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## Education

### The school system and types of school in Bavaria

#### The Bavarian school system

Every federal state in Germany has its own school system. Some rules apply throughout Germany, such as the  [compulsory school attendance rule](#) and rules governing the grading system.

There are many state schools in Bavaria. State schools are free to attend. You don't need to buy any textbooks. Textbooks are borrowed from the school and returned at the end of the school year. Classes are usually held from Monday to Friday in the morning. There are also afternoon classes. Many schools will supervise pupils at lunchtime or even provide an all-day service after classes have ended.

#### The structure of the school system

##### 1. Primary school (elementary level)

From 6 years old, as a rule, compulsory schooling applies and the children enter primary school. Primary school ranges from grades 1 to 4. The principle of residence applies here: This means that the children usually attend a primary school near their place of residence.

##### 2. Transition from primary school to secondary level

After primary school, children attend a secondary school. There are three options: Mittelschule, Realschule or Gymnasium.

In the last grade of primary school it is decided which secondary school the children will attend after primary school. The teacher makes a school career recommendation for the secondary level. This school career recommendation is discussed in joint consultation with the parents. In Bavaria the recommendation is not binding, meaning that the parents can decide which secondary school their child will go to after primary school.

##### 3. Secondary schools (lower secondary level and upper secondary level)

After primary school, the school system is divided into different types of school with different syllabus and types of leaving certificate. In Bavaria there are three options: Mittelschule, Realschule or Gymnasium.

In principle, it is possible to change which school your child attends if they meet the school's prerequisites. Once your child has successfully completed one type of school, they can continue to attend a school to achieve the next higher school-leaving qualification.

#### Which school qualifications are there?

##### Secondary general school-leaving certificate ("Mittelschulabschluss")

The secondary general school-leaving certificate qualifies above all for taking up [dual vocational training](#). However, many companies providing training require an intermediate school-leaving certificate.

## Intermediate school-leaving certificate ("Mittlerer Schulabschluss")

The intermediate school-leaving certificate opens the way to many vocational training courses. In addition to dual vocational training, it also enables [school-based vocational training](#) and provides access to the various types of school at the upper secondary level, such as specialised upper secondary school, two-year full-time vocational school, specialised academic secondary school and the higher education entrance qualification (Abitur).

## Higher education entrance qualification ("Abitur")

The higher education entrance qualification opens up the possibility of studying at a university if this is desired. This can be a university or a university of applied sciences.

You can find more information on the different types of schools and school-leaving qualifications here, for example:

- An interactive overview of the Bavarian school system is available from [Mein Bildungsweg](#) (available in 10 languages). Click on a school type or qualification in the graphic to learn more.
- Explanatory videos in [German](#), [English](#), [Arabic](#) and [Farsi](#).
- [Handbook Germany: School](#) (available in 9 languages)
- [Make it in Germany: School System](#) (available in 4 languages)

## Compulsory schooling: Does my child have to attend school?

In Germany, attending school is compulsory: All children who live in Germany have to go to school. Compulsory schooling generally starts after reaching 6 years of age. If a child only becomes 6 years old after the start of the new school year (for example in October), they usually start school in the following year.

In Bavaria the new school year begins in September.

Compulsory schooling also applies to disabled children and adolescents.

The specific regulations on compulsory schooling differ in the individual Federal States. In Bavaria children and adolescents have to go to school for at least 9 years (primary school and lower secondary level). In Bavaria this is followed by mandatory attendance at a secondary school of upper secondary level (academic secondary school or part-time vocational school).

School attendance at State schools is free. In addition, there are private schools in Germany, for which school fees usually have to be paid.

## Are you new to Germany?

Your child can attend school as soon as they are old enough. Compulsory schooling begins after three months in Germany at the latest and your child must go to school.

## What is expected of parents or guardians?

Parents or guardians are responsible for ensuring that their children attend school regularly. If your child fails to attend school without a telephone or written excuse, the school is required to search for your child.

If your child frequently fails to attend lessons without an excuse or a certificate, you may have to pay a fine.

If your child is ill or cannot attend school for other important reasons, you must sign him/her out at the school office before school starts. If your child is ill for several days, you must provide the school with a doctor's note.

## School admissions examination


 [Handbook Germany: School Entry Health Checks](#) (available in 9 languages)

All school-age children are examined as part of the school admissions examination. It takes place in the year before admission to primary school. This examination plays an important role as it allows us to recognise at an early stage whether your child is developmentally ready for school or whether they still need support with preparing for school. The school admissions examination takes place on site at the kindergarten. You will be informed about the examination date by the kindergarten.

The examination is carried out by professionals from the health department. During the examination, your child's motor skills, vision, hearing and speech will be tested. Their vaccination status will also be checked.

Every child in Germany must sit the school admissions examination. If you have any questions, you can also contact your child's kindergarten.

Further information is also available from the Health Department of the Munich District Office:

 [08962211000](tel:08962211000)

 [@gesundheitswesen@Lra-m.bayern.de](mailto:@gesundheitswesen@Lra-m.bayern.de)

 [Admissions examination in kindergartens](#)

## Measles Protection Act: Do I need to get my child vaccinated?

The Measles Protection Act has been in force in Germany since 1 March 2020. This law stipulates that **vaccination against measles is compulsory**. This means that your child must be vaccinated against measles in order to attend kindergarten, day care or school. Currently (as of 2023), only the measles vaccination is compulsory. Your child does not need to be vaccinated against other diseases. Vaccinations can protect your child from getting sick or becoming seriously ill with certain diseases.

You can find more information at  [Handbook Germany: Vaccinations for children and adolescents](#) (in 9 languages).


## School holidays and public holidays


### School holidays

Schools are closed during the school holidays. Pupils do not attend school during this period. These are the school holidays for Bavaria:

- 1 week autumn holidays All Saints' Day (1 November),
- 2 weeks Christmas break between Christmas (24 December) and Epiphany (6 January),
- 1 week winter holidays starting on Shrove Monday,
- 2 weeks Easter holidays around Easter,
- 2 weeks of Whitsun holidays around Pentecost,
- 6 weeks summer holidays from the end of July or beginning of August until the start of the new school year in September.

## Bank Holidays

In addition to school holidays, schools will also be closed on bank holidays. You can find out which bank holidays there are in Bavaria here:  [Bank holidays in Bavaria](#).



Jewish, Muslim and Orthodox pupils are exempt from lessons on certain religious holidays  [www.km.bayern.de/ministerium/termine/ferientermin...](http://www.km.bayern.de/ministerium/termine/ferientermin...)



Please inform the school if your child cannot come to school due to these holidays.


## School attendance in the District of Munich

### Which school can my child go to?

### Schools in the District of Munich


 In order to enrol your child in a school, you must be registered at the  [Residents' Registration Office](#) where you live.

The "Sprengel principle" applies to both state primary and secondary schools. A "Sprengel" is a school district. This means that your child must attend the school that is responsible for your place of residence. You can find out which school is responsible for your place of residence at the  [Bürgerbüro for your municipal administration](#) or by visiting the following webpage  [Sprengelschulen im Landkreis München](#)

If you have any questions about school registration or need assistance with this, you can contact an  [advisory centre](#).

### Children aged 6 to 10 years

Children aged 6 to 10 years will attend a normal class in primary school which provides additional German language support ("Deutsch-PLUS"). If your child needs more support, there are other services available.

You can register your child directly with the relevant primary school. You can find out which school is responsible for your place of residence by contacting the  [municipal administration in your place of residence](#).

### Children aged 11 to 15 years

Children and young people between the ages of 11 and 15 attend special German classes at a secondary school. In the German class they learn the German language and have lessons in other subjects such as mathematics and English. Please enrol your child at the school nearest to your home. The type of school does not matter, as the German classes are independent of the type of school.

The following schools offer German classes in the school year 2024/2025:

## Grades 5 and 6


- Gräfelfing:  [Kurt-Huber-Gymnasium](#)
- Haar:  [Mittelschule Haar](#)
- Hohenbrunn:  [Carl-Steinmeier-Mittelschule](#)
- Ismaning:  [Johann-Andreas-Schmeller-Realschule](#)
- Oberhaching:  [Mittelschule Oberhaching](#)
- Ottobrunn:  [Gymnasium Ottobrunn](#)
- Unterföhring:  [Gymnasium Unterföhring](#)
- Unterhaching:  [Mittelschule Unterhaching](#)
- Unterschleißheim:  [Therese-Giehse-Realschule](#)

## Grades 7 to 9

- Garching:  [Max-Mannheimer-Mittelschule](#)
- Gräfelfing:  [Mittelschule Lochham](#)
- Haar:  [Mittelschule Haar](#)
- Hohenbrunn:  [Carl-Steinmeier-Mittelschule](#)
- Kirchheim:  [Mittelschule Kirchheim](#)
- Oberhaching:  [Mittelschule Oberhaching](#)
- Oberschleißheim:  [Berglwald-Mittelschule Oberschleißheim](#)
- Pullach:  [Josef-Breher-Mittelschule](#)
- Taufkirchen:  [Mittelschule Taufkirchen](#)


## Young persons aged from 16 to 21

Teenagers and young adults attend a German class at a vocational school or technical college. To enrol in a German class, please contact the **Staatliche Berufsschule München-Land**:

 [089 / 693 1282 - 12](tel:089_693_1282_12) (Monday to Thursday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.)

 [@sekretariat-fk@bs-ml.de](mailto:sekretariat-fk@bs-ml.de)

 [Vocational integration classes in the District of Munich](#)

💡 Young people aged 16 and over who have a school-leaving certificate or have attended school for 9 years can also take part in a **youth integration course**. For more information, please see the chapter entitled  [Learning German](#).

## International schools

There are a number of private international schools in the Munich area. The language of instruction at these schools is not German. The certificates they issue are not recognised by the state. This means that you cannot attend a German school-leaving certificate by attending these schools. Private schools usually charge attendance fees.

 [International schools in Munich and the surrounding area](#)


## Financial support for children attending school

You do not have to pay anything for your child to attend a state school. The school will provide some materials, such as textbooks, free of charge. Your child will borrow the textbooks and return them to the school at the end of the school year.

## Travel costs for getting to school

If your child needs a ticket to travel to and from school, you can apply for a cost exemption for this journey. The form is available from the school office. It is best to ask directly when registering your child at the school. If the requirements for a cost exemption are met, pupils will receive a free annual ticket for the entire MVV area.

## Costs for school materials, lunch and school excursions

The school will give you a list of supplies that your child will need at school either at the beginning of the school year or prior to it, and this will include things such as pencils and notebooks. You will have to pay for these school supplies yourself. You will also need to cover the cost of school excursions and school lunches yourself. If you are struggling financially, you can get financial support for these costs using the education and participation package (short: "BuT"). You can find out exactly which subsidies are available, who is eligible for them and how to apply on the page about the  [education and participation package](#).


## Tutoring, help with school, and homework help

If your child is struggling with a school subject, tutoring can help. Tutoring is private tuition. Tutoring usually costs money. Tutoring can take place in groups with several children or on a 1:1 basis.


Older pupils, students or neighbours might even offer to tutor your child for a small fee. Some schools and youth centres also offer free homework help in the afternoon.

Talk to your child's teachers about whether they would benefit from having a tutor.

## Tutoring when you have little money

If you are struggling financially and receive state social benefits, your child can receive benefits for education and participation (BuT). The BuT benefits also include, for example, financial support for private tutoring. You can find out how to apply for BuT benefits on the page entitled  **Benefits for education and participation**.

## **Free online homework help**

Your child can also get help with learning online. For example, at  [lern-fair](#). Students provide free help with homework here. Support is provided via video chat and in German.

## **Advice and support**

### **Social work in schools**


Many schools have social workers. They advise and help with school and private problems, anger or other worries. They work confidentially. This means that they must not tell anyone about the problems.

Check with your school.

## **Recognition of foreign educational qualifications**

Foreign school-leaving certificates or educational achievements can be recognised in Germany if they are comparable and there are no major differences. Only school-leaving qualifications can be recognised. Achievements during ongoing school education are not recognised. The school in question decides on the placement in a particular type of school or grade.

## **Equivalence with German qualifications**

 As a rule, the receiving school or university will assess a foreign certificate. Only if the school is unable to make its own decision will the Certificate Recognition Office check the certificate.

## **Secondary school leaving certificate ("Hauptschulabschluss")**

Pupils must have successfully completed at least nine years of schooling to obtain the German Hauptschulabschluss. They must have studied their mother tongue, a foreign language, mathematics, a science subject, a social science subject, music, art and sport.

## **Intermediate school leaving certificate ("Mittlerer Schulabschluss", "Realschulabschluss")**

Ten years of schooling are required for the intermediate school leaving certificate. The same subjects must be studied as for the secondary school leaving certificate.


## **Higher education entrance qualification ("Hochschulreife")**

The higher education entrance qualification for vocational purposes, e.g. for vocational training, is recognised by the Certificate Recognition Office ("Zeugnis-anerkennungsstelle").

For admission to higher education, the universities themselves decide on recognition.



## Consultation and support

Do you have any questions? Would you like to apply for recognition of your qualifications?  
You can find advice and support here: 



[Office for Integration in the District of Munich](#)


**Do you have any questions? Contact the  [Integration Counseling](#)**


## Getting a school leaving certificate

There are various ways to gain a school leaving certificate even after you have left school. This is possible, for example, if

- you don't yet have a school leaving certificate.
- School leaving certificates from other countries will not be recognised in Germany.
- You would like to gain your high school leaving certificate.

Classes can be delivered on a part-time basis, at night, or on a full-time basis. There are international classes in which German language support is offered. In many cases, school attendance is free of charge for you and is financed by tax money. The textbooks are almost always provided by the schools.


If you are employed, you can get advice from the career guidance service at the employment agency:  [Career guidance: Second-chance education](#).

If you are receiving benefits from the Job Centre, please contact your contact person at  [Case management](#).

More information and advice can also be found from the  [integration coordination service](#).

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## SABA digital - Educational scholarships for women with refugee and migration experience

The SABA digital educational scholarship supports women with refugee and migration experience to gain a school leaving qualification using the second-chance educational path. Further information is also available at  [SABA digital - educational scholarships](#).

## How can I apply?

 Applications can be submitted until the May prior to the start of the coming school year!

 [Info sheet with application form](#)

@[saba-bewerbung@berami.de](mailto:saba-bewerbung@berami.de)

**Do you have any questions? Contact the  [Integration Counseling](#)**

## Studies




### Higher education in Germany

There are different types of colleges where you can go to study. For example, universities, universities of applied sciences and arts, dual universities or vocational academies and many more. Universities can be state-, church- or private-run. At state universities, studies are free of charge. At private universities, you usually have to pay tuition fees.

In Germany, a distinction is made between **degree programmes with open admissions and those with restricted admissions**. There are enough places for all applicants in the open-admission degree programmes. This means that applying for these places is usually easier. In the restricted-admission degree programmes, there are more applications than there are available places. There are special rules for applying for places on these programmes. Important: Please note the deadlines for applications!

The academic year usually consists of two semesters. The winter semester starts in September or October. The summer semester starts in March or April. Most degree programmes start in the winter semester.

You can find more information on various universities and degree programmes here, for example:

-  [Higher Education Compass](#) (also available in English): Information on all degree programmes and universities in Germany
-  [Employment Agency: Step by step guide to finding the right course](#) (available in English and Arabic)
-  [German Academic Exchange Service](#) (also available in English)


**Do you have any questions? Contact the  [Integration Counseling](#)**

### Can I study in Germany?

If you want to study in Germany, you will need a school leaving certificate and you should be able to speak German to a high standard.

### School leaving certificate

If you want to study in Germany, you will need a school leaving certificate. An example of a school leaving qualification is the Abitur.

If you did not complete your school leaving certificate in Germany, we will need to check your qualifications. Your future university is responsible for checking qualifications. If you do not yet know which university you would like to attend, you can also have your certificate checked at a state recognition office. Further information can be found on the page  [Recognition of foreign educational qualifications](#).

💡 If you have completed an apprenticeship in Germany and have worked in your profession for a few years, you can also study without a school leaving certificate under certain conditions.

## German language skills

Most degree programmes are taught in German. Most universities require that you know German to B2 level or C1 level. Each university decides for itself which language level is required.

## Further information

- 🌐 [Make it in Germany: Studies in Germany](#) (available in German, English, French and Spanish)
- 🌐 [Handbook Germany: University Application](#) (available in 9 languages)
- 🌐 [Federal Ministry of Education and Research: Study in Germany](#)

**Do you have any questions? Contact the 🌐 [Integration Counseling](#)**

## Refuge and asylum: Offers for refugees

### Preparatory year at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (abbr: LMU) in Munich

Sometimes it's not possible to start studying in Germany right away. For example, because you don't speak enough German yet. LMU runs a preparatory year for people with a refugee background. The programme includes, for example, free German courses. Had you already started studying before you fled? Then this programme may be suitable for you. 🌐 [LMU programme for refugees](#)

### English-language degree programmes at the Rosenheim University of Applied Sciences

The Rosenheim University of Applied Sciences runs English-language degree programmes at Bachelor and Master level. You need no or virtually no knowledge of German for these degree programmes.

🌐 [www.th-rosenheim.de/international/internationale-...](http://www.th-rosenheim.de/international/internationale-...)


## Kiron Campus: Online courses

🌐 [Kiron Campus](#) is a platform with online courses from various universities. The online courses are available in English. There are also language courses for English or German. All courses are free of charge after you have registered. To register, you will need to provide proof that you have a refugee background or are still having your claim for asylum processed. It is not possible to get a recognised degree.

**Do you have any questions? Contact the 🌐 [Integration Counseling](#)**

## Student guidance and support

### Educational guidance Garantiefonds Hochschule


The  [educational counselling service Garantiefonds Hochschule \(GF-H\)](#) advises immigrants on preparing for, taking up and continuing higher education studies in Germany. Counselling is open to all immigrants with an interest in studying, regardless of their residence status or age.

Topics dealt with by the educational counselling service include:

- Language levels and suitable language courses,
- The assessment of qualifications issued outside Germany,
- The range of study programmes in Germany,
- Crediting study achievements gained outside Germany,
- University applications,
- Scholarships and funding opportunities.

For more information, see the  [Education Guidance brochure](#) (available in 8 languages).

If you have any questions, you can contact the team at the  [Munich office](#).

You can register for counselling online using this form:  [Online registration form](#) (available in German and English).

### General guidance for prospective students

What should I study? At which university? With which combination of subjects? Every university has a general student advisory service for prospective students. The General Student Advisory Service provides guidance and support in choosing a course of study.

### Universities in Munich


 [Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich](#)

 [Munich University of Technology](#)

## Other training and educational opportunities

### Free online educational offers

#### OnCampus: Free online courses

 [OnCampus](#) is a platform for online courses provided by Lübeck University of Applied Sciences. There are online courses on many different subjects. The courses are delivered in German or English. To participate in courses, simply create a user account free of charge. Please note that certificates will not be issued.

Some courses are free for all participants, and some courses are only free for people with a refugee background. 💡 In order for you to access all courses free of charge, you will need a discount code for certain courses. You will be sent the discount code by e-mail. To get the code, write to @ [info@oncampus.de](mailto:info@oncampus.de)

## OpenHPI: Free online courses

🌐 [OpenHPI](#) is a platform for online courses in the IT field provided by the Hasso Plattner Institute. The courses are delivered in German or English. To attend in courses, simply create a user account free of charge.

## Computer courses and digital assistance

### Computer courses from AbilityAid

AbilityAid is a provider of computer courses. There are courses for the programmes Word, Excel or Powerpoint. The courses are free of charge.

💡 If you let us know in advance, interpreters can be made available on site. You can bring your children to the course.

📍 Dachauer Straße 21a, 80335 München

☎ [089 / 59998823](tel:08959998823)  
@ability@arrivalaid.org

🌐 [AbilityAid course programme](#)

## Digital Help Munich

Digital Help is a free service for anyone who needs support with using the internet or digital media.

Digital Help is for anyone in Munich with questions about computers, tablets and smartphones.

Give us a call, send us an email or visit us during our open hours.

☎ [089 21528594](tel:08921528594)  
@ [kontakt@digitalehilfe-muc.de](mailto:kontakt@digitalehilfe-muc.de)  
🌐 [Digital help Munich](#)

### Digital help on site:

📍 "PIXEL", Rosenheimer Straße 5, 81667 München (at Gasteig)  
📅 Tuesdays: 12 to 6 pm (without appointment)

📍 "z'sam", Theresienstraße 63, 80333 München

🕒 Fridays: 10 am to 4 pm (without appointment)

## Courses at adult education centres

An adult education centre (abbr: VHS) is a school for adults. Anyone who enrolls in a course at the VHS does so voluntarily. You decide for yourself what interests you and what you want to learn.

At the VHS, learning takes place in groups. That's why you can meet many people at the VHS.

A VHS runs different courses. You can learn a language or do sports or learn how to cook and much more. You can even sit an exam to gain your school leaving certificate at some adult education centres

There are many adult education centres, perhaps close to where you live: 🌐 [Adult education centres in the district of Munich](#)

## ReDi School of Digital Integration

ReDI School of Digital Integration is a non-profit tech school providing access to free digital education. Besides to computer or programming courses, they offer a unique career program including mentorship, career workshops and job fairs to speed-up job market integration for newcomers and locals in the IT field. Additionally there are special courses for kids and teens as well as for women.

All courses, offers and further information you can find here: 🌐 [www.redi-school.org/munich](http://www.redi-school.org/munich)

### ReDi-School Munich

📍 [Rosenheimer Straße 139, 81671 München](#)