

## Table of Contents

Education and culture	2
Compulsory schooling and education system	2
Vocational schools general information	3
Training "full-time school form" or "dual system"	5
Studying at a university - dual study programme	6
Study: Funding and scholarship	7
Cultural education	8
Cultural facilities and leisure	8
Adult education	11

## Education and culture

### Compulsory schooling and education system

#### Education

Education is understood to mean formal education from nursery to university, training and work, and informal education.

Informal education is a lifelong learning process in which people

- attitudes,
- values,
- skills and
- knowledge

through influences and sources from their own environment, e.g. in cultural education.

In the district of Emsland, there is an [education region](#) that is responsible for many areas of education within the framework of lifelong learning.

#### Compulsory schooling

School attendance is compulsory in Germany. This means that all children generally have to go to school between the ages of 6 and 18. The parents or guardians of the children have a duty to ensure that the children attend school. The school monitors school attendance.

Compulsory school attendance includes

- regular attendance at lessons
- regular attendance at compulsory school events
- compliance with the school rules
- Further information can be found here: [Compulsory school attendance](#)

Compulsory schooling for children of refugees only begins once they have taken up permanent residence in Germany.

Compulsory schooling is divided into compulsory general schooling (at least 9 years) and/or compulsory vocational schooling (3 years in the dual system or 1 year of full-time schooling).

#### Education system

##### Primary school:

- Grade 1 to grade 4 (6 to 10 years)

##### Secondary school:

- Grade 5 to grade 9 or up to grade 10

- followed by an apprenticeship in the dual system (3 years of school and company with training salary) at a vocational school (BBS)
- or full-time school (1 year at a BBS)
- or secondary school grammar school from year 5 to year 13

#### **There are various secondary schools:**

- Special school,
- Hauptschule,
- Realschule,
- secondary school,
- comprehensive school or
- grammar school.

#### **Important!**

When compulsory schooling ends, the right to attend school also ends. If a pupil did not do well at school, he/she does not have to attend another school.

It is **therefore important to be a good pupil.**

#### **Vocational schools general information**

#### **Vocational schools in Emsland**

Are you over 15 years old? Are you no longer attending a general school? Then you have many options at a vocational school. You can prepare for a career or you can obtain a general school-leaving certificate. In Germany, pupils must attend school until the age of 18 ([compulsory schooling](#)).

#### **There are the following types of vocational schools:**

##### **Berufseinstiegsschule (BES) grades 1 and 2:**

Vocational schools have programmes for pupils with or without a secondary school leaving certificate. You have not yet received a contract for an apprenticeship? You don't yet have a concrete idea of where you want to work? Here you can gain an insight into various professional fields. You can build on your secondary school leaving certificate. Or you can obtain your secondary school leaving certificate. Language and integration are also promoted here.

##### **Vocational school:**

This is where training takes place in a [dual system](#). You learn part of your training at school. The other part you learn in a company.

##### **Vocational school (BFS):**

You can prepare for the profession at vocational schools. The courses last 1 to 3 years. You receive basic vocational training. Or vocational preparation. Or even a vocational qualification. Do you already have a school-leaving qualification? Then you can obtain your next

qualification here. Vocational schools are generally divided into the following occupational fields:

- commercial field
- Home economics, social pedagogy or care sector
- industrial-technical field

### **specialised secondary school (FOS):**

Successful attendance leads to a general qualification for university entrance. This entitles

- to take up a bachelor's degree programme at a university
- to attend any school at upper secondary level
- to attend the introductory phase of the vocational grammar school (year 11)
- to attend the vocational upper secondary school in year 13 if you have completed vocational training

The specialised upper secondary schools are divided into the following subject areas:

- Business and administration
- Technology
- Health and social affairs
- Design
- Nutrition and Home Economics
- Agriculture, biotechnology and environmental technology

### **Vocational secondary school (BOS):**

Have you already completed an apprenticeship? Do you have a secondary school leaving certificate? Then you can go to the Berufsoberschule. You go there for two years. This school prepares you for the general higher education entrance qualification. To do this, you must learn a second foreign language. Without a foreign language, you will receive a subject-specific higher education entrance qualification. This means that you are only allowed to study certain subjects. The vocational upper secondary school is available in the following specialisations:

- Technical vocational secondary school
- Business vocational secondary school
- Vocational secondary school for social services

### **Vocational grammar school:**

Would you like to study at a university? Then you need the Abitur. You can catch up on your Abitur at a vocational grammar school. To do this, you need an intermediate qualification in your education. Your average grades must be 3.0 or better. You can then attend a vocational grammar school for three years. After the three years, you will complete your Abitur. It is also divided into corresponding specialisations:

- Technical specialisation

- Economics specialisation
- Social and healthcare sciences
- Agricultural science specialisation
- Biotechnological direction
- Nutritional sciences

### **Technical college**

The Fachschule provides further vocational training. The Fachschule is a type of school that generally requires initial vocational training and, as a rule, corresponding practical work experience.

It leads to a higher vocational qualification in various forms, either full-time or part-time. This qualifies you to take on management tasks. In addition, the two-year technical college usually leads to the entrance qualification for universities of applied sciences.

### **Training "full-time school form" or "dual system"**

#### **Full-time school form - training at a vocational school**

In Germany, there is also full-time training at a vocational school. Vocational schools provide completed vocational training in theory and practice outside the dual training system (without an apprenticeship in a company). It usually lasts two to three and a half years. Lessons take place full-time. In addition to vocational subjects, it also includes general education subjects. The vocational schools differ greatly in terms of their training programmes, admission requirements, duration of training and further education options. You should therefore speak to the school you are interested in.

#### **Vocational schools in Emsland**

#### **"Dual system"**

Dual vocational training is a speciality in Germany. You work in a company. At the same time you go to school. This is how you learn theory and practice. You spend two thirds of your time working. You spend one third of your time at school. An apprenticeship lasts 3 years. Depending on the profession, it may take a little longer. If you have an Abitur, you can complete the apprenticeship more quickly.

Depending on the type of occupation you would like to learn in a dual training programme, contact the appropriate office:

#### **Chamber of Crafts (HWK)**

The Chamber of Crafts (HWK) is responsible for skilled trades. This covers professions such as baker, bricklayer or painter.

#### **Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK)**

The Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK) is responsible for professions in industrial production, trade and services. This includes, for example, plant mechanics or wholesale and foreign trade clerks.

#### **Chamber of Agriculture (LWK)**

For professions specialising in agriculture, such as agricultural services, forestry, horticulture, farming and housekeeping.

## **Important:**

In Germany, a vocational qualification is very advantageous. People with a vocational qualification earn more money on average over the course of their lives. They are less likely to be unemployed. They are less likely to have fixed-term employment contracts.

## **Studying at a university - dual study programme**

### **General information**

There are many different degree programmes in Germany. There are also different types of higher education institutions:

- Universities (academically orientated)
- Universities of Applied Sciences (practice-orientated)
- Dual universities (very practice-orientated)
- Art, film and music colleges (for artistic subjects)

There are state universities and private universities. The quality of private universities is not always better. However, you have to pay high tuition fees.

### **Helpful websites**

- [University Compass](#) (all degree programmes and universities in Germany)
- [Study in Germany](#) (information for refugees)
- [Employment Agency](#) (study orientation)
- [German Academic Exchange Service](#) (DAAD - all degree programmes in Germany)

### **Prerequisites**

Would you like to study in Germany? Then you need a university entrance qualification. This can be an Abitur. It can also be an entrance qualification for universities of applied sciences. Have you passed the Abitur in your home country? You may be able to use it to study in Germany. You can have this checked.

You can find more information on the [Anabin](#) website. Go to the information portal "Recognition in Germany". You can also contact the [German Academic Exchange Service DAAD](#).

You must also provide proof that you have a good command of German (language level C1). This can be the "German as a foreign language" test. Or the German language test for university entrance. Or telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule.

There is also the possibility of funding from the Bildungsberatung Garantiefonds Hochschule. Some universities also offer preparatory semesters. You will also learn German there.

Find out more at the university where you would like to study. Most universities offer counselling services. There are application deadlines for applying to a university. Please note these deadlines.

### **Dual study programme**

The difference to the traditional degree programme is the combination of theory and practice. Students gain valuable practical experience for their career while studying at the university. You can apply and implement this directly in the company.

At the end, you will have gained a Bachelor's degree. There are also models where you can obtain both a Bachelor's degree and a completed vocational training programme.

Visit the [BIB Emsland](#) and you will get to know many companies that offer dual study programmes.

Information on financing your studies and scholarships can be found [here](#).

### **No university entrance qualification**

Can you study in your home country with your school-leaving certificate? But not in Germany? You can catch up on your university entrance qualification at a preparatory college. Studienkollegs are specially designed for foreign applicants. They prepare you for studying in Germany.

### **Study: Funding and scholarship**

As a student in Germany, you can receive financial support. This is possible via the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG for short). The BAföG is paid out monthly by the authorities. In the best case scenario, you will receive money for the entire duration of your studies. The monthly amount of BAföG can be between 399 and 735 euros. You have to pay back half of the BAföG amount after your studies. The exact conditions for BAföG change regularly. You can find detailed information under the following link:

- [Website BAföG for refugees and migrants](#)

As an alternative to BAföG, you can apply for a scholarship. As a rule, you do not have to pay back a scholarship. Good grades are important in order to receive a scholarship. Scholarship donors also assess your voluntary work. You will normally receive the same amount of money as BAföG. In addition, there is a so-called "book allowance". This is a monthly payment of up to 300 euros.

Certain organisations award scholarships. Scholarships are awarded to people with great potential. That is why these organisations are called Begabten-Förderungs-Werke. The following Begabten-Förderungs-Werke offer programmes specifically for refugees, among others. You can find out how to apply on their websites. They also tell you what the organisations require of you.

- [Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung \(FES\) - Scholarships for Refugees](#)
- [Böckler-Aktion Bildung of the Hans Böckler Foundation](#)
- [Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung \(KAS\) - Scholarships for Refugees](#)

- [Villigst - Our scholarship for refugees](#)
- [Bread for the World - Refugee Scholarship Programme](#)

The Otto Benecke Foundation's Guarantee Fund is an exception to this rule. The programme is aimed at young new immigrants. Do you want to gain your higher education entrance qualification in Germany? Do you want to study in Germany? Do you want to work in the academic field? Then you can apply for the scholarship programme. There is also the Germany Scholarship. It provides financial support of 300 euros per month. The Germany Scholarships are awarded by the respective universities.

- [University Guarantee Fund of the Otto Benecke Foundation in Bonn](#)
- [Germany Scholarship: Become a scholarship holder](#)

## Cultural education

Emsland is a rural region and there are numerous cultural venues and institutions everywhere. All of them are easily accessible for everyone. The cultural providers are a mixture of professionals and volunteers.

Regional culture is shaped and constantly re-examined by those involved:

- What is typical of our region?
- Which traditions are handed down?
- Which aspects of our regional history should be remembered and in what form?

The task of culture is to

- to accompany these processes,
- to revitalise the cultural landscape and
- to promote exchange, co-operation and networking between the various cultural providers,
- to safeguard the region's cultural heritage and contribute to its dissemination.

The [preservation of historical monuments](#) plays an important role here.

To find out more about the cultural venues and events, see the [cultural map](#) and the [calendar of events](#).

## Cultural facilities and leisure

### Cultural institutions

Emsland offers numerous events and cultural institutions. Further offers for leisure, sport or voluntary work can be found at the bottom of the page. Here you will only find a few examples in the cultural area, as it is not possible to list all the facilities. However, you will find corresponding offers in every town.

**Some organisations in the field of art that you can visit or in which you or your children can participate:**

- [Lingen Art School](#)



- [Kunsthalle Lingen](#)
- [Kunstschule Koppelschleuse Meppen](#)
- Meppener [Kunstkreis](#) + [Artothek](#)
- Töpfermarkt
- [Art school Zinnober Papenburg](#)
- Spiel und Kunst ([SpuK](#)) Freren
- [Kunstkreis Haren](#)
- [Exhibition centre Gut Altenkamp Aschendorf](#)
- [Emslandmuseum Schloss Clemenswerth](#)
- ParkArt Clemenswerth

**Some organisations in the field of music that you can visit. There are also many choirs, bands and orchestras in almost every town where you or your children can join in.**

- [Klangkultur Haren](#)
- Harener Klassiknacht
- [Musikschule des Emslandes](#)
- [EmslandArena](#)
- Emsbürener Musiktage
- Musikfest Bremen (Konzertorte in Papenburg, Sögel, Rhede)
- NDR 2 Papenburg Festival
- LAUTFEUER Festival Lingen
- Kleinstadtfestival Meppen

**Some theatre facilities that you can visit. There are also many local amateur theatre groups and dance groups that would be delighted to welcome new members.**

- [Clemenswerth Cultural Circle](#)
- [Kulturkreis Impulse Freren](#)
- [Twist home theatre](#)
- [Meppen theatre community](#)
- [Theatre at the Wilhelmshöhe Lingen](#)
- [Forum Alte Werft / Alte Kesselschmiede Papenburg](#)
- [Meppen open-air theatre](#)
- [Forest theatre Ahmsen](#)
- [Theatre education centre of the Emsländische Landschaft Lingen](#)
- Festival of puppets
- World Children's Theatre Festival (WKT)

**Cultural history museums, company museums, collections, places of remembrance that you can visit. All the institutions also offer special events that you can visit with your children.**

- [Emsland Moor Museum Geeste](#)
- [Emsland Archaeology Museum Meppen](#)
- [Meppen Town Museum](#)
- [Emsland Museum Lingen](#)
- [Emsland Museum Clemenswerth Castle](#)
- [Mill Museum Haren](#)
- [Twist Natural Gas Museum](#)
- [Haselünne open-air and local history museum](#)
- [Distillery Museum Haselünne](#)
- [Von-Velen plant Papenburg](#)
- [Maritime Adventure World Papenburg](#)
- [MEYER WERFT visitor centre Papenburg](#)
- [Salzbergen Fire Brigade Museum](#)
- [KRONE Museum Spelle](#)
- [Esterwegen Memorial](#)
- ["Camp XII Dalum "memorial site](#)

### **Building culture and archaeological heritage**

The Route of the Megalithic Culture is well worth a hike. On it you can discover stone artefacts that are over 5000 years old. They explain everyday life, nature and concepts of the afterlife from that time. There are 33 stations from Osnabrück via Emsland to Oldenburg.

- [Road of the Megalithkultur](#)

The Mühlenstraße is a road that shows visitors the mills of Lower Saxony, such as water mills and windmills. Some mills are now residential buildings, while other mills can be viewed from the outside and inside. Nearby, you can also visit horse mills in the Cloppenburg museum village. Together with other existing mill routes, it forms the core of the "European Cultural Route (Via Molina)".

- [Lower Saxony Mill Road](#)

### **Regional studies and preservation of customs**

- [Emsland Heritage Association](#)

The Emsland Heritage Association is the umbrella organisation for the heritage associations. It has 14,000 publications in its library in Meppen. It specialises in archaeology, regional studies, regional history and much more. This year there is a new [Emsland yearbook](#).

There is an active local history association in almost every municipality, which is happy to welcome new members. You can always find them on the [local authority's homepage](#).

- [Emsland landscape for the district of Emsland](#)
- Kivelingsfixen Lingen

The members of a bachelors' association from Lingen (Ems) in Emsland, Lower Saxony, dating back to 1372, are known as Kivelinge.

- Buckwheat blossom festival organised by the Geeste local history association (Emsland Moormuseum)
- Platt-Satt-Festival (decentralised)
- Haselünne corn and Hanseatic market

There are also numerous sports programmes. The [Emsland District Sports Association](#) has a good overview of which sports are on offer where.

There are also many beautiful [cycle routes](#) in Emsland. If you don't know how to cycle yet, you can learn [here](#). Swimming is also great fun and good for your health.

You can find out where there are swimming courses for children from the [district sports association](#). Adults can and should also learn to swim, as there are many beautiful pools and lakes in Emsland. You can find all further [information](#) here.

Visiting cultural institutions and events or joining a cultural group or sports club makes it easier to settle in and you will quickly get to know new local people. This makes it easier to learn the language and familiarise yourself with life in Germany. This makes you feel at home in Germany more quickly.

[Volunteering](#) is also a meaningful task. People who work for other people or for a cause in their free time without being paid do voluntary work. For example, you can get involved with elderly people, neighbours or refugees. You can also help out at a sports club or animal shelter and many other things.

## Adult education

### Would you like to learn something new?

Adult education providers are institutions that offer educational programmes for adults. These are, for example, adult education centres or private companies. They also include non-profit organisations. These organisations offer courses, seminars and lectures, for example. Their aim is to help adults expand their knowledge and improve their skills. Participation can cost money or be free of charge.

### Historisch-Ökologische Bildungsstätte (HÖB) Emsland in Papenburg e.V.


 [Spillmannsweg 30, 26871 Papenburg](#)

 [@info@hoeb.de](mailto:info@hoeb.de)


 [+49496197880](tel:+49496197880)

 <https://www.hoeb.de/>


### Ludwig-Windthorst-Haus (LWH) | Katholisch-Soziale Akademie

 [Gerhard-Kues-Straße 16, 49808 Lingen \(Ems\)](#)


 [@info@lwh.de](mailto:info@lwh.de)

 [+4959161020](tel:+4959161020)

## **Katholische Erwachsenenbildung (KEB) Sögel**

 [Am Markt 5, 49751 Sögel](#)

[@soegel@keb-emsland.de](mailto:soegel@keb-emsland.de)


 [+4959521556](tel:+4959521556)

You can find other KEB locations in [Meppen](#) and [Lingen](#).

## **LEB in Niedersachsen e.V. | Bildungszentrum Emsland/Grafschaft Bentheim**

 [Jägerstraße 6a, 49808 Lingen](#)

[@biz-lingen@leb.de](mailto:biz-lingen@leb.de)

 [+495911405030](tel:+495911405030)

## **Volkshochschule Papenburg gGmbH | Frau Morasch**

 [Hauptkanal rechts 72, 26871 Papenburg](#)

 [+494961922339](tel:+494961922339)

 <https://www.vhs-papenburg.de/>

## **Volkshochschule Meppen gGmbH | Frau Lemmen**

 [Freiherr-vom-Stein- Straße 1, 49716 Meppen](#)

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## **Volkshochschule Lingen, Bildungszentrum Gebrüder-Grimm | Frau Dr. Lonnemann**

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