

Announcement of the Association of The Council of University Presidents of Thailand
Thai University Central Admission System Academic Year 2025
(Thai University Central Admission System: TCAS)

No. 1

Subject: Criteria for High School Educational Equivalency in Thai University Central Admission System for Overseas Graduates

According to the regulations of the Ministry of Education regarding the educational equivalency criteria for domestic and overseas educational qualifications for the basic education level 2020 of Section 2 that prescribes the duty of the organization responsible for the educational equivalency criteria, Item 16 declares that “setting the educational equivalency of foreign high school qualifications to pursue Thai higher education is under the consideration authority of each higher education institute to set the criteria and qualifications of the applicants as deemed appropriate,” announced in the Royal Gazette on May 18th, 2020.

The Association of the Council of University Presidents of Thailand, therefore, assigns the chief hereof to set the criteria for high school educational equivalency in the Thai university central admission system for overseas graduates and to establish a system to support such process to detect the use of fake education certificates, and to comply with the educational equivalency standard setting of all universities. As such, the Association of the Council of University Presidents of Thailand announces the criteria for high school educational equivalency in Thai university central admission system as follows.

1. British System

The applicants have (1) a test result of the GCE ‘A’ Level of at least 3 subjects with grades A*-E or (2) a test result of the LRN International A Levels of at least 3 subjects with grades A*-E or (3) a test result of the Cambridge Pre-U of at least 3 subjects with grade M1 or D1-D3 or (4) an evaluation result of the BTEC Level 3 with grades D*-P of at least 3 subjects or (5) a test result of the GCE ‘A’ Level grades A*-E together with an evaluation result of the BTEC Level 3 with grades D*-P that make up 3 subjects.

2. U.S. or Canada System

Applicants who take the GED test before May 2017 and have a GED test result of 5 subjects must have no less than 2,250 points of the total score with at least 410 points in each subject.

Applicants who take the GED test from May 2017 and have a GED test result of 4 subjects must have at least 145 points in each subject.

3. New Zealand System

1. Applicants attain New Zealand National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) which is under the supervision of New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) with no less than 80 credits, comprising

- No less than 60 credits from subjects in Level 2 or higher **and**
- No less than 20 credits from subjects in Level 2 or higher from Literacy and Numeracy co-requisite

The credential evaluation in criteria no. 1 shall be effective for applicants who graduate New Zealand senior high schools from the academic year of 2024 onward **or**

2. Applicants attain New Zealand National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) which is under the supervision of New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) with no less than 80 credits, making up of

- No less than 60 credits from subjects in Level 2 or higher **and**
- No less than 20 credits from subjects in Level 1 or higher

English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) can be considered as one subject.

Graduates must receive the NCEA Level 2 certificate, Record of Achievement, certificate endorsement, number of subjects, and number of credits for each subject from New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA).

The credential evaluation in criteria no. 2 shall be effective for applicants who graduate from New Zealand senior high schools between the academic years of 2010 and 2023 **or**

3. Applicants attain New Zealand National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA), which is under the supervision of New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA) in Level 2 or higher with at least 5 different subjects and no less than 60 credits of the total credit, comprising two mandatory subjects:

- At least 4 credits from English (literacy) in Level 2 or higher
 - At least 4 credits from Mathematics (numeracy) in Level 2 or higher
- English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) is not included.

Graduates must receive Record of Achievement, certificate endorsement, number of subjects, and number of credits for each subject from New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA).

The credential evaluation in criteria no. 3 shall be effective for applicants who have graduated from New Zealand senior high schools from 2009 onwards.

4. International Baccalaureate (IB) Programs

Applicants must attain either a High School Diploma or an IB Diploma and/or IB DP Course Results as follows:

1) Applicants must attain an IB Diploma, which requires achieving a minimum total score of 24 points from 5 subject groups and 1 elective subject. In addition, they must achieve core elements which include the Extended Essay (EE), Theory of Knowledge (TOK), and Creativity, Action & Service (CAS) assessments in accordance with the standards set by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). Higher education institutions may consider an exemption for certain first-year courses on the condition that the applicant completed the courses as part of the IB Diploma at Higher Level with scores of 4-5 or higher, in a manner similar to practices at universities in the United Kingdom or the United States. or

2) Applicants must attain IB Diploma Course Results (IBCR), which requires at least 5 distinct subjects, with a minimum grade of 3 in each. Higher education institutions may consider reducing the number of required subjects to a minimum of 3-4 subjects relevant to the applicant's intended field of study, consistent with practices in other countries.

3) Applicants must attain IBCP Certificate with the satisfactory result of at least 2 IB Diploma Programme courses, each subject course achieving a minimum grade of 3. They must meet the passing criteria for the Career-related Study Track, for Reflective Project with a grade of no less than D, and for each core subject: Personal and Professional Skills, Service Learning, and Language Development. Higher education institutions may consider reducing the number of subjects required in higher education (exempt) for applicants who graduated in the career-related field as deemed appropriate by the institution.

5. Business & Technology Education Council (BTEC)

The BTEC (Business & Technology Education Council) is an academic qualification with a curriculum that emphasizes practical training over theoretical knowledge. Assessment is conducted through coursework and practical exercises, with no final examinations.

BTEC qualifications are categorized into 3 Levels as follows:

1. BTEC Firsts, which are equivalent to GCSEs, classified as a Level 2 qualification.
2. BTEC Nationals, which are equivalent to A-Levels, classified as a Level 3 qualification (offered in some educational institutions).
3. BTEC Higher Nationals, which are equivalent to Year 1 and/or Year 2 at the undergraduate level, are classified as Level 4 or 5 qualifications.

For upper secondary education, Level 3 BTEC qualifications are classified into 3 categories:

1. The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma or International Level 3 Extended Diploma is equivalent to 3 A-Levels and can serve as a substitute for 3 A-Level subjects.
2. The BTEC Level 3 National Diploma or International Level 3 Diploma is equivalent to 2 A-Levels and can serve as a substitute for 2 A-Level subjects.
3. The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate or International Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma is equivalent to 1 A-Level and can serve as a substitute for 1 A-Level subject.

BTEC grades explained (for BTEC level 3 qualification)

D* starred distinction

D distinction

M merit

P pass

BTEC level 3 National Extended Diploma (grade D* - P)	A-Level (grade A* - E)
grade D* D* D*	grade A* A* A*
grade P P P	grade E E E

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate or International Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma requires students to complete the BTEC International Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma curriculum at Year 12 – 13, involving a total of 3 subjects, or with A-Level subjects, by taking 1 BTEC subject and 2 A-Level subjects, or 2 BTEC subjects and 1 A-Level subject. Upon completion, students receive a high school diploma (High School Diploma or Secondary School Diploma) from the school.

6. International programs from other countries (aside from No. 1-5)

Follow the verification of foreign qualification equivalency as announced from the Ministry of Education on the equivalency of foreign qualifications, on January 18, 2002 (Attachment 1).

This announcement shall be, henceforth, used as the criteria for the equivalency of educational qualifications equivalent to the level of upper secondary school in the centralized selection system for admission to higher education institutions for individuals who have graduated from abroad, as determined by the Council of Presidents of Universities of Thailand, starting from academic year 2025 onwards, until further notice of any changes.

Announced on the 2nd August, 2024

-signature-

(Professor Dr. Pongrak Sribunditmongkol)

Chairman of The Council of University Presidents of Thailand (CUPT)

Remark:

The criteria for equivalency to the upper secondary education level in the centralized admission system for higher education institutions for academic year 2020 is not the selection criteria. Therefore, universities/institutions may establish additional selection criteria in accordance with the regulations of the centralized admission system applicable to that particular university or field of study, which may be higher than the minimum educational qualification criteria. Applicants are thus required to review the selection criteria for each field of study at each university to submit the necessary application documents or to verify that they meet all qualifications as stipulated in the selection criteria before applying.

Attachments:

1. *Announcement of the Ministry of Education regarding the equivalency of foreign qualifications, announced on January 18, 2002.*

2. *Regulations of the Ministry of Education concerning the amendment of the Ministry of Education's regulations on the equivalency of educational qualifications both domestically and internationally at the basic education level, 2020, announced on April 21, 2020.*

Announcement of the Association of the Council of University Presidents of Thailand
Thai University Central Admission System: TCAS (Academic Year 2025)
No. 2

Subject: Criteria for GPAX Equivalency for Overseas High School Graduates

A reference is made to the announcement made at the meeting of the Association of the Council of University Presidents of Thailand regarding the criteria for high school equivalency for overseas graduates. In order to ensure that certain standards are met, the Association now announces guidelines for GPAX equivalency for overseas high school graduates which are listed as follows:

1. The U.S. system (with high school diploma)

Academic gradings vary ranging from 5 bands (A, B, C, D, F) to 13 bands. These gradings must be converted to Thailand's 8 grade bands. The guidelines for the conversion are given in the table below:

Grade	GPA	Percentage
A, A ⁺	4	80-100
A ⁻	3.5	75-79
B, B ⁺	3	70-74
B ⁻	2.5	65-69
C, C ⁺	2	60-64
C ⁻	1.5	55-59
D ⁻ , D, D ⁺	1	50-54
F	0	0-49

High school graduates who took the GED test before May, 2017, and attain scores of 5 subjects must achieve a total standard score of no less than 2,250 points and a minimum score of 410 points for each subject. The GPAX is calculated using the formula below:

$$\text{GPAX} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^5 \left(\frac{X_i - 200}{150} \right)}{5}$$

High school graduates who took the GED test before August 1, 2020, and attain scores of 4 subjects must achieve the minimum standard score for each subject of 145 points. The GPAX is calculated using the formula below:

$$\text{GPAX} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^4 \left[\left(\frac{X_i - 50}{150} \right) \times 4 \right]}{4}$$

Guidelines for the calculation of the GPAX are as follows:

1. The GPAX is calculated only from the grades applicants earned from Grade 12 in the countries where they studied.
2. Transcripts reporting only the GPAX calculated from the grades applicants earned at Grade 12 can be used for applications.
3. For Grade 12 transcripts following the percentage-based grading system, the percentages are converted to the GPAX.
4. For GED test results, the GPAX are calculated from the standard scores of all subjects reported on the certificate.

2. British system

The system applies to the UK and other countries that adopt it.

A-Level

Test results are reported with letter grades in 5 levels (A, B, C, D and E). All pass grades reported in the certificate are converted to the GPA following the guidelines shown in the table below:

Grade	GPA
A	4
B	3
C	2
D	1
E	1

BTEC

The results are reported in four levels as shown in the table below:

Grade	Level	GPA
D*	Starred Distinction	4
D	Distinction	4
M	Merit	3
P	Pass	2

3. Australian system

High school graduates are awarded higher school certificates. Results are converted to the GPA in three ways in accordance with the system used:

3.1 Grades

Grade	GPA
A, A ⁺	4
A ⁻	3.5
B, B ⁺	3
B ⁻	2.5
C, C ⁺	2
C	1.5
D ⁻ , D, D ⁺	1
F	0

3.2 Levels of achievement

A	=	4	means	Exceptional Achievement
A	=	4	means	Very High Achievement
B	=	3	means	High Achievement
B	=	3	means	High Achievement
C	=	2	means	Commendable Achievement
C	=	2	means	Sound Achievement
D	=	1	means	Satisfactory Achievement
D	=	1	means	Limited Achievement
E	=	0	means	Preliminary Achievement
E	=	0	means	Very Limited Achievement

3.3 Percentage

Percentage	GPA
80-100	4
75-79	3.5
70-74	3
65-69	2.5
60-64	2
55-59	1.5
50-54	1
0-49	0

The GPAX is calculated using the formulas used with the American system.

4. New Zealand system

Students must achieve a pass grade of the NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement) exam administered by the NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Authority). The exam results are converted to the GPA following the guidelines below:

E (Achieved with Excellence)	=	4
M (Achieved with Merit)	=	3
A (Achieved)	=	2

Only results of at least Level 2 pass are converted to the GPA.

5. Scottish system

Exam results are classified into 7 levels (1 = highest score, 7 = lowest score) which can be converted to the GPA based on the following guidelines:

Level 1	=	4
Level 2	=	3.5
Level 3	=	3
Level 4	=	2.5
Level 5	=	2
Level 6	=	1.5
Level 7	=	1

6. Indian system

Certificates are awarded to students by the authorised government agency (Board) assigned to administer the exam. The academic results are evaluated based on two different systems and are equated to the GPA as shown below:

6.1 Percentage

Percent	GPA
80-100	4
75-79	3.5
70-74	3
65-69	2.5
60-64	2
50-59	1.5
40-49	1
0-39	0

6.2 Grade levels

Grade	GPA
1-2	4
3-4	3
5-6	2
7-8	1
9	0

Note: Academic results approved by schools adopting the British system are converted to the GPA following the aforementioned guidelines for the British system.

7. Chilean system

Exam results are classified into 7 levels (7 = highest score, 1 = lowest score) and are equated as guided below:

Level 7	=	4	}	Pass
Level 6	=	3		
Level 5	=	2		
Level 4	=	1		
Level 3	=	0	}	Fail
Level 2	=	0		
Level 1	=	0		

8. German system

Grades are converted to the GPA:

Very good	=	4
Good	=	3
Very Satisfactory	=	2
Just Adequate/ Pass	=	1
Fail	=	0

9. French system

The French Baccalaureate scores range from 0 to 20. The GPA conversions are shown below:

Grades 16 – 20	=	4.0
Grades 14 -15.9	=	3.5
Grades 12 -13.9	=	3.0
Grades 11 – 11.9	=	2.5
Grades 10 – 10.9	=	2.0
Grades 8 – 9.9	=	1.0
Grades 0 – 7.9	=	0.0 (Fail)

Note: As for academic results approved by schools in other countries, conversions are calculated in accordance with the systems they adopt.

10. International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB)

Applicants must attain a high school diploma and/or an IB Diploma and/or IB DP Course Results.

1) Overseas high school graduates are required to attain an IB Diploma with a minimum standard total score from 5 subjects plus 1 elective subject of 24 points and pass the Extended Essay (EE), Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and Creative, Action & Service (CAS) as mandated by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). As, for example, universities in the UK and the US, universities might allow exemptions for some first-year subjects if applicants already completed them as compulsory courses required by the IB Diploma program and attain a higher level score of 4-5 and over or

2) Applicants must attain the IB Diploma Course Results (IBCR) of at least 5 different subjects and achieved the minimum grade 2 for each subject (equivalent to 60 percent or 2.0 GPA score or higher). Universities might consider the results of only 3-4 core courses essential for the applied programs, following the common practice undertaken by overseas universities.

Grading Level	High School Courses Yrs 12 and 13	GPA	IB Standard Level Yrs 12 and 13	GPA	IB Higher Level Yrs 12 and 13	GPA
Excellent	7	4.00	7	4.00	7	4.00
Very Good	6	3.75	6	4.00	6	4.00
Good	5	3.50	5	3.75	5	4.00
Satisfactory	4	2.75	4	3.00	4	3.25
Needs Improvement	3	2.00	3	2.25	3	2.50
Weak	2	1.00	2	1.25	2	1.50
Very Weak	1	0	1	0	1	0
No Grade Awarded	N	0	N	0	N	0

This announcement, which has been made at the meeting of the Council of University Presidents of Thailand, effectively serves as guidelines for the GPAX equivalency to be used with the TCAS process and is applicable to overseas high school graduates starting from the academic year 2025 onwards until further notice.

This announcement hereby takes effect.

Announced on the 2nd of August, 2024

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(Professor Pongrak Sribanditmongkol, M.D., Ph.D.)
Chair of the Council of University Presidents of Thailand