

BMB

Bundesministerium
für Bildung

Education

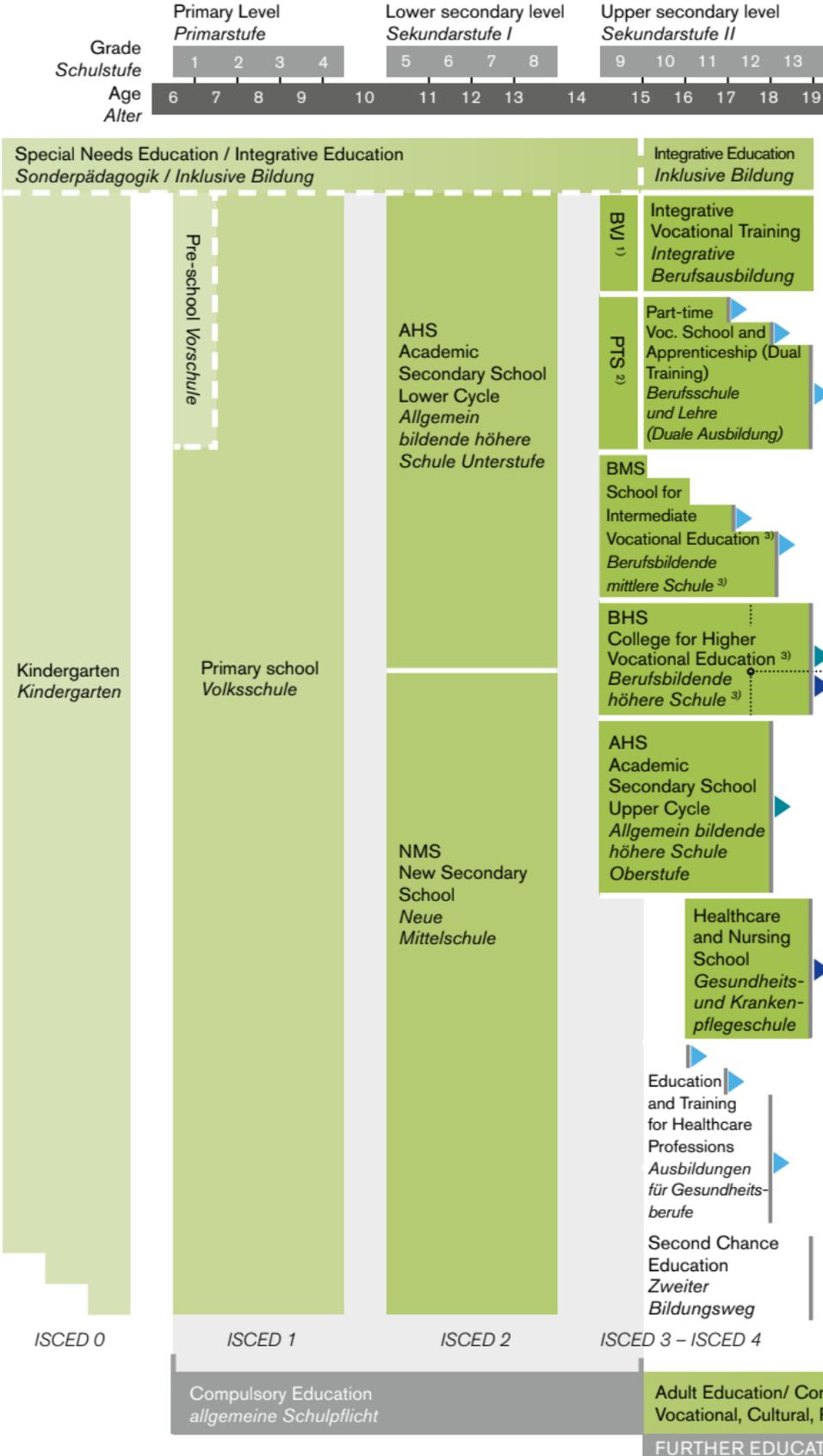
in Austria 2016/17

Englisch

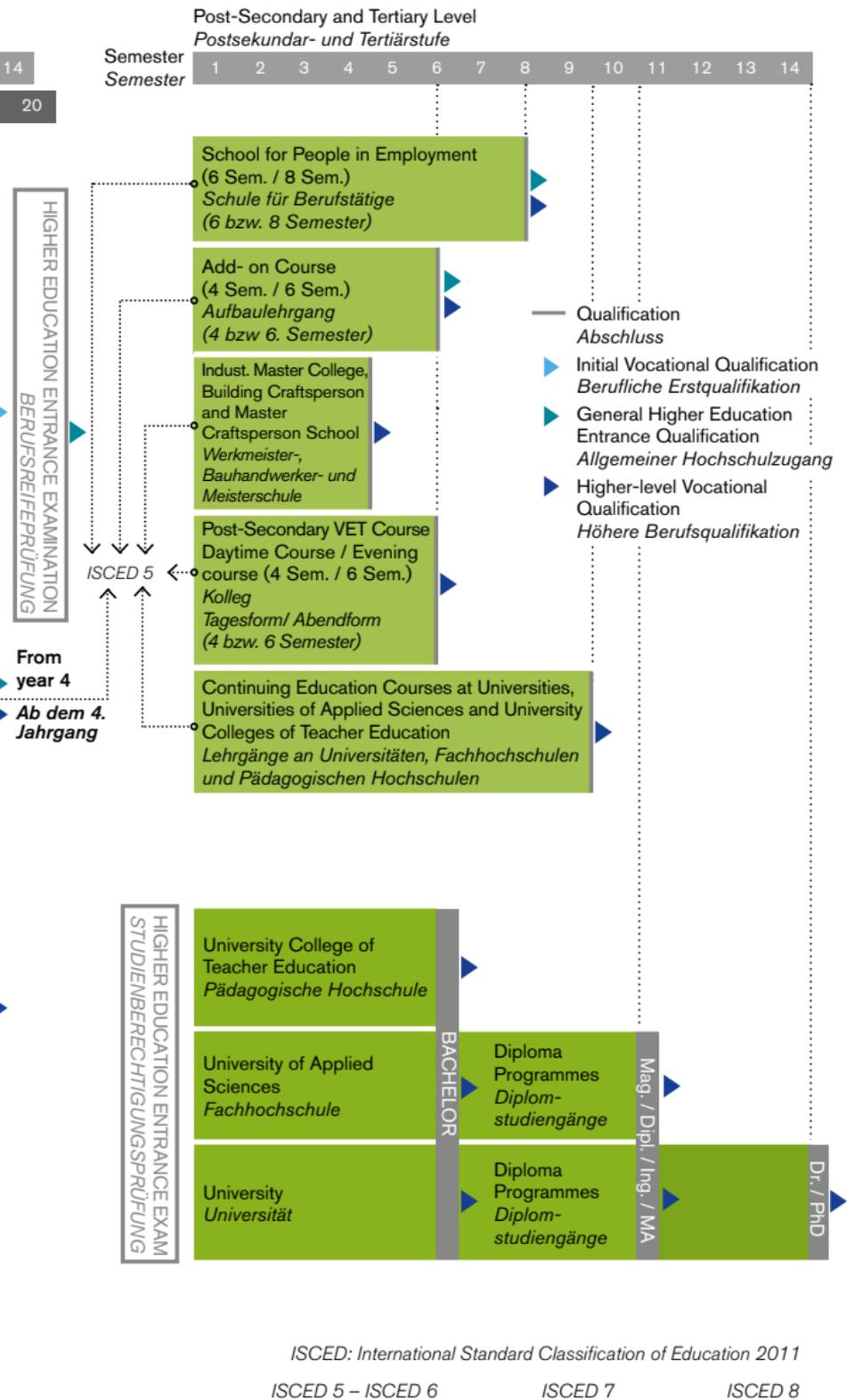


The **Austrian** Education System

Das **österreichische** Bildungssystem



¹⁾Preparation Year for Work ²⁾Pre-vocational School ³⁾from age 15: no grades, but semester structure
 Berufsvorbereitungsjahr Polytechnische Schule ab 10. Schulstufe: Semestergliederung



| | |
|---|--|
| Continuing Education, General, Political and Academic | <i>Erwachsenenbildung, Weiterbildung, allgemein, beruflich, kulturell, politisch, wissenschaftlich</i> |
| WITNESS MASTER'S COURSES | WEITERBILDUNGSMASTER |

Introduction



When you embark on a journey, you need directions to arrive at your destination.

The folder Education in Austria is a kind of navigation aid to help you find your way around the Austrian educational landscape.

The individual chapters provide a quick overview from enrolment at primary school to adult education.

At the end of each chapter there are further links, while the appendix lists institutions for educational advice and career guidance.

Accompanying school children on their “educational journey”, encouraging and developing their personal skills and abilities to the best possible extent, is one of the central tasks of every school.

Compulsory schooling to 18 years of age underscores the need to give young people a positive start to working life with the best education possible.

I wish you every success on your journey!

Dr Sonja Hammerschmid

Federal Minister for Education

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Primary School (Volksschule)

All children permanently residing in Austria are subject to general compulsory education. It begins with the 1st of September following the child's sixth birthday, and lasts for nine years.

Registration (pupil enrolment)

Children reaching the age of 6 prior to 31 August of a given year are required to attend school from 1 September of that year and must go to school.

Children subject to compulsory education must be registered at a Primary School by their parents or guardians. Pupil enrolment assures the child of a school place, preferably at the school where the enrolment takes place, or at a nearby school if the number of enrolments exceeds the capacity of the school site. The school place is allocated via the school or by the competent provincial education authority/city education authority of Vienna. At enrolment, the school readiness of the child is determined. A child is said to be ready for school if it can be assumed that they are able to follow the lessons of the first grade without being overwhelmed physically or mentally. Documents from the kindergarten, such as the results of the language ability test, development documentations, portfolio folders and personal documents must be taken along to pupil enrolment. The child must also be present. An initial learning plan for the start of school will be prepared on the basis of the documents provided. There may also be a consultation with the School Psychology Service.

If there are grounds for believing that the child is not ready for school at enrolment, or if the parents or guardians require a review of the school readiness of their child, the administration of the school decides. School-age children who are not ready for school are entered into the pre-school level.

Information about full-day care arrangements in compulsory schools is available from the competent regional school board or the Vienna Board of Education.

Registration at private schools

When registering at private schools, it is recommended that you get in touch with the relevant school administration in advance of enrolment. It should be noted that not all private schools have public status, which is required for the provision of compulsory education. In such cases, the parents or guardians must notify the district school board of their child's attendance of a private school without public status before the start of the school year.

Attendance of the pre-school level

Pre-school attendance can take place in separate pre-school classes or together with grade 1 or grades 1 and 2 classes or in multi-grade classes.

Early admission to school

Children who will reach 6 years of age by 1 March of the next calendar year, and are thus not yet subject to compulsory education, but are ready for school and have the required social skills, may be enrolled in the first grade early at the commencement of the school year, if the parents or guardians submit a written application to the administration of the Primary School within the enrolment period.

Transfer to secondary school

In the first semester of the 4th grade, parents will be informed and advised on the recommended educational path for their children, based on each child's interests and performance (e.g. in the context of a parents' evening).

Note: More information on the Internet
www.bmb.gv.at/volksschule

New **Secondary School** (Neue Mittelschule)

The New Secondary School (NMS) has been the standard secondary school since 1 September 2012. The first phase of the nationwide implementation of the New Secondary School in secondary schools was completed in the 2015 – 16 school year. All former secondary school sites have thus – starting with the first years – started the development work to become NMSs. All lower stages of AHS schools (academic secondary schools) are invited to take part in the reform project.

The NMS curriculum

The NMS curriculum combines the traditional high expectations of secondary school and the Academic Secondary School Lower Cycle with a new learning and teaching culture. The potential and talents of the children are paramount. Educational guidance and counselling establish an optimal basis for a later decision on future learning and career paths.

Apart from avoiding the premature separation of children by educational paths, the broad implementation of a new learning culture with the cornerstones of individualisation and internal differentiation is a central feature of the New Secondary School. This means that each child's individual skills and talents are promoted in the best possible way. On the one hand, students are granted enough time and support to grasp learning content at their own pace; on the other, they receive additional offers at an early age, so as to strongly encourage their individual talents.

In class, the primary method is group work on themes and content, enabling students to understand and comprehend knowledge rather than just reproducing it. The use of new media also forms part of the curriculum.

E-learning permits not just interactive knowledge transfer; rather, the critical use of new media such as the Internet is taught at the same time.

The integration of all pupils regardless of their origin, as well as equal opportunities for both genders are intended to sensitise the pupils to these issues by fostering social skills such as respect, consideration for others and tolerance, as well as a non-discriminatory way of thinking.

At many new secondary schools, day care provides students with ample time and opportunity to consolidate this knowledge. A range of artistic, creative, sporting and scientific activities ensures that the afternoons include recovery phases, thus enabling students to enjoy meaningful leisure activities.

Classes at the NMS

Classes at the New Secondary School follow the curriculum of the new secondary school; they are jointly organised by teams of teachers from New Secondary School and Academic Secondary School (colleges for higher vocational education). Successful completion entitles pupils to attend an academic or secondary school, depending on the educational targets achieved. The individual strengths of learning and performance are recorded in the “supplementary differentiating performance report”, which is issued in addition to the normal school report. The choice of educational path is accompanied by regular parent-child-teacher conversations.

Note: More information on the Internet
www.bmb.gv.at/schulen/bw/nms/index.html

Pre-vocational School (Polytechnische Schule)

Pre-vocational School follows the 8th grade, and includes another grade. In the 9th or voluntary 10th year of school, pupils are prepared for life, and especially for their working life, by way of further general education, professional guidance and basic vocational training. An orientation period at the beginning of the school year and professional guidance as a principle of teaching provide a range of opportunities for learning more about the world of work. The choice of career is supported by exploration of businesses and professions in the scope of training workshops and extracurricular institutions, as well as one-day internships (mini-apprenticeships) in companies.

Basic vocational training is offered in specialised areas (elective subjects). They correspond to broad occupational fields in the economy, and basic skills, abilities and knowledge (key skills) are acquired. Action and work-based learning encourages the individual talents and learning motivation of the pupils.

There is a choice of seven areas according to professional interests and inclination: metal, electrical, wood, construction, trade/office, services and tourism. Within the framework of school autonomy, new areas (e.g. mechatronics, health/social) may be offered.

An in-depth general education is provided in the mandatory general knowledge subjects (e.g. professional guidance and life skills, politics and economics, German, modern foreign language, mathematics, natural history and ecology, health education, exercise and sports).

The 32 hours of teaching per week are intended to impart basic professional knowledge and skills for an optimal qualification for apprenticeships and the transition into secondary schools. Schools may autonomously adapt the weekly hours in the elective area and in the general compulsory subjects to the interests of the pupils.

Pre-vocational School is run either as an independent school or in the organisational context of a general compulsory school.

Upon successful completion of Pre-vocational School in grade 9, pupils earn the right, amongst other things, to skip ahead to the grade 1 class of the lower or higher stages of vocational secondary school without taking the entrance exam.

Since 1.9.2012, Austrian school laws govern the integration of the 9th grade. Pupils with special educational needs have the right to attend Pre-vocational School.

Note: More information on the Internet
www.pts.schule.at

Academic Secondary School (Allgemeinbildende höhere Schule)

Academic Secondary School (AHS) comprise a four-year lower level and a four-year upper level, and conclude with the upper secondary diploma (Matura).

The upper secondary diploma entails the entitlement to study at Universities, Universities of Applied Sciences, University Colleges of Teacher Education, and other colleges.

The prerequisite for entry into the 1st grade is the successful completion of the 4th grade of a primary school (“very good” or “good” in the subjects German, reading, writing and mathematics) or the evaluation of the primary school committee that it is highly likely for the pupil to meet the requirements of the Academic Secondary Schools in spite of the grade of “satisfactory” in these compulsory subjects, or by way of an entrance exam.

Forms of Academic Secondary School

Lower level (1st to 4th grade) and upper level (5th to 8th grade):

Gymnasium with a special focus on languages, humanities and the arts

Realgymnasium with a special focus on natural sciences and mathematics

Wirtschaftskundliches Realgymnasium with a special focus on economics and life skills (including in practical terms)

Only in the upper level:

Oberstufenrealgymnasium

For all pupils: In the 6th (7th) to 8th grades, there are elective compulsory subjects for a total of six (Gymnasium, Oberstufenrealgymnasium) or eight (Realgymnasium) or ten (Wirtschaftskundliches Realgymnasium) hours per week. However, the volume may be changed in the scope of school autonomy (minimum four hours, maximum ten hours).

Academic Secondary Schools are permitted to adapt the subjects offered in both the lower and upper level in accordance with their situation within certain limits (school autonomy). They may also adopt their own autonomous school curricula.

Special school forms:

- AHS with musical and sporting focus by aptitude test
- Aufbaugymnasium and Aufbaurealgymnasium
- Gymnasium, Realgymnasium and Wirtschaftskundliches Realgymnasium for professionals
- AHS for linguistic minorities (Slovenian, Croatian, Hungarian)
- Werkschulheim
- Gymnasien and Realgymnasien with a focus on foreign language teaching (further information at the regional school boards).

The regional school boards provide information about other special forms in the scope of school trials (e.g. focus on computer science, natural science, performance sports, etc.), as well as Academic Secondary Schools with boarding facilities (public and private).

Note: More information on the Internet

www.bmb.gv.at/ahs

www.bmb.gv.at/tagesbetreuung

www.bmb.gv.at/reifepreuefungneu

School **abroad** (Auslandsschule)

Austrian schools abroad

The Federal Ministry of Education promotes international collaboration through various mobility programmes, as well as fostering global learning, diversity, competence and openness to the world by offering programmes in Austrian schools abroad. There are currently eight Austrian international schools: two in **Budapest** (one primary school with a new secondary school [NMS] and an upper-secondary academic school) and one each in **Prague** (upper-secondary academic), **Istanbul** (upper-secondary academic and commercial academy), **Guatemala City** (primary school and academic secondary – AHS), **Shkodra** (VET college for IT), Querétaro (primary school) and **Liechtenstein** (bilingual AHS).

The teaching at Austrian schools abroad is based on the currently applicable curriculum for the respective Austrian school type, taking into consideration the country-specific curricular requirements. The schools are attended primarily by students of the host country, i.e. Austrian teachers impart their subject in German to students whose native language is not German. This requires a great deal of flexibility and the willingness to engage in new teaching methods.

AHS and BHS teachers can apply for all Austrian international schools with the exception of the one in Liechtenstein (this school recruits teachers independently); VS, HS and NMS teachers may work at the Austro-Hungarian European School in Budapest, at the Instituto Austriaco Guatemalteco in Guatemala City, and at the Colegio Austriaco Mexicano in Querétaro. In addition, there are also short-term internships at Austrian schools abroad, which provide an insight into the school abroad, as well as other local educational institutions.

Note: More information on the Internet
www.weltweitunterrichten.at



Special Needs Education (Sonderpädagogik)

Integrated lessons and inclusive education open up the possibility for disabled and non-disabled children and young people to have a shared learning experience. Pupils with special educational needs may be taught by way of integrated training in a Primary School, Secondary School, New Secondary School, the Lower Cycle of Academic Secondary School, Pre-vocational School and the Domestic Science School. Integration in Pre-vocational School as well as domestic science schools has been legally established by the amendment filed under Federal Law Gazette I, no. 9 / 2012. The relevant changes in fundamental provisions of the SchOG, SchUG and SchPFIG entered into force on 1 September 2012.

Special Needs School (6 to 15 years of age)

Special Needs School consists of nine grades. The final grade is a vocational training year. With the approval of the school board and the consent of the school provider, Special Needs School may be attended for a maximum of twelve years. The Austrian special needs education system consists of ten divisions. The pupils receive basic general education from specially trained teachers, as well as by individual teaching methods, which is intended to provide a basis for further vocational training or the attendance of Secondary Schools.

Depending on the curriculum, the following forms of Special Needs School are distinguished:

- **Special schools with their own curriculums:**
generic special schools (for children with learning difficulties), special schools for blind children, special schools for deaf children, special schools for children with an increased need for support, special schools for children with behavioural difficulties.

- **Special Needs Schools that teach the curriculum of primary school, secondary school/new secondary school, pre-vocational school, or the curriculum of a Special Needs School of another kind:** Special Needs School for physically handicapped children, Special Needs School for children with language disorders, Special Needs School for visually impaired children, Special Needs School for deaf children, Special Needs School for maladjusted children (special education school); sanatorium school.
- In 1998, the school subject **Career guidance in the 7th and 8th grade** was introduced as a compulsory course at Special Needs Schools. This mandatory training is intended to ensure that young people consider their personal development, aptitudes, interests, and future career plans, as well as gaining an insight into professional life and discovering options for their individual career path.

Another measure for preparing young people with special educational needs for professional life is the **vocational preparation year** in the 9th grade of special needs education. Via general education and practically-oriented vocational subjects, pupils are enabled to develop their own personal outlook on life and career opportunities.

Note: More information on the Internet
www.cisonline.at

Part-time Vocational School and Apprenticeship (Berufsschule)

Young people who have concluded an apprenticeship agreement with an instructing employer (business) or a traineeship (training institution) are obliged to attend Part-time Vocational School and Apprenticeship. The Part-time Vocational School and Apprenticeship curriculum comprises general educational, business, theoretical technical and practical compulsory subjects, as well as optional subjects and non-examined classes.

Part-time Vocational School and Apprenticeship comprises as many school years as corresponds to the length of the apprenticeship, i. e. between 2 and 4 years, during which Part-time Vocational School and Apprenticeship accounts for roughly 20 % – 25 % of the total education time within the dual education system (school education alongside practical training) while 80 % – 75 % takes place in a training firm.

The classes at Part-time Vocational School and Apprenticeship may be held in one of the following organisational forms: all year, i. e. at least one full or at least two half days of school per week; per course, i. e. at least eight weeks of constant school, or seasonal, i. e. at a particular time of the year. The broad range of organisational forms has emerged out of the consultation of industry and school leaders, and takes into account the needs of the various sectors and regions.

Currently there are roughly 200 recognised trades which can be learned via an apprenticeship in trade groups, and the following categories: business and trades; industry; commerce; banking and insurance; transport and haulage; tourism and the leisure industry; information and consulting; others (i. e. apprentices trained outside the business sector, e. g. at city authorities, ministries, law firms ...).

If the pupil successfully completes the last year of Part-time Vocational School and Apprenticeship, the final exam only consists of the practical part. Persons wishing to attend university after the final examination may do so after passing the higher education entrance examination. This consists of four partial exams (German, mathematics, modern foreign language, special topic).

As part of the BMB initiative **Apprenticeship with Matura**, apprentices have the opportunity to attend preparatory courses for the higher education entrance examination during their apprenticeship. Three exams may be completed during the apprenticeship, and the final exam upon turning 19 years of age. The preparatory courses and exams for the higher education entrance examination are free of charge to apprentices.

Integrated vocational training is offered not only as apprenticeships over an extended period of time (extended by one or a maximum of two years) but also in the form of partial qualifications. The option of **partial qualification** makes individual training possible, which can be tailored to address specific personal abilities and needs. Training locations are apprenticeship companies or independent special needs education institutions and Part-time Vocational School and Apprenticeship (requirement or right to attend Vocational School).

Note: More information on the Internet

www.bmb.gv.at/berufsmatura

www.bmb.gv.at/berufsreifepuefung

School for **Intermediate Vocational Education** (Berufsbildende mittlere Schule)

General information

School for Intermediate Vocational Education (BMS) lasts for between one and four years. BMS with a training period of one or two years result in partial vocational training. BMS with a training period of three or four years result in full vocational training. Graduates gain the relevant professional qualifications of the Commercial Code. After a minimum BMS of at least three years, supplementary courses (three years) lead to matriculation and diploma examinations. There are special forms of professional colleges for graduates of four-year technical schools.

Admission

To attend, applicants must have completed the 4th/8th grade of an HS, NMS or AHS successfully (except for Latin, geometry and required core subjects).

The main BMS:

- Technical, commercial and crafts school (three or four years)
- Trade school (three years)
- School of business professions (three years)
- School of fashion (three years)
- Hotel school, school of tourism (three years)
- School of social professions (three years)
- School of social services (two years)
- School for social care professions (two to four years):
Admission from 17 or 19 years of age
- Agriculture and forestry trade school (two to four years)
- School of health and nursing (admission from 16 or 17 years of age)
- Federal sports academy (three years)
- Business school (one or two years)

Note: More information on the Internet
www.abc.berufsbildendeschulen.at
www.bmgfj.gv.at

College for Higher Vocational Education (Berufsbildende höhere Schule)

General information

Higher Technical and Vocational Schools (BMS) impart higher vocational training as well as a broad general education, and conclude with a **matriculation and diploma examination** after five years. The diploma entails the entitlement to study at Universities, Universities of Applied Sciences, and Colleges of Teacher Education; it also permits the employment in legally regulated professions under Commercial Code.

The recognition of relevant professional knowledge for graduates of BHS for universities and colleges is required by law; authorisation according to engineering law applies for graduates of higher technical and agricultural schools.

At the European level, the Directive 2005/36/EC enables access to regulated professions in other EU Member States which require the successful completion of a college or university education of (up to) four years for authorisation to practise the profession.

Admission

BHS may be attended by pupils who have completed the 4th/8th grade of an HS, NMS, the 4th or a higher grade of the AHS, or the 9th grade of PTS successfully (except for Latin, geometry and required core subjects).

There is an aptitude test for schools for primary school teachers and educational institutions for social education open to all interested pupils.

The main BHS:

- Higher technical and commercial school
- Commercial college
- Higher school of fashion
- Higher school of artistic design
- Higher school of tourism
- Higher commercial school
- Higher school of agriculture and forestry
- Higher school for primary school teachers
- Higher school for social education

Note: More information on the Internet
www.abc.berufsbildendeschulen.at

New Upper **Secondary Diploma** (Matura neu)

The new standardised matriculation examination at the AHS, as well as matriculation and diploma examinations at BHS

The standardised, competency-based matriculation examination or matriculation and diploma examination provides uniform basic skills and a level playing field for all pupils. This uniform school leaving certificate degree makes Matura certificates nationally and internationally comparable.

Due to the occupation-related contents of the curriculum, there are different tasks for pupils of academic secondary schools (AHS) and colleges for higher vocational education (BHS) in mathematics and foreign languages.

Since school year 2015–16, the new matriculation examination has been sat at academic secondary schools and the new matriculation and diploma examinations have been sat at colleges for higher vocational education.

The new matriculation examination at AHS

- In the written examination, all pupils throughout Austria take the exam in the standardised subjects simultaneously and receive standard questions.
- At AHS schools, all pupils write a pre-analytical piece on a subject chosen themselves and then present it in public to the examination board.
- The focus of oral examinations is adapted to the focal points of the schools. The assignments are not defined centrally, they remain the responsibility of the teachers.
- All pupils write a pre-scientific paper on an elective topic and present it as part of an oral examination.

The new matriculation and diploma examination at BHS

- The pupils decide: either they complete three written and three oral exams, or four written and two oral exams. The general education subjects are standardised.
- In the written exam, pupils throughout Austria are examined in the standardised subjects on the same date; texts in the foreign language are profession-specific. Mathematics is examined in an application-oriented manner.
- The focus of oral examinations can be adapted to the focal points of the schools. The assignments remain the responsibility of the teachers at the school.
- At BHS, all pupils write a thesis on a professional or occupation issue of practical relevance, mostly on behalf of or in cooperation with a company. The piece is presented and discussed in public before the examination board.

Note: More information on the Internet
www.bmb.gv.at/reifepuefungneu

Education careers after the upper secondary diploma (Bildungswege nach der Matura)

A matriculation examination, vocational matriculation examination or higher education entrance examination is a prerequisite for these courses. For some colleges and higher schools, there are special admission opportunities for graduates of relevant professional four-year colleges or with complete vocational qualifications.

Note: More information on the Internet
www.schulpsychologie.at/bildungsinformation/nach-der-matura

Postsecondary VET course (Kolleg)

Colleges offer a two-year (two to three years for working professionals) higher vocational training equal to higher vocational schools or educational institutions and conclude with a diploma examination. The graduates attain the professional qualifications of the corresponding BHS.

Education/training in:

Structural engineering, chemistry and chemical engineering, electronics and technical computer science, electrical engineering, building services, computer science and IT, information technology, interior design and wood technology, primary school education, art and design, mechanical engineering, mechatronics, media technology and media management, fashion/textiles, optometry, social work, industrial engineering, business computer science/ digital business, tourism, environment, economic professions, Post-secondary VET courses at commercial academies, each with a training focus (e.g. Entrepreneurship and

Management, Financial and Risk Management, International Economy, Communications Management and Marketing).

Note: More information on the Internet
www.abc.berufsbildendeschulen.at

University College of Teacher Education (Pädagogische Hochschule)

New teacher training

In the 2015 – 16 academic year, **new professional training** for those studying in the field of primary education has been available at University Colleges of Teacher Education nationwide.

Nationwide implementation, including in the field of secondary education, starts from the 2016 – 17 academic year in cooperation with University Colleges of Teacher Education and Universities.

Alongside this, the current training programmes will continue until they expire.

The minimum length of study for a teacher training degree at a public or private college of education amounts to at least 4 years (bachelor's degree) plus 1–1.5 years (master's degree). The teaching certificate for the corresponding teaching qualification is earned upon successful completion of the whole degree.

A requirement for **admission** to a bachelor's degree course for a teaching qualification is a general university entrance examination (school leaving certificate, vocational school leaving certificate or university entrance examination) as well as degree course **aptitude** (multilevel aptitude tests are taken for all teaching profession degrees). Further admis-

sions requirements must be met by lateral entrants and in the field of vocational education.

Organisation of programmes for the new training curriculum

The basic structure of the **bachelor's and master's** degrees is standardised. Training takes place according to **age-group** (primary or secondary) and not according to school type.

The training curriculum includes lectures on the fundamentals of general educational studies, on elementary and primary education and methods, or in fields of study which correspond to teaching subjects, departments or subject concentrations. Moreover, **focuses** such as inclusive education, special and curative education, social education, career guidance, multilingualism, media education are possible. Various focuses will be offered at colleges of education in the new training programmes. **A focus on inclusive education** always has to be offered.

Training of religious education teachers takes place at private University Colleges of Teacher Education.

Practical pedagogical studies are offered in an integrated form in all fields of study. Master's degrees can also be completed on a **part-time basis**.

Bachelor's and master's degrees for obtaining a teaching qualification

1) For primary classes—at public and private University Colleges of Teacher Education

- Bachelor's degree (240 ECTS credits, 8 semesters)
- Master's degree (min. 60 ECTS credits, min. 2 semesters)
- Different focuses and specialisation options are available regionally.

**2) For secondary level (general education)—
at Colleges of Education in cooperation with universities**

- Bachelor's degree (240 ECTS credits, 8 semesters)
- Master's degree (min. 90 ECTS credits, min. 3 semesters)
- Different focuses and specialisation options are available regionally.

**3) For secondary level (vocational education)—
at some University College of Teacher Education**

Admission requirements:

a specialist vocational examination or equivalent qualification (e.g. master's exam in a trade, business licence exam, leaving certificate from a specialist vocational school etc.);
at least 3 years of specialist professional practice;
exceptions to this are stated in the corresponding provisions.

- Bachelor's degree (240 ECTS credits, 8 semesters)
- Master's degree (min. 60 ECTS credits, min. 2 semesters)

The following fields are offered in vocational education:

- Dual vocational training as well as technology, trades and commerce
- Fashion and design
- Information and communications
- Nutrition
- The specialist area of vocational education in agriculture and forestry, as well as the specialist fields of agriculture, nutrition and biology (environment) are offered at the college of agriculture and environment education

Teacher training for lateral entrants—Specialist additional studies to obtain a teaching qualification

1) Secondary level (general education)

Admission requirements:

Completion of a specialist degree at a tertiary education institution comprised of at least 180 ECTS credits.

- Bachelor's degree (240 ECTS credits – 150 ECTS credits of which come from the specialist degree already completed)
- Master's degree (min. 60 ECTS credits, min. 2 semesters)

2) Secondary level (general education)

Admission requirements:

Completion of a specialist degree at a tertiary education institution comprised of at least 240 – 300 ECTS credits.

At least three years of specialist professional practice – exceptions to this are stated in the corresponding provisions.

- Bachelor's degree (240 ECTS credits – 180 ECTS credits of which come from the specialist degree already completed)
- Master's degree (min. 60 ECTS credits, 2 semesters)

Job induction

New teacher training students will be inducted into the teaching profession by way of a year-long induction phase, supported by mentors.

Note: Information online
www.bmb.gv.at/ph

University (Universität)

Courses in the humanities and cultural studies, engineering and arts, teacher training programmes for teachers in higher secondary schools (two teaching subjects), medical, natural sciences, law, social and economic sciences and theological studies are offered.

- **Diploma studies:** These entail an in-depth training in the sciences or arts, and usually last eight to twelve semesters (one semester comprises 30 ECTS), consisting of two or three study periods, each ending with a Diplom examination. The degree entitles recipients to admission to a postgraduate degree, such as Magister / Magistra, Diplomingenieur / Diplomingenieurin (Exception: medical studies are concluded with with a doctorate [medical degree]). There are only very few Diplom courses left.
- **Bachelor's and master's programmes:** In accordance with the Bologna declaration, universities have converted most of the programmes to bachelor's courses (three to four years, with 180 to 240 ECTS), extended by master's courses (one to two years, with 60 to 120 ECTS). The bachelor's programmes entail vocational training in the sciences or arts, with a qualification by subject, concluding with a Bachelor's degree. Depending on the department, master's programmes are concluded with a Master's degree or the title of Diplomingenieur/Diplomingenieurin.
- **Doctoral studies and PhD studies (Doctor of Philosophy)** are based on Diplom or master's degree courses at universities or universities of applied sciences, and serve the development of the ability to work independently and scientifically. Upon conclusion (after three or four years), the relevant doctoral degree or PhD is awarded.

Note: More information on the Internet
www.studienwahl.at

University of **Applied Sciences** (Fachhochschule)

Universities of Applied Sciences offer science-based vocational training with an emphasis on vocational orientation (at least one practical semester is included in the course).

The following types of courses are currently offered:

- Bachelor's programmes: usually six semesters (three years), concluded with a Bachelor's degree. In some subjects, especially in the field of social work and health care, the authorisation to practice the profession is awarded upon completion of the course (e.g. social worker, physiotherapist).
- Master's programmes: based on a Bachelor's degree, they primarily serve as an academic extension of this degree, usually last four semesters (two years), and are concluded with a Master's degree.

Currently, courses in the sectors of design of art, engineering, social sciences, economics, military/security studies, natural and health sciences are conducted at universities of applied sciences. Admission to such universities is also open to candidates with course-related professional qualifications without matriculation examination (usually by way of additional exams).

Note: More information on the Internet
www.fachhochschulen.ac.at

Adult education

Adult education in Austria consists of a **variety of educational institutions** with different objectives and educational opportunities. The **training ranges** from general education, basic education and remedial training, education qualifications as part of Second-Chance Education, vocational offerings, to management classes and courses for personal development, through to university courses and university education.

Schools for professionals and tertiary training

Individuals who have already started their professional life or have completed vocational training have the opportunity to acquire relevant qualifications in the form of evening classes. There are secondary and higher vocational schools of general education for professionals, advanced training programmes, colleges and academies. There are also continuing education courses at universities and colleges; the latter also offer additional university of applied sciences courses for working professionals.

Adult education

Institutions of adult education funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs, such as adult elementary education, vocational training institutes, business development institutes and a number of non-profit regional adult education institutions offer general education, vocational education and training measures. An important task of adult education is the development and implementation of an adult-oriented and target-group adjusted programme, and the high-quality **educational and vocational guidance** to enable access to lifelong learning by way of educational information / advice, provision of basic education / basic skills, acquisition of educational qualifications, etc.

Interested parties may enrol in preparatory courses for **compulsory schooling**, the **matriculation exam for external parties**, and the **university entrance exam** to attend adult education institutions.

The vocational matriculation examination may be completed by way of three of four exams in preparation for the vocational matriculation examination at various adult education institutions.

Preparatory courses for the compulsory schooling examination are offered in an adult-friendly format at institutions of adult education. Examinations must be taken in a maximum of six fields of competence (four compulsory subjects and two of four electives); a maximum of five exams may be conducted at institutions of adult education which have obtained examination competence. The traditional forms of external exams for the completion of certificates of new secondary school or secondary school remain in place.

Note: More information on the Internet
www.erwachsenenbildung.at

Educational **advice**

Federal Ministry of Education

Section I/8 (School psychology educational advice, Health Promotion)

www.schulpsychologie.at
schulpsychologie@bmb.gv.at

School information:
www.bmb.gv.at/schulinfo
schulinfo@bmb.gv.at

School Information Hotline:

081020/5220

Institutions or individuals who assist in educational decisions:

School psychology educational advice by the provincial education authorities/city education authority for Vienna:

www.schulpsychologie/kontakt

For links see page 37

Education careers after 8th grade:

www.schulpsychologie.at/bildungsinformation/nach-der-8schulstufe/

Educational paths after the upper secondary diploma:

www.schulpsychologie.at/bildungsinformation/nach-der-matura/

Pupil and education consultants:

Appropriately trained teachers in each school from the 5th grade: www.schulpsychologie.at/schuelerberatung

School information and service points:

At all provincial education authorities: www.bmb.gv.at/schulen/service/schulinfo/schulservicestellen.xml

Career guidance:

Portal “ibobb information: information, advice and guidance on learning and work”: www.schule.at/ibobb

Career information centres:

Provided by the Employment Service or the Economic Chambers in all Federal Provinces

www.ams.at/berufsinformation

www.wifi.at/karriere/blidungsberatung

Educational guidance for adults:

Information and addresses of education advice centres under www.erwachsenenbildung.at or www.bib-atlas.at

School psychology educational advice by the provincial education authorities/education authority for Vienna

Burgenland

www.lsr-bgld.gv.at → Schulpsychologie

Carinthia

www.landesschulrat-kaernten.at → Organisation
→ Schulpsychologie

Lower Austria

www.lsr-noe.gv.at → Schulpsychologie

Upper Austria

www.lsr-ooe.gv.at → Schulpsychologie-Bildungsberatung

Salzburg

www.landesschulrat.salzburg.at → Servicestellen →
Schulpsychologie

Styria

www.lsr-stmk.gv.at → Service → Schulpsychologie
→ Bildungsberatung

Tyrol

www.lsr-t.gv.at → Schulpsychologie

Vorarlberg

www.lsr-vbg.gv.at → Schulpsychologie

Vienna

www.stadtschulrat.at → Stadtschulrat → Abteilungen
→ Schulpsychologie

Primary School

www.bmb.gv.at/volksschule

New Secondary School

www.bmb.gv.at/schulen/bw/nms/index.html

Pre-Vocational School

www.pts.schule.at

Academic Secondary School

www.bmb.gv.at/ahs

www.bmb.gv.at/tagesbetreuung

www.bmb.gv.at/reifepruefungneu

School abroad

www.weltweitunterrichten.at

Special needs education

www.cisonline.at

Part-time Vocational School and Apprenticeship

www.bmb.gv.at/berufsmatura

www.bmb.gv.at/berufsreifeproofung

School for Intermediate Vocational education

www.abc.berufsbildendesschulen.at

Compulsory college for higher vocational education

www.abc.berufsbildendesschulen.at

Upper Secondary Diploma

www.bmb.gv.at/reifepruefungneu

Post-secondary VET course

www.abc.berufsbildendesschulen.at/

University College of Teacher Education

www.bmb.gv.at/ph

University of Applied Sciences

www.fachhochschulen.ac.at

University

www.studienwahl.at

Adult education

www.erwachsenenbildung.at

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