## Refugees Country Briefing Iran

This presentation was developed in the framework of the EU-funded project "Refugees and Recognition - REACT" by the ENIC-NARIC centres of Norway, Italy, the Netherlands, Ireland and the Germany.

## Current situation in Iran



- Population: $\pm 82,000,000$
- Compulsory education: grades 1-9
- Academic year: September to June
- Language: Farsi
- Literacy rate: 93\% (2015)
- 1979 revolution caused major changes


## Chart of the educational system


national entrance examinations


Certificate of General Education
(guidance cycle)

Primary school
(primary education)

## Duration of education

## Basic Education

## Until 2012:

- Primary Education (dabestan دبستان) Grade 1-5
- Lower Secondary Education/Guidance Cycle (doreh rahnama-ii Grade 6-8

After 2012:

- Primary Education (dabestan دبستان) Grade 1-6
- Lower Secondary Education/First Secondary Cycle (doreh aval motavaseteh Grade 7-9 (دوره اول متوسطه
- Diploma: Certificate of General Education (gawahinameh doreh rahnama-ii (گو اهينامه دوره راهنمايىى


## Certificate of General Education: diploma + translation



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3-year Course of Middle School Diploma
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## Secondary Education (dabirestan ددبيرستان)

Technical/Vocational Programme (Fani va Herfei):

- Duration of schooling:
- Until the early 1990s: 4 years (Grade 9-12)
- Since the early 1990s: 3 years (Grade 9-11)
- Type of education: vocational secondary education.
- Credits: 90-96
- Purpose of diploma: access to Associate Degrees at a postsecondary technical institute, or to pre-university courses.

Diploma: Certificate of Completion of Secondary School Studies (gawahinameh payan tahsilat doreh motevaseteh
(گواهينامه پايان تحصيلات دوره متوسطه

## Technical/Vocational Secondary Education:

 diploma and transcript


## Secondary Education (dabirestan دبيرستان)

Work and knowledge (Kar-o-danesh):

- Duration of schooling:
- Until the early 1990s: 4 years (Grade 9-12)
- Since the early 1990s: 3 years (Grade 9-11)
- Type of education: vocational secondary education.
- Credits: 90-96
- Aim of stream: producing skilled and semi-skilled workers, foremen and supervisors for the agricultural and industrial sectors.
- Purpose of diploma: access to Associate Degrees at a postsecondary technical institute, or to pre-university courses.

Diploma: Certificate of Completion of Secondary School Studies (gawahinameh payan tahsilat doreh motevaseteh
(گو اهينامه پایان تحصيلات دوره متوسطه

## Work/Knowledge Secondary Education:

 diploma and transcript

## Secondary Education (dabirestan دبيرستان)

Theoretical/Academic Programme (Nazari):

- Until early 1990s:
- Duration of schooling: 4 years.
- Type of education: general secondary education.
- Purpose of diploma: access to higher education.
- Since early 1990s:
- Duration of schooling: 3 years.
- Type of education: general secondary education.
- Purpose of diploma: access to a pre-university course.
- Since 2012: Second secondary cycle ره دوم هتوسطه (doreh dovom motevaseteh)

Diploma: Certificate of Completion of Secondary School Studies (gawahinameh payan tahsilat doreh motevaseteh كَا هينامه بإيان تحصيلات دورهمتوسطه (ك)

## Certificate of Completion of Secondary School Studies: diploma + transcript



## Upper Secondary Education

Pre-University programme:

- Since the early 1990s
- Duration of schooling: 1 year.
- Credits: 24
- Type of education: upper general secondary education.
- Purpose of diploma: access to higher education.
- No longer conferred as of 2019 after the reforms of 2012

Diploma: Pre-Uniyersity Certificate (gawahinameh payan doreh peesh


## Pre-University Certificate: diploma + transcript




## Institutions: Higher education

- State and private institutions (universities, higher education institutions, technical institutes and teacher training colleges)
- Private institutions were taken over by the government after the revolution in 1979, ban was lifted in the late 80s.
- Largest private institution is Islamic Azad University (IAU, 553 branches, of which 133 SAMA colleges, in school year 2015-2016).
- Largest public institution is Payam-e Nour University (PNU, almost a million enrolled students, first distance-learning provider in the late 1980s).
- Supervision:
- All institutions (except medical schools) by the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology.
- Medical schools by the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education.
- The Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution is the highest authority > controls policy and regulations, approval of programs and recognition of institutions
- Konkur (National Entrance Examination) is required to enter a state-run higher education programme (IAU has its own entrance examinations). Entry requirement: Pre-University Certificate


## Associate degree (kârdânî)

- Duration of schooling: 2 years (unless it is an Integrated Associate degree after lower secondary education, then 5 years).
- Type of education: professional or research oriented.
- Credits: 68-78
- Purpose of diploma: access to the labor market or the third year of bachelor's programmes.


## Associate degree (kârdânî كارد/نیى): diploma + translation



## Associate degree (kârdânî كارد/نیى): transcript



## Bachelor's degree (kârshenâsî كارشناسى)

- Duration of schooling: 4 years.
- Type of education: professional or research oriented.
- Credits: 130+
- Purpose of diploma: access to university master's programmes, if the diploma is obtained with good grades.
- If someone enters the third year of a bachelor's degree after obtaining an associate degree, their bachelor's degree is known as a discontinuous bachelor (kârshenâsî napayvasteh). A continuous bachelor (kârshenâsî payvasteh) means someone has studied the entire bachelor programme.

Bachelor's degree (kârshenâsî كارشناسى): diploma + translation

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## Professional Doctorate (Duktura دكتر/ی حرفها/ى/دكتر ای عمومى

- Duration of schooling: 5-7 years
- Type of education: professional.
- Credits: 180 ( 5 years), 210 ( 6 years), 290 ( 7 years) > best indicator of normal program length
- Purpose of diploma: access to certain professions.
- Architecture, dentistry, pharmacy and veterinary science require 5 or 6 years, medicine requires 6 or 7 years.

Can also be spelled as دكترى

## Professional Doctorate (Duktura): diploma



## Master's degree (kârshenâsî Arshad (كارشناسى /رشد

- Duration of schooling: 2 years.
- Type of education: professional or research oriented.
- Credits: 28-32 (research) or 36-40 (coursework). Thesis is max. 10 credits.
- Purpose of diploma: access to doctoral programmes, if the diploma is obtained with good grades.
- If someone enters the master's degree programme after obtaining a bachelor's degree, their master's degree is known as a discontinuous master (kârshenâsî-arshad napayvasteh). A continuous master (kârshenâsîarshad payvasteh) or Integrated master's degree is a unified degree (bachelor and master) in some professional specialisations such as architecture.

Master's degree (kârshenâsî Arshad كارشناسى ارشد): diploma + transcript



## Doctorate (Duktura دكترای)

- Commonly referred to as Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Duration: At least 3 years, max. 6 years
- Type of education: research oriented
- 2 stages:
- Coursework (12-30 credits), then comprehensive exam for entry to next stage
- Research with thesis


## Doctorate (Duktura دكتر/ی): diploma + transcript




## Grading system

Grading System: 0-20

- Basic Education: 7 minimum, 10 required for transfer to next year (except in Persian, where a 10 is satisfactory)
- Secondary Education/Bachelor: 10 minimum
- Master: 12 minimum, 14 required for transfer
- Doctorate: 14 required in every subject


## Evaluation tips and recommendations

- Iranian documents are written in Farsi (an Iranian language, written in an Arabic-like script). Only a few universities use English documents.
- File: diploma (landscape) and accompanying transcript (portrait). Older diplomas pre-dating 1992 are in portrait form. It should also include an official translation.
- English translations are usually authorized by the Ministry of Justice > Authorized translations do not provide confirmation of authenticity.
- Perso-Arabic numerals are normally used (Eastern-Arabic numerals sometimes appear and a mix of the two is also possible)
- Iranian calendar is used
- If a file contains a bachelor diploma and a transcript of two years of study, it is probably the case that the student has obtained an Associate degree first, before starting in the $3^{\text {rd }}$ year of the bachelor programme. Course of action: requesting the Associate degree diploma and transcript.
- Many people only have a Temporary Certificate instead of their official diploma. Temporary Certificates are normally in portrait form and have the word موفت (movaqqat, meaning temporary) in the title.
- It is possible to email the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology to verify the accreditation of an educational institution: cisc@msrt.ir.
- Link to good practices: EAR HEI manual Chapter 12 Refugees


## Useful resources and links

- Website of the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology in English and in Persian. The English version contains a list of some of the recognized public universities, the Persian version contains a list of all the different types of recognised institutions. These lists also include contact information for the institutions.
- Iranian calendar converter


## Existing country profiles

- Education system Iran, Nuffic
- Education in Iran, WES
- The Islamic Republic of Iran, Its Educational System and Methods of Evaluation, ECE
- World Data on Education Iran, UNESCO


## References

- https://www.nuffic.nl/en/subjects/education-and-diplomas-iran/
- https://wenr.wes.org/2017/02/education-in-iran


## Thank you for your attention!

## Any questions?

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[^0]:    For more information about REACT, see https://www.nokut.no/en/about-nokut/international-cooperation/erasmus-projects/react--refugees-andrecognition/.

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