healthcare, and social professions; economic professions are given at Regional Training Centers. These courses fall under the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. Green training courses (agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food, animal husbandry) are given at Agricultural Training Centers (AOC). These fall under the Ministry of Economic Affairs. In addition, there are professional institutions; they provide MBO courses in one sector (e.g. graphic design). Apart from public or special institutions funded by one of the ministries, there are also numerous private training institutes that are allowed to issue approved MBO diplomas. Hairdressing schools and beauty institutes in particular are often private training centers. Secondary vocational education is regulated in the Adult and Vocational Education Act.

South Africa: Schools that offer courses whereby people learn technical skills that allow them to be directly placed in a job. (University of the Free State, 2012)

C

CRICOS

Australia: The Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) lists all Australian education providers that offer courses to people studying in Australia on student visas.

D

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION LAWS

Canada: Laws that are governed by The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, provincial Human Rights Codes, and Accessibility Legislation that promote and protect the rights and dignity of students with disabilities by creating safe, respectful, and supportive environments for all members of the community.

Japan: 障がい者差別解消法] In June 2013, the "Act on Promotion of Elimination of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities" was enacted and came into effect on April 1, 2016. As a result, national universities are now legally obligated to provide reasonable accommodations. Private universities are prohibited unfair discriminatory treatment on the basis of disability but not obligated to provide reasonable accommodation. They are asked to make their best effort to provide reasonable accommodations.

Kenya: Refer to laws enshrined in the constitution meant to protect students with special needs from any form of discrimination besides helping to enforce any rules and regulations put in place to help guarantee more inclusive education.

Netherlands: The Higher Education and Research Act (2015) and the Equal Treatment Act (2015) in the Netherlands oblige Higher Education institutions to offer students with a disability reasonable means, support, facilities, and opportunities. Adequate support for students with a disability has also become a part of the university accreditation process. All institutions of higher education in the Netherlands have to meet and maintain minimum standards of the government.

United Kingdom: The Disability Discrimination Act (1995), now replaced in all parts of the UK except Northern Ireland by the Equality Act (2010), requires all institutions to make reasonable adjustments for all students and staff with disabilities.

E

ESOS

Australia: Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (ESOS Act) to ensure that all aspects of tertiary education provided to overseas students are regulated and compliant. This act provides nationally consistent standards to support providers to deliver quality education and training to overseas students. It governs marketing information and practices, education agents, visa requirements, enrolment regulations and student support services.

F

FAMILY EDUCATION PROMOTION LAW OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

China: [中华人民共和国家庭教育促进法] The law stipulates that parents or other guardians of minors shall be responsible for family education, while the state, schools and society provide guidance, support and services for family education. The law requires local governments at or above the county level to take steps to reduce the burden of excessive homework and off-campus tutoring in compulsory education, improve classroom teaching and develop after-class services to meet students' individualized demands.

FERPA

South Africa: Ferpa State equivalent is state funding for students known as NSFAS (National Student Financial Aid Scheme) <https://www.nsfas.org.za/content/>

United States: Family Education Rights and Privacy Act; U.S. law that protects the privacy of student education records

LAW OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE PROTECTION OF DISABLED PERSONS

China: [中华人民共和国残疾人保障法] This law is enacted in accordance with the Constitution for the purposes of maintaining the lawful rights and interests of disabled persons, developing the cause of disabled persons and ensuring the disabled persons' equal and full participation in social life and their share of the material and cultural wealth of the society.

A disabled person refers to a person who suffers from the loss or abnormality of a certain organ or function, psychologically, physiologically or in human structure, and has lost all or in part the ability to normally carry out certain activities. Disabled persons include persons with visual, aural, speech and physical disabilities, mental retardation, mental disorder, multiple disabilities, etc.

P

PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION LAW OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

China: [中华人民共和国个人信息保护法] This Law is enacted in accordance with the Constitution for the purposes of protecting rights and interests relating to personal information, regulating personal information processing activities, and promoting the reasonable use of personal information.

PROTECTION OF PRIVACY AND INFORMATION SECURITY (E.G. FIPPA, FERPA)

Canada: The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) is provincial legislation that "sets out the access and privacy rights of individuals as they relate to the public sector." FIPPA strictly limits the information that institutions of higher education are able to disclose to anyone other than the student in question. The student must provide consent for anyone (including parents, siblings, partners, and spouses) to take part in an advising session. If a student is unable to communicate with academic advising regarding their own record, they may designate a proxy to act on their behalf.

E

ELDER

Canada: A title given to a Knowledge Keeper who holds an important role in the Indigenous communities through whom valuable knowledge is distributed throughout all nationalities. Knowledge Keepers are individuals who hold cultural knowledge. A Knowledge Keeper does not have to be an Elder, but can conduct similar or the same duties as an Elder.

F

FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS

Japan: [第一世代] Must be there, but are not visible and are seldom recognized. People do not usually care if students are the first generation or not.

South Africa: First-generation students are from historically disadvantaged backgrounds, usually the first in their family to access the post-schooling system who were denied systematic access to higher education (Bangenj and Kapp 2007; Mdepa and Tshiwula 2012; Vincent and Idahosa 2014).

FLI

United States: First Generation Limited Income Student.

INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

Australia: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are supported to participate and succeed in higher education through a range of initiatives, support and programs. Indigenous support units work with indigenous students to ensure they have the necessary support around them that enables them to make their own decisions regarding their academic, global, social and cultural experiences.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Japan: [留学生] Students who came from abroad, and are sometimes called foreign students.

Kenya: Students admitted into an institution away from their home country.

South Africa: Students who are not South African citizens or who do not have a permanent residence status in South Africa (International student guide, University of Free State, 2021).

K

KNOWLEDGE KEEPER

Canada: Individuals who hold cultural knowledge. A Knowledge Keeper does not have to be an Elder, but can conduct similar or the same duties as an Elder.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

United States: A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes the unique and enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

Why Do We Recognize the Land? To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory you reside on, and a way of honouring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial. It is important to understand the long standing history that has brought you to reside on the land, and to seek to understand your place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation. It is also worth noting that acknowledging the land is Indigenous protocol. (Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group) <http://www.lspirg.org/knowtheland>

LOW INCOME STUDENTS

Kenya: Students that come from poor families or who are struggling financially.

P

PWI

United States: Predominantly White Institution

S

SPONSORED STUDENT

Canada: Students who receive a portion of their tuition and fees directly funded by an independent approved third party. Scholarships are non-repayable funds that recognize outstanding academic achievement. Bursaries are non-repayable awards designed to help fill any unmet needs between a student's assessed financial need and the available government assistance.

Kenya: Student receiving certain supports either from the government or individual(s).

United Arab Emirates: Student receiving partial or full funding for their higher education by a private or government entity. Students may also get an additional living allowance under some sponsorships. Sponsored students have to meet the various conditions for sponsorship that often include nationality, grades, community service, and majors. Students are also often guaranteed jobs post-graduation with the sponsoring entity.

United Kingdom: Some students may be eligible for sponsorship from various bodies such as their or their parents' employers, the Armed Forces, etc. (Also see [Student Finance under Student Support and Services](#).)

T

TCU

United States: Tribal Colleges and Universities.

TRANSFERS/TRANSFER STUDENTS

Canada: A student who may transfer to another university or post-secondary institution. Requirements may differ by province.

Japan: [編入・編入生] Not very common in Japan and, therefore, is one of the big differences between Japanese and American universities. The system is there, such as from 2-year colleges to 4-year universities, from technical colleges to comprehensive universities, and from economics department to literature department, for example. Usually, it is required to pass the entrance exam. The actual number of transfers, however, has been very small.

Kenya: Credit transfer is the process of submitting credits from one's former institution to the new one he or she is being admitted into. Student transfer is the process of relocating to a new institution or applying for admission into a new institution.

South Africa: Students who transfer from one academic programme and/or institution to another (University of Pretoria, 2022)

United Kingdom: Most UK university programmes are now modular and credit based, which makes it easier to transfer to a different institution. Transfers will depend on how well the two programmes fit together, if any prerequisites specified by the receiving institution have been completed, and how competitive entry is to the programme concerned.

TRIO

United States: (Not an acronym) US Federal outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

U

UNDECLARED STUDENT

Canada: Students admitted to a faculty, division or school within the institution who have not formally declared their academic program or major of study, so are undeclared.

Greece: All students entering the school who have not decided on a major/minor. Usually they remain undeclared until the end of their sophomore year. When they reach that point, they have completed most of their general education courses, have the required GPA 2.00, and have 51 credit hours completed.

Japan: Not very common in Japan. Majority of the students have decided their college majors when they graduate from high school.

United Arab Emirates: A student who is not yet formally admitted into their major in higher education. It may be because the student has not yet decided on a major or it may be because the student has not yet fulfilled the admission criteria for entrance into the major.

United Kingdom: Not a term which would be understood in the UK. Students choose their main programme of study before entering the university, and, although some degrees (particularly Joint Honours and Combined Studies) have more flexibility than others, and some electives may be permitted, they follow a structured programme of study. They are not able to pick and mix credits. In Scotland, most students take a wider range of subjects in the first year, choosing their main programme at the end of that year.

UNDER REPRESENTED STUDENTS

Kenya: The minority group of students in an institution of learning.

South Africa: Students from ethnic, socioeconomic, gender or disciplinary groups who participate at lower rates than their peers (Global Dictionary, 2022).

V

VISITING STUDENTS

Canada: Student admitted to and completing a degree program at one institution who enroll at another institution to complete some coursework that will transfer back to the home institution. Typically, students require a Letter of Permission (consent) from the home institution detailing which courses they will complete and their equivalents at the home institution. Visiting Student is an admission or registration category at the co-operating institution.

STAFFING STRUCTURE

A

ACADEMIC

Australia: An academic is a staff member who undertakes teaching and/or research at an Australian higher education institution, usually a university. Often called a "faculty" member in the USA. Academic ranks generally range from junior to senior: tutor, lecturer, associate professor, (full) professor.

Kenya: Any person appointed to teach, train or to do research at a university and any other employee designated as such by the university council.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Australia: May refer to an Academic or Learning Adviser (national benchmark Quality Indicators in Learning and Teaching (QILT) use this term in their annual reports). May be used for staff who provide course advice (equivalent to a US Academic Advisor) or professional staff who work with students at risk of poor academic progress. In some institutions, may be used for academic staff who provide pastoral care and support to students.

Canada: Academic advisors are usually professional staff but can also be faculty. Academic advisors assist students in matching programs and abilities with interests (and in some instances with career goals) and provide guidance on academic requirements and strategies and resources to support program planning and degree completion. In some cases, academic advisors will represent the school or faculty in recruitment events and support students transitioning to the program that they are representing.

Greece: Advising in Greece does not really exist in Public Universities, which are the majority. The reason is that the Greek educational system does not allow students to change majors (see [Major](#) for more). When the major is decided, students have a specific, straightforward curriculum that does not change. If students need clarification about course assignments, they can meet their professors during office hours.

At American universities in Greece, advisors are professional staff members responsible to provide advising to students until students complete 51 credit hours. Responsibilities include assisting with freshman orientation and explaining majors/minors and general education requirements, career paths, course selection, and registration processes. After 51 credits, students should meet with a faculty major advisor as long as they are in good standing (2.00 GPA).

Kenya: A faculty or an educator of academic institution hired to offer advice on academic program requirements and help advisees to build independent skills such as time management.

Japan: [学修支援者 or アカデミック・アドバイザー] Academic advisors are usually faculty members who teach first-year experience class (also see Class Teacher and First-Year Experience teacher). They continue to be student's advisor until the end of the second year. Their main role is to make students transition as smoothly as possible to higher education. Another role for academic advisors is to meet with students who became on probation (depending on the institution GPA for good standing differ).

Some universities adopted the U.S. academic advising system. These universities hire professional academic advisors. At some of the institutions, students start their college life without a major. Students work with academic advisors for their general education requirements and prospective major course selection. Few institutions have professional advisors with students entering an already decided major.

United Arab Emirates: A faculty member or administrator assigned to counsel students on academic matters such as degree progression, course registration, study skills, college success, career options, transition to university, etc.

South Africa: Individuals who offer guidance to students on appropriate course to study, key expected learning outcomes, effective and best use of the university teaching and learning resources, including time, and meeting academic requirements to improve academic performance and keep one on track for graduation

United Arab Emirates: A faculty member or administrator assigned to counsel students on academic matters such as degree progression, course registration, study skills, college success, career options, transition to university, etc.

United Kingdom: An individual representative of the university who is assigned to a student to carry out holistic support and guidance to them on academic and other matters. Typically such representatives are academic faculty members, although in some institutions some members of professional services staff are employed to provide a similar role.

The term academic advisor is not widely used in the UK, and there is no one standard term used across institutions to describe this role. The most common terms used are personal tutor and personal academic tutor, although the terms academic advisor, academic mentor, academic tutor, academic support tutor and others are sometimes used (see personal tutoring).

United States: A professional staff member, or a member of a school's faculty, who provides advice and guidance to students on academic matters, such as course selections.

ACADEMIC COACH

United States: Some institutions differentiate between "advisors" and "coaches" with "Academic Coaching" considered to be more individually holistic. At other institutions the term is synonymous with transformational academic advising approaches.

ACADEMIC COUNSELOR

United States: An individual at a college or university who helps students make educational and career decisions. (Not to be confused with a licensed mental health counselor.)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Australia: Academic staff member working towards full professorship. Already have a very strong international profile in teaching and research and may be appointed in recognition of distinction in their discipline.

B

BURSAR

United Kingdom: The person in a college, school, or university who is responsible for controlling its money (Cambridge English Dictionary).

C

CLASS COUNSELOR

China: [班主任] A class counselor works in the capacity of a friend and instructor to organize and help students perform a variety of educational activities. Their responsibilities emphasize the moral development of students and their extra-curricular activities and life outside the curriculums. One of the major competency requirements of a class counselor is proficiency, knowledge, and experience in academic advising.

Kenya: Academic staff responsible for offering guiding and counselling services (e.g., services related to stress management) to a particular group of students undertaking same course.

South Africa: Class representatives that act as facilitators of communication providing a channel for feedback between staff and students, they act together with other stakeholders to improve the communication between staff and classes.

CLASS TEACHER

China: [辅导员] Class teacher is a job title in modern schooling and it is a responsible position created after the classroom teaching system appeared; however, this position is not necessarily set up in the same manner in every school in the world. More specifically in China, the class teacher is fully responsible for students' thinking, learning, health and life, and also works as liaison to other teachers, team organizations, family and even society in general. In terms of administration, in China, the class teacher reports to the associate dean of a department who is in charge of teaching.

Japan: [クラス担任] Some Japanese higher education implement “class-based teacher” for first-year students (also see First-Year Experience teacher). Class-based teacher system was developed to support students for checking academic progress, academic skills, personal issues, and their career path. In addition, a class-based teacher is even expected to communicate with parents/guardians if needed. In the case of dropping out of school, s/he is expected to write a report and explain at a faculty meeting. A class-based teacher's role does not include seminar (usually students choose a seminar which they belong from the third-year) and graduation paper consultation.

Kenya: Academic staff in charge of a group of students or cohort undertaking a particular course. The class teacher's role is to listen to the students' concerns and requests and submit them to School Administration for consideration. In most universities in Kenya, class teacher refer to academic staff in-charge of a particular cohort of students belonging to a specific year of study.

COUNSELOR

Canada: Also Counsellor/Class Counsellor. Practitioners who hold specific counselling-related credentials who help students make positive changes in their thinking and behaviour to improve their mental health and wellbeing. Counsellors can work with students to explore concerns (e.g., stress, anxiety, depression, loneliness), gain insight, and learn new coping strategies.

Japan: [臨床心理士] There are clinical psychologists at Student Counseling Services. To receive counseling services, students need to make appointments. Some universities provide a space at Student Counseling Services to rest and talk casually. In Japan, counselors and psychologists are equal in most cases. However, “counselor” is received in much wider roles or professions such as a careers counselor and a study-abroad counselor.

Kenya: University employee charged with the responsibilities offering guiding and counselling services to both staff and students. A University Counselor refers to a university employee whose responsibility is to offer guiding and counselling services to students with emotional, psychological, social, economic and/or cultural challenges.

Netherlands: The Student Counsellor is a position with the goal to design and implement advice for students and draft and update student policy to allow students to function optimally within the study environment. Counsellors give advice to students and potential students regarding student policy, laws and regulations, and study skills. Counsellors may issue decisions to students on admission, credential evaluation, financial support, or deregistration. (For a psychologist on campus, see [Student Psychologist](#).)

South Africa: A person trained to give guidance/advice on personal and psychological problems. (Tahir. A Khan. M.M and Basit A, 2018)

United Kingdom: Used specifically as a term for mental health professionals. Specialist counsellors from the university Counselling Service may offer some training to personal tutors and academic advisers to help them in their interactions with students. However, it is made very clear that the boundaries of tutors' and advisors' competence must be clearly understood, and students should be referred to the Counselling Service for mental health support when this is appropriate.

COURSE ADVISOR/COURSE PLANNING/STUDENT ADVISING

Australia: Professional staff who work with students on their degree planning, subject selection, pre-requisites, course rules and completion. Most often these staff sit within the Student Administration part of the university. These staff most closely resemble the Academic Advisers of the USA.

F

FACULTY

Canada: A member of the regular teaching staff, including professors, associate professors, and assistant professors or instructors. A faculty is also a group of related departments or schools.

China: [教师] Academic staff of various levels including lecturer, professor of practice, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor.

Japan: [学部] In Japanese higher education, the term faculty is used to represent a department. It also represents faculty members.

Kenya: Refers to members of teaching staff in an institution of higher learning.

Netherlands: A department of a university or applied university.

United Arab Emirates: Academic staff of various levels including lecturer, professor of practice, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor.

United Kingdom: A grouping of academic schools or departments: for instance, the School of English and the School of History are in the Faculty of Arts; the School of Chemistry is in the Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, etc. The head of a faculty is the dean, who may be supported by a pro-dean for learning and teaching and one for research. Not used in the UK to mean academic staff.

United States: Academic professionals with teaching (and often research) responsibilities. Some faculty have academic advising responsibilities, although at some institutions, academic advising is done primarily by professional staff members.

J

JOB CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Canada: A method that is used to evaluate work and work-related responsibilities, knowledge, skills, and education for positions within in an organization.

Kenya: Means categorization of various jobs based on certain specific parameters or criteria for performance.

Netherlands: Under the UFO (a job classification system created in 2003), all Dutch university employees are assigned a job profile (a brief description of their job) and a corresponding job level. A handbook provides an explanation to the automated UFO classification instrument, which includes all 115 job descriptions. It contains information such as:

- the different steps in the classification process;
- the basic principles of the classification; and
- an overview of the job titles and levels.

South Africa: A system that is designed to classify all jobs within a company and put them in a standardized scale based on the overall tasks, responsibilities, remuneration, and duties associated with a specific job.

JOB ROTATION SYSTEM

Japan: [ジョブローテーション] Non-faculty staff at universities and colleges in Japan have two big categories; 1. Administrative staff and 2. Technical and Engineering staff. Administrative staff do not have specific job positions. This means that in every three to five years, they rotate job positions. Staff experience multiple roles as universities and colleges function supporting students and operating institutions.

L

LEARNING SPECIALIST

Canada: An individual who supports student academic success in a particular discipline and/or through learning tips.

LECTURER

Australia: An academic staff member who delivers large-scale teaching to undergraduate students. Often also acts as the subject or course coordinator. May also be an industry specialist. Often called a "professor" in the USA.

United Kingdom: A member of academic faculty who teaches classes, provides instructions to students, and engages in research. In the UK, the generic term professor is not used to describe all those employed to teach and research in universities.

P

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Australia: Staff who are not academic staff and who are not generally employed to teach or research at a university. Includes administrative, business, services, support and library staff.

PROFESSOR

Australia: The highest ranked academic staff member. They provide academic leadership and are recognised for their outstanding scholarly and professional achievement, as international authorities in their field.

Canada: Faculty who undertake research and teaching in their area of specialization. Full professor is the most prestigious academic title. Academic career progression begins with assistant professor and moves to associate professor with promotion. To become a university professor a doctoral degree is generally required.

China: [教授] Professor is the top senior professional and technical title for the higher education teacher. The main responsibilities include teaching one major (required by a major) course, or two more regular courses, or other work, directing the teaching work for the undergraduate students, conducting scientific and technical research, and advising graduate students as requested.

Japan: [教授] The highest and most prestigious academic title or position. Legally required a doctoral degree or equivalent. Legally fixed in numbers according to the student population or the size of each university in the case of national universities but not in the case of private ones.

Kenya: The highest-ranking academic staff in a University in Kenya. A holder of doctoral degree, has served the university in various capacities and has published widely in peer reviewed journals besides making tangible contribution to the development of his or her community.

United Kingdom: In the UK, the term professor denotes distinction, with a professor being someone who has been promoted to the highest academic grade, normally on the basis of their scholarly achievements. It is equivalent in status to full professorship in the US.

South Africa: A faculty member (academic) of the highest academic rank at an institution and/or academic department within a specialized field.

R

RESEARCHER

Australia: An academic staff member whose focus is primarily research. Not employed to teach students, but may be involved with students in a research capacity.

S

SENIOR LECTURER

Australia: Plays a major role in scholarship, research, teaching and professional activities. Must hold a PhD. Often equivalent to a US Associate Professor.

STUDENT PSYCHOLOGIST

Kenya: Refers to a person who has studied and mastered skills and the know-how of dealing with student psychology

Netherlands: A university position that requires guiding students and providing short-term psychological help to students with regard to psychosocial factors in relation to the study situation, according to (internal) guidelines and in line with the professional code, in order to contribute to the study progress.

South Africa: An individual who is officially registered at a South African higher education institution for an accredited BPsych or equivalent Psychology programme in Psychology. ("Professional Boards - HPCSA", 2022)

STUDY ADVISOR

Japan: [スタディアドバイザー] Another name of academic advisor.

Kenya: An academic staff charged with the responsibility of guiding students through their study programs besides addressing challenges and difficulties they might be experiencing in the course their studies.

Netherlands: A position meant to advise and guide students on their approach to study, study progress, and method of study based on the faculty curriculum. Study advisors hold individual conversations with students or group trainings about the study program, progress, load, and behavior. This role mediates with faculty authorities about individual arrangements for students. This position is also called study counselor, student counselor, academic advisor, or academic counselor.

SUBJECT LECTURER

Kenya: Academic staff in charge of advising students and his or her department/s administration on requirements of a particular subject or discipline and of which he or she is an expert.

T

TEACHING AUXILIARY

China: [教学辅助人员] It refers to those who provide support services for teaching and for staff members to facilitate their teaching responsibilities. Librarians, research assistants, media center staff, lab staff, and those who operate a variety of equipment such as graphing, photographing, maintenance of various teaching instruments, and modeling equipment.

TUTOR

Australia: Often a sessional academic staff member who provides small-group teaching under the leadership of a lecturer or subject coordinator. Often a graduate research student.

A

ASSISTANTSHIP

United States: A financial aid award granted to a graduate student to help pay for tuition that is offered in return for certain services, such as serving as a teaching assistant or research assistant.

C

CAREER ADVISING

Australia: Careers has now moved towards Career and Employability advising in Australia. There is a renewed emphasis on self-serve materials for students with careers advisers offering workshops and appointments at a second and third stage of career exploration.

CAREER COUNSELING

Canada: Specialized advising from a career perspective that helps individuals manage their journey through life, learning and transition to work. Helps students to decide what type of jobs or career path may be of interest (see Advising and see Counsellor).

Japan: [キャリアセンター職員] Universities offer career services at centers. Some universities have career development classes for first-year and/or third-year students. Using career center services are options for students to receive resume writing, job interviewing, group interviewing consultations. Many institutions also offer career related inventories.

Career centers also provide several events. Gatherings with alumni connect students with interested career fields. They also invite prospective employers on campus to meet with students. Some universities have expected graduates who have their job placement to support third-year students to prepare for the job seeking process (also see Peer Advisor).

Kenya: A process of guiding students on their potential and how to identify career paths that match their abilities and capabilities

Netherlands: Study career counseling is an overarching concept for supervising students (not science content related). It concerns the phases from secondary school with information, recruitment, and selection, to progress and career counseling during the study. The final phase focuses on labor market orientation and transition to the labor market. During this entire period, a chain of activities and facilities are offered for the benefit of the student and in line with the needs and questions that arise. The chain of support options consists of activities and facilities offered by the faculties/programs, as well as activities and facilities offered by the central services and agencies.

South Africa: The process of exploration of a student's interests and guiding them to choose their professional career keeping in view of their strengths, weaknesses, resources, and opportunities. (Tahir. A Khan. M.M and Basit A, 2018)

United Kingdom: Universities offer specialized careers centres, which students are encouraged to visit by the beginning of their second year. They offer a wide range of services, including help with preparing applications and curriculum vitae (CVs), information about employers, and helping students to develop transferable skills. Career centres will organize regular careers fairs when employers visit the university. Some careers advisers have links to particular academic departments. Because the careers advisers are specialists, personal tutors/academic advisers do not normally give careers advice but encourage students to engage with the careers centre.

CAREER GUIDANCE

China: [大学生就业指导] The service provides information for college students to learn about and understand career seeking preparation, interview skills, relevant social, career and policy issues. Such information is provided with the goal to make the transition from college to employment as smooth as possible.

CAREER PLANNING GUIDANCE

China: [大学生职业生涯规划指导] Refers to the provision of information for students to plan their career; such planning includes college study planning, career planning, personal life planning and so on.

CAREER SERVICES

United States: An office at colleges and universities that offers counseling, workshops and other resources to help students find internships and jobs or apply to graduate programs. Some U.S. schools have advisers in these offices dedicated to working with international students. An office at colleges and universities that offers counseling, workshops and other resources to help students find internships and jobs or apply to graduate programs. Some U.S. schools have advisers in these offices dedicated to working with international students.

F

FINANCIAL AID

Canada: Includes bursary, scholarship, Band funding, loans and sponsorships.

United States: (also Fee Help) Government aid programs that assist eligible fee-paying students cover all or part of their tuition fees.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR NEEDY STUDENTS

China: [家庭经济困难学生资助服务] It refers to a provision whereby students from less financially-affluent family background can have access to college by benefiting from policies for state scholarships, grants, loans, tuition waiver for students enrolled in normal universities attached to the Ministry of Education, and school-generated financial aids.

P

PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING SERVICES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

China: [大学生心理健康咨询服务] It refers to services provided by the school for its students to enhance their understanding of issues related to their mental health, psychological issues, their psychological coping ability to prevent and solving psychological problems.

S

SOCIAL PRACTICE

China: [社会实践] Social practice of college students refers to a series of activities in Chinese universities and colleges which involves organizing students for the purpose of participating in social, political, economic, and cultural activities in a planned way that meets the goals of a Chinese college education. As an important means and efficient form of education, it has two common forms:

- activities included in program curriculums which are implemented by education departments (e.g. probation, public welfare labor, internship, graduation design, military training, etc.);
- activities excluded in program curriculums but organized by the Communist Youth League, student unions and societies, or students themselves (e.g. social investigation, science technology and cultural services, work-study programs, volunteer works, and so forth).

Therefore, in China, class teachers and counselors share suggestions or instructions with students on how to best achieve their social practice activities for their further development.

STUDENT ADVISER

United Kingdom: Also referred to as a Study Skills Advisor or Academic Skills tutor, a specialist member of professional services staff who provides discipline-independent in-depth support to students to enhance their academic skills (e.g., referencing, writing) and other specific skills used in support of their disciplinary studies (e.g., arithmetic)

STUDENT FINANCE

Kenya: A section or department in the university that deals with handling and, managing financial services that pertains students' payments, refunds, penalties et cetera.

Netherlands: Student finance is the financing that students receive from the Dutch government to pay for their study costs, tuition fees, health insurance, and living expenses. There are a number of conditions that a student must meet in order to qualify for student finance. The amount of the final student grant may also differ. All matters concerning student finance are provided by the Education Executive Agency (DUO) in Groningen. The current system of student finance is distinguished and the old system that applies as a transitional arrangement still applies.

United Kingdom: Most undergraduate students do not have to pay their tuition fees up front; they may apply for a loan, which is repayable after they have finished their studies and their income is above the repayment threshold. Eligibility depends on personal circumstances, the course, and the student's nationality or residency status. Extra help may be available for those with a disability, a child, or an adult dependent. Grants and bursaries are also offered by various charitable bodies, trusts, and learned societies. For postgraduate students, loans to help with tuition fees and living costs are available. There are also studentships, which are normally funded by the UK Research Councils. Some postgraduates may be able to undertake some teaching or demonstrating, which is paid.

STUDENT MANAGEMENT

China: [学生管理] It is the general term for the management of various students' issues, including those with students' ethical behaviors, learning and campus life

SPONSORED STUDENT

Canada: Students who receive a portion of their tuition and fees directly funded by an independent approved third party. Scholarships are non-repayable funds that recognize outstanding academic achievement. Bursaries are non-repayable awards designed to help fill any unmet needs between a student's assessed financial need and the available government assistance.

United Arab Emirates: Student receiving partial or full funding for their higher education by a private or government entity. Students may also get an additional living allowance under some sponsorships. Sponsored students have to meet the various conditions for sponsorship that often include nationality, grades, community service, and majors. Students are also often guaranteed jobs post-graduation with the sponsoring entity.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Japan: [学生支援] Same as in the UK. However, support services are not offered in conjunction with the Students' Union but rather privately.

Kenya: Refers to services rendered to students to help them manage their studies with less difficulties or challenges.

South Africa: An all-inclusive term for academic and non-academic assistance towards a student's holistic development. It includes preparation for learning challenges, career guidance and counselling, continuous administrative support, computer skills, technology and library training, tuition and mentoring support, peer support, and community support ("IGI Global's Dictionary Search", 2022)

United Kingdom: All UK universities offer a wide range of student support services, including counselling, careers, financial advice, disability support, health and wellbeing, chaplaincy, skills development, international student advice, etc. Frequently these are offered in conjunction with the Students' Union.

STUDENT UNION

Canada: Student organization or council that represents students within the academic and governing structure of a post-secondary institution.

Japan: [学生自治会/学友会] Student government or more loose gatherings of the students for their social and organizational activities. Seldom refers to a building, unlike in the USA.

Kenya: A body that takes care of students' concerns and proposals and forwards the issues to the administration for consideration. The leaders are usually voted in by the membership of the student union. It acts as the link between the students' body and the University administration.

United Kingdom: The Students' Union is the students' organization in a university or college, which represents students' academic and political interests, organizes leisure activities and provides some welfare services. Student Union representatives, elected from the student body, are often involved in university committees, particularly those with responsibility for the provision of education to students. The Student Union works closely in partnership with the university through these committees to enhance the educational experience for students.

The term is also used to refer to the building in which the Student Union is housed. Typically this building provides offices for student union staff, meeting spaces, shops, bars and food outlets.

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