

Models

The Austrian Educational System

See the website www.bildungssystem.at for even more detailed information.

The Austrian education system is characterized by a lot of options at a very early stage of education.

There are 3 possible ways how to continue after primary education (4 years): new secondary school, secondary modern school or higher educational school (grammar school).

Higher education is offered at either senior high school (grammar school) or at a medium level technical and vocational school or higher technical and vocational school. It is also possible to go in for apprenticeship by means of dual education or for education in the health sector respectively.

Compulsory education in Austria ends after 9 years of schooling.

After graduating from higher schools and colleges or after vocational training in dual education there are more options on the tertiary sector such as tertiary short training programmes , intensive training courses in either the vocational sector or the general knowledge sector up to obtaining university diplomas.

The website www.bildungssystem.at refers to ISCED 2011 (International Standard Classification of Education).

Let us go into more details:

Elementary School(ISCED Level 0):

Kindergarten from 3 to 6

Primary School (ISCED Level 1):

Compulsory education starts at the age of 6 and takes 9 years.

The first 4 years are spent in primary school, including mainstream and special schools and also integration and inclusion in the mainstream system.

Secondary School (ISCED Level 2):

These are the years 5-8 after primary school with the following options: primary upper school (obsolete), secondary modern school, new secondary school, higher general education school (grammar school) as well as special needs educational centres and inclusive education.

Upper School (ISCED Level 3):

Years 9-12 (or 13) can be absolved at educational institutions either offering higher general or vocational and technical education:

Polytecnic secondary school (for 1 year only), vocational school and apprenticeship, medium level vocational school, higher vocational and technical school, senior high school, health care training schools as well as vocational preparation for one year and integrated vocational preparation (for those already in the work- process).

Post- Secondary Sector (pre-university education, ISCED Level 4):

Here are health care as well as nursing schools and some university courses and courses at polytechnics to be found.

Tertiary Short Training Programmes (ISCED 5)

This sector comprises all post- secondary graduations that convey professional knowledge, abilities and competences with a typical practical and professional orientation. It includes the higher vocational schools in year 13 (with the authorization to hand out certificates for the access to universities e.g. HTLs, HAK, BAKIP, etc.), advanced courses, colleges for people in employment, industrial master schools, building craftsmen schools, master schools and colleges.

These programs can also be defined as part of the Bachelor program.

Tertiary Sector (ISCED Level 6-8):

After secondary education (general knowledge and vocational education) there is the option to study at universities, pedagogic universities and polytechnics This includes Bachelor diplomas (Level 6) as well as Masters (Level 7) or the highest grades: the doctorate and habilitation (Level 8).

Vocational Schools in both Tertiary and Secondary Sector:

Vocational Higher Schools (BHS, Tertiary Education in year 13) can be attended after year 8. They offer vocational training as well as the chance to acquire a diploma and a graduation giving access to universities as in higher general education schools. In only 2 semesters more, students acquire a complete vocational higher education as well .

Vocational Medium Level Schools (BMS, Secondary) are vocational schools or technical schools. They offer qualifications in combination with general knowledge. They are attended for 3 to 4 years and have final exams in theory and practise in their fields of interest and studies.

Thus the students get direct access to becoming part of the workforce without any further examinations in order to obtain trade licences.

In the wake of their final exams they may even go in for a 3-year advanced course in order to take the school leaving examination at the BHS (higher vocational schools). Furthermore there is the chance to gain access to universities by absolving a so- called BRP (entrance examination to university) which enables them to study in a restricted field of studies connected with their professional work interests.

HTL, HTLBA- Technical, Industrial, Arts and Crafts Schools

These institutions offer mainly technical education, the subjects being partly general knowledge with a foreign language, mostly English, and partly technical discipline. They emphasize special subjects at the different locations (e.g. mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, IT, construction, chemistry etc.) and are put together in 5 TGLA (technical and professional schooling institutions).

The HTL graduation gives access to university.

After 3 years of practise the graduates may apply for the title of an Austrian Engineer which is granted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Economy and Work.

Connected to HTLs there also exist different vocational schools of medium level education which are located at HTLs and also colleges and master classes (mostly 3-4 year courses).

There are also research institutes connected to some of them.

HLA, HBLA, HGBLA, HTL- other vocations

HBLAs are not technically orientated but offer schooling in arts and crafts including fashion and clothing technology mainly. The education takes 5 years and ends by taking an exam for graduation.

Research institutes can also be connected to some locations.

HAK-HASCH-commercial training

HAK is a school type that focuses on accounting and business administration. These subjects that are part of the curriculum throughout 5 years form part of the graduation. The main interest lies in the instruction about economic correlations and language skills as well as IT as this is a priority at some locations in order to foster careers in economy.

Languages are English, French or Italian/ Spanish, in some cases also former Eastern European languages, in some schools a third language (optional) can be learned in the last two years before graduation.

HASCHs (Commercial medium level schools) take 3 to 4 years and have a final exam, but no graduation as all medium level schools don't.

Students can complete their studies for graduation in an advanced course of 3 years' duration in an extra-occupational education.

HLWB,FSWB,HUM- Service Occupation and Social Work

These institutions offer schooling for tourism and operational extended households as well as for social work. There is a medium level sector (HUM,FSWB) connected to them, too.

BAKIP and other- Nursery School Pedagogics and Colleges of Education

There are also medium level education schools for the field of social work.

HLFS, LFS- Agricultural and Forestry Schools

There are furthermore higher education and medium level education schools dealing with knowledge about agriculture and forestry, some have research institutes connected to them (HBLFAs).