

# MACEDONIA



Macedonia's history dates back to the 3000 BC and includes important historical figures such as Alexander the Great, the greatest Macedonian Prince of all times. Macedonia is one of the successor states of the former Yugoslavia, from which it declared independence in 1991 and became the Republic of Macedonia.

Macedonia became a member of the United Nations in 1993 but, as a result of a dispute with Greece over its name, it was admitted under the provisional reference of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, sometimes abbreviated as FYROM

The total area of Macedonia is comparable to that of the State of Vermont with Albania, Greece, Serbia and Bulgaria as bordering countries. The current population of Macedonia is 2,055,915 (data valid July 2007). The ethnic groups of Macedonia comprise of Macedonians being the majority groups, followed by the Turkish, Serbians, Roma and other minor groups. The most dominant religion of the country is orthodox Christianity followed by Muslims and other minor Christian groups.

Though there are minor political issues which still threaten Macedonia, the Macedonian republic is modernizing and showing a steady growth.

# MAP OF REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (FORMER YUGOSLAVIA)



# **MACEDONIA'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM**



Language(s) of instruction: Macedonian, Albanian, Turkish and English

Academic year: October - September

Bologna (EHEA) signatory date: 2003

Ministry of Education: Ministry of Education and Science

## Basic Education:

Primary and Lower Secondary Education is compulsory  
(Grade I to VIII)

Lower Cycle: Grades I to IV (First Stage of Primary Education)

Approximate Age of Student: 6 or 7 to 10 or 11

Upper Cycle: Grades V to VIII (Second Stage or Lower Secondary)

Approximate Age of Student: Age 10 or 11 to 14 or 15

Credential Earned: Certificate of Completed Basic Education

Leads to: Secondary Education

## Secondary Education:

### Academic

**Academic A:** 4 years of Upper Secondary (Grades IX to XII)

**Approximate Age of Student:** 14 or 15 to 18 or 19

**Admission Credential:** Certificate of Completed Basic Education

**Credential Earned:** Diploma of Completed Secondary Education / Certificate

**Leads to:** Post-Secondary Education



## Secondary Education:

**Academic B:** International Baccalaureate (Grades XI and XII)

**Approximate Age of Student:** 16 or 17 to 18 or 19

**Admission Credential:** Completion of Grades IX and X

**Credential Earned:** Diploma of Completed International Baccalaureate / Certificate

**Leads to:** Post-Secondary Education

## Specialized

**Art / Music / Ballet Secondary School:** 4 years

**Approximate Age of Student:** 15 to 19

**Admission Credential:** Certificate of Completed Basic Education

**Credential Earned:** Secondary School Leaving Certificate

**Leads to:** Post-Secondary Education



## Vocational

**Vocational A:** 2-3 years

**Approximate Age of Student:** 14 or 15 to 16 through 19

**Admission Credential:** Certificate of Completed Basic Education

**Credential Earned:** Certificate of Secondary Vocational Education

**Leads to:** Further study (Secondary Level)



**Vocational B:** 1 year

**Approximate Age of Student:** 16 to 19 through 17 to 20

**Admission Credential:** Certificate of Secondary Vocational Education

**Credential Earned:** Certificate of Specialist in Vocational Education

**Leads to:** Employment



**Vocational C:** 3-4 years

**Approximate Age of Student:** 14 or 15 through 17 to 20

**Admission Credential:** Certificate of Secondary Vocational Education

**Credential Earned:** Certificate of Vocational Training

**Leads to:** Employment



**Vocational D:** 2-4 years

**Approximate Age of Student:** 14 or 15 through 16 to 19

**Admission Credential:** Certificate of Secondary Vocational Education or Certificate of Specialist in Vocational Education

**Credential Earned:** Diploma of Completed Final Exam for Secondary Vocational Education

**Leads to:** Post-Secondary Education

## Technical

4 years of Upper-Secondary (Grades IX to XII)

**Approximate Age of Student:** 15 to 19

**Admission Credential:** Certificate of Completed Basic Education

**Credential Earned:** Certificate of Completed Secondary Technical Education

**Leads to:** Post-Secondary Education

## Post Secondary Education:

Post Secondary Education is currently in a ten year transition period (2005-2015) with the objective of complying with the Bologna process recommendations.

The Bologna Process espouses three priorities: The three-cycle system (bachelor, master, and doctorate), quality assurance, and recognition of qualifications and periods of study.

Degree nomenclature may vary among countries, and the first cycle includes the possibility of intermediate qualifications within national contexts.

Many of the programs offered in Macedonia are switching to two cycle programs, including either a three or four years first cycle, followed by one or two years second cycle (3+2 or 4+1). This transition does not apply to degrees in the fields of: medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and veterinary medicine, which will continue to be offered with a uniform program of study. Private institutions usually follow the 3+2 study program structure, while public institutions tend to follow the 4+1 study program structure.

## Two-Year First Cycle

2 years of Post-Secondary

**Approximate Age of Student:** 18 to 20 through 20 to 22

**Admission Credential:** Academic A, Academic B, Specialized, Vocational D or Technical Secondary Degree programs.

**Credential Earned:** Diploma of Higher Education / Diploma from Higher School

**Leads to:** Employment or further post-secondary education

## Three-Year First Cycle

3 years of Post-Secondary

**Approximate Age of Student:** 18 to 20 through 21 to 23

**Admission Credential:** Academic A, Academic B, Specialized, Vocational D or Technical Secondary Degree programs.

**Credential Earned:** Diploma confirming qualification of Graduate

**Leads to:** Second-cycle post-secondary education



## Four-Year First Cycle

4 years of Post-Secondary

**Approximate Age of Student:** 18 to 20 through 22 to 24

**Admission Credential:** Academic A, Academic B, Specialized, Vocational D or Technical Secondary Degree programs.

**Credential Earned:** Diploma confirming qualification of Graduate

**Leads to:** Second-cycle post-secondary education

## Five-Year First Cycle

5 years of Post-Secondary – **Engineer in Architecture**

**Approximate Age of Student:** 18 to 20 through 23 to 25

**Admission Credential:** Academic A, Academic B, Specialized, Vocational D or Technical Secondary Degree programs.

**Credential Earned:** Diploma confirming qualification of Graduate Engineer in Architecture

**Leads to:** Doctoral level program



5 years of Post-Secondary – **Graduate Pharmacist; Master in Pharmacy**

**Approximate Age of Student:** 18 to 20 through 23 to 25

**Admission Credential:** Academic A, Academic B, Specialized, Vocational D or Technical Secondary Degree programs.

**Credential Earned:** Diploma confirming qualification of Graduate Pharmacist, also called Master in Pharmacy

**Leads to:** Licensure as a Pharmacist and to Doctoral level program



5 years of Post-Secondary – **Graduate Stomatologist; Doctor of Stomatology**

**Approximate Age of Student:** 18 to 20 through 23 to 25

**Admission Credential:** Academic A, Academic B, Specialized, Vocational D or Technical Secondary Degree programs.

**Credential Earned:** Diploma confirming qualification of Graduate Stomatologist, also called Doctor of Stomatology

**Leads to:** Licensure as Stomatologist and to Doctoral level program

## Two-Year Second Cycle

2 years of second-cycle post secondary – **Master**

**Approximate Age of Student:** 20 to 22 through 23 to 25

**Admission Credential:** 3 year first cycle Diploma confirming qualification of Graduate

**Credential Earned:** Diploma confirming qualification of Master / Magister

**Leads to:** Doctoral level program

## One-Year Second Cycle

1 year of second-cycle post secondary – Master

**Approximate Age of Student:** 20 to 22 through 23 to 25

**Admission Credential:** 4 year first cycle Diploma confirming qualification of Graduate

**Credential Earned:** Diploma confirming qualification of Master / Magister

**Leads to:** Doctoral level program

## Five and a half Years of Post-secondary unified program

Five and a half years of unified post-secondary program  
– **Doctor of Veterinary Medicine**

**Approximate Age of Student:** 18 to 20 through 23.5 to 25.5

**Admission Credential:** Academic A, Academic B, Vocational D or Technical Secondary Degree programs.

**Credential Earned:** Diploma confirming qualification of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

**Leads to:** Professional licensure as a Veterinarian and to Specialist or Doctoral level program(s)

## Six years of Post-secondary unified program

Six years of unified post-secondary program – **Doctor of Medicine**

**Approximate Age of Student:** 18 to 20 through 24 to 26

**Admission Credential:** Academic A, Academic B, Vocational D or Technical Secondary Degree programs.

**Credential Earned:** Diploma confirming qualification of Doctor of Medicine

**Leads to:** Professional licensure as a Medical Doctor and to Specialist or Doctoral level program(s)



## One year after Five year first cycle

One year after five years post-secondary first cycle - **Specialist in Dentistry**

**Approximate Age of Student:** 24 to 26

**Admission Credential:** Diploma confirming qualification of Graduate Stomatologist, also called Doctor of Stomatology

**Credential Earned:** Diploma confirming qualification of Specialist with Completed professional Studies (in Dentistry)

**Leads to:** Further post-secondary programs.

## One to four years post-secondary program

One to four years of post-secondary – **Specialist in Medicine, Pharmacy or Veterinary Medicine**

**Approximate Age of Student:** 24 to 26

**Admission Credential:** Diploma confirming qualification of Graduate Pharmacist, also called Master in Pharmacy **or** Diploma confirming qualification of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine **or** Diploma confirming qualification of Doctor of Medicine

**Credential Earned:** Diploma confirming qualification of Specialist in Medicine, in Pharmacy or in Veterinary Medicine

**Leads to:** Further post-secondary programs.

## One or Two Years Doctoral Level Program and 12 month internship

One to two years of Doctoral level program + 12 month internship  
– **Master of Stomatological Science**

**Approximate Age of Student:** 23 to 25 through 26 to 28

**Admission Credential:** Diploma confirming qualification of Graduate Stomatologist, also called Doctor of Stomatology or Diploma confirming qualification of Specialist with Completed professional Studies (in Dentistry)

**Credential Earned:** Diploma confirming qualification of Master of Stomatological Science

**Leads to:** Doctoral level program.

## One to Three years Doctoral Level Program

One to three years of Doctoral level studies – **Doctor of Science**

**Approximate Age of Student:** 23 to 25 through 26 to 28

**Admission Credential:** Diploma confirming qualification of Graduate Pharmacist, also called Master in Pharmacy **or** Diploma confirming qualification of Graduate Stomatologist, also called Doctor of Stomatology **or** Diploma confirming qualification of Master of Legal Science **or** Diploma confirming qualification of Master of Informatics **or** Diploma confirming qualification of Master in Education **or** Diploma confirming qualification of Master in Technical Science **or** Diploma confirming qualification of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine **or** Diploma confirming qualification of Doctor of Medicine **or** Diploma confirming qualification of Specialist with Completed professional Studies (in Dentistry) **or** Diploma confirming qualification of Specialist in Medicine, in Pharmacy or in Veterinary Medicine **or** Diploma confirming qualification of Master of Stomatological Science

**Credential Earned:** Diploma confirming qualification of Doctor of Science

## Three years Doctoral Level Program in Medicine

Three years Doctoral Level studies in Medicine – **Doctor of Medical Science**

**Approximate Age of Student:** 24 to 26 through 27 to 29

**Admission Credential:** Diploma confirming qualification of Doctor of Medicine

**Credential Earned:** Diploma confirming qualification of Doctor of Medical Science



# GRADING SCALES IN MACEDONIA

## Secondary

Number	Description
5	Excellent
4	Very Good
3	Good
2	Satisfactory
1	Unsatisfactory (Failing Grade)

### Conversion to U.S. 4.0 grading scale:

5/Excellent = 4.00/A, 4/Very Good = 4.00/A, 3/Good = 3.00/B, 2 /Satisfactory = 2.00/C,  
1/Unsatisfactory = 0.00/F.

## Post-Secondary

Grades are based on a 10 point scale, with 6 as a minimum passing grade and 10 as the highest passing grade.

Percentage	Number
91-100	10
81-90	9
71-80	8
61-70	7

### Conversion to U.S. 4.0 grading scale:

10 = 4.00/A, 9 = 3.67/A-, 8 = 3.00/B, 7 = 2.67/B-, 6 = 2.00/C, and 0-5 = 0.00/F.

# **UNIVERSITIES IN MACEDONIA**

The Republic of Macedonia's current educational system and particularly their Higher Education is in transition from its development when the country was a member state of Yugoslavia to today's hybrid system common to most Western Europe. Aspects of instruction, including textbooks that reflect the Soviet influence are being phased out.

Before 2001, in the Republic of Macedonia, there used to be only two major universities: the **Sts. Cyril and Methodius University** in Skopje and the **St. Clement of Ohrid University** in Bitola.

Following the adoption of the Law on Higher Education by the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, that allowed the founding of universities that are not related to the state and supported higher education in Albanian language; in 2001, a third university opened its doors in Tetovo, this institution was created to provide higher education to Albanian students by offering Albanian language instruction. The **State University of Tetovo** educates thousands of students and its Pedagogical faculty trains teachers in the minority languages at all of Macedonia's Universities.

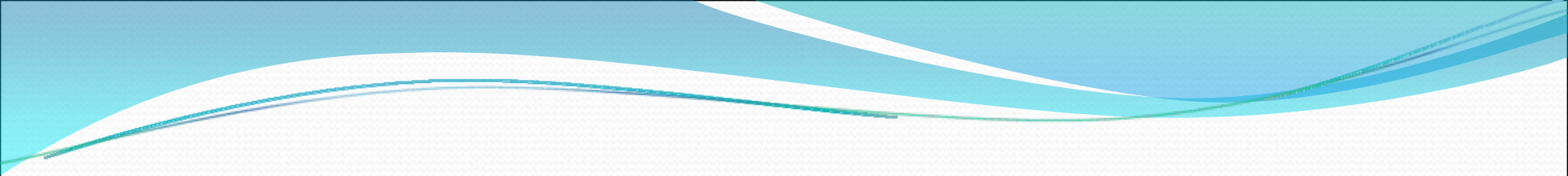




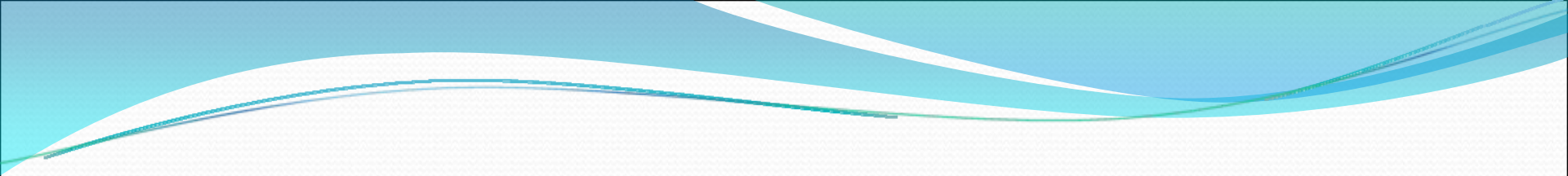
In March 2001, the **South East European University (SEEU)** started operations in Tetovo, and later opened another campus in Skopje; both campuses offer degrees in the following areas: Contemporary Sciences and Technologies, Languages, Cultures and Communications, Law, Public Administration and Political Sciences and Business and Economics

In 2005, the **European University of Macedonia** became the first private institution in the country, and after being accredited by the Board of Accreditation, it offers higher education in various fields: Communication and Media, Art and Design, Economics, Public Administration, Computer Information Systems, Law and Political Sciences.

In 2005, a second private institution opened its doors in Skopje, the **University American College Skopje (UACS)**, offering degrees in the following areas: Business Administration, Political Science, Law, Computer Science and Information Technology, Architecture and Design and Foreign Languages.



In 2007, the **Goce Delcev University** in Stip, a new State institution, opened its doors with seven faculties and one Higher Medical School: Faculty of Law, Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Music, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, Faculty of Mines, Geosciences and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture. Today, the University integrates 13 faculties and one Higher Medical School with 20 new study programs on the six new faculties: Faculty of Philology, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Technology, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Tourism and Business Logistic, and Faculty of Electrical Engineering.



In August 2010, the **UIST Ohrid**, officially named **University for Information Science and Technology "St. Paul the Apostle"** got its statute approved by the Republic of Macedonia Parliament. UIST recruits academics from all over the world, with staff coming from the USA, England, France, Italy, Iran, Tunisia, the Philippines, India, Germany and South Africa. To further promote an international competitiveness, the University has adopted English language as the medium of instruction.

The programs offered by UIST are all in the fields of Information Science and Technology.

as follows: a 2-year program towards an IT Certificate and a degree of "Associate in Information Science and Technology"; a 3-year program in Information Science and Technology towards a degree of "Bachelor of Engineering in Information Science and Technology"; and a 4-year program in Information Science and Technology towards a "Bachelor of Science in Information Science and Technology" degree in the respective study field.



# RESOURCES

Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Macedonia

[www.mon.gov.mk](http://www.mon.gov.mk)

Euroeducation

<http://www.euroeducation.net/prof/macenco.htm>

Maps of World.com

<http://www.mapsofworld.com/macedonia/education/>

Blog on Macedonia's Higher Education

<http://visokoobrazovanie.blogspot.com/2011/02/adopting-practices-of-us-educational.html>

The Goce Delcev University in Stip

<http://int.ugd.edu.mk/index.php/en/university>

The South East European University (SEEU)

<http://www.seeu.edu.mk/en/faculties>

The University American College Skopje (UACS)

[www.uacs.edu.mk](http://www.uacs.edu.mk)

NAFSA online Guide to Educational Systems Around the World – Macedonia

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Emily Muñoz 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.

