

**CREDENTIAL TEMPLATES,
THE FORMER USSR AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS), Government of Alberta

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Government of Alberta, International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS)

Revised: December 2016

Country:

Former USSR and
Russian Federation

Date Entered:

Date Revised: August 24, 2015

Credential Actual Name:

Аттестат о среднем (полном) общем
образовании, *Attestat o Srednem (Polnom)*
Obshchem Obrazovanii

Credential English Name:

Certificate of Completion of Secondary
Education

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):

Аттестат, *Attestat*
Аттестат зрелости, *Attestat Zrelosti*
Аттестат о среднем образовании, *Attestat o*
Srednem Obrazovanii (before 1993)

Credential Alternate English Name(s):

Secondary School Certificate
Certificate of Maturity
Certificate of Secondary Education (before
1993)

Time Period Credential Offered:

Former USSR (pre 1991) and
Russian Federation (post 1991)

Issuing Body:In the former USSR:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the appropriate
Republic

In the Russian Federation:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the Russian
Federation

Admission Requirements:In the USSR:

- Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education (Аттестат об основном общем
образовании, *Attestat ob Osnovnom Obshchem Obrazovanii*) of 8 or 9 years

In the Russian Federation:

- Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education (Аттестат об основном общем

образовании, *Attestat ob Osnovnom Obshchem Obrazovanii*) of 9 years

Program Description:

In the USSR:

- 10 or 11 years, varied historically (see table 13 in the Educational Guide)
- 11 or 12 years in the former Baltic Republics

In the Russian Federation:

- 11 years

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Higher or vocational education
- Employment

IQAS Recommendations for:

The Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma (regardless whether it was a 10-, 11- or 12-year system)

Course Equivalencies

Russian/Regional language and literature (e.g., Ukrainian) = Language Arts Grade 12

Algebra and Geometry = Math 30-1

English = ESL Grade 12

Physics = Physics 30

Chemistry = Chemistry 30

Biology = Biology 30

IQAS Rationale:

The Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education (Аттестат о среднем (полном) общем образовании, *Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii*) is awarded after the completion of the upper secondary programme and the successful passing of the State final attestation (final examinations). It entitles its holder to pursue vocational education or higher education.

In both the former USSR and Russian Federation, regardless of whether the length of studies had been 10, 11, or 12 years, students sat for the same standardized examinations to

obtain the Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education and for the same entrance examinations at the institutions of higher learning.

School Year in the Former USSR and the Russian Federation

In the **former USSR**, the school year ran from September 1 until the end of May for grades other than final grades or until June for final grades. Students attended school six days per week (Monday through Saturday) for the nine months in each grade. Final examinations were held in May or June.

In the **Russian Federation**, the majority of schools operate on a five-day week with a few still operating on a six-day week. The academic year generally lasts from September to May or June. Final school examinations are held in June.

The school year in both the USSR and the Russian Federation is divided into four quarters (typically for grades up to grade 8) or two semesters (for higher grades). The school day is divided into three to seven classes (the higher the grade the more classes per day). At the end of each quarter or semester a student is assigned a grade in each subject.

Upper Secondary Education in the Former USSR

Upper secondary education in most republics of the former USSR consisted of grades 9 and 10 or grades 10 and 11. A standard academically-oriented program was suitable to prepare students for entry to institutions of higher education offering various fields of study.

Upper secondary education could be integrated with vocational training at technical/vocational schools. Technical/vocational education including secondary level education at those institutions in the former USSR is covered in the chapter on Technical/Vocational Education.

The upper secondary curriculum was essentially academic in content. Students studied a large number of science and social science subjects. They included mathematics, Russian literature, history, geography, biology, physics, astronomy, chemistry, a foreign language, physical education and other subjects. Students studied more than ten subjects amounting to the average of 36-38 hours of weekly instruction in their final years of schooling.

Common Curriculum for Soviet Upper Secondary Schools, 1989ⁱ

Subject	Hours of Instruction per Grade		
	10	11	Total
Russian Literature	152	114	266
Mathematics	171	152	323
Computer science	38	76	114
History	152	114	266
Family Life	38	-	38
Soviet Society	-	38	38
Geography	57	-	57
Biology	38	57	95
Physics	152	152	304
Astronomy	-	38	38

Chemistry	76	76	152
Foreign Language	38	38	76
Physical Education	76	76	152
Labour	152	152	304
Military Training	76	76	152
Total	1216	1159	2375

The school subjects were taught by specialist teachers who were required to complete higher (university-level) pedagogical education with a specialization in a given subject. The specialist teachers might be the same ones as at the lower secondary level.

At the end of the last grade of upper secondary education students sat for standardized examinations, both oral and written, in various core subjects. The number of exams was at least five, with two compulsory written exams, one in mathematics and one in Russian composition. In the 1988-1990 period students were tested in mathematics (written), Russian (written), literature (oral), physics (oral), chemistry (oral).

If successful in all subjects students were awarded the **Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education**. Final grades were listed on the Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education itself. Final exam results were generally not recorded in the certificate but reflected in the final grades. Students who received the highest grade ('5' out of '5') in every subject were usually awarded a gold medal. Students who fell short by receiving '4' in only one subject usually received a silver medal. The certificate entitled its holder to apply for admission to an institution of higher education or vocational education.

The comparison between the total hours of instruction in the former USSR and Alberta can be found in the table below. The total hours of instruction in Alberta (grades 1 to 12) and in the former USSR (grades 1 to 10 or 11) are very similar.

Comparison of Total Hours of Instruction at USSR and Alberta Schoolsⁱⁱ

Grades	Total Hours of Instruction at USSR General Schools	Total Hours of Instruction at Alberta Schools
1-6	5,160	5,700
7-11 (7-12 in Alberta)	5,774	5,350
Total for grades 1-11 (1-12 in Alberta)	10,934	11,050

Upper Secondary Education in the Russian Federation

Currently, upper secondary education comprises grades 10 and 11. This stage of schooling is not compulsory.

Schools offering vocational education may offer programs which combine vocational training and upper secondary education. Technical/vocational education including secondary level education at those institutions in the Russian Federation is covered in the chapter on Technical/Vocational Education.

As at the other stages of school education, upper secondary school curricula follow the Basic Curriculum of School Education of the Russian Federation. The subjects are similar to

those in lower secondary schooling. They include Russian language and literature, mathematics, foreign language, biology, physics and astronomy, chemistry, history, social science, regional options, and individual studies, among others.

Common Curriculum for Russian Upper Secondary Schools, 2004ⁱⁱⁱ

Subject	Hours of Instruction per Grade		
	10	11	Total
Russian Language and Literature	170	136	306
Foreign Language	102	102	204
Mathematics	136	136	272
Biology	68	102	170
Physics and Astronomy	102	102	204
Chemistry	68	68	136
History	68	68	136
Social Science	68	68	136
Regional Option	34	34	68
Family Studies	34	34	68
Economics	68	68	136
Labour	102	102	204
Information Technology	34	34	68
Fine Arts and Culture	34	34	68
Physical Education	68	68	136
Individual Project	68	68	136
Individual Studies	68	68	136
Total	1292	1292	2584

The optional and non-federal components of the curriculum are increasing (see also the next section on Profile education). In 2004, the local content developed by regions and individual schools comprised 12.4% of class time in five-day schools.

As in the former USSR, school subjects are taught by specialist teachers who are required to complete higher (university-level) pedagogical education with a specialization in a given subject. The specialist teachers may be the same ones as at the lower secondary level.

Final and annual examinations are a combination of one third oral and two thirds written exams. The number of disciplines in the final attestation is at least five: two federal compulsory written examinations (Russian composition and mathematics) and at least three examinations in fields selected by the student.

The **Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education** includes the results of the final examinations and a transcript listing the grades achieved by students in all the subjects taught.^{iv}

The comparison between total hours of instruction in the Russian Federation and Alberta can be found in the table below.

Comparison of Total Hours of Instruction at Russian and Alberta Schools

Grades	Total Hours of Instruction at Russian General Schools	Total Hours of Instruction at Alberta Schools
1-6	5,814	5,700
7-11 (7-12 in Alberta)	6,324	5,350
Total for grades 1-11 (1-12 in Alberta)	12,138	11,050

Even though the school week has changed from six days in the former USSR to five days in the Russian Federation, the total hours of instruction for all grades have increased by approximately 1,200 hours.

Basic Curriculum in the Russian Federation

A minimum (compulsory) content of education and workload of students required by the state is set in the Basic Curriculum for School Education. Actual school curricula may differ in the number of hours per subject and the number of years a subject is taught. The Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation sets 75% of the curriculum (the Basic Curriculum), while at least 10% of the curriculum is set by the regions and at least 10% by the schools of general education. Other institutions, such as the gymnasiums and lyceums, make individual adjustments to the general curriculum in accordance with the field of study focused on at the institution.

Basic Curriculum for Russian School Education, Grades 1 to 11, 2000^v

Subject	Hours of Instruction per Week per Grade										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Russian language	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	-	-
Literature	4	4	4	4	8	8	6	5	5	4	4
Arts	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	-	-	-
Social Sciences	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	4
Natural Sciences					2	3	6	8	8	4	4
Mathematics	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	4	5	3	3
Physical Education	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3

Labour	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	3
Total	19	19	19	19	26	27	28	30	30	20	20
Disciplines in Regional Options	1	3	5	5	3	3	4	2	3	12	12
Total Mandatory Load	20	22	24	24	29	30	32	32	33	32	32
Optional, Individual and Group Classes	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	6
Total	22	25	27	27	32	33	35	35	36	38	38
Weeks per Year	33	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34

Core Subject Groups in the Basic Curriculum, Grades 1 to 11^{vi}

Subject Group	Subjects
Humanities	Russian Language
	Literature
	Arts
Social Sciences	Foreign Languages
	Russian History
	World History
	Economic and Social Geography
	Law
	Political Science
Natural Sciences	Economics
	Biology
	Physics
	Astronomy
	Chemistry
Mathematics	Ecology
	Algebra
Physical Education	Geometry
	Various Sports
Labour	Home Economics, Sewing, Cooking, Metal Work, Carpentry, etc.

Educational Reforms in the Russian Federation

Profile Education

In 2003 a new concept of what is known as ‘profile education’ was introduced in the upper secondary classes (grades 10 and 11) in general schools.^{vii} Profile education involves the introduction of a number of study concentrations, or profiles.

Profile Names and Subjects of Studies, 2006^{viii}

Profile Name	Subjects of Intensive Studies
Mathematics	Informatics, Mathematics, Physics

Physics and Chemistry	Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry
Chemistry	Mathematics, Chemistry
Chemistry and Biology	Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology
Biology and Geography	Mathematics, Geography, Biology
Social Sciences and Economics	Mathematics, Geography, Civics, Economics, Law
Humanities	Civics, History, Russian Language, Literature, Law
Philology	Literature, Russian language, two foreign languages
Information Technology	Mathematics, Informatics
Agricultural Science	Biology, Cattle Husbandry, Agronomy, Agriculture Technology
Industrial Science	Physics, Technology
Fine Arts	Literature, Art
Physical Education	Physical Education, Health/Life Skills

Hours of Instruction for Profile Education, 2004^{ix}

Subjects	Compulsory and Elective Subjects (2 years of study)	
	Basic Level	Profile
Russian Language	70*	210
Literature	210*	350
Foreign Languages	210*	420
Mathematics	280*	420
History	140*	280
Physical Education	140*	280
Social Science	70*	210
Economics	35*	140
Law	35*	140
Geography	70	210
Physics	140*	350
Chemistry	70*	210
Biology	70	210
Informatics	70	280
Art	70	210
Technology	70	280
Civics	35	140
Subtotal		maximum 2100
Subjects set by region		140
Subjects set by school		minimum 280
Grand total		up to 2520

* Non-variable part (compulsory subjects)

The profile education model is implemented in all Russian general schools at two stages, the preparatory stage (grade 9) and profile teaching stage (grades 10 and 11).

In the preparatory stage students prepare to choose profiles that will be taught for the duration of grades 10 and 11. Students study intensively one subject for 2-3 months, or one semester. The duration of a course can vary from 12 hours to 100 hours. During the preparatory stage students can explore different profiles.

In the profile teaching stage students commit to a profile (group of subjects) that will be taught at an advanced level. For every educational program only a few subjects remain mandatory. Mandatory subjects are taught at the basic level.

The complete model of profile education (both the preparatory and profile teaching stages) is being implemented across the country in 2006/2007.

The Unified State Exam

Another recent reform in Russian general education is the Unified State Exam (USE) (Единый Государственный Экзамен (ЕГЭ), *Edinyj Gosudarstvennyj Ekzamen (EGE)*). Since 2004, the Russian Ministry of Education has been experimenting with a single, nationwide, standardized exam. Each student taking the exam receives a Certificate of USE Results (Свидетельство о Результатах ЕГЭ, *Svidetel'stvo o Rezul'tatah EGE*). The plan is to make it a standard graduation test in Russian general schools by 2009. It is currently administered at the end of the 11th grade and only at state-accredited institutions. As of 2009, it will also be administered for students leaving general school after the 9th grade.

Summary of Rationale:

The IQAS placement recommendation takes into account the following factors as outlined above:

- admission requirements
- length of the study
- outcome of the study
- general content
- other placement recommendations

IQAS recommends that:

The Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education (regardless whether it was a 10-, 11- or 12-year system) generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma.

Grading:

The following grading scale has been used at all levels of school education in the former USSR and the Russian Federation.

Scale	Grade Description
5	Excellent (Отлично, <i>Otlichno</i>)
4	Good (Хорошо, <i>Horosho</i>)

3	Satisfactory (Удовлетворительно, <i>Udovletvoritel'no</i>)
2	Fail (Неудовлетворительно, <i>Neudovletvoritel'no</i>)

The lowest passing grade is '3'. Students must pass each course in order to enroll in the next grade or to graduate. The grade '1' also exists, but is used very rarely.

A plus (+) or a minus (-) may be added to a grade. For example, a '4+' is higher than a '4' and lower than a '5-'. A '5+' is very rare. These intermediate grades may be awarded throughout the period of study but typically not as a final grade.

Country:

Former USSR and
Russian Federation

Date Entered:

Date Revised: August 24, 2015

Credential Actual Name:

Диплом об окончании профтехучилища,
Diplom ob okonchanii proftehuchilishcha (in
the former USSR)

Диплом о начальном профессиональном
образовании, *Diplom o nachal'nom*
professional'nom obrazovanii (in the Russian
Federation)

Credential English Name:

Diploma of Lower Vocational Education

[Diploma of Completion of
Professional/Technical/Vocational Education]

Diploma of Lower Vocational Education
[Diploma of Lower Professional Education]

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):**Credential Alternate English Name(s):**

Examples: Diploma of "Skilled Worker", e.g.
Mechanic, Cook, etc.

Time Period Credential Offered:

Former USSR (pre 1991) and
Russian Federation (post 1991)

Issuing Body:In the former USSR:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the appropriate
Republic

In the Russian Federation:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the Russian
Federation

Admission Requirements:In the former USSR and Russian Federation:

- Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education (Аттестат об основном общем образовании, *Attestat ob Osnovnom Obshchem Obrazovanii*) of 8 or 9 years (typically without entrance exams) or
- Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education (Аттестат о среднем (полном) общем образовании, *Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii*) of 10 or 11 years

(typically without entrance exams)

Program Description:

In the former USSR and Russian Federation:

Lower vocational education is aimed at the training of skilled workers. Programs vary according to the type of institution, the entry level (after lower secondary or upper secondary education), and the occupation for which training is provided. The type of educational institution and the entry mode determine the duration and level of the program.

Lower vocational education is usually obtained on the basis of lower secondary education. But for few occupations training is offered only after completion of upper secondary education.

In the former USSR:

Admission Requirements	Incorporates Complete Secondary Education	Duration	Institution Type *	Access to
Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education (typically without entrance exams)	No	2 years	PTU	Employment
	Yes	3 years	SPTU	Employment or higher education
Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education (typically without entrance exams)	N/A	1-1.5 years	PTU, SPTU	Employment

* See the IQAS Rational section for a description of the institution types.

In the Russian Federation:

Admission Requirements	Incorporates Complete Secondary Education	Duration	Institution Type*	Access to
Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education (typically without entrance exams)	No	1-2.5 years	PTU/PU	Employment
	Yes	3-4 years	professional lyceum/SPTU	Employment or higher education
Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education (typically without entrance exams)	N/A	1-1.5 years	PTU/ professional lyceum/SPTU	Employment

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment
- Higher education (if incorporates complete secondary education)

IQAS Recommendations for:

In the former USSR and the Russian Federation:

- Admission after incomplete secondary education:
 - If it incorporates complete secondary education then the Diploma of Lower Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma, plus vocational training in xxx/ or as xxx.
 - If it does not incorporate complete secondary education then the Diploma of Lower Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of vocational training in xxx/ or as xxx.
- Admission after complete secondary education:
 - The Diploma of Lower Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of vocational training in xxx/ or as xxx.

* See the IQAS Rational section for a description of the institution types.

For the Russian Federation only:

If vocational training is offered through a professional lyceum and the number of years and the type of training warrant it, the Diploma of Lower Vocational Education may generally compare to the completion of a 1-year post-secondary certificate with a focus in xxx. [If the training incorporates complete secondary education, acknowledge the completion of a High School Diploma.]

Course Equivalencies

If complete secondary education is part of the program use academic courses only:

Russian/Regional language and literature (e.g., Ukrainian) = Language Arts Grade 12

Algebra and Geometry = Math 30-1

English = ESL Grade 12

Physics = Physics 30

Chemistry = Chemistry 30

Biology = Biology 30

IQAS Rationale:

Lower Vocational Education in the Former USSR:

Most lower vocational programs in the former USSR were offered by the following **types of institutions:**

- 1.) Professional Technical *Uchilishche* (PTUs) and
- 2.) Secondary Professional Technical *Uchilishche* (SPTUs).

The main distinction between PTUs and SPTUs was that PTUs did not offer complete secondary education.

1.) Professional Technical *Uchilishche* PTU (Профессионально-Техническое Училище ПТУ, *Professional'noe Tehnicheskoe Uchilishche PTU*), may also have been called Professional *Uchilishche* PU (Профессиональное Училище ПУ, *Professional'noe Uchilishche PU*)

PTUs were developed post World War II to train skilled workers in a wide variety of trades. For example, they trained technical personnel in carpentry, cookery, hairdressing, industrial and technical drawing, lathe operation, metalwork, machining, motor vehicle mechanics, plumbing, radio electronics, secretarial studies, sewing machine operation, welding, etc.

PTUs offered very narrow and practically oriented instruction, about 80% of which was practical and the remaining 20% theoretical. Work experience was an integral part of all programs.

PTUs did not offer complete secondary education. Individuals who entered after lower secondary education followed different curricula than those after upper secondary education. Students without upper secondary education were offered some basic courses from the upper secondary curriculum and additional courses in Soviet society and military training. Students with upper secondary education received a more advanced understanding of their craft.

2.) Secondary Professional Technical *Uchilishche* SPTU (Среднее Профессионально-Техническое Училище СПТУ, *Srednee Professional'noe Tehnicheskoe Uchilishche SPTU*)

SPTUs developed from PTUs in the early 1970s as many PTUs started to incorporate complete upper secondary education in their vocational programs. Upper secondary education by SPTUs was considered to be fully equivalent to that at general secondary schools. They offered vocational education in a wide range of trades, similar to PTUs.

Programs incorporating upper secondary education usually lasted three years. Upper secondary courses were distributed throughout the duration of the program. Student took examinations in upper secondary subjects at the end of their second and third years. The exams were similar to those in general secondary schools. Only those students who completed the full three-year program obtained an equivalent of complete upper secondary education.

Diploma of Lower Vocational Education in the Former USSR

The Diploma of Lower Vocational Education (Диплом об окончании профтехучилища, *Diplom ob okonchanii proftehuchilishcha*) was generally referred to as the Diploma of "Skilled Worker". The *Diplom* stated that the occupational qualification was awarded by decision of the State Examination Commission (also called the State Attestation or Qualification Commission). It listed the institution attended and the dates the program started and ended. If the program combined upper secondary and vocational education, the diploma attested that the person had "gained complete secondary education".

The Diploma usually also referred to a numeric category (категория, *kategoriya*) or, equivalently, level/grade (разряд, *razryad*) that was assigned to each specialization. This identified the level of vocational skill and pay grade.

The Diploma awarded in the former Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) was in Russian. The Diploma awarded in any other former Soviet Socialist Republic was bilingual – in Russian and the local language of that Republic.

Lower Vocational Education in the Russian Federation:

The aim of lower vocational education is to train skilled workers. Students are usually admitted on the basis of lower secondary education. Vocational training for certain occupations may require completion of upper secondary education.

The academic year runs from September 1 to the end of June. Instruction is usually 36 hours a week. During industrial practicum, instruction is reduced to seven hours a week.

Programs vary according to the type of institution, the entry level, and the occupation for which training is provided. They may be offered at the basic (базовый, *bazovyy*) and advanced (повышенный, *повыshennyj*) levels. Generally, advanced-level lower vocational programs require one more year of study compared to basic level vocational training for that occupation. The diploma with the title of Qualified Worker may refer to the vocational level, basic or advanced. Further, each specialization of lower vocational education is also assigned a numeric category (категория, *kategoriya*) or level/grade (разряд, *razryad*). This identifies the level of vocational skill and pay grade.

In vocational education in the Russian Federation, the type of educational institution and the entry mode (after lower secondary or upper secondary education) determine the duration and level of the program. It is, therefore, very important to pay attention to the institution name and the mode of entry.

Types of Institutions Offering Lower Vocational Education in the Russian Federation

Most lower vocational programs in the Russian Federation are offered by institutions of the following types:

- 1.) Professional Technical *Uchilishche* (PTUs),
- 2.) Professional Lyceums, and
- 3.) Secondary Professional Technical *Uchilishche* (SPTUs).

As evident from their names, PTUs and SPTUs are types of *uchilishche* (училище). They are not to be confused, however, with other types of *uchilishche*. Some other *uchilishche* are higher education institutions, while the majority are higher vocational institutions. Examples of higher education *uchilishche* include theatrical *uchilishche*, higher military *uchilishche*, higher marine engineering *uchilishche* (see the chapter on Higher Education). Examples of higher vocational *uchilishche* include pedagogical *uchilishche*, medical *uchilishche*, musical *uchilishche* (see the section on Higher Vocational Education).

Uchilishche that are lower vocational institutions are either PTUs or SPTUs. The main distinction between PTUs and SPTUs is that PTUs do not offer complete secondary education.

1.) Professional Technical *Uchilishche* PTU (Профессионально-Техническое Училище ПТУ, *Professional'no-Tehnicheskoe Uchilishche PTU*), may also be called Professional *Uchilishche* PU (Профессиональное Училище ПУ, *Professional'noe Uchilishche PU*)

PTUs continue to operate in the post-Soviet era, although some have closed, merged, or upgraded to institutions of higher vocational education under new names. PTUs are lower vocational institutions that train skilled workers and junior technical personnel. The programs are quite narrow and applied. Eighty percent of the content is practical and 20% is theoretical.

Programs requiring lower secondary education (9 years) for admission are designed for basic crafts or trades. They also include some secondary education although it does not have the breadth or depth of complete upper secondary education (11 years). Programs requiring upper secondary education (11 years) typically provide training in a vocation at a more advanced level than those requiring lower secondary education (9 years) for admission.

After passing the State final examination, graduates of PTUs are awarded diplomas that give them the right to practice a vocation. Such a diploma also entitles its holder to course credit if they pursue higher vocational education in the same field. However, this type of vocational education on its own does not grant access to university level higher education as it does not incorporate in its curriculum complete secondary education.

2.) Professional Lyceum (Профессиональный Лицей, *Professional'nyj Litzej*)

Professional lyceums offer lower vocational training as well as complete upper secondary education. The secondary education provided by professional lyceums is fully equivalent to the Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education.

Professional lyceum programs evolved from other types of lower vocational training that added an extra year of study for a more advanced level of vocational education. The vocational training is at a higher level than that offered by PTUs and the awarded document refers to the advanced level. Professional lyceums also offer shorter programs that are purely vocational for individuals who already hold a Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education.

After passing the State final examination, graduates of a professional lyceum are awarded diplomas that not only give them the right to exercise a vocation but also indicate that they have received complete secondary education. This diploma gives its holder the right to be admitted to university-level higher education institutions. If higher education is pursued in the same field course credit can be granted by the institution.

3.) Secondary Professional Technical *Uchilishche* SPTU (Среднее Профессионально-Техническое Училище СПТУ, *Srednee Professional'noe Tehnicheskoe Uchilishche SPTU*)

SPTUs continue to operate in the post-Soviet era although some have become professional lyceums. Similarly to professional lyceum programs, SPTU programs that require the Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education for admission combine lower vocational education with higher secondary education. Other SPTU programs require the Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education for admission. SPTUs offer vocational education in a wide range of trades, similar to PTUs. For more information, see the description of SPTUs in the section on Lower Vocational Education in the Former USSR.

Some higher vocational institutions may offer lower vocational programs as well. See the section on Higher Vocational Education in the Russian Federation.

Diploma of Lower Vocational Education in the Russian Federation

The Diploma of Lower Vocational Education (Диплом о начальном профессиональном образовании, *Diplom o nachal'nom professional'nom obrazovanii*) is generally referred to as the Diploma of "Skilled Worker". The Diploma identifies the skilled worker title (electrician, etc.). It states that the occupational qualification is awarded by decision of the State Examination Commission (also called the State Attestation or Qualification Commission). It lists the institution attended and the dates the program started and ended. If the program provided upper secondary in addition to vocational education, the diploma typically attest that the person "has gained complete secondary education".

The Diploma of Lower Vocational Education in the Russian Federation is in Russian.

Summary of Rationale:

The IQAS placement recommendation takes into account the following factors as outlined above:

- admission requirements
- length of the study
- outcome of the study
- general content
- other placement recommendations.

IQAS recommends that:

In the former USSR and the Russian Federation:

- **Admission after incomplete secondary education:**
 - **If it incorporates complete secondary education then the Diploma of Lower Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma, plus vocational training in xxx/ or as xxx.**
 - **If it does not incorporate complete secondary education then the Diploma of Lower Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of vocational training in xxx/ or as xxx.**
- **Admission after complete secondary education:**
 - **The Diploma of Lower Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of vocational training in xxx/ or as xxx.**

For the Russian Federation only:

If vocational training is offered through a professional lyceum and the number of years and the type of training warrant it, the Diploma of Lower Vocational Education may generally compare to a 1-year post-secondary certificate with a focus in xxx. [If the training

incorporates complete secondary education, acknowledge the completion of a High School Diploma.]

Grading:

The following grading scale has been used in both the former USSR and the Russian Federation.

Scale	Grade Description
5	Excellent (Отлично, <i>Otlichno</i>)
4	Good (Хорошо, <i>Horosho</i>)
3	Satisfactory (Удовлетворительно, <i>Udovletvoritel'no</i>)
2	Fail (Неудовлетворительно, <i>Neudovletvoritel'no</i>)

The lowest passing grade is '3'. Students must pass each course in order to enroll in the next grade or to graduate. The grade '1' also exists, but is used very rarely.

A plus (+) or a minus (-) may be added to a grade. For example, a '4+' is higher than a '4' and lower than a '5-'. A '5+' is very rare. These intermediate grades may be awarded throughout the period of study but typically not as a final grade.

Country:

Former USSR and
Russian Federation

Date Entered:

Date Revised: August 24, 2015

Credential Actual Name:

Диплом об окончании среднего специального образования, *Diplom ob okonchanii srednego spetsial'nogo obrazovaniya* (in the former USSR)
Диплом о среднем профессиональном образовании, *Diplom o srednem professional'nom obrazovanii* (in the Russian Federation)

Credential English Name:

Diploma of Higher Vocational Education
[Diploma of Completion of Secondary Vocational Education]

Diploma of Higher Vocational Education
[Diploma of Secondary Professional Education]

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):**Credential Alternate English Name(s):**

Examples: Diploma of Technician, Diploma of Bookkeeper, Diploma of Pre-school Teacher, etc.

Time Period Credential Offered:

Former USSR (pre 1991) and
Russian Federation (post 1991)

Issuing Body:In the former USSR:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the appropriate Republic

In the Russian Federation:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation

Admission Requirements:In the former USSR and the Russian Federation:

- Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education (Аттестат об основном общем образовании, *Attestat ob Osnovnom Obshchem Obrazovanii*) of 8 or 9 years and entrance exams, or
- Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education (Аттестат о среднем (полном) общем

образовании, *Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii*) of 10 or 11 years and entrance exams

Program Description:

The objective of higher vocational education is to train higher level professionals such as pre-school/primary school teachers, nurses, bookkeepers, technicians, etc. They are trained at **institutions of various types** that offer programs of different duration and level.

In the former USSR:

Admission Requirements	Incorporates Complete Secondary Education	Duration	Institution Type*	Access to
Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education and entrance exams	Yes	3-5.5 years:		Employment or higher education
		3-5 years, typically 4 years	<i>Tehnikum/Uchilishche</i>	
		4 to 5.5 years	College	
Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education and entrance exams	N/A	2-4.5 years:		Employment
		2-3 years, typically 2 years	<i>Tehnikum/Uchilishche</i>	
		3 to 4.5 years	College	

* See the IQAS Rational section for a description of the institution types.

In the Russian Federation:

Admission Requirements	Incorporates Complete Secondary Education	Duration	Institution Type*	Typical Level of Vocational Training	Access to
Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education and entrance exams	Yes	3-5 years:			Employment or higher education
		Minimum 3 years	<i>Tehnikum/Uchilishche</i>	Basic	
		4 to 5 years	College	Basic and Advanced	
Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education and entrance exams	N/A	2-4 years:			Employment
		2-3 years	<i>Tehnikum/Uchilishche</i>	Basic	
		3 to 4 years	College	Basic and Advanced	

It is possible to upgrade from a basic level diploma to an advanced level diploma by an additional year of full-time study.

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment
- Higher education (if incorporates complete secondary education)

IQAS Recommendations for:

In the former USSR and the Russian Federation:

- Admission after incomplete secondary education:
The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma, plus a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx.
- Admission after complete secondary education:
The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx.
- If vocational training is offered through a *college* (this option mainly applies to the Russian Federation):

* See the IQAS Rational section for a description of the institution types.

- At a basic level:

The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx. [If the training incorporates complete secondary education, acknowledge the completion of a High School Diploma.]

- At an advanced level:

The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of a 3-year post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx. [If the training incorporates complete secondary education, acknowledge the completion of a High School Diploma.]

Course Equivalencies

- If complete secondary education is part of the program, use academic courses only:

Russian/Regional language and literature (e.g., Ukrainian) = Language Arts Grade 12

Algebra and Geometry = Math 30-1

English = ESL Grade 12

Physics = Physics 30

Chemistry = Chemistry 30

Biology = Biology 30

- Otherwise (complete secondary education is obtained prior to admission), 30-level courses if no secondary documents available.

IQAS Rationale:

Higher Vocational Education in the Former USSR:

The objective of higher vocational education was to train mid-level professionals such as pre-school/primary teachers, nurses, etc. Most advanced vocational students - 66.7% in 1989 - were enrolled full-time, 6.6% in evening programs, and 26.6% in correspondence programs. Correspondence study generally required an additional year of study compared to the other forms of education.

Types of Institutions Offering Higher Vocational Education in the Former USSR

Institutions of higher vocational education in the former USSR were known as Specialised Secondary Education Institutions (Средние специальные учебные заведения ССУЗ, *Srednie spetsial'nye uchebnye zavedeniya/SSUZ*). They fell into three main categories:

- 1.) *tehnikum*,
- 2.) *uchilishche*, and
- 3.) *college* (since 1989).

- 1.) The ***tehnikum*** (техникум) was for technical and business fields.

2.) The *uchilishche* (училище) offered programs for a range of skilled non-technical occupations, such as preschool and primary school teaching, nursing, etc.¹

3.) The *college* (колледж, *kolledzh*) emerged in 1989. *Colleges* were created to educate highly trained specialists for the type of work previously entrusted to university-level graduates. As of 1990, 12 *tehnikum* were upgraded to *colleges*. (For more information on *colleges*, see the section on Higher Vocational Education in the Russian Federation.)

Admission to *SSUZ* was by entrance examinations that tested the knowledge of the curriculum of lower secondary or upper secondary education, depending on the mode of entry. Entry into a *college* was the most competitive out of all the types of *SSUZ*.

Diploma of Higher Vocational Education in the Former USSR

Students who successfully completed their course at a *SSUZ* were awarded the **Diploma of Higher Vocational Education** (Диплом об окончании среднего специального образования, *Diplom ob okonchanii srednego spetsial'nogo obrazovaniya*, also Диплом о среднем специальном образовании, *Diplom o srednem spetsialnom obrazovanii*). This credential was also known as the Diploma of Technician, Diploma of Nurse, Diploma of Feldscher, etc. The Diploma was awarded by the Examination Commission, which was also referred to as the Attestation or Qualification Commission.

Diplomas awarded in the former Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) were in Russian. Diplomas awarded in another former Soviet Socialist Republic were bilingual – in Russian and the local language of that Republic.

Holders of the Diploma of Higher Vocational Education completed upper secondary education, either prior or during their study at a *SSUZ*. If upper secondary education was obtained at a *SSUZ* the Diploma may not have always attested to that. But the Supplement to the Diploma included upper secondary courses and the duration of the program was appropriately longer. *SSUZ* graduates could continue their education at a higher educational institution, but the majority entered the workforce.

In addition to the type of the Diploma issued by the *tehnikum* and *uchilishche*, the *college* may have also awarded the Diploma with the title of "Junior Engineer" (Младший инженер, *Mladshij inzhener*). The Diploma of "Junior Engineer" required an additional 1.5 years. *College* graduates with this credential may have been granted advanced standing at the third year of appropriate higher education programs.

Higher Vocational Education in the Russian Federation:

¹ Some *uchilishche* are institutions of higher education. See the Chapter on Higher Education.

In the Russian Federation, there have appeared new types of institutions of vocational education - the professional lyceum (an institution of lower vocational education) and the college (an institution of higher vocational education).

Admission to higher vocational education is competitive. Applicants take entrance exams set by educational institutions for specific specialisations. Admission to some programs and institutions is more competitive than others but the average admission ratio in 1995 was about 180 applicants per 100 vacant places. Even though it is possible to enter higher vocational education after lower secondary education, the number of applicants with incomplete secondary education has been declining. They currently account for about one-third of the total number of applicants. Some programs are offered exclusively to students who have completed upper secondary education.

The duration of programs vary according to the mode of entry, field of study, and level of program. Generally, basic programs in humanities and the arts are shorter than those in technical fields. In addition, there are two levels of program – basic (standard) and advanced. It is possible to upgrade from a basic level diploma to an advanced level diploma by an additional year of full-time study.

The curricula stipulate forty-five weeks of study per year. Academic time is equally divided between theoretical education and a practical component. The total workload of a full-time student is fifty-four hours a week, including classwork and independent studies. The instructional hours are thirty-six hours a week. For part-time (evening) education, classwork amounts to sixteen hours per week. In the case of correspondence education, each student must be provided with at least 160 contact hours a year.

Coursework includes humanities, business administration, law, Russian language, mathematics, and informatics. Other subjects are professionally oriented and divided between general subjects within the chosen field of study and specialisation subjects. In addition, programs include compulsory external professional practicum. Programs conclude with a supervised diploma project which must be defended, and final examinations.

Types of Institutions Offering Higher Vocational Education in the Russian Federation

Most advanced vocational programs are offered in disciplines such as technology, agronomy, business, services, teaching, health (allied medical professions), culture and art. Institutions are usually named according to their area of specialisation.

In the Russian Federation, there are three types of institutions of higher vocational education:

- 1.) *tehnikum* (техникум),
- 2.) *uchilishche* (училище), and
- 3.) *college* (колледж, *kolledzh*).

1.) Typical *uchilishche* programs of higher vocational education provide training for occupations in services, health, teaching (pre-school or primary), and art.² Examples of higher vocational *uchilishche* are medical *uchilishche*, pedagogical *uchilishche*, etc.

2.) The *tehnikum* typically provides programs in technology and business.

3.) Educational programs of *colleges*, in addition to the educational programs for *tehnikum* and *uchilishche*, include more in-depth theoretical education and professional training for up to one additional year. *Colleges* can be independent educational institutions or constituent parts of higher education institutions. *Colleges* may also award the Diploma of Incomplete Higher Education that can be used for entry into year three of a Bachelor or Specialist program of higher education. (For more information on the Diploma of Incomplete Higher Education see the chapter on Higher Education.)

Most programs at a *tehnikum* and an *uchilishche* are at the ‘basic’ level. A *tehnikum* and an *uchilishche* may obtain state accreditation for one or several advanced vocational programs so that they can assume the more prestigious ‘college’ name. Most *colleges* offer both basic (standard) and advanced higher vocational programs. Only *colleges* can offer advanced vocational programs.

Diploma of Higher Vocational Education in the Russian Federation

On the successful completion of the coursework and State final examinations, students are awarded the **Diploma of Higher Vocational Education** (Диплом о среднем профессиональном образовании, *Diplom o srednem professional'nom obrazovanii*) and a professional title (the Diploma of Technician, Diploma of Nurse, Diploma of Feldscher, etc.). The Diploma is in Russian.

Unlike in the former USSR, the diploma format is now similar to the formats issued by university-level higher education institutions. The diploma supplement lists subjects taught during the period of studies and the grades earned. The supplement also states whether the admission credential was the Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education or whether the program of study incorporated upper secondary education. The text of the diploma refers to the qualification being at the “Basic level” (базовый уровень, *bazovyy uroven'*) or “Advanced level” (повышенный уровень, *повыshennyj uroven'*). Students who complete advanced training (typically, at a *college*) may be awarded a professional title with addition of the word “senior” (старший, *starshij*), for example “senior technician” (старший техник, *starshij tehnik*).

Graduates of higher vocational programs are entitled to apply to institutions of higher education. Typically the *Diplom* at the basic level provides one year of advanced standing in a relevant Bachelor or Diploma of Specialist program, while a *Diplom* at the advanced level provides two years of advanced standing. Graduates of higher vocational education seek admission to university-level higher education on the same conditions as upper secondary school

² Note that other types of *uchilishche* are lower vocational institutions and higher education institutions.

graduates. The majority of graduates, however, enter the labour market. Of those who continue their education, 70% follow evening or distance studies while working.

Summary of Rationale:

The IQAS placement recommendation takes into account the following factors as outlined above:

- admission requirements
- length of the study
- outcome of the study
- general content
- other placement recommendations

IQAS recommends that:

In the former USSR and the Russian Federation:

- Admission after incomplete secondary education:

The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma, plus a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx.

- Admission after complete secondary education:

The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx.

- If vocational training is offered through a *college* (this option mainly applies to the Russian Federation):

- At a basic level:

The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx. [If the training incorporates complete secondary education, acknowledge the completion of a High School Diploma.]

- At an advanced level:

The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of a 3-year post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx. [If the training incorporates complete secondary education, acknowledge the completion of a High School Diploma.]

Grading:

The following grading scale has been used in both the former USSR and the Russian Federation.

Scale	Grade Description
5	Excellent (Отлично, <i>Otlichno</i>)
4	Good (Хорошо, <i>Horosho</i>)
3	Satisfactory (Удовлетворительно, <i>Udovletvoritel'no</i>)
2	Fail (Неудовлетворительно,

	<i>Neudovletvoritel'no</i>
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The lowest passing grade is '3'. Students must pass each course in order to enroll in the next grade or to graduate. The grade '1' also exists, but is used very rarely.

A plus (+) or a minus (-) may be added to a grade. For example, a '4+' is higher than a '4' and lower than a '5-'. A '5+' is very rare. These intermediate grades may be awarded throughout the period of study but typically not as a final grade.

Country:

Former USSR and
Russian Federation

Date Entered:

Date Revised: August 24, 2015

Credential Actual Name:

Диплом об окончании среднего специального образования, *Diplom ob okonchanii srednego spetsial'nogo obrazovaniya* (in the former USSR)
Диплом о среднем профессиональном образовании, *Diplom o srednem professional'nom obrazovanii* (in the Russian Federation)

Credential English Name:

Diploma of Higher Vocational Education
[Diploma of Completion of Secondary Vocational Education]

Diploma of Higher Vocational Education
[Diploma of Secondary Professional Education]

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):**Credential Alternate English Name(s):**

Examples: Diploma of Nurse, Diploma of Feldsher

Time Period Credential Offered:

Former USSR (pre 1991) and
Russian Federation (post 1991)

Issuing Body:In the former USSR:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the appropriate Republic

In the Russian Federation:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation

Admission Requirements:In the former USSR and the Russian Federation:

- Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education (Аттестат об основном общем образовании, *Attestat ob Osnovnom Obshchem Obrazovanii*) of 8 or 9 years and entrance exams, or
- Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education (Аттестат о среднем (полном) общем

образовании, *Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii*) of 10 or 11 years and entrance exams

Program Description:

In the former USSR:

- After incomplete secondary education:
Feldshers and Nurses – 3.5 years
- After complete secondary education:
Feldshers and Nurses – 2 to 2.5 years

In the Russian Federation:

- After incomplete secondary education:
Nurses – 3 years and 10 months
- After complete secondary education:
Feldshers – 3 years and 10 months
Nurses – 2 years and 10 months

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment
- Higher education (if incorporates complete secondary education)

IQAS Recommendations for:

In the former USSR and the Russian Federation:

- Admission after incomplete secondary education:

The Diploma of ‘Feldsher’ (Physician’s Assistant) generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma plus a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in medicine/medical services.

Note: In the former USSR/the Russian Federation graduates of ‘feldsher’ programs can work independently or under the supervision of a physician in a nursing capacity.

The Diploma of Nurse generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma, plus a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in nursing.

- Admission after complete secondary education:

The Diploma of ‘Feldsher’ (Physician’s Assistant) generally compares to the completion of a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in medicine/medical services.

Note: In the former USSR/the Russian Federation graduates of ‘feldsher’ programs can work independently or under the supervision of a physician in a nursing capacity.

The Diploma of Nurse generally compares to the completion of a post-secondary Diploma with a

focus in nursing.

Course Equivalencies

- If complete secondary education is part of the program, use academic courses only:

Russian/Regional language and literature (e.g., Ukrainian) = Language Arts Grade 12

Algebra and Geometry = Math 30-1

English = ESL Grade 12

Physics = Physics 30

Chemistry = Chemistry 30

Biology = Biology 30

- Otherwise (complete secondary education is obtained prior to admission), 30-level courses if no secondary documents available.

Professional registration and licensing:

A Diploma of Higher Vocational Education alone entitles the graduates to practice as feldshers or nurses. There is no additional professional registration/licensure process.

IQAS Rationale:

In the Imperial Russia and the Former USSR:

Feldshers

The word "feldsher", introduced into Russian under Peter the Great, is rooted in German "Feldscher" meaning "field surgeon." In modern Russian this word means a graduate of a secondary medical school, who has the right to provide medical assistance independently (usually the First Aid).

The origins of the feldsher profession date to the 18th century, when the Imperial Russian army (or Tsarist army) recruited men to work as medical assistants in military hospitals. Some theoretical instructions were introduced in the middle of 18th century; however, generally, feldshers learned their occupation primarily on the job until the Imperial Russian army introduced training courses in the 1820s. By the late 19th century, feldshers moved from the military to the civilian service, and training was formalized into three- or four-year programs in either military or zemstvo feldsher schools (zemstvo (земство) – a form of local government medical and education facilities started in 1864; after the October Revolution of 1917, the zemstvo system was stopped). Approximately at this time (the late 19th century), the training of female feldshers began.

A new Soviet regime re-planned medical services on the basis of socialist principles. The People's Commissariat of Health, which was created in 1918, started the transformation of medical education. Medical workers were organized into three categories of higher, middle and lower personnel. Doctors and dentists were designated as higher personnel. Feldshers were

placed in the middle category along with nurses, midwives and laboratory technicians. Orderlies took the lowest designation. Since the feldshers represented the image of the Imperial Russian medical personnel or 'second-class' doctors, the Soviets began to replace them by "primary" physicians with a new ideological vision to care for Soviet individuals. In the middle of the 1920s, feldshers training was discontinued. The rural feldshers, who usually worked in a medical station in a village and practiced independently, were eliminated. However, under the pressure of health needs and medical resources, the Soviet medical authority reviewed its policy and resumed feldsher training. In 1939, a three-year feldsher course was introduced. The entry requirement was the completion of Grade 7 (lower secondary school). This specialization continued to play an auxiliary medical role.

Feldsher education was continually reviewed throughout the next decades. The following two programs were established: upon completion of Grade 8 (lower secondary school), students entered a three and a half year program; students with ten years of secondary education entered a two and a half year program. All subjects covered in curricula were devoted to three categories: general studies for students with lower secondary education (e.g., Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Foreign Language, History, Literature and Language), general medical studies (e.g., Biology, Microbiology, Anatomy, Physiology, Pharmacology, Public Health, Latin, etc), and clinical studies (Internal Diseases, Surgery, Children's Diseases, Midwifery and Gynecology, Epidemiology, Disinfection, Food Hygiene, and Occupational Community Health and School Health, etc.). Training was provided in three different specialties: Feldsher, Feldsher Sanitarian, and Laboratory Technician. A total of 4356 hours was covered by feldsher curriculum for students who applied after Grade 8, of which 2991 were theoretical, and 1365 - practical studies. Twenty weeks of practical training in a hospital setting covered an additional 820 practical hours (see Appendix 1). The successful pass of state examinations in Internal Diseases, Surgical Diseases, Midwifery and Gynecology, and Children's Diseases permitted to the student to graduate. Generally, upon graduation, feldshers were utilized among industrial establishments, schools, the emergency-care services, and public health and epidemiological centers.

Nurses

A Russian nurse is called medical sister (meditsinskaia sestra (медцинская сестра)) or shorter version - medsisister (medsestra (медсестра)).

Nursing service began to operate in Russia in the early 19th century. The first nursing organization was founded by Empress Maria Fedorovna (second wife of Tsar Paul and mother of Alexander I). She suggested that the impoverished widows of the nobility look after the sick poor people in her hospital, distribute food and medicine, and assist the doctors with surgery. Also at this time, some religious female societies began to appear. Women belonging to these religious societies were called 'Sisters of Mercy'. Preparation for the nursing tasks was minimal. Doctors from the hospitals instructed the sisters for a period of only two-four weeks. However, these religious societies stimulated the formation of the Red Cross nursing societies, which began to be established in the middle of the 19th century. In 1867, Alexander II approved the first Charter of the Russian Society of the Red Cross, initiating the opening of more hospitals and clinics with the aim of providing free or cheaper medicine to the population. These new nursing communities developed new training courses for the Sisters of Mercy. For example, a one-year course covered the subjects of Physiology, Anatomy, Surgery, Hygiene, Internal Diseases, First Aid,

Pharmacology, and Latin. Sisters studied two hours of theory each day with the remainder of day spent in practice at a hospital.

Establishing a socialist regime completely revised Imperial Russian administrative institutions according to socialist principles and the official ideology. To train nurses, the Russian Red Cross schools were reorganized into the commissariats (military administrative agencies that performed military functions at the local level), the authority of which significantly reformed nurse training. New two-year programs were introduced in the 1920s. The most significant change to the curriculum was the removal of the religious aspects and providing theoretical training within a clinical setting. New subjects such as Psychiatric Illness, Infectious Diseases, Factory Medicine and the Basics of Hospital Management were introduced. Training was differentiated according to the following specializations: Sister for Medical Institutions, Sister for the Protection of Motherhood and Infancy, and Sister of Social Assistance. The entry requirement remained the same: the completion of seven years of school education or basic literacy. However, there was a general academic component in the curriculum. The curriculum covered such new general subjects as Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Anatomy and Physiology. New medical subjects included Pathology and Gynecology, Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Obstetrics and Psychiatry. The therapeutic disciplines of Massage, Electric- and Hydro-therapy were also introduced. Practical and clinical experience concentrated on patient care, general and social hygiene, and vaccination and bandaging. Since Soviet nurses worked under the influence of a new ideology, Political Economy was also introduced. In total, the reformed nursing course provided 976 hours of theoretical lectures and more than 1400 hours of practical clinical experience.

The Commissariat of Education continued to reform Soviet medical education according to time request. A standardized curriculum for the middle medical category was achieved only in the 1980s. All medical secondary educational institutions of the USSR began to work under centralized curricula and the programs were approved by the State Educational Committee of the USSR, and the Ministry of Health of the USSR. Such centralization provided consistent preparation of medical experts with a general medical knowledge. Similar to feldshers, nurses entered a three and a half year program after the completion of Grade 8, and students with ten years of secondary education entered a 2 or 2½ year program. Upon graduation, and three years of general practice, Soviet nurses were qualified for further specialized training in Physical Therapy, Pediatrics, Anesthesiology, Obstetrics or Psychiatry.

The major difference between feldshers and nurses of Imperial and Soviet Russia is found in the diverse and distinct professional roles. A feldsher's role was to assist a physician and perform some medical and surgical procedures independently, especially in the rural locations. A nurse's role was more dependent and focused on carrying out a physician's instructions relating to patient care. Generally, the feldsher role remained closer to that of a physician than a nurse, and in terms of rank, the feldshers were considered beneath doctors but above nurses.

In the Russian Federation:

Feldshers

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 also brought about changes in medical education. Feldsher education received further recognition and was advanced. Currently, only upon completion of secondary school (Grade 10/11), can students enter a feldsher program at a

medical uchilishche or college, which is three years and ten months in duration. The curriculum covers some general studies, mathematics and science studies, general medical studies, and special medical studies. A total of 6858 hours is covered, of which 4572 hours are theoretical studies, and 2594 hours are practical studies. Twenty six weeks of practical training in a hospital setting are included in addition (see Appendix 3). Feldsher-students learn techniques such as suturing and assisting in child birth to apply independent of a physician. Generally, they are prepared to ride in ambulances and work in emergency departments. However, graduate feldshers can also apply for the positions of midwife or nurse.

Nurses

In 1991, nursing education was expanded to two years and ten months after the completion of secondary school Grade 10/11. The program consists of a total of 5184 hours, of which 3276 are theoretical hours, and 2058 hours are practical studies (see Appendix 2). Similar to the feldsher curriculum, the nursing curriculum includes general humanities and science subjects, general medical studies, and special medical studies. A nursing program for students who completed only lower secondary school (Grade 8/9) is also available. The length of this program is three years and ten months. Students cover general secondary school academic subjects in addition to nursing professional studies. Upon completion of this basic nursing education, graduates become medical nurses.

In addition, there is a further advanced level of nursing program available. It requires an additional one and a half year of full-time study. Upon completion, graduates receive a Diploma of Higher Vocational Education (advanced level) in nursing or nursing education. In 1996, it was required by the Russian Ministry of Health to offer every five years continuing education courses for nurses to enhance their professional goals.

In 1994, a four-and-a-half-year undergraduate degree program was introduced. It consists of a total of 4,600 theoretical hours and includes courses in Nurse Management, Marketing, Social Services, Health Care, Psychology, Nursing Education, Organization of Hospital Food Service, Health Care Economics, Health Care Law, and Biomedical Ethics. Master's programs in nursing were also introduced and continue to advance

Within the Russian Federation, the main difference between feldshers and nurses remains the same. Feldshers are independent specialists with broad qualifications to substitute for doctors in emergency situations. They are utilized primarily in ambulance services, and maternity and preventive care. Nurses continue to advance in the field of healthcare, as a collaborative and supportive role to physicians. An important development in the field is the possibility to obtain further education at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

APPENDIX 1

The Curriculum of Feldsher Education in the former USSR The Length of Study – 3 years and 6 months (Upon the Completion of Lower Secondary Education (Grade 8))

Subject	Number of Hours		
	Total	Lectures	Practical work
Cycle of General Studies			
History	170	170	
Social Science	68	68	
Principles of Scientific Atheism	16	16	
Literature	188	188	
Mathematics	300	300	
Physics	194	166	28
Chemistry	156	110	46
Foreign Language	170	170	
Subtotal	1262	1188	74
Cycle of General Medical Studies			
Latin	76	76	
Biology	78	60	18
Anatomy	154	112	42
Physiology	100	74	26
Microbiology	80	58	22
Morbid Anatomy and Physiology	95	70	25
Pharmacology and Prescription	163	121	42
Hygiene	68	50	18
Public Health Administration	36	20	16
Subtotal	850	641	209
Cycle of Special Studies			
Internal Diseases and Care of the Sick	402	182	220
Surgical Diseases	371	157	214
Midwifery and Gynecology	290	120	170
Children's Diseases	218	106	112
Epidemiology	90	40	50
Communicable Diseases	154	84	70
Skin and Venereal Diseases	72	32	40
Nervous and Mental Diseases	72	32	40
Eye Diseases	64	24	38
Diseases of the Teeth and Oral Cavity	60	30	30

Diseases of the Ear, Note and Throat	64	26	38
Physiotherapy, Massage, and Remedial Exercises	96	36	60
Supplementary Studies	55	55	
Subtotal	2008	926	1082
Physical Education	236	236	
GRAND TOTAL	4356	2991	1365
Optional Subjects			
Russian and Native Language	116	116	
Physical Education	137	137	
Tutorials on Special Subjects	60	60	
Practical Training and Further Training in Professional Skills			
In hospital as an orderly (1 week)			41
In Hospital on Medical Procedures and the Care of the Sick (4 weeks)			164
In Hospital or Polyclinic as a Nurse (5 weeks)			205
Practical Experience (External) in the Specialty Chosen in a <i>Rayon</i> or District Hospital (10 weeks)			410
TOTAL (20 weeks)			820
State Examinations: Internal Diseases Surgical Diseases Midwifery and Gynaecology Children's Diseases			

Source: The Training and Utilization of Feldshers in the USSR, A Review Prepared by the Ministry of Education for the World Health Organization; WHO; 1974.

APPENDIX 2

The Curriculum of Nursing Education in the Russian Federation The Length of Study – 2 years and 10 months (Upon the Completion of Secondary Education (Grades 10, 11))

Subjects	Weeks	Maximum Hours (Theory)	Minimum Hours	
			Theory	Practice
General Studies				
Fundamentals of Philosophy			44	
Fundamentals of Law			32	4
Russian Language			56	56
Foreign Language			192	192
Physical Education			192	176
Fundamentals of Sociology and Political Science			66	8
Optional Subjects			44	
Subtotal		808	626	436
Mathematics and Science				
Mathematics			32	20
Informatics (Computer Applications)			58	52
Subtotal		116	90	72
General Medical Studies				
Latin Language and Terminology			40	38
Anatomy			180	80
Fundamentals of Pathology			36	20
Public Health and Environment			120	80
Medical Genetics			32	12
Hygiene and Ecology			60	20
Fundamentals of Microbiology, Virology, and Immunology			72	32
Pharmacology			80	20
Professional Ethics			34	16
Economy and Health Administration			32	12
Psychology			124	80
Protection and Accidents			80	36
Subtotal		1149	890	446
Specialized Medical Studies				
Fundamentals of Nursing			280	264
Therapeutic Nursing and First Aid			316	200
Pediatrics Nursing			192	132

Surgical Nursing			180	120
Gynecology/Obstetric Nursing			60	36
Infectious Disease Nursing			120	60
Neuropathology Nursing			40	24
Psychiatry and Narcology Nursing			48	28
Dermatology and Venereology Nursing			48	28
Ophthalmology Nursing			32	24
Otolaryngology // ENT Nursing			32	24
Geriatric Nursing			48	28
Physiology Nursing			32	20
Fundamentals of Resuscitation			32	20
Clinical Pharmacology			48	28
Fundamentals of Rehabilitation			98	68
Subtotal		2157	1670	1104
Total Federal Requirements		4230	3276	2058
Regional Studies		270	180	
Department Specific Subjects		384		
Consultations		300		
Total (Theory)	96	5184	3456	
Optional Subjects Established by a Secondary Medical Institution			64	
Professional Practice				
Practice: Professional Skills	2			
Practice: Specialty	8			
Practice: Qualification	6			
Subtotal	16			
Semester Examinations	5			
State Examinations				
Preparation to a Specialty Exam	2			
Specialty Exam	2			
Subtotal	4			
Flexible Weeks	4			
Vacation Breaks	22			
TOTAL	147			

Source: The State Educational Curriculum for Nursing Education, the Federal Portal “Russian Education”, the Ministry of Education, the Russian Federation, 2002 (http://window.edu.ru/window_catalog/files/r51428/0406.pdf)

APPENDIX 3

**The Curriculum of Physician Assistant Education in the Russian Federation
The Length of Study – 3 years and 10 months
(Upon the Completion of Secondary Education (Grades 10, 11))**

Subjects	Weeks	Maximum Hours (Theory)	Minimum Hours	
			Theory	Practice
General Studies				
Fundamentals of Philosophy			44	
Fundamentals of Law			32	4
Russian Language			56	56
Foreign Language			254	254
Physical Education			254	254
Fundamentals of Sociology and Political Science			66	8
Optional Subjects			68	
Subtotal		1000	774	560
Mathematics and Science				
Mathematics			32	20
Informatics (Computer Applications)			58	52
Subtotal		116	90	72
General Medical Studies				
Latin Language and Terminology			40	38
Anatomy			180	80
Fundamentals of Pathology			36	20
Public Health and Environment			120	80
Medical Genetics			32	12
Hygiene and Ecology			60	20
Fundamentals of Microbiology, Virology, and Immunology			72	32
Pharmacology			80	20
Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology			48	20
Psychology			124	80
Professional Ethics			34	16
Economy and Health Administration			32	12
Management			50	16
Computer Applications in Medicine			48	36
Protection and Accidents			80	36
Subtotal		1338	1036	518
Specialized Medical Studies				

Fundamentals of Nursing			280	264
Propaedeutics of Clinical Subjects			80	60
Therapy and First Aid			262	176
Pediatrics			180	120
Surgery			180	120
Obstetrics			100	56
Gynecology			60	36
Infectious Diseases			140	88
Neuropathology			80	56
Psychiatry and Narcology			48	28
Dermatology and Venereology			60	36
Ophthalmology			40	24
Otolaryngology			40	24
Dentistry			40	24
Geriatrics			40	24
Resuscitation			80	56
Physiology			40	24
Traumatology			40	24
Oncology			40	24
Fundamentals of Rehabilitation			80	56
Pathology and Pharmacotherapy			180	124
Subtotal		3127	2456	1444
Total Federal Requirements		5626*	4356	2594
Regional Studies		324	216	
Department Specific Subjects		508		
Consultations		400		
Total (Theory)	127	6858	4572	
Optional Subjects			114	
Specialty Subjects			252	
Professional Practice				
Practice: Professional Skills	2			
Practice: Specialty	18			
Practice: Qualification	6			
Subtotal	26			
Semester Examinations	5			
State Examinations				
Preparation to a Specialty Exam	2			
Specialty Exam	2			
Subtotal	4			

Flexible Weeks	5			
Vacation Breaks	32			
TOTAL	199			

Source: The State Educational Curriculum for Feldsher (Physician’s Assistant) Education, the Federal Portal “Russian Education”, the Ministry of Education, the Russian Federation, 2002
http://window.edu.ru/window_catalog/files/r51423/0401h.pdf

*Note: It is acknowledged that the sum of the subtotals is 5581 and not 5626. The totals are reported exactly as they appear in the source document referenced.

Summary of Rationale:

The IQAS placement recommendation takes into account the following factors as outlined above:

- admission requirements
- length of the study
- outcome of the study
- general content
- other placement recommendations

IQAS recommends that:

In the former USSR and the Russian Federation:

- Admission after incomplete secondary education:

The Diploma of ‘Feldsher’ (Physician’s Assistant) generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma, plus a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in medicine/medical services.

Note: In the former USSR/the Russian Federation graduates of ‘feldsher’ programs can work independently or under the supervision of a physician in a nursing capacity.

The Diploma of Nurse generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma, plus a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in nursing.

- Admission after complete secondary education:

The Diploma of ‘Feldsher’ (Physician’s Assistant) generally compares to the completion of a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in medicine/medical services.

Note: In the former USSR/the Russian Federation graduates of ‘feldsher’ programs can work independently or under the supervision of a physician in a nursing capacity.

The Diploma of Nurse generally compares to the completion of a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in nursing.

Grading:

The following grading scale has been used in both the former USSR and the Russian Federation.

Scale	Grade Description
5	Excellent (Отлично, <i>Otlichno</i>)
4	Good (Хорошо, <i>Horosho</i>)
3	Satisfactory (Удовлетворительно, <i>Udovletvoritel'no</i>)
2	Fail (Неудовлетворительно, <i>Neudovletvoritel'no</i>)

The lowest passing grade is '3'. Students must pass each course in order to enroll in the next grade or to graduate. The grade '1' also exists, but is used very rarely.

A plus (+) or a minus (-) may be added to a grade. For example, a '4+' is higher than a '4' and lower than a '5-'. A '5+' is very rare. These intermediate grades may be awarded throughout the period of study but typically not as a final grade.

Country:

Russian Federation

Date Entered:**Credential Actual Name:**

Бакалавр, *Bakalavr* (4 years)

Credential English Name:

Bachelor's degree

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):**Credential Alternate English Name(s):**

Examples: Bachelor in Economics, Bachelor in Sociology, Bachelor in Physics, etc.

Time Period Credential Offered:

Russian Federation (post 1991)

Issuing Body:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation

Admission Requirements:

- Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education or other credential incorporating secondary education (Diploma of Lower Vocational Education or Diploma of Higher Vocational Education), and entrance exams*

Program Description:

- 4 years of full-time study (including 1.5-4 months for thesis completion)

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Master or Diploma of "Specialist" program
- Employment

IQAS Recommendations for:

The Bachelor's degree (4 years) generally compares to the completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree with a focus in xxx.

Course Equivalencies

30-level courses if no secondary documents are available.

* See the IQAS Rational section for a detailed description of the admission requirements.

IQAS Rationale:

Bachelor's degree in the Russian Federation

The Bachelor's degree is the first degree in the Russian post-secondary system. It is offered in parallel to the traditional degree of "Specialist".

About 80% of the curriculum in a Bachelor program is based on State Educational Standards. Each Bachelor program contains a defined portion of fundamental education with courses taken from the humanities, the social sciences and economics, and the natural sciences. In senior years students receive specialized education and complete professional practicum. The Bachelor's degree is primarily an academic degree, and gives access to the Master's degree or Diploma of "Specialist". It is considered to be less professionally oriented than the traditional Diploma of "Specialist", and may be less popular with some employers. It may be awarded in all disciplines except medicine and related disciplines such as veterinary medicine and dentistry.

The Bachelor program normally requires 25-30 contact hours per week. The program also includes a compulsory 10 to 12-week professional practicum in the area of specialisation.

The State final attestation includes the defense of a final research project and State final examinations. The final research project is prepared over a period of up to four months of full-time study and defended before a State Examination Commission. State final examinations may be in individual subjects or an interdisciplinary area.

The Supplement to the Diploma (Приложение к Диплому, *Prilozhenie k Diplomu*) includes the list of subjects, number of hours, grades, professional practicum, and the results obtained in the final state examinations and in the defence of the final research project. The Supplement to the Diploma may also be translated as the Addendum to the Diploma.

Final Research Project Preparation

For the preparation of a final research project, a supervisor is appointed for each student. Students choose topics from a list of topics set by the institution or propose their own topics. The final research project is expected to be of independent research or scholarship. Before the defense can take place, experts in the respective fields review the work.

A final research project is defended before an examination commission, called the State Attestation Commission, set up by the rector of the institution. The members of State Attestation Commission are professors and researchers from various institutions and experts from the industry. The chairperson is invited from outside the institution and is approved by the administrative body in charge of the institution.

Detailed Admission Requirements

Admission Requirement	Description
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Academic credential requirement	A school or vocational education credential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education (<i>Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii</i>), or • A diploma of vocational education that includes complete secondary education (for further details see the chapter on Vocational/Technical Education) 	
AND		
Examination requirement	Prior to the introduction of the USE in 2001	Since the introduction of the USE in 2001
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral and written entrance examinations set by individual institutions for entry into different specialisations or areas of study. The typical number of exams is three to five. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of USE results <p>And/or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral and written entrance examinations as before (as set by the institution)

Unified State Examination (USE)

The Unified State Examination (Единый государственный экзамен/ЕГЭ, *Edinyj gosudarstvennyj ekzamen/EGE*) has been implemented since 2001 as a standardised school graduation examination. Test takers receive the Certificate of USE Results (Свидетельство о результатах ЕГЭ, *Svidetel'stvo o Rezul'tatach EGE*).

Higher education institutions may use the USE results in place of, or in addition to, their own entrance examinations. With a Certificate of USE Results and an applicable school leaving credential, students can apply simultaneously to several institutions all over the country.

Additional Admission Considerations

- Admission for fee-paying students may not be as competitive as for students financed from the state budget.
- Institutions of higher education may reduce the number of examinations for certain categories of applicants. For example:
 - individuals who have been awarded a medal (at the completion of school education) or a diploma with honors/distinction (at the completion of vocational education) or some other awards,
 - graduates of specialized schools.
- **Foreign students** must meet the same entrance requirements as Russian nationals, in particular, have completed school education and taken entrance exams. There is a compulsory pre-academic year for those who do not know Russian or/and for those with weak pre-university training. Foreign applicants may not be older than 28 (35 for doctoral studies). In addition, they must have a valid Student visa and financial guarantees.

Forms of Education

There are different forms of education: full-time, part-time (evening and correspondence programs), and so-called *externat* (a form of education that enables individuals to study independently and to take examinations). The State Education Standard specifies acceptable forms of education for each specialisation. The minimum content requirements set by the State Education Standard do not depend on the form of education.

Academic Year

Entrance examinations are traditionally held in August. The academic year runs from September to June. It is divided into two academic semesters with examinations held at the end of each. Examinations may be oral or written and number about five per semester. In contrast to other countries, in the Russian Federation 100% of the course grade is determined by the final examination grade in that subject. Other courses may be evaluated as pass/fail. In order to qualify for the final examination, students must also complete professional practice requirements.

The university level higher education curriculum stipulates 36 weeks of study a year. Depending on the field of study (specialisation), mandatory courses in the curriculum constitute 80 to 85 percent, optional courses 15 to 20 percent. The total workload of a student should not exceed 54 hours a week, including classroom work and independent studies. For part-time evening education, classwork should be no less than 10 hours a week. In the case of correspondence education, students are offered at least 160 contact hours a year.

It is important to note that the system of higher education in the Russian Federation, as in the former USSR, emphasizes contact hours at the expense of homework and independent study. Therefore a direct conversion of instructional hours in the Russian Federation to semester hours (credits) in Western countries may be misleading.

One of the current initiatives of the Russian Ministry of Education in conjunction with the Bologna process is the introduction of credits. The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) uses a standard system of 30 hours corresponding to one ECTS credit. It is envisioned that one academic year will comprise of approximately 60 credits.

Language of Instruction

The principal language of higher education in the Russian Federation is Russian. Higher education may be conducted in other languages of the Russian Federation, as well as foreign languages. The language of education is set by the appropriate administrative body.

Curriculum Standards

As in the former USSR, higher education programs in the Russian Federation are divided into study areas (направления, *napravleniya*), which are further subdivided into specialisations (специальности, *spetsial'nosti*). Similarly, all programs continue to be identified by a number

and a name. Specialisations within the same study area may carry the same identification number but different names. The total number of specialisations has increased as traditional specialisations exist in parallel with new specialisations. New specialisations were added in study areas such as business/management, law, sociology, computer science/informatics, languages, environmental science, etc.

Foundation studies, in the 1st and 2nd year of study, now integrate compulsory teaching in humanities and social sciences for natural science programs, and vice versa. Also in a shift from the Soviet system, some subjects, such as the history of the Communist Party of the USSR, scientific communism, and political economy, which were previously part of foundation studies within all specialisations, have been renamed, revised or eliminated. Despite a broader general character of studies in the first two years of study, many Bachelor and "Specialist" programs continue to represent a high degree of professional specialisation.

The division of the course content into foundation studies, basic professional courses and specialised courses are similar to that in the Soviet system of education. However, now institutions of higher education have some autonomy with regard to determining the course content. Institutions may define 15 to 20% of the curriculum based on regional requirements and specialisation. As well, in addition to compulsory courses, students may choose among a certain number of electives.

Summary of Rationale:

The IQAS placement recommendation takes into account the following factors as outlined above:

- admission requirements
- length of the study
- outcome of the study
- general content
- other placement recommendations

IQAS recommends that:

The Bachelor's degree (4 years) in the Russian Federation generally compares to the completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree with a focus in xxx.

Grading:

The grading system in higher education in the Russian Federation is the same as that in the former USSR. It includes the same grading scale as at the other levels of education. Additionally, some courses are marked *зачет* (*zachet*), which is usually translated as pass or credit. No more than five set examinations are typically graded each semester. The remaining courses of the term are marked *зачет* (*zachet*), if passed. Students can continue their programs and graduate only if they pass each subject of the curriculum. Students are only allowed to resit a failed exam two times.

Scale	Description
5	Excellent (Отлично, <i>Otlichno</i>)
4	Good (Хорошо, <i>Horosho</i>)
3	Satisfactory (Удовлетворительно, <i>Udovletvoritel'no</i>)
2	Fail (Неудовлетворительно, <i>Neudovletvoritel'no</i>)
<i>Zachet</i>	Pass (Зачет, <i>Zachet</i>)
<i>Nezachet</i>	Fail (Незачет, <i>Nezachet</i>)

Country:

Former USSR and
Russian Federation

Date Entered:

Date Revised: Agustus 24, 2015

Credential Actual Name:

Диплом Специалиста, *Diplom Spetzialista*

Credential English Name:

Diploma of "Specialist"

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):

Первый Диплом, *Pervyj Diplom*

Credential Alternate English Name(s):

First Diploma
Examples: Diploma of "Mathematician",
Diploma of "Biologist", Diploma of "Teacher
of History", Diploma of "Mechanical
Engineer", etc.

Time Period Credential Offered:

Former USSR (pre 1991) and
Russian Federation (post 1991)

Issuing Body:In the former USSR:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the appropriate Republic

In the Russian Federation:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation

Admission Requirements:In the USSR:

- Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education or other credential incorporating secondary education (Diploma of Lower Vocational Education or Diploma of Higher Vocational Education), and entrance exams*

In the Russian Federation:

* See the IQAS Rational section for a detailed description of the admission requirements.

- Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education or other credential incorporating secondary education (Diploma of Lower Vocational Education or Diploma of Higher Vocational Education), and entrance exams*, or
- a Bachelor's degree (Бакалавр, *Bakalavr*)

Program Description:

In the USSR:

- 5 to 6 years (4 for some teaching qualifications) of full-time study (including 3-4 months for thesis completion)

In the Russian Federation:

- 5 to 6 years (4 years in a few specialisations) of full-time study (including 3-4 months for thesis completion) after secondary education, or
- 1 to 1.5 years of full-time study (including 3-4 months for thesis completion) after a Bachelor's degree

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

In the USSR:

- Candidate of Sciences program
- Employment

In the Russian Federation:

- Candidate of Sciences or Master program
- Employment

IQAS Recommendations for:

- The Diploma of "Specialist" [of 5 years] generally compares to the completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree, plus a graduate Diploma with a focus in xxx. [As part of the program requirements, a research project was completed.]
- The Diploma of "Specialist" [of 4 years] generally compares to the completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree with a focus in xxx.

Course Equivalencies

30-level courses if no secondary documents are available.

IQAS Rationale:

* See the IQAS Rationale section for a detailed description of the admission requirements.

Diploma of "Specialist" in the Former USSR:

The first degree of higher education in the former USSR was commonly referred to as the First Diploma or the Diploma of "Specialist". The credential itself, however, did not use these terms. It was normally entitled Diploma of Completion of Higher Education (Диплом об окончании высшего учебного заведения, *Diplom ob okonchanii vysshego uchebnogo zavedeniya*) or just "Diploma" (Диплом, *Diplom*). A specialisation appeared in the diploma as a professional title such as Engineer, Teacher, etc.

The Diploma of "Specialist" required five years of full-time study for most majors. Only a small number of programs required four years of study, such as some teaching qualifications. Programs in architecture required five-and-a-half years of study. The program in medicine required six years; in addition students undertook one year of specialisation practice (the *internatura*) in a selected field of medicine. Other disciplines, such as geology and certain branches of engineering, technology, and fine arts also required six years of study. A typical Diploma of "Specialist" program represented 4,500 to 5,500 hours of instruction in approximately 20 to 34 subjects depending on the specialisation.

State Final Examination

The State Final Examination stage consisted of the state final examinations and defence of a final research project. The final research project was expected to be of independent research or scholarship. It was defended before the State Examination Commission. The chairman of the commission was appointed by the State Committee for Public Education on the recommendation of the rector of the institution. Members of the Commission were appointed by the rector and included faculty and industry representatives. Additionally, the State Examination Commission examined each student in the field of specialisation.

Detailed Admission Requirements³

Admission Requirement	Description
Academic credential requirement	A school or vocational education credential: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education (<i>Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii</i>), or• A diploma of vocational education that includes complete secondary education (for further details see the chapter on Vocational/Technical Education)
AND	
Examination requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oral and written entrance examinations set by individual institutions for entry into different specialisations or areas of study. The typical number of exams is three to five.

³ If entering on the basis of completed secondary education. Students may also be admitted directly into the program on the basis of a Bachelor's degree. However, that route is not as common.

Additional Admission Considerations

- For full-time study the age limit of 35 years was typically enforced. There was no age limit for part-time, evening and correspondence studies.
- Institutions typically reduced the number of examinations for certain categories of applicants. For example:
 - individuals who had been awarded a medal (at the completion of school education) or a diploma with honors/distinction (at the completion of vocational education) or some other awards,
 - graduates of specialized schools.
- Students from certain regions (rural regions or certain republics) who intended to study in subject areas that would directly benefit the development of their regions, such as agriculture and pedagogy, might have been granted priority in admission.
- The former USSR supported students from developing countries. However, **foreign students** were expected to meet the same entrance requirements as Soviet nationals, in particular, had completed school education and taken entrance exams. There was a compulsory pre-academic year for those who did not know Russian or/and for those with weak pre-university training.

Forms of Education

Different forms of education were offered in the former USSR: full-time, part-time (evening and correspondence programs), and so-called *externat* (a form of education that enabled individuals to study independently and to take examinations). A limited number of specialisations (medicine, arts, and some technical disciplines) could only be completed through full-time study.

Unlike in western countries, a large number of students in the former USSR enrolled in evening and correspondence programs. Out of 5,147,000 students in 1985-86, 54% were enrolled on a full-time basis, 12% studied in the evening, and 34% registered through correspondence. Part-time students followed the same curricula and received diplomas of the same format as full-time students.

Academic Year

Applications for admission were generally accepted in June. Entrance examinations were held in July and August. Registration for enrollment took place at the end of August.

The academic year ran from September to June and was divided into two semesters, September to January and February to June. Student contact hours throughout the year amounted to 34 to 40 hours a week, including lectures, seminars, and labs. At least 20% of time was assigned to practical exercises and laboratory work in technical and science curricula. Independent work and background reading occupied a less significant amount of time than in western countries.

Each semester culminated in a final exam session, which included oral and written exams in about five core subjects. Other courses taken in the term were marked pass/fail on the basis of

oral exams. The final mark "fail" was very rare as students were allowed to repeat a failed exam up to two times. Students who failed more than two courses were required to withdraw from their program.

Language of Instruction

Russian was overwhelmingly the language of instruction throughout the former USSR.

Curriculum Standards

Under the Soviet system, the central control by the state resulted in a high degree of uniformity in course and program contents. Higher education programs followed highly specialized curricula that provided theoretical and practical fundamentals for their fields of specialization. Based on specialty groupings, specializations were numbered and provided by the State Committee for Public Education.

Students chose their fields of specialization before their entrance to an institution of higher education. The first two years of undergraduate study were devoted to the study of foundation courses, mainly in social and natural sciences. Specialization courses generally began in the third year. Foundation studies and core subjects typically represented 50% of a program, general profile courses 35%, and specialization courses 15%.

Pure theoretical sciences, such as Mathematics and Physics, were highly emphasized in Soviet education. Even students specializing in humanities took compulsory courses in these areas. Compulsory courses in all specializations also included foreign language studies, the history of the Communist Party, Marxist-Leninist philosophy, military training, and civil defense.

Diploma of "Specialist" in the Russian Federation:

The traditional first degree from the Soviet system, the Diploma of "Specialist", continues to be offered in parallel with the new Bachelor's degree. The document is titled "Diploma" and does not state "Specialist" although it is commonly known as the Diploma of "Specialist". A specialisation appears in the document as "qualification" with a specialist title such as Economist, Teacher, Engineer, Doctor, etc. The "Specialist" is for students who choose to pursue advanced study in their specialisation. It is primarily oriented toward professional practice but also gives access to the Candidate of Sciences.

A "Specialist" program may be undertaken as a first degree following the completion of school education, or as a second undergraduate degree following a Bachelor's degree. As a first degree, it typically requires five years of full-time study although programs in different specialisations may vary from four to six years in length. Only a small number of programs require four years of study, such as pedagogy or finance. Medicine requires six years of study, as do some engineering and technology disciplines. Following a Bachelor's degree, the Diploma of "Specialist" normally requires one to one and a half years of full-time study.

The State final attestation for the Diploma of "Specialist" includes the defence of a final research project and State final examinations. The State final attestation procedures and the format of the Diploma and the supplement are the same as for the Bachelor's degree.

Foreign students who successfully complete a "Specialist" program receive a diploma format that is different from the typical Diploma of "Specialist". Foreign students are typically required to study Russian for at least one year prior to enrolling into a "Specialist" program. Their Diploma of "Specialist" is often translated as "Master".

Final Research Project Preparation

For the preparation of a final research project, a supervisor is appointed for each student. Students choose topics from a list of topics set by the institution or propose their own topics. The final research project is expected to be of independent research or scholarship. Before the defense can take place, experts in the respective fields review the work.

A final research project is defended before an examination commission, called the State Attestation Commission, set up by the rector of the institution. The members of State Attestation Commission are professors and researchers from various institutions and experts from the industry. The chairperson is invited from outside the institution and is approved by the administrative body in charge of the institution.

Detailed Admission Requirements

Admission Requirement	Description	
Academic credential requirement	A school or vocational education credential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education (<i>Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii</i>), or • A diploma of vocational education that includes complete secondary education (for further details see the chapter on Vocational/Technical Education) 	
AND		
Examination requirement	Prior to the introduction of the USE in 2001	Since the introduction of the USE in 2001
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral and written entrance examinations set by individual institutions for entry into different specialisations or areas of study. The typical number of exams is three to five. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of USE results And/or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral and written entrance examinations as before (as set by the institution)

Unified State Examination (USE)

The Unified State Examination (Единый государственный экзамен/ЕГЭ, *Edinyj gosudarstvennyj ekzamen/EGE*) has been implemented since 2001 as a standardised school graduation examination. Test takers receive the Certificate of USE Results (Свидетельство о результатах ЕГЭ, *Svidetel'stvo o Rezul'tatach EGE*).

Higher education institutions may use the USE results in place of, or in addition to, their own entrance examinations. With a Certificate of USE Results and an applicable school leaving credential, students can apply simultaneously to several institutions all over the country.

Additional Admission Considerations

- Admission for fee-paying students may not be as competitive as for students financed from the state budget.
- Institutions of higher education may reduce the number of examinations for certain categories of applicants. For example:
- individuals who have been awarded a medal (at the completion of school education) or a diploma with honors/distinction (at the completion of vocational education) or some other awards,
- graduates of specialized schools.
- **Foreign students** must meet the same entrance requirements as Russian nationals, in particular, have completed school education and taken entrance exams. There is a compulsory pre-academic year for those who do not know Russian or/and for those with weak pre-university training. Foreign applicants may not be older than 28 (35 for doctoral studies). In addition, they must have a valid Student visa and financial guarantees.

Forms of Education

There are different forms of education: full-time, part-time (evening and correspondence programs), and so-called *externat* (a form of education that enables individuals to study independently and to take examinations). The State Education Standard specifies acceptable forms of education for each specialisation. The minimum content requirements set by the State Education Standard do not depend on the form of education.

Academic Year

Entrance examinations are traditionally held in August. The academic year runs from September to June. It is divided into two academic semesters with examinations held at the end of each. Examinations may be oral or written and number about five per semester. In contrast to other countries, in the Russian Federation 100% of the course grade is determined by the final examination grade in that subject. Other courses may be evaluated as pass/fail. In order to qualify for the final examination, students must also complete professional practice requirements.

The university level higher education curriculum stipulates 36 weeks of study a year. Depending on the field of study (specialisation), mandatory courses in the curriculum constitute 80 to 85 percent, optional courses 15 to 20 percent. The total workload of a student should not exceed 54 hours a week, including classroom work and independent studies. For part-time evening education, classwork should be no less than 10 hours a week. In the case of correspondence education, students are offered at least 160 contact hours a year.

It is important to note that the system of higher education in the Russian Federation, as in the former USSR, emphasizes contact hours at the expense of homework and independent study. Therefore a direct conversion of instructional hours in the Russian Federation to semester hours (credits) in Western countries may be misleading.

One of the current initiatives of the Russian Ministry of Education in conjunction with the Bologna process is the introduction of credits. The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) uses a standard system of 30 hours corresponding to one ECTS credit. It is envisioned that one academic year will comprise of approximately 60 credits.

Language of Instruction

The principal language of higher education in the Russian Federation is Russian. Higher education may be conducted in other languages of the Russian Federation, as well as foreign languages. The language of education is set by the appropriate administrative body.

Curriculum Standards

As in the former USSR, higher education programs in the Russian Federation are divided into study areas (направления, *napravleniya*), which are further subdivided into specialisations (специальности, *spetsial'nosti*). Similarly, all programs continue to be identified by a number and a name. Specialisations within the same study area may carry the same identification number but different names. The total number of specialisations has increased as traditional specialisations exist in parallel with new specialisations. New specialisations were added in study areas such as business/management, law, sociology, computer science/informatics, languages, environmental science, etc.

Foundation studies, in the 1st and 2nd year of study, now integrate compulsory teaching in humanities and social sciences for natural science programs, and vice versa. Also in a shift from the Soviet system, some subjects, such as the history of the Communist Party of the USSR, scientific communism, and political economy, which were previously part of foundation studies within all specialisations, have been renamed, revised or eliminated. Despite a broader general character of studies in the first two years of study, many Bachelor and "Specialist" programs continue to represent a high degree of professional specialisation.

The division of the course content into foundation studies, basic professional courses and specialised courses are similar to that in the Soviet system of education. However, now institutions of higher education have some autonomy with regard to determining the course content. Institutions may define 15 to 20% of the curriculum based on regional requirements and specialisation. As well, in addition to compulsory courses, students may choose among a certain number of electives.

Summary of Rationale:

The IQAS placement recommendation takes into account the following factors as outlined above:

- admission requirements
- length of the study
- outcome of the study
- general content
- other placement recommendations

IQAS recommends that:

The Diploma of "Specialist" [of 5 years] generally compares to the completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree, plus a graduate Diploma with a focus in xxx. [As part of the program requirements, a research project was completed.]

The Diploma of "Specialist" [of 4 years] generally compares to the completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree with a focus in xxx.

Grading:

The grading system in higher education in the Russian Federation is the same as that in the former USSR. It includes the same grading scale as at the other levels of education. Additionally, some courses are marked *зачет* (*zachet*), which is usually translated as pass or credit. No more than five set examinations are typically graded each semester. The remaining courses of the term are marked *зачет* (*zachet*), if passed. Students can continue their programs and graduate only if they pass each subject of the curriculum. Students are only allowed to resit a failed exam two times.

Scale	Description
5	Excellent (Отлично, <i>Otlichno</i>)
4	Good (Хорошо, <i>Horosho</i>)
3	Satisfactory (Удовлетворительно, <i>Udovletvoritel'no</i>)
2	Fail (Неудовлетворительно, <i>Neudovletvoritel'no</i>)
<i>Zachet</i>	Pass (Зачет, <i>Zachet</i>)
<i>Nezachet</i>	Fail (Незачет, <i>Nezachet</i>)

Country:
Russian Federation

Date Entered:

Credential Actual Name:
Магистр, *Magistr*

Credential English Name:
Master's degree

In the former USSR, a Master's degree was given to foreign students when they completed a Diploma of "Specialist" program. Apply the credential template of the Diploma of "Specialist".

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):

Credential Alternate English Name(s):
Examples: Master in Economics, Master in Mathematics, Master in Sociology, Master in Psychology, etc.

Time Period Credential Offered:
Russian Federation (post 1991)

Issuing Body:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation

Admission Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree (Бакалавр, *Bakalavr*) of 4 years and entrance exams, or
- Diploma of "Specialist" (Диплом Специалиста, *Diplom Spetsialista*) of 4 to 6 years and entrance exams

Program Description:

- 2 years of full-time study (including 0.5-1 years for thesis completion) after a Bachelor's degree or
- 1 to 1.5 years of full-time study (including 0.5-1 years for thesis completion) after a Diploma of "Specialist"

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Candidate of Sciences program
- Employment

IQAS Recommendations for:

The Master's degree generally compares to the completion of a two-year Master's degree with a focus in xxx.

Course Equivalencies

30-level courses if no secondary documents are available.

IQAS Rationale:

Master's degree in the Russian Federation

The Master's degree is obtained upon the completion of a minimum two years of study following a Bachelor's degree or a minimum of one year following a Diploma of "Specialist".

For holders of a Bachelor's degree in the same field, admission procedures may consist of examinations, interviews, etc. as determined individually by educational institutions. Holders of a Bachelor's degree wishing to pursue a Master program in another discipline must pass additional tests that reflect the curriculum of the Bachelor program in the chosen discipline. Master's degrees give access to Candidate of Sciences study.

The Master is primarily an academic program leading to the defense of a thesis. Each Master program consists of two equally weighted components: the *course* component and the *independent research* component. In addition to core area courses it usually includes some pedagogy courses. Professional practice may also be required.

The final State attestation includes the defence of a thesis and State final examinations. The thesis is based on original research under the guidance of a supervisor. The document of a Master's degree indicates both the discipline and the research area and follows the general format of the document of a Bachelor's degree.

The State educational standard defines only general requirements for Master programs and not specific requirements for the content of education. Institutions of higher education make their own decisions regarding the program content.

Language of Instruction

The principal language of higher education in the Russian Federation is Russian. Higher education may be conducted in other languages of the Russian Federation, as well as foreign languages. The language of education is set by the appropriate administrative body.

Summary of Rationale:

The IQAS placement recommendation takes into account the following factors as outlined above:

- admission requirements
- length of the study
- outcome of the study
- general content
- other placement recommendations

IQAS recommends that:

The Master's degree in the Russian Federation generally compares to the completion of a two-year Master's degree with a focus in xxx.

Grading:

The grading system in higher education in the Russian Federation is the same as that in the former USSR. It includes the same grading scale as at the other levels of education. Additionally, some courses are marked *зачет (zachet)*, which is usually translated as pass or credit. No more than five set examinations are typically graded each semester. The remaining courses of the term are marked *зачет (zachet)*, if passed. Students can continue their programs and graduate only if they pass each subject of the curriculum. Students are only allowed to resit a failed exam two times.

Scale	Description
5	Excellent (Отлично, <i>Otlichno</i>)
4	Good (Хорошо, <i>Horosho</i>)
3	Satisfactory (Удовлетворительно, <i>Udovletvoritel'no</i>)
2	Fail (Неудовлетворительно, <i>Neudovletvoritel'no</i>)
<i>Zachet</i>	Pass (Зачет, <i>Zachet</i>)
<i>Nezachet</i>	Fail (Незачет, <i>Nezachet</i>)

Country:
Former USSR and
Russian Federation

Date Entered:
Date Revised: August 24, 2015

Credential Actual Name:
Кандидат наук, *Kandidat Nauk*

Credential English Name:
Candidate of Sciences

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):

Credential Alternate English Name(s):
Examples: Candidate of Technical Sciences,
Candidate of Economic Sciences, Candidate of
Mathematics Sciences, Candidate of Biological
Sciences, etc.

Time Period Credential Offered:
Former USSR (pre 1991) and
Russian Federation (post 1991)

Issuing Body:

In the former USSR:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the appropriate Republic

In the Russian Federation:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation

Admission Requirements:

In the USSR:

- Diploma of "Specialist" (Диплом Специалиста, *Diplom Spetzialista*) of 4 to 6 years, entrance exams, and research qualifications

In the Russian Federation:

- Diploma of "Specialist" (Диплом Специалиста, *Diplom Spetzialista*) of 4 to 6 years, entrance exams, and research qualifications, or
- Master's degree (Магистр, *Magistr*) (5 to 6.5 years of post-secondary study), entrance exams, and research qualifications

Program Description:

In the USSR and Russian Federation:

- Minimum 3 years including original research and optional coursework (including at least 2.5 years for thesis completion)

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

In the USSR and Russian Federation:

- Doctor of Sciences program
- Employment (e.g., Associate Professor position)

IQAS Recommendations for:

Compares to the completion of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree. [As part of the degree requirements, a dissertation entitled "...” was completed.]

IQAS Rationale:

Candidate of Sciences in the Former USSR:

The Candidate of Sciences was the first graduate degree in the former USSR. It was awarded across a broad range of academic disciplines. The discipline might be stated in the title, for example the Candidate of Economic Sciences.

Students were admitted to the Candidate of Sciences after completing the first diploma, or the Diploma of "Specialist", with an overall grade of 'excellent' or 'good'. They must have also passed qualifying examinations, in their proposed field of specialisation, in a foreign language, and in philosophy.

Students undertook supervised research and prepared a thesis during at least three years. Coursework was voluntary but common. The thesis was critically reviewed by at least two official reviewers (opponents). It was typically about 150 pages in length. An extended abstract of the thesis was sent out to approximately 100 other institutions for review. The thesis was publicly defended before the Dissertation Council of the institution.

Candidate of Sciences in the Russian Federation:

The Candidate of Sciences is the first doctoral degree in the Russian educational system and is awarded in all disciplines. It is focused on research and university teaching.

Admission is competitive and institutions set quotas for the number of students admitted each year. The quotas are based on the available funds and facilities, research staff, as well as

federal guidelines for the needs in science and economy. Institutions usually set an age limit of 35 years for full-time *aspirants* and 45 years for part-time *aspirants*.

Admission is based on a five or six-year Diploma of "Specialist", or since 1996, a Master's degree. The overall level of achievement required in these degrees is at least 'Good'. Application requirements include a research proposal, research and academic track record, and entrance examinations. Additionally, preliminary discussions of proposed research with prospective supervisor(s) are usually required. Applicants take competitive entrance examinations in the subject of specialization, in one foreign language, and in philosophy. Admission is awarded based on the results of the entrance examinations and evaluation by prospective supervisor(s).

A Doctor of Sciences, or a Professor, specializing in the research area is appointed as a supervisor for each *aspirant* as soon as he or she joins an *aspirantura*. Aspirants may be required or encouraged to teach in their subject areas, usually seminar classes. In that case they hold a position of an assistant (*assistent*). Full-time Candidate students receive a stipend from the state and any salary as an assistant.

Programs include both graduate courses and research. The theoretical coursework component of the program comprises 20%.

The courses consist of lectures and seminars. During graduate studies, students study pedagogy and teaching methods, psychology, economics, information technology, mathematical simulation, and other subjects.

In addition to course examinations, *aspirants* must pass qualifying (Candidate) examinations in the given specialization, in philosophy, and in a foreign language. The Academic Council of the institution determines the content of these exams. Qualifying examinations are usually completed within the first year of study.

The thesis is expected to make a significant original contribution to the field of knowledge. The thesis defence is public before a Dissertation Council. A Dissertation Council is comprised of holders of the Doctor of Sciences and the Candidate of Sciences degrees. Dissertation Councils are appointed by the Supreme Certifying Committee (*Vysshij Attestatsionnyj Komitet, VAK*) of the Russian Federation.

The Candidate of Sciences is a preferred credential for the position of Associate Professor (*dotzent*). It grants its holder a competitive advantage in applying for teaching and research positions at educational and research institutions and leads to a higher salary.

The Candidate of Sciences awarded to foreign nationals may be translated into English as a PhD degree.

Summary of Rationale:

The IQAS placement recommendation takes into account the following factors as outlined above:

- admission requirements
- length of the study
- outcome of the study
- general content
- other placement recommendations

IQAS recommends that:

The Candidate of Sciences generally compares to the completion of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree. [As part of the degree requirements, a dissertation entitled “...” was completed.]

Grading:

The grading system in higher education in the Russian Federation is the same as that in the former USSR. It includes the same grading scale as at the other levels of education. Additionally, some courses are marked *зачет* (*zachet*), which is usually translated as pass or credit. No more than five set examinations are typically graded each semester. The remaining courses of the term are marked *зачет* (*zachet*), if passed. Students can continue their programs and graduate only if they pass each subject of the curriculum. Students are only allowed to resit a failed exam two times.

Scale	Description
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4	Good (Хорошо, <i>Horosho</i>)
3	Satisfactory (Удовлетворительно, <i>Udovletvoritel'no</i>)
2	Fail (Неудовлетворительно, <i>Neudovletvoritel'no</i>)
<i>Zachet</i>	Pass (Зачет, <i>Zachet</i>)
<i>Nezachet</i>	Fail (Незачет, <i>Nezachet</i>)

Country:

Former USSR and
Russian Federation

Date Entered:

Date Revised: August 24, 2015

Credential Actual Name:

Доктор наук, *Doktor Nauk*

Credential English Name:

Doctor of Sciences

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):**Credential Alternate English Name(s):**

Examples: Doctor of Technical Sciences,
Doctor of Economic Sciences, Doctor of
Mathematics Sciences, Doctor of Biological
Sciences, etc.

Time Period Credential Offered:

Former USSR (pre 1991) and
Russian Federation (post 1991)

Issuing Body:In the former USSR:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the appropriate
Republic

In the Russian Federation:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the Russian
Federation

Admission Requirements:

- Candidate of Sciences (Кандидат наук, *Kandidat Nauk*), academic position, and research qualifications

Program Description:

- 5 to 15 years of advanced academic research and publications after the Candidate of Sciences

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment (e.g., Full-Professor position)

IQAS Recommendations for:

The Doctor of Sciences represents post-doctoral research.

IQAS Rationale:

Doctor of Sciences in the Former USSR:

The Doctor of Sciences was the highest academic credential in the former USSR. Highly research oriented, it was obtained by senior scholars. The primary objective of the *doktorantura* was to develop a publication track record and facilitate faculty promotion. The Doctor of Science entitled its holder to obtain the position of a full Professor or department head at an institution of higher education. The Doctor of Sciences is determined by a secret ballot by peers and approved by the Supreme Certifying Commission (VAK).

To be eligible for admission, a candidate must have held the Candidate of Sciences, met research requirements, and been under 40 years of age. The Doctor of Sciences required the submission of another thesis after the Candidate of Sciences. The Doctor of Sciences thesis must have represented a piece of original research with results of fundamental scientific or applied significance. Publication of 10 to 20 scientific papers was required.

Although extremely rarely, the Doctor of Sciences could have been awarded immediately after the Candidate of Sciences if the research was of appropriately high standard.

Doctor of Sciences in the Russian Federation:

The second level of doctoral studies and highest academic degree in the Russian Federation, as in the former USSR, is the degree of Doctor of Sciences. Similarly to the Candidate of Sciences, it is awarded in all disciplines. In architecture and fine arts, the degrees awarded are the Doctor of Architecture and the Doctor of Fine Arts, respectively. In technical sciences, the degree is called the Doctor of Technical Sciences.

It requires a period of study following the Candidate of Sciences and the writing of another doctoral thesis leading to a public defence. Although the program has no fixed duration, in practice it generally requires five to 15 years of full-time study. Doctoral theses are prepared either on a full-time basis during doctoral studies in *doktorantura* or independently, outside *doktorantura*.

Doctor of Sciences programs are offered at leading educational and research institutions. The qualifying requirements for a Doctor of Sciences thesis are higher than those for a Candidate thesis. The thesis for the degree of Doctor of Sciences must be an advanced work that solves an important problem of social, scientific, or technological significance. It must also serve as a basis for several referred publications. Similarly to the Candidate of Sciences, the Doctor of Sciences is awarded by resolution of the Supreme Certifying Committee of the Russian Federation.

Admission to *doktorantura* is competitive and available to holders of Candidate of Sciences degrees known for their contributions in their respective fields. Candidates must hold teaching and/or research positions at recognized educational or research institutions. The standard age limit for *doktorantura* is 40 years. In some cases it may be 45 years. Outside of *doktorantura*, no age limit is applied to those seeking the Doctor of Sciences degree through independent research.

The main admission requirements are research achievements in a chosen area. Applicants must submit a complete outline for a thesis, a list of research publications, and reviews of the applicant's research. The Academic Council of the institution makes admission decisions and approves individual research programs.

Doctoral programs have no course component; they consist only of research. A research consultant, who must be a holder of the Doctor of Sciences degree, is appointed to advise a *doktorant*. As well, *doktorants* may visit other leading research centres in the country or abroad for their research. *Doktorants* present an annual progress report to the Academic Council. The Academic Council monitors the progress against their individual programs and decides as to their continuation in *doktorantura*.

The *doktorant* submits the thesis to the Dissertation Council. The Dissertation Council for the Doctor of Sciences degree is designated by the Supreme Certifying Committee and consists of Doctors of Sciences. The general defence procedure for the degree of Doctor of Sciences is the same as for the Candidate of Sciences degree. The final decision for the award of a Doctor of Science degree is after the Supreme Certifying Committee.

The degree of Doctor of Sciences serves as a prerequisite for appointment to the post of a full Professor (Профессор, *Professor*) at a higher education institution.

Summary of Rationale:

The IQAS placement recommendation takes into account the following factors as outlined above:

- admission requirements
- length of the study
- outcome of the study
- general content
- other placement recommendations

IQAS recommends that:

The Doctor of Sciences represents post-doctoral research.

Country:

Russian Federation

Date Entered:**Credential Actual Name:**

ДИПЛОМ О НЕПОЛНОМ ВЫСШЕМ ОБРАЗОВАНИИ,
Diplom o Nepochnom Vysshem Obrazovanii

Credential English Name:

Diploma of Incomplete Higher Education

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):**Credential Alternate English Name(s):**

Incomplete Diploma, Intermediate Diploma

Time Period Credential Offered:

Russian Federation (post 1991)

Issuing Body:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation

Admission Requirements:

- Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education and entrance exams^{*}, or
- Other credential incorporating secondary education (Diploma of Lower Vocational Education or Diploma of Higher Vocational Education) and entrance exams^{*}

Program Description:

- 2 years of full-time university study

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Third year of a Bachelor or Diploma of "Specialist" program
- Employment

IQAS Recommendations for:

The Diploma of Incomplete Higher Education generally compares to the completion of a two-year post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx.

^{*} See the IQAS Rational section for a detailed description of the admission requirements.

^{*} See the IQAS Rational section for a detailed description of the admission requirements.

Course Equivalencies

30-level courses if no secondary documents are available.

IQAS Rationale:

Detailed Admission Requirements

Admission Requirement	Description	
Academic credential requirement	A school or vocational education credential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education (<i>Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii</i>), or • A diploma of vocational education that includes complete secondary education (for further details see the chapter on Vocational/Technical Education) 	
AND		
Examination requirement	Prior to the introduction of the USE in 2001	Since the introduction of the USE in 2001
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral and written entrance examinations set by individual institutions for entry into different specialisations or areas of study. The typical number of exams is three to five. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of USE results And/or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral and written entrance examinations as before (as set by the institution)

Unified State Examination (USE)

The Unified State Examination (Единый государственный экзамен/ЕГЭ, *Edinyj gosudarstvennyj ekzamen/EGE*) has been implemented since 2001 as a standardised school graduation examination. Test takers receive the Certificate of USE Results (Свидетельство о результатах ЕГЭ, *Svidetel'stvo o Rezul'tatach EGE*).

Higher education institutions may use the USE results in place of, or in addition to, their own entrance examinations. With a Certificate of USE Results and an applicable school leaving credential, students can apply simultaneously to several institutions all over the country.

Additional Admission Considerations

- Admission for fee-paying students may not be as competitive as for students financed from the state budget.

- Institutions of higher education may reduce the number of examinations for certain categories of applicants. For example:
 - individuals who have been awarded a medal (at the completion of school education) or a diploma with honors/distinction (at the completion of vocational education) or some other awards,
 - graduates of specialized schools.
- **Foreign students** must meet the same entrance requirements as Russian nationals, in particular, have completed school education and taken entrance exams. There is a compulsory pre-academic year for those who do not know Russian or/and for those with weak pre-university training. Foreign applicants may not be older than 28 (35 for doctoral studies). In addition, they must have a valid Student visa and financial guarantees.

Diploma of Incomplete Higher Education

The Diploma of Incomplete Higher Education is not considered a degree; it is only an intermediate qualification. It is issued at the student's request or to students who cease study part-way through a Bachelor or "Specialist" program. It may be issued after at least two years in a Bachelor or "Specialist" program and later be used for reentry into a relevant program. After the first two years of studies students would have usually covered the compulsory fundamental courses in a given study area.

The Diploma gives direct access to the labour market and facilitates mobility among education institutions and/or different specialisation programs. It often states that it gives the right to carry out the professional activity at the level it represents or to continue higher education.

Forms of Education

There are different forms of education: full-time, part-time (evening and correspondence programs), and so-called *externat* (a form of education that enables individuals to study independently and to take examinations). The State Education Standard specifies acceptable forms of education for each specialisation. The minimum content requirements set by the State Education Standard do not depend on the form of education.

Academic Year

Entrance examinations are traditionally held in August. The academic year runs from September to June. It is divided into two academic semesters with examinations held at the end of each. Examinations may be oral or written and number about five per semester. In contrast to other countries, in the Russian Federation 100% of the course grade is determined by the final examination grade in that subject. Other courses may be evaluated as pass/fail. In order to qualify for the final examination, students must also complete professional practice requirements.

The university level higher education curriculum stipulates 36 weeks of study a year. Depending on the field of study (specialisation), mandatory courses in the curriculum constitute 80 to 85 percent, optional courses 15 to 20 percent. The total workload of a student should not exceed 54 hours a week, including classroom work and independent studies. For part-time evening education, classwork should be no less than 10 hours a week. In the case of correspondence education, students are offered at least 160 contact hours a year.

It is important to note that the system of higher education in the Russian Federation, as in the former USSR, emphasizes contact hours at the expense of homework and independent study. Therefore a direct conversion of instructional hours in the Russian Federation to semester hours (credits) in Western countries may be misleading.

One of the current initiatives of the Russian Ministry of Education in conjunction with the Bologna process is the introduction of credits. The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) uses a standard system of 30 hours corresponding to one ECTS credit. It is envisioned that one academic year will comprise of approximately 60 credits.

Language of Instruction

The principal language of higher education in the Russian Federation is Russian. Higher education may be conducted in other languages of the Russian Federation, as well as foreign languages. The language of education is set by the appropriate administrative body.

Curriculum Standards

As in the former USSR, higher education programs in the Russian Federation are divided into study areas (направления, *napravleniya*), which are further subdivided into specialisations (специальности, *spetsial'nosti*). Similarly, all programs continue to be identified by a number and a name. Specialisations within the same study area may carry the same identification number but different names. The total number of specialisations has increased as traditional specialisations exist in parallel with new specialisations. New specialisations were added in study areas such as business/management, law, sociology, computer science/informatics, languages, environmental science, etc.

Foundation studies, in the 1st and 2nd year of study, now integrate compulsory teaching in humanities and social sciences for natural science programs, and vice versa. Also in a shift from the Soviet system, some subjects, such as the history of the Communist Party of the USSR, scientific communism, and political economy, which were previously part of foundation studies within all specialisations, have been renamed, revised or eliminated.

The division of the course content into foundation studies, basic professional courses and specialised courses are similar to that in the Soviet system of education. However, now institutions of higher education have some autonomy with regard to determining the course content. Institutions may define 15 to 20% of the curriculum based on regional requirements and specialisation. As well, in addition to compulsory courses, students may choose among a certain number of electives.

Summary of Rationale:

The IQAS placement recommendation takes into account the following factors as outlined above:

- admission requirements
- length of the study
- outcome of the study
- general content
- other placement recommendations

IQAS recommends that:

The Diploma of Incomplete Higher Education generally compares to the completion of a two-year post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx

Grading:

The grading system in higher education in the Russian Federation is the same as that in the former USSR. It includes the same grading scale as at the other levels of education. Additionally, some courses are marked *зачет (zachet)*, which is usually translated as pass or credit. No more than five set examinations are typically graded each semester. The remaining courses of the term are marked *зачет (zachet)*, if passed. Students can continue their programs and graduate only if they pass each subject of the curriculum. Students are only allowed to resit a failed exam two times.

Scale	Description
5	Excellent (Отлично, <i>Otlichno</i>)
4	Good (Хорошо, <i>Horosho</i>)
3	Satisfactory (Удовлетворительно, <i>Udovletvoritel'no</i>)
2	Fail (Неудовлетворительно, <i>Neudovletvoritel'no</i>)
<i>Zachet</i>	Pass (Зачет, <i>Zachet</i>)
<i>Nezachet</i>	Fail (Незачет, <i>Nezachet</i>)

Country:

Former USSR and
Russian Federation

Date Entered:

Date Revised: August 24, 2015

NON-UNIVERSITY TEACHING CREDENTIALS**Credential Actual Name:**

Диплом об окончании среднего
специального образования, *Diplom ob
okonchanii srednego spetsial'nogo
obrazovaniya* (in the former USSR)
Диплом о среднем профессиональном
образовании, *Diplom o srednem
profzional'nom obrazovanii* (in the Russian
Federation)

Credential English Name:

Diploma of Higher Vocational Education
[literal translation: Diploma of Completion of
Secondary Vocational Education]

Diploma of Higher Vocational Education
[literal translation: Diploma of Secondary
Professional Education]

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):**Credential Alternate English Name(s):**

Examples: Diploma of Pre-School Teacher,
Diploma of Primary School Teacher, Diploma
of Lower Secondary School Teacher

Time Period Credential Offered:

Former USSR (pre 1991) and
Russian Federation (post 1991)

Issuing Body:In the former USSR:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the appropriate
Republic

In the Russian Federation:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the Russian
Federation

Admission Requirements:In the former USSR and the Russian Federation:

- Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education (Аттестат об основном общем

образовании, *Attestat ob Osnovnom Obshchem Obrazovanii*) of 8 or 9 years and entrance exams, or

- Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education (Аттестат о среднем (полном) общем образовании, *Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii*) of 10 or 11 years and entrance exams

Program Description:

The objective of higher vocational pedagogical education is to train pre-school teachers, primary school teachers, and lower secondary school teachers. They are trained at pedagogical *uchilishche* and, since 1989, pedagogical *colleges*.

In the former USSR:

Pedagogical *uchilishche* trained mainly pre-school and primary school teachers, as well as some lower secondary school teachers. At a pedagogical *uchilishche*, holders of the Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education completed a two-year program. Holders of the Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education trained for three-and-a-half years for pre-school teaching or four years for primary or lower secondary school teaching.

In the Russian Federation:

Higher vocational institutions include pedagogical *uchilishche* and pedagogical *colleges*. They mainly train pre-school and primary teachers although they may also train lower secondary school teachers. Pre-school and primary school teachers are trained in programs that require either 3-4 years of full-time study following the Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education or 2-3 years of full-time study following the Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education. Lower secondary school teachers are trained in programs that require either 5 years of full-time study following the Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education or 3 years of full-time study following the Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education.

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment
- Higher education (if the program incorporates complete secondary education)

IQAS Recommendations for:

In the former USSR:

- Admission after incomplete secondary education:
The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education [for a teaching credential] generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma, plus a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx.
- Admission after complete secondary education:
The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education [for a teaching credential] generally compares to

the completion of a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx.

In the Russian Federation:

Training for pre-school and primary school teachers:

- Admission after incomplete secondary education:

The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma, plus a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx.

- Admission after complete secondary education:

The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx.

Training for lower secondary school teachers:

- The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education [for lower secondary school teachers] generally compares to the completion of a three-year post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx. [If the training incorporates complete secondary education, acknowledge the completion of a High School Diploma.]

Course Equivalencies

- If complete secondary education is part of the program, use academic courses only:

Russian/Regional language and literature (e.g., Ukrainian) = Language Arts Grade 12

Algebra and Geometry = Pure Math 30

English = ESL Grade 12

Physics = Physics 30

Chemistry = Chemistry 30

Biology = Biology 30

- Otherwise (complete secondary education is obtained prior to admission), 30-level courses if no secondary documents available.

IQAS Rationale:

Teacher Education in the Former USSR

In the former USSR there was no professional certification requirement for teachers. The professional title of teacher was awarded on academic credentials and could be listed as педагог (*pedagog*), учитель (*uchitel'*), or преподаватель (*prepodavatel'*) - these terms were synonymous.

Pre-school and primary school teachers did not receive a specialization in a particular subject. They taught all subjects to a respective class of students, pre-school or primary. In contrast, lower secondary and upper secondary teachers specialized in one or two subjects. They generally taught these subjects to different classes of students, lower secondary and upper secondary.

Higher Vocational Institutions (Pedagogical *Uchilishche*)

Pedagogical *uchilishche* trained mainly pre-school and primary school teachers, as well as some lower secondary school teachers. At a pedagogical *uchilishche*, holders of the Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education completed a two-year program. Holders of the Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education trained for three-and-a-half years for pre-school teaching or four years for primary or lower secondary school teaching. The curriculum included foundation studies, education subjects, practice teaching, as well as secondary education subjects for students without completed secondary education. The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education was awarded as a *Diplom* with a relevant professional title.

Higher Vocational Teacher Education in the Former USSR

Professional Title Awarded	Title in Russian	Transliteration	Typical Length of Study		Taught Children
			After CCSE ⁴	After CISE ⁵	
pre-school teacher	педагог дошкольного образования	<i>pedagog doshkol'nogo obrazovaniya</i>	2 years	3.5 years	3-6 years of age
primary school teacher	учитель начальных классов	<i>uchitel' nachal'nyh klassov</i>	2 years	4 years	primary school grades 1-3 (1-4)
lower secondary school teacher	учитель средних классов	<i>uchitel' srednih klassov</i>	2 years	4 years	lower secondary grades 4-8 (5-9)

Two-Year Program of Pre-School Teacher (following the Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education), Ufa Pedagogical *Uchilishche* #1, 1983^x

Subject	Hours
History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union	134
Foundations of Scientific Atheism	16
Foundations of Marxist-Leninist Ethics and Aesthetics	38
State and Law	40
Anatomy	136

⁴ CCSE stands for Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education.

⁵ CISE stands for Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education.

Psychology	137
Pre-School Pedagogy	286
Russian	114
Methods of Speech Development, Correctness and Instruction of Alphabet	249
Literature for Children, Reciting	156
Natural Sciences for Children, Practicum	116
Development of Elementary Mathematical Concepts	117
Drawing, History of the Arts	92
Methods of Teaching Art to Children	116
Music, Singing, Rhythm	72
Methods of Musical Education	108
Methods of Physical Education	135
Workplace Safety	32
Subject of Narrow Specialty	38
Physical Education	134
Labour Education	116
Subtotal	2382
Pedagogical Practice	340
Total	2722

Teacher Education in the Russian Federation

In the Russian Federation there is no professional certification requirement for teachers. The professional title of teacher is awarded on academic credentials and can be listed as педагог (*pedagog*), учитель (*uchitel'*), or преподаватель (*prepodavatel'*) - these terms are synonymous.

Pre-school and primary school teachers do not receive a specialization in a particular subject. They teach all subjects to a respective class of students, pre-school or primary. In contrast, lower secondary and upper secondary teachers specialize in one or two subjects. They generally teach these subjects to different classes of students, lower secondary and upper secondary.

Since the Soviet era, there has appeared a new type of higher vocational education, the *college* (see the chapter on Technical/Vocational Education).

Higher Vocational Institutions (Pedagogical *Uchilishche* and Pedagogical *Colleges*)

Higher vocational institutions include pedagogical *uchilishche* and pedagogical *colleges*. **They mainly train pre-school and primary teachers although they may also train lower secondary school teachers.** Pre-school and primary school teachers are trained in programs that require either 3-4 years of full-time study following the Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education or 2-3 years of full-time study following the Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education. Lower secondary school teachers are trained in programs that require either 5 years of

full-time study following the Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education or 3 years of full-time study following the Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education. The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education is awarded as a *Diplom* with a relevant professional title. It generally provides 1 – 2 years of advanced standing in a degree program at a university-level institution.

Higher Vocational Teacher Education in the Russian Federation

Professional Title Awarded	Title in Russian	Transliteration	Typical Length of Study		Taught Children
			After CCSE ⁶	After CISE ⁷	
pre-school teacher	педагог дошкольного образования	<i>pedagog doshkol'nogo obrazovaniya</i>	2-3 years	3-4 years	3-6 years of age
primary school teacher	учитель начальных классов	<i>uchitel' nachal'nyh klassov</i>	2-3 years	3-4 years	primary school grades 1-4
lower secondary school teacher	учитель средних классов	<i>uchitel' srednih klassov</i>	3 years	5 years	lower secondary grades 5-9

Three-Year Program of Pre-School Teacher (following the Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education), Moscow Pedagogical College #4, 2000^{xi}

Subject	Hours
Homeland History	172
History of Pedagogy	125
Pre-School Education	272
Cultural Studies	112
Ethics	20
Russian	112
Mathematics	115
Foreign Language	105
Pre-School Psychology	100
Pedagogy	100
Anatomy of the Central Nervous System	103
Physiology	100
Political Sciences	82
Sociology	103
History of Psychology	105
Experimental Psychology	65
Law	72
Psychology in Age Development	103
History of Pedagogy	105

⁶ CCSE stands for Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education.

⁷ CISE stands for Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education.

Comparative Pedagogy	60
Economics	62
Pedagogical Psychology	103
Psychology of Personality	110
Logic	68
Psychological Preparedness for School	50
Fundamentals of General Psychology	120
Methods of Teaching Pre-School Math	196
Methods of Teaching Pre-School Russian	196
Methods of Teaching Pre-School Reading	196
Methods of Teaching Pre-School Work Skills	92
Methods of Teaching Pre-School Music	196
Study of Defective Speech	90
Correctional Pedagogy	50
Psychology of Communication	50
Drawing	120
Preparation for School	100
Educational and Correctional Games	90
Culture of Speech	120
Fundamentals of Computer Knowledge	100
Physical Education	120
Total	4360

Summary of Rationale:

The IQAS placement recommendation takes into account the following factors as outlined above:

- admission requirements
- length of the study
- outcome of the study
- general content
- other placement recommendations

IQAS recommends that:

In the former USSR:

- Admission after incomplete secondary education:

The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education [for a teaching credential] generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma, plus a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx.

- Admission after complete secondary education:

The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education [for a teaching credential] generally compares to the completion of a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx.

In the Russian Federation:

Training for pre-school and primary school teachers:

- Admission after incomplete secondary education:

The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma, plus a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx.

- Admission after complete secondary education:

The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education generally compares to the completion of a post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx.

Training for lower secondary school teachers:

- **The Diploma of Higher Vocational Education [for lower secondary school teachers] generally compares to the completion of a three-year post-secondary Diploma with a focus in xxx. [If the training incorporates complete secondary education, acknowledge the completion of a High School Diploma.]**

Grading:

The following grading scale has been used in both the former USSR and the Russian Federation.

Scale	Grade Description
5	Excellent (Отлично, <i>Otlichno</i>)
4	Good (Хорошо, <i>Horosho</i>)
3	Satisfactory (Удовлетворительно, <i>Udovletvoritel'no</i>)
2	Fail (Неудовлетворительно, <i>Neudovletvoritel'no</i>)

The lowest passing grade is '3'. Students must pass each course in order to enroll in the next grade or to graduate. The grade '1' also exists, but is used very rarely.

A plus (+) or a minus (-) may be added to a grade. For example, a '4+' is higher than a '4' and lower than a '5-'. A '5+' is very rare. These intermediate grades may be awarded throughout the period of study but typically not as a final grade.

Country:
Former USSR and
Russian Federation

Date Entered:
Date Revised: August 24, 2015

UNIVERSITY-LEVEL TEACHING CREDENTIALS

Credential Actual Name:
Диплом Специалиста, *Diplom Spetsialista*
Бакалавр, *Bakalavr*

Credential English Name:
Diploma of "Specialist"
Bachelor's degree

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):

Credential Alternate English Name(s):
Examples: Diploma of "Pre-School Teacher",
Diploma of "Primary School Teacher",
Diploma of "Biologist and Teacher of
Biology", Diploma of "Mathematician and
Teacher of Mathematics", etc.

Time Period Credential Offered:
Former USSR (pre 1991) and
Russian Federation (post 1991)

Issuing Body:

In the former USSR:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the appropriate Republic

In the Russian Federation:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation

Admission Requirements:

In the former USSR:

- Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education and entrance exams, or
- Other credential incorporating secondary education (Diploma of Lower Vocational Education or Diploma of Higher Vocational Education) and entrance exams

In the Russian Federation:

- Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education and entrance exams, or
- Other credential incorporating secondary education (Diploma of Lower Vocational Education or Diploma of Higher Vocational Education) and entrance exams, or
- a Bachelor's degree (Бакалавр, *Bakalavr*)

Program Description:

In the former USSR:

- 4 to 5 years (sometimes 6) of full-time study (including 3-4 months for thesis completion)

In the Russian Federation:

- 4 to 5 years (sometimes 6) of full-time study (including 3-4 months for thesis completion) after secondary education, or
- 1 to 1.5 years of full-time study (including 3-4 months for thesis completion) after a Bachelor's degree

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

In the former USSR:

- Candidate of Sciences program
- Employment

In the Russian Federation:

- Candidate of Sciences or Master program
- Employment

IQAS Recommendations for:

In the Former USSR and the Russian Federation:

- The Diploma of "Specialist"-Teacher [of 4 years] or a Bachelor's degree generally compares to the completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree with a focus in xxx.
- The Diploma of "Specialist"-Teacher [of 5 years] generally compares to the completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree plus a graduate Diploma with a focus in xxx. [As part of the program requirements, a research project was completed.]

Course Equivalencies

30-level courses if no secondary documents are available.

IQAS Rationale:

Teacher Education in the Former USSR

In the former USSR there was no professional certification requirement for teachers. The professional title of teacher was awarded on academic credentials and could be listed as педагог (*pedagog*), учитель (*uchitel'*), or преподаватель (*prepodavatel'*) - these terms were synonymous.

Pre-school and primary school teachers did not receive a specialization in a particular subject. They taught all subjects to a respective class of students, pre-school or primary. In contrast, lower secondary and upper secondary teachers specialized in one or two subjects. They generally taught these subjects to different classes of students, lower secondary and upper secondary.

University-Level Institutions (Pedagogical and Other Institutes, Universities, Academies)

The majority of lower and upper secondary school teachers in the former USSR were trained at university-level educational institutions (pedagogical and other institutes, universities, and academies). Graduates of these institutions received the Diploma of "Specialist". The title of teacher on the Diploma of "Specialist" was followed by a subject specialization such as teacher of the French language (учитель французского языка, *uchitel' francuzskogo yazyka*). Students preparing to teach one subject typically completed a four-year program. Those preparing to specialize in two subjects typically completed a five-year program. Few "Specialist" programs were up to six years in length. In addition, **some** university-level institutions (typically pedagogical institutes) also offered four-year programs for **pre-school or primary school teaching**.

University-Level Teacher Education in the Former USSR

Professional Title Awarded	Title in Russian	Transliteration	Typical Length of Study	Taught Children
pre-school teacher	педагог дошкольного образования	<i>pedagog doshkol'nogo obrazovaniya</i>	4 years	3-6 years of age
primary school teacher	учитель начальных классов	<i>uchitel' nachal'nyh klassov</i>	4 years	primary school grades 1-3 (1-4)
teacher (specialization in specific subject(s))	учитель	<i>uchitel'</i>	4-6 years	lower secondary grades 4-8 (5-9) and/or upper secondary grades 9-10 (10-11)

Approximately two hundred **pedagogical institutes** (university-level educational institutions) trained specifically pre-school, primary, and secondary school teachers. Study of the subject(s) to be taught occupied a central part of the curriculum. Education-related courses included psychology, educational theory and methodology, history of education, and school hygiene. During the last two years of the program, practice teaching and summer work at a pioneer (youth) camp was required. Final examinations at pedagogical institutes typically included an exam in philosophy/history of the Communist Party of the USSR and three exams related to the area of concentration.

Compared to students at pedagogical institutes, students at universities received narrower, more specialized training in a specific subject area. General education subjects (psychology, educational theory, school hygiene, etc.) and practice teaching were given less importance. Universities granted the title of teacher generally in addition to another title such as "chemist and teacher of chemistry".

Five-Year Program of Teacher of English and German, Astrahan' Pedagogical Institute, 1986^{xii}

Subject	Hours
History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union	170
Political Economy	140
Aspects of Modern Socialism	130
Fundamentals of Scientific Atheism	40
Physical Education	140
Developmental Physiology and Student Health	54
General Psychology	100
Developmental and Pedagogical Psychology	40
History of Pedagogy	90
School Pedagogy	90
Methods of Teaching Foreign Language	300
Practical Training in Spoken and Written Language	1322

Practical Phonetics	288
Practical Grammar	286
Theory and Practice of Translation	60
Language History	70
Theoretical Phonetics	40
Theoretical Grammar	70
Lexicology	70
Stylistics	40
History of British Literature	100
Introduction to Linguistics	70
Latin Language	70
Regional Studies	70
Technical Aids for Instruction	40
Comparative Typology of Native and Foreign Languages	40
Second Foreign Language	750
Special Course on Pedagogy	18
Special Course on Methodology	18
General Linguistics	80
Logic	40
Fundamentals of Ethics and Aesthetics	60
Methods of Teaching Second Foreign Language	120
Modern Russian Language	160
Total	5176

Term papers: Linguistics, Methodology of teaching foreign languages, Psychology

Additional practical training (not included in the total number of hours): Summer pedagogical practice 2 weeks, Summer children program facilitator 3 weeks, Teaching practice 6 weeks, Teaching practice 8 weeks

Final state examinations and final diploma paper in specialization

Teacher Education in the Russian Federation

In the Russian Federation there is no professional certification requirement for teachers. The professional title of teacher is awarded on academic credentials and can be listed as педагог (*pedagog*), учитель (*uchitel'*), or преподаватель (*prepodavatel'*) - these terms are synonymous.

Pre-school and primary school teachers do not receive a specialization in a particular subject. They teach all subjects to a respective class of students, pre-school or primary. In contrast, lower secondary and upper secondary teachers specialize in one or two subjects. They generally teach these subjects to different classes of students, lower secondary and upper secondary.

University-Level Institutions (Pedagogical and Other Institutes, Universities, Academies)

Most lower and higher secondary school teachers as well as some pre-school and primary school teachers in the Russian Federation are trained at university-level institutions (pedagogical and other institutes, universities, and academies). Diploma of "Specialist" programs train teachers for the particular levels of the school education system. The majority of Diploma of "Specialist" programs are five years in length. Four-year programs are offered in a limited number of single-subject disciplines (primary school education with no sub-specialization; foreign languages, where only one language is studied; and, in rare cases, Russian language and literature). Few Diploma of "Specialist" programs are six years in length.

University-Level Teacher Education in the Russian Federation

Professional Title Awarded	Title in Russian	Transliteration	Typical Length of Study	Taught Children
pre-school teacher	педагог дошкольного образования	<i>pedagog doshkol'nogo obrazovaniya</i>	4 years	3-6 years of age
primary school teacher	учитель начальных классов	<i>uchitel' nachal'nyh klassov</i>	4 years	primary school grades 1-4
teacher (specialization in specific subject(s))	учитель	<i>uchitel'</i>	4-6 years	lower secondary grades 5-9 and/or upper secondary grades 10-11

There are over 100 pedagogical institutions in the Russian Federation. Many pedagogical institutes of the Soviet era have upgraded to pedagogical universities and pedagogical academies. Teaching qualifications may be obtained at pedagogical institutes and pedagogical universities as well as institutes, universities, and academies within other study areas.

University-level pedagogical education includes foundation studies/core courses in humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, subject specialisation, studies in biology and medicine, studies in pedagogy and psychology, and an introduction to pedagogical profession (in-service teacher training).

University-level graduates may specialize in one or two subjects, i.e. mathematics, biology, language, etc. The qualification of teacher may be added to a professional title or subject title when pedagogical requirements are fulfilled.

Five-Year Program of Teacher of French and German, Samara State Pedagogical University, 1994^{xiii}

Course title	Hours
History of Russia	200
Philosophy	144
Economics	200
Political Science	120
Latin Language	144
Modern Russian Language	144
General Linguistics	148
Fundamentals of Information Science and Computing	72
World Art Culture	144
Cultural Studies	108
Age-Specific Physiology	36
School Hygiene	36
Physical Education	220
General Psychology	72
Age-Specific Psychology	72
Teaching Psychology	64
History of Pedagogy	72
Pedagogy	216
Methods of Teaching Foreign Languages	196
Practical Course of the Primary Foreign Language (French)	3140
Stylistics	72
Theoretical Phonetics	72
Theoretical Grammar	120
Typology	60
Lexicology	72
History of the Language	72
Regional Geography	112
Literature of the Country of the Studied Language	144
Practical Course of the Second Foreign Language (German)	960
Theory of the Second Foreign Language	40
Special Courses: Management	40
Pedagogical Systems	40
Methods of Educational Work	40
Imperialism, Symbolism in French Art	40
Special Seminars: Language of Mass Media	40
Education In Modern World	40
Total	7512

Term papers: Pedagogy, Teaching methods, Philology

Practice (not included in the total number of hours): Summer pedagogical 4 weeks, Methodical in primary language 6 weeks, Pedagogical 8 weeks

Final state examinations: Second foreign language, Pedagogy, psychology and methods of teaching foreign languages, Fundamentals of medical knowledge

Final diploma paper

Summary of Rationale:

The IQAS placement recommendation takes into account the following factors as outlined above:

- admission requirements
- length of the study
- outcome of the study
- general content
- other placement recommendations

IQAS recommends that:

In the Former USSR and the Russian Federation:

- **The Diploma of "Specialist"-Teacher [of 4 years] or a Bachelor's degree generally compares to the completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree with a focus in xxx.**
- **The Diploma of "Specialist"-Teacher [of 5 years] generally compares to the completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree plus a graduate Diploma with a focus in xxx. [As part of the program requirements, a research project was completed.]**

Grading:

The grading system in higher education in the Russian Federation is the same as that in the former USSR. It includes the same grading scale as at the other levels of education. Additionally, some courses are marked *зачет (zachet)*, which is usually translated as pass or credit. No more than five set examinations are typically graded each semester. The remaining courses of the term are marked *зачет (zachet)*, if passed. Students can continue their programs and graduate only if they pass each subject of the curriculum. Students are only allowed to resit a failed exam two times.

Scale	Description
5	Excellent (Отлично, <i>Otlichno</i>)
4	Good (Хорошо, <i>Horosho</i>)
3	Satisfactory (Удовлетворительно, <i>Udovletvoritel'no</i>)

2	Fail (Неудовлетворительно, <i>Neudovletvoritel'no</i>)
<i>Zachet</i>	Pass (Зачет, <i>Zachet</i>)
<i>Nezachet</i>	Fail (Незачет, <i>Nezachet</i>)

Country:

Former USSR and
Russian Federation

Date Entered:**UNIVERSITY-LEVEL CREDENTIALS IN MEDICINE/DENTISTRY****Credential Actual Name:**

Диплом Специалиста, *Diplom Spetsialista*

Credential English Name:

Diploma of "Specialist"

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):**Credential Alternate English Name(s):**

Examples: Diploma of "Physician", Diploma of "Paediatrician", Diploma of "Stomatologist", Diploma of "Physician-Biochemist", Diploma of "Physician-Biophysicist", etc.

Time Period Credential Offered:

Former USSR (pre 1991) and
Russian Federation (post 1991)

Issuing Body:In the former USSR:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the appropriate Republic

In the Russian Federation:

Issued by an institution under the authority of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation

Admission Requirements:In the former USSR and the Russian Federation:

- Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education and entrance exams*, or
- Other credential incorporating secondary education (Diploma of Lower Vocational Education or Diploma of Higher Vocational Education) and entrance exams*

* See the IQAS Rational section for a detailed description of the admission requirements.

* See the IQAS Rational section for a detailed description of the admission requirements.

Program Description:

In the former USSR:

- 5 to 6 years of full-time study depending on specialisation (see the IQAS Rationale section for details)

In the Russian Federation:

- 4 to 6 years of full-time study depending on specialisation (see the IQAS Rationale section for details)

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

In the former USSR:

- Candidate of Sciences program
- Employment in a professional field

In the Russian Federation:

- Candidate of Sciences or Master program
- Employment in a professional field

IQAS Recommendations for:

In the Former USSR and the Russian Federation:

The Diploma of a Physician/ Stomatologist/ Paediatrician/ Hygienist/etc generally compares to the completion of a first professional university degree in medicine, dentistry, etc.

In the Russian Federation:

The Diploma of a Nursing Supervisor generally compares to the completion of a 4-year Bachelor of Science with a focus in Nursing.

Course Equivalencies

30-level courses if no secondary documents are available.

IQAS Rationale:

Diploma of "Specialist" in Medicine in the Former USSR:

Detailed Admission Requirements

Admission Requirement	Description
Academic credential requirement	A school or vocational education credential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education (<i>Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii</i>), or • A diploma of vocational education that included complete secondary education (for further details see the chapter on Vocational/Technical Education)
AND	
Examination requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral and written entrance examinations set by individual institutions for entry into different specialisations or areas of study. The typical number of exams was three to five.

Additional Admission Considerations

- For full-time study the age limit of 35 years was typically enforced. There was no age limit for part-time, evening and correspondence studies.
- Institutions typically reduced the number of examinations for certain categories of applicants. For example:
 - individuals who had been awarded a medal (at the completion of school education) or a diploma with honors/distinction (at the completion of vocational education) or some other awards,
 - graduates of specialized schools.
- Students from certain regions (rural regions or certain republics) who intended to study in subject areas that would directly benefit the development of their regions, such as agriculture and pedagogy, might have been granted priority in admission.
- The former USSR supported students from developing countries. However, **foreign students** were expected to meet the same entrance requirements as Soviet nationals, in particular, had completed school education and taken entrance exams. There was a compulsory pre-academic year for those who did not know Russian or/and for those with weak pre-university training.

Diploma of "Specialist" in Medicine

In medicine, there were four major types of Diploma of "Specialist" programs: the therapist (primary-care physician), the hygienist (sanitarian-epidemiologist- hygienist), the paediatrician (children's primary care physician), and the stomatologist (dentist). The Diploma of "Specialist" listed the title of physician (врач, *vrach*).

Primary-care physicians were trained in a faculty of curative medicine. The training of general practitioners, surgeons, and obstetricians/gynaecologists took six years, five of which were devoted to general medical training and the sixth is one of specialisation (subordinatura).

In a faculty of paediatrics, the training of paediatricians and paediatric surgeons took six years, five in general medical training and the sixth in a specialisation.

In a faculty of dentistry, the training of dental physicians, dental surgeons, children's dental physicians and other dental specialists took five years, 4.5 in general medical training followed by a six month period of specialisation.

In a faculty of hygiene, the training of physicians in community health, nutritional hygiene, occupational health, and children's and adolescents' health, as well as that of physicians specialising in epidemiology, took six years, 5.5 in general medical training followed by a six-month period of specialisation.^{xiv}

Further Clinical Study

After graduation, students undertook an internship (*internatura*) of minimum one year in their specialisation at the end of which they started to practise. Secondary specialisation in narrower specialties took place during a clinical residency (*ordinatura*) period of minimum two years. Following this, physicians underwent general further training in their specialty once every five years.

Academic Year

Applications for admission were generally accepted in June. Entrance examinations were held in July and August. Registration for enrollment took place at the end of August.

The academic year ran from September to June and was divided into two semesters, September to January and February to June. Student contact hours throughout the year amounted to 34 to 40 hours a week, including lectures, seminars, and labs. At least 20% of time was assigned to practical exercises and laboratory work in technical and science curricula. Independent work and background reading occupied a less significant amount of time than in western countries.

Each semester culminated in a final exam session, which included oral and written exams in about five core subjects. Other courses taken in the term were marked pass/fail on the basis of oral exams. The final mark "fail" was very rare as students were allowed to repeat a failed exam up to two times. Students who failed more than two courses were required to withdraw from their program.

Language of Instruction

Russian was overwhelmingly the language of instruction throughout the former USSR.

Diploma of "Specialist" in Medicine in the Russian Federation:

Detailed Admission Requirements

Admission Requirement	Description	
Academic credential requirement	A school or vocational education credential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education (<i>Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii</i>), or • A diploma of vocational education that includes complete secondary education (for further details see the chapter on Vocational/Technical Education) 	
AND		
Examination requirement	Prior to the introduction of the USE in 2001	Since the introduction of the USE in 2001
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral and written entrance examinations set by individual institutions for entry into different specialisations or areas of study. The typical number of exams is three to five. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of USE results And/or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral and written entrance examinations as before (as set by the institution)

Unified State Examination (USE)

The Unified State Examination (Единый государственный экзамен/ЕГЭ, *Edinyj gosudarstvennyj ekzamen/EGE*) has been implemented since 2001 as a standardised school graduation examination. Test takers receive the Certificate of USE Results (Свидетельство о результатах ЕГЭ, *Svidetel'stvo o Rezul'tatah EGE*).

Higher education institutions may use the USE results in place of, or in addition to, their own entrance examinations. With a Certificate of USE Results and an applicable school leaving credential, students can apply simultaneously to several institutions all over the country.

Additional Admission Considerations

- Admission for fee-paying students may not be as competitive as for students financed from the state budget.
- Institutions of higher education may reduce the number of examinations for certain categories of applicants. For example:
- individuals who have been awarded a medal (at the completion of school education) or a diploma with honors/distinction (at the completion of vocational education) or some other awards,

- graduates of specialized schools.
- **Foreign students** must meet the same entrance requirements as Russian nationals, in particular, have completed school education and taken entrance exams. There is a compulsory pre-academic year for those who do not know Russian or/and for those with weak pre-university training. Foreign applicants may not be older than 28 (35 for doctoral studies). In addition, they must have a valid Student visa and financial guarantees.

Diploma of "Specialist" in Medicine

In Diploma of "Specialist" programs in medicine there are now nine areas of study. They can be studied not only at medical institutes but also at medical academies and regular universities.

Areas of Study in "Specialist" Programs in Medicine in the Russian Federation, 2000

Area of Study Number	Area of Study	Years of Full Time Study	Specialist Title
040100	Medicine	6	Physician
040200	Pediatrics	6	Physician
040300	Prophylactic medicine	6	Physician
040400	Dentistry	5	Physician
040500	Pharmacy	5	Provisory
040600	Nursing	4	Nursing Supervisor
040800	Medical biochemistry	6	Physician - Biochemical
040900	Medical biophysics	6	Physician - Biophysics
041000	Medical cybernetics	6	Physician- Cybernetics

Further Clinical Study

After graduation, students undertake an internship (*internatura*) of minimum one year in their specialisation at the end of which they start to practise. Secondary specialisation in narrower specialties takes place during a clinical residency (*ordinatura*) period of minimum two years. Following this, physicians undergo general further training in their specialty once every five years.

Clinical Study Areas at the Russian State Medical University^{xv}

- * Allergology and Immunology
- * Anesthesiology and Reanimatology
- * Cardiology
- * Cardiovascular Surgery
- * Children's Endocrinology
- * Children's Surgery
- * Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics
- * Clinical Pharmacology
- * Dermatovenerology
- * Dietology

- * Domestic Medicine (General Medical Practice)
- * Endocrinology
- * Endomorphism
- * Epidemiology
- * Forensic Medical Examination
- * Functional Diagnostics
- * Gastroenterology
- * Genetics
- * Haematology
- * Infectious Diseases
- * Laboratory Genetics
- * Manual Therapy
- * Maxillofacial Surgery
- * Neonatology
- * Nephrology
- * Neurology
- * Obstetrics and Gynecology
- * Occupational Pathology
- * Oncology
- * Ophthalmology
- * Otorhinolaryngology
- * Pathological Anatomy
- * Pediatrics
- * Phthisiology
- * Physiotherapy
- * Psychiatry
- * Psychiatry and Narcology
- * Pulmonology
- * Radiology
- * Reflex Therapy
- * Rentgenology
- * Rheumatology
- * Social Medicine and Management in Public Health
- * Stomatology
- * Surgery
- * Therapeutic Physical Training and Sport Medicine
- * Therapy
- * Traumatology and Orthopedics
- * Urology

Academic Year

Entrance examinations are traditionally held in August. The academic year runs from September to June. It is divided into two academic semesters with examinations held at the end of each. Examinations may be oral or written and number about five per semester. In contrast to other countries, in the Russian Federation 100% of the course grade is determined by the final

examination grade in that subject. Other courses may be evaluated as pass/fail. In order to qualify for the final examination, students must also complete professional practice requirements.

The university level higher education curriculum stipulates 36 weeks of study a year. Depending on the field of study (specialisation), mandatory courses in the curriculum constitute 80 to 85 percent, optional courses 15 to 20 percent. The total workload of a student should not exceed 54 hours a week, including classroom work and independent studies. For part-time evening education, classwork should be no less than 10 hours a week. In the case of correspondence education, students are offered at least 160 contact hours a year.

It is important to note that the system of higher education in the Russian Federation, as in the former USSR, emphasizes contact hours at the expense of homework and independent study. Therefore a direct conversion of instructional hours in the Russian Federation to semester hours (credits) in Western countries may be misleading.

One of the current initiatives of the Russian Ministry of Education in conjunction with the Bologna process is the introduction of credits. The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) uses a standard system of 30 hours corresponding to one ECTS credit. It is envisioned that one academic year will comprise of approximately 60 credits.

Language of Instruction

The principal language of higher education in the Russian Federation is Russian. Higher education may be conducted in other languages of the Russian Federation, as well as foreign languages. The language of education is set by the appropriate administrative body.

Sample Curriculum

Six-Year "Specialist" Program in Medicine (Specialization number 1901, Therapist), Moscow Medical Academy, 1991

Subject	Lecture	Lab/Practice/ Seminar	Total
History of the Communist Party of the USSR	60	60	120
Marxist-Leninist Philosophy	80	60	140
Principles of Scientific Atheism	18	6	24
Political Economy	50	50	100
Scientific Communism	40	40	80
Special Training	68	186	254
Civil Defence	20	30	50
Physical Education, including Medical Gymnastics & Medical Control	11	174	190
Latin & Medical Terminology		72	72
Foreign Language		350	350
Medical Biology & Genetics	28	120	148

Medical & Biological Physics, with Information Science & Medical Equipment	36	132	168
General & Bio-Organic Chemistry	48	140	188
Biochemistry	46	144	190
Human Anatomy	54	222	276
Histology, Embryology & Cytology	34	134	168
Normal Physiology	50	186	236
Microbiology, with Virology & Immunology	38	146	184
Pharmacology	36	130	166
Clinical Pharmacology	4	52	56
Pathological Anatomy, with Dissection	38	148	186
Pathological Physiology	38	128	166
General Hygiene, with Ecology	36	94	130
Social Hygiene & Organization of Health Services	56	96	152
General Patient Care (Therapy)		40	40
Introduction to Internal Diseases	36	168	204
Internal Disease & General Physical Therapy	76	256	332
Endocrinology	18	38	56
Tuberculosis	18	78	96
Polyclinic Training	18	52	70
Occupational Diseases	8	30	38
Roentgenology & Radiation Medicine	18	58	76
General Patient Care (Surgery)		32	32
General Surgery & Anesthesiology	46	120	166
Reanimation & Intensive Therapy	4	34	38
Operative Surgery & Topographical Anatomy	18	112	130
Surgical Diseases	70	210	280
Urology	8	30	38
Stomatology	8	30	38
Traumatology & Orthopedics	40	94	134
Oncology	12	50	62
Infectious Diseases & Epidemiology	42	120	162
Dermatology & Venereal Diseases	26	70	96
Neurology, Neurosurgery & Medical Genetics	38	112	150
Psychiatry	26	66	92
General & Medical Psychology	4	32	36
Otorhinolaryngology	18	56	74
Pulmonology	18	56	74
Forensic Medicine	16	70	86
Soviet Law	30	18	48
Obstetrics & Gynecology	50	182	232
Pediatrics	36	130	166

Pediatric Surgery	8	58	66
Subtotal number of hours			6,906
Specialisation:			
Internal Diseases	70	1,106	1,176
Surgical Diseases	70	1,106	1,176
Obstetrics & Gynecology	70	1,106	1,176
Total Hours			8,082

State Examinations were required at the end of second, fifth, and sixth years as follows:

Second year:

Human Anatomy
Normal Physiology
Histology
Biochemistry

Fifth Year:

Internal Diseases
Surgical Diseases
Obstetrics & Gynecology

Sixth Year:

Specialization
Marxism-Leninism
Social Hygiene & Organization of Health Services

Summary of Rationale:

The IQAS placement recommendation takes into account the following factors as outlined above:

- admission requirements
- length of the study
- outcome of the study
- general content
- other placement recommendations

IQAS recommends that:

In the Former USSR and the Russian Federation:

The Diploma of a Physician/ Stomatologist/ Paediatrician/ Hygienist/etc generally compares to the completion of a first professional university degree in medicine, dentistry, etc.

In the Russian Federation:

The Diploma of a Nursing Supervisor generally compares to the completion of a four-year Bachelor of Science with a focus in Nursing.

Grading:

The grading system in higher education in the Russian Federation is the same as that in the former USSR. It includes the same grading scale as at the other levels of education. Additionally, some courses are marked *зачет (zachet)*, which is usually translated as pass or credit. No more than five set examinations are typically graded each semester. The remaining courses of the term are marked *зачет (zachet)*, if passed. Students can continue their programs and graduate only if they pass each subject of the curriculum. Students are only allowed to resit a failed exam two times.

Scale	Description
5	Excellent (Отлично, <i>Otlichno</i>)
4	Good (Хорошо, <i>Horosho</i>)
3	Satisfactory (Удовлетворительно, <i>Udovletvoritel'no</i>)
2	Fail (Неудовлетворительно, <i>Neudovletvoritel'no</i>)
<i>Zachet</i>	Pass (Зачет, <i>Zachet</i>)
<i>Nezachet</i>	Fail (Незачет, <i>Nezachet</i>)

ⁱ Adapted from *Informatsionnyi Sbornik Ministerstva Narodnogo Obrazovaniya RSFSR*, no. 14 May 1989 pp18-19.

ⁱⁱ Alberta Advanced Education, International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS). *Issue: Determining an Appropriate Alberta Equivalency for Elementary and Secondary Education in the Former USSR*.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation, National Information Centre on Academic Recognition and Mobility.

^{iv} Sample documents are made available by the National Information Centre on Academic Recognition and Mobility of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation.

^v UNESCO. *Mutual Recognition of Qualifications: The Russian Federation and the Other European Countries*. Second Edition. 2000. (Compiled by Kouptsov Oleg Dr.)

^{vi} Ibid.

^{vii} Ministry of Education Order Number 334 “*Program of the Ministry of Education and Russian Academy of Education concerning mutual activities towards implementation of profile education at the third level of secondary education*” of 9 June 2003

^{viii} For more information see www.profile-edu.ru

^{ix} Nordic Recognition Network (NORRIC). *The System of Education in Russia*. 2005

^x An IQAS file.

^{xi} Ibid.

^{xii} An IQAS file.

^{xiii} Ibid.

^{xiv} IQAS resources.

^{xv} <http://old.rsmu.ru/eng/postfac.htm>