

# KOSOVO



## INTRODUCTION

Like Albania, Kosovar history is believed to date to Illyria in the 4th Century BC and to the Roman Empire. In the 9th to early 11th centuries, the Kosovo region was ruled by Bulgaria. From 1389 to the late 19th century, the region came under Ottoman rule; in the early 20th century, Kosovo was ruled by Serbia. In 1946, Kosovo became part of the Yugoslav federation. During the 1990's, Kosovo sought independence from Serbia, with brutal results, including mistreatment of ethnic Albanians; during the 2000's, the United Nations attempted to secure Kosovar independence, which is supported by Albania and rejected by Serbia. At this time, although technically still a part of Serbia, Kosovo is an international protectorate administered by the United Nations.

Kosovo, a land-locked area, is bordered clockwise by Serbia, Macedonia, Albania, and Montenegro. The official name is the Republic of Kosovo (Kosova / Kosovë), with its capital at Pristina (Prishtina / Prishtinë). Population estimates vary from 1.8 to 2.2 million. With independence from Serbia declared on February 17, 2008, the Kosovar government is a parliamentary republic. Religious affiliations are Muslim, Albanian Orthodox, and Roman Catholic; ethnic populations are Albanian, 88%; Serbs, 7%; and 5% other including Bosnian, Gorani, Roma / Gypsy, Ashkali, Egyptian, and Turkish. Although the official languages are Albanian and Serbian, Bosnian and Turkish are official in those municipalities with substantial minority populations; in addition, English and German are also spoken. Literacy rates vary from 92% to 98% for men and 88% to 90% for women.

# FLAG



# MAP





# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

National languages of instruction: Albanian and Serbian;  
Additional local languages of instruction: Bosnian and Turkish  
Academic year: September to June  
Bologna (EHEA) signatory date: None  
Educational Authority:

*Ministria e Arsimit, Shkencës dhe Teknologjisë* (Ministry of Education, Science,  
and Technology)

Rruga. Agim Ramadani

10000 Prishtinë

Republika e Kosovës

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# **EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM: ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY**

Compulsory Education: Grades I to IX

Lower Cycle:

Grades I to V (Elementary Education)

Approximate age of student: 6 to 11

Credential earned: N.A.

Upper Cycle:

Grades VI to IX (Lower Secondary / Middle School)

Approximate age of student: 11 to 15

Credential earned: *Dëftesë* / Leaving Certificate, awarded upon completion of *shkollë nëntëvjeçare* (nine-year school)



## Upper Secondary: Grades X to XII

Approximate age of student: 15 to 18

Credential earned: *Diplomë* (Diploma), clarified as follows:

### Academic Stream:

Type of institution: *Shkollë e mesme – gjimnaz* (high school – gymnasium)

Credential earned: *Diplomë për Kryerjen e Shkollës së Mesmet të Përgjithshme-Gjimna*  
(Diploma of Completion of General Secondary School – Gymnasium)



## Vocational Stream:

Type of institution: *Shkollë e mesme profesionale* (vocational high school)

Credential earned: *Diplomë për Kryerjen e Shkollës së Mesme Profesionale* (Diploma of Completion of Professional Secondary School)

Note: The *Diplomë / Svjedočanstvo* with technician or skilled worker qualification is a 3- to 4-year terminal secondary-level vocational-technical credential which leads to the workforce, not to higher education; it does not equate to US high-school graduation.



# SAMPLE SECONDARY CREDENTIAL (A)

REPUBLIKA E KOSOVES

*Gjimnazi Sami Frashëri - Prishtinë* (emri i shkollës) me Aktvendim të Ministrisë së Arsimit  
 02-611-982 3.06/1988  
 (numri dhe data)

Numri i regjistrit 35 Numri i protokollit 2102/116 19 24


## DIPLOMË

PËR KRYERJEN E SHKOLLËS SE MËSME

*Bardhë Shema*  
 (emri dhe mbiemri i nxënësit)

lindi e bija e *Isakut* lindur më 5.11.1916 në *Prishtinë* komunë e *Prisht.*  
 shtet *R. e Kosovës* shtetas *e Kosovës* krye shkollën e mesme *gjimnazin*  
 dega drejtimi *mat-mat* me sukses *shikëly (5)* dhe trafikua për profesionin

Në *Prishtinë* më 13.06.1994




(i drejton)  
*Ngjarko*

Formula e Diplomës për përfundim të nivelit të Mesimit të Arsimit të Republikës së Kosovës

"Republic of Kosovo"  
Diploma of Completion of Secondary School  
1994


# SAMPLE SECONDARY CREDENTIAL (B)



Misioni i Administratës së Përkohshme i Kombeve të Bashkuara në Kosovë  
Struktura e Përbashkët e Përkohshme Administrative  
Departamenti i Arsimit dhe i Shkencës

Logo of United Nations Interim Administrative Mission in Kosovo (2/2000 - 3/2002)  
Joint Interim Administrative Structure  
Department of Education and Science



UNMIK  
INSTITUCIONET E PËRKOHSHME VETËQEVERISËSE  
Ministria e Arsimit e Shkencës dhe Teknologjisë

UNMIK  
Provisional Institutions of Self-Government  
Ministry of Education, Science & Technology

Name of school \_\_\_\_\_ në City \_\_\_\_\_  
(emri i shkollës)

Nr. i protokollit: Number of file

Numri i shkollës sipas udhëzimit të Ministrisë së Arsimit e Shkencës dhe Teknologjisë  
Number of school  
(numri)

## DIPLOMË

PËR KRYERJEN E SHKOLLËS SË MESME PROFESIONALE

i biri, e bija Name  
son/daughter of

kreu shkollën e mesme Type of school  
(tipi i shkollës)

të shkollës së level (word) (numeral) të përgatitjes profesionale

Në Place

Më Date of diploma

lindur më Birthdate në Place of birth komunë Community

profili arsimor Profile of education

me sukses të grade result (word) (numeral)

Drejtori  
School Director

v.v. stamp of school

Diploma of Completion of Professional Secondary School

# USUAL SECONDARY GRADING:

Based on 1 to 5, with 2 as minimum passing grade:

*Shkëlqyeshëm* / 5 = excellent (4.00/A)

*Shumë mirë* / 4 = very good (3.67/A- to 3.33/B+)

*Mirë* / 3 = good (3.00/B)

*Mjaftueshëm* / 2 = satisfactory (2.00/C)

*Pamjaftueshëm* / 1 = unsatisfactory / failure (0.00 / F)



# **EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM: TERTIARY**

The Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government in Kosovo (UNMIK Resolution No. 221/9 of 5-15-01) and the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (of 3-02) govern Kosovar education under the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. Although Kosovo is not yet a signatory of the European Higher Education Area (a.k.a. Bologna Process), Kosovar higher education, particularly at the University of Prishtina, is patterned after the EHEA, with three principal cycles.



## First Cycle or Stage:

**Admission requirement:** *Diplomë për Kryerjen e Shkollës së Mesmet të Përgjithshme-Gjimna* (Diploma of Completion of General Secondary School – Gymnasium)

**Duration:** 6 semesters / 3 years / 180 ECTS (most majors)

**Coursework required:** Yes

**Thesis required:** Yes

**Credential earned:** *Diplomë e Studimeve themelore* (Bachelor's Degree)

**Note:** The bachelor's degree in engineering requires 7 semesters / 210 ECTS. The bachelor's degrees in music and in Albanian language and literature require 8 semesters / 240 ECTS.



## Second Cycle or Stage:

Admission requirement: *Diplomë e Studimeve themelore* (Bachelor's Degree) / comparable first-cycle credential

Duration: 4 semesters / 2 years / 120 ECTS

Coursework required: Yes

Thesis required: Yes

Credential earned: *Magjistër* (Master's Degree)

Note: Professional majors such as medicine, pharmacy, and dentistry are studied in university programs which incorporate both first and second cycles or stages. These programs generally require 10 semesters / 5 years (e.g., pharmacy and dentistry) to 12 semesters / 6 years (e.g., medicine).



## Third Cycle or Stage:

Admission requirement: *Magjistër* (Master's Degree) / comparable second-cycle credential

Duration: 3 years

Coursework required: Research and study but not formal coursework

Dissertation required: Yes

Credential earned: *Doktor i Shkencave* (Doctor of Science)



## Teacher Training

**Admission requirement:** *Diplomë për Kryerjen e Shkollës së Mesmet të Përgjithshme-Gjimna* (Diploma of Completion of General Secondary School – Gymnasium)

**Duration:** 6 semesters / 3 years / 180 ECTS

**Coursework required:** Yes

**Thesis required:** N.A.

**Credential earned:** *Diplomë për Mësues të Ciklit të Shkollës nëntëvjeçare* (Diploma for Teacher of Lower Cycle of 9-year School)





# **USUAL TERTIARY GRADING:**

Based on 5 to 10, with 6 as minimum passing grade:

Dhjetë / 10 = excellent (4.00/A)

Nëntë / 9 = very good (3.33 / B+)

Tetë / 8 = good (3.00/B)

Shtatë / 7 = average (2.33/C+)

Gjashtë / 6 = satisfactory (2.00/C)

Pesë / 5 = unsatisfactory / failure (0.00/F)

# HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN KOSOVO

	Name of Institution	Type	Place	Number of Departments	Number of Programs	Number of Students
1	AAB	University	Prishtina	6	11	4915
2	Akademia e Studimeve te Avancuara Universitare	Academy	Prishtina	1	2	30
3	American University of Kosova	University	Prishtina	1	2	451
4	Amerikos	College	Prishtina	1	1	28
5	Biznes	College	Prishtina	3	9	615
6	Dardania	University	Prishtina	7	22	1514
7	Design Factory	School	Prishtina	1	1	30
8	Ekologji	Faculty	Shterpce	1	1	48
9	Eurosport	College	Prishtina	1	4	79
10	Evolucion	Institute	Prishtina	5	9	56
11	Fama	College	Prishtina	5	10	4570
12	Gjilani	College	Gjilan	4	8	542
13	Iliria	University	Prishtina	3	6	1838
14	Kolegji Univerzitar Ferizaji	College	Ferizaj	3	3	255
15	Kosovo Institute for Journalism and Communication	Institute	Prishtina	2	2	74
16	Pjeter Budi	University	Prishtina	5	11	560
17	Rezonanca	University	Prishtina	5	5	279
18	Riinvest	University	Prishtina	3	7	126
19	Tempulli	College	Prishtina	2	5	300
20	Universiteti i Prizrenit	University	Prizren	7	7	457
21	Universiteti Internacional i Prishtines	University	Prishtina	5	5	220
22	Universiteti per Biznes dhe Teknologji	University	Prishtina	5	5	377
23	Universum	College	Prishtina	5	5	486
24	Victory	College	Prishtina	3	3	132
25	Vizioni Evropian	College	Peja	5	9	940
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>89</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>18,922</b>

# **RESOURCES:**

AACRAO EDGE: Europe: Kosovo, 2010

EducationUSA Country Profile: Kosovo, 2009

Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology: [www.masht-gov.net](http://www.masht-gov.net)

NAFSA Online Guide to Educational Systems Around the World: Kosovo, 2008



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Agron Matoshi was born in Albania. He earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science, both in Economics, from Lehman College within the City University of New York System. He previously worked as a credentials analyst for Lehman College.

Barbara B. Glave was born in Houston. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from the Universidad de las Américas, previously in Mexico City and today in Cholula, Puebla, and a Master of Arts in Romance Philology and Spanish from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. She authored the *NAFSA Online Guide to Educational Systems Around the World* for Mexico, Argentina, and Peru; she co-authored the guide for Puerto Rico. She has served Region III as ADSEC rep (1990's) and in the Trainer Corps (2009 to date).

Emily Muñiz was born in Houston. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Italian Studies with a minor in International Business from the University of Houston Central Campus. She spent the summer semester of 2004 in a Study Abroad Program at the Santa Reparata International School of Arts in Florence, Italy. She authored the *NAFSA Online Guide to Educational Systems Around the World* for Italy, Vatican City, Cape Verde, and East Timor

