GLOSSARY

Allgemeine Hochschulreife
General higher education entrance qualification. Entitles holder to admission to all subjects at all higher education institutions and is usually obtained at upper «Gymnasium level (=gymnasiale Oberstufe) by passing the Abitur examination.

Bachlor
The Bachelor's degree as a first higher education degree provides qualification for a profession. It can be obtained after a standard period of study (Regelstudienzeit) of six, seven or eight semesters at universities and equivalent institutions of higher education, at colleges of art and music and at Fachhochschulen. Together with the «Master's degree, the Bachelor's degree is part of a graduation system of consecutive degrees which has replaced the traditional system of higher education qualifications (Diplom and Magister).

Berufliches Gymnasium
Type of school at upper secondary level offering a three-year course of education which includes both the general education subjects taught at upper «Gymnasium level (=gymnasiale Oberstufe) and career-oriented subjects, such as business and technology, but which also leads to the general higher education entrance qualification.

Berufskolleg
Vocational school at upper secondary level generally providing part-time instruction in general and vocational subjects to trainees receiving vocational education and training within the dual system.

Fachakademische Hochschule
Qualification entitling holder to study particular subjects at a higher education institution. May be obtained through certain courses of vocational education at upper secondary level.

Fachschule/Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften
Type of higher education institution established in the 1970s, which has the particular function of providing application-oriented teaching and research, particularly in engineering, business, administration, social services and design.

Fachoberschule
Qualification entitling holder to study at a Fachoberschule. May usually be obtained after 12 years of schooling at a Fachoberschule or – under certain conditions – at other vocational schools.

Fördergrundschule
Special school – school establishment for pupils whose development cannot be adequately assessed at mainstream schools on account of disability. Also known as Förderzentrum or Schule für Behinderte.

Grundschule
Compulsory school for all children of the age of six onwards. It comprises four grades, except in Berlin and Brandenburg where it covers six grades.

Hauptabitur
The upper level of the «Gymnasium, which can however be established at other types of school. It comprises grades 11–13 or 10–12, depending on the Land and the type of school. Course of general education concluded by the Abitur examination, which leads to the general higher education entrance qualification (= Allgemeine Hochschulreife).

Gymnasium
Type of school covering both lower and upper secondary level (grades 4–9 or 5–12) and providing an in-depth general education aimed at the general higher education entrance qualification. Since 2019, in the majority of Länder the «Allgemeine Hochschulreife can be obtained after the successful completion of at least consecutive school years (eight years at the Gymnasium).

Hauptabitur
Type of school at lower secondary level providing a basic general education. Compulsory school, unless pupil is attending a different type of secondary school, usually comprising grades 5–9.

Integrierte Kindergarten
The pre-school establishment for children with disabilities – also known as a Förderkreiskindergarten or Förderkindergarten.

Kindergartenstätte
Pre-school establishment for children as part of child and youth welfare services – may be either publicly or privately maintained (not part of the school system).

Kolle
Establishment of the so-called Zweiter Bildungsweg where adults attend full-time classes to obtain the general higher education entrance qualification.

Master
The Master’s degree as a further higher education degree provides qualification for a profession and can be obtained after a standard period of study (Regelstudienzeit) of two, three or four semesters at universities and equivalent institutions of higher education, colleges of art and music and Fachhochschulen. As a rule, the entry requirement for a Master’s study course is a first higher education degree qualifying for a profession. Consecutive Master’s study courses are part of a graduation system of consecutive degrees which has replaced the traditional system of higher education qualifications (Diplom and Magister). Master’s qualifications provide the same rights as Diplom and Magister qualifications of universities and equivalent institutions of higher education.

Mittelstufe der Schule
General education school leaving certificate obtained on completion of grade 9 at Hauptschule, or, under certain circumstances, at other lower secondary level school types. It can also be obtained at a later stage during vocational training at upper secondary level. In some Länder called Realschulabschluss.

Promotion
Award of a doctoral degree on the basis of a doctoral thesis and either an oral examination or a defence of the student’s thesis. As a rule, the doctorate is embarked on after completing a first course of study culminating in the Magister. Diploma or Staatsprüfung, as well as after obtaining a Master’s qualification, and the promotion serves as proof of ability to undertake in-depth academic work.

Realschule
Type of school at lower secondary level, usually comprising grades 5–10. Provides pupils with a more extensive general education and the opportunity to go on to courses of education at upper secondary level that lead to vocational or higher education entrance qualifications.

Staatsprüfung
State examination concluding a course of study in certain subjects (e.g. medical subjects, teaching, law). Also refers to examination taken by law students and teaching students at the end of their preparatory service (known as the Second State Examination). The examinations are administered by examination committees staffed not only by professors from the institutions of higher education but also by representatives of the state examination offices of the Länder. In Länder which have a consecutive study structure for teacher training, the Master’s degree replaces the First State Examination as a rule. The Second State Examination must, however, be taken after the preparatory service.
Basic Structure of the Educational System in the Federal Republic of Germany

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Junior/Secondary level

Primary Education

Pre-school Education

Continuing Education

Tertiary Education

Secondary level I

Secondary level II

Further Education

Basic Structure of the Educational System

Diagram of the basic structure of the education system. The distribution of the school population in grade 9 as per 2017 taken as a national average is as follows: Hauptschule 9.8 per cent, Realschule 12.6 per cent. Gymnasium 8.4 per cent, unintegrated Gymnasium 11.6 per cent, types of school with several courses of education 12.1 per cent, special schools 5.8 per cent.

The ability of pupils to transfer between school types and the recognition of school-leaving qualifications is basically guaranteed if the conditions agreed between the Länder are fulfilled. The duration of full-time compulsory education (comparably general education) is nine years (in five of the Länder) and the subsequent period of part-time compulsory education (comparably vocational education) is three years.

In some Länder special types of transition from early childhood to primary education (Kindergarten, Kindergartensätze) exist. In Berlin and Brandenburg the primary school comprises six grades.

Teaching pupils with special educational needs in inclusive classes at general education schools or in special education schools with a focus on “mental development” award school-specific qualifications.

In the different school types:

- Realschule and Hauptschule type of school comparable to a Gymnasium
- Realschule plus further education

The Länder may also establish a grade 13. After successful completion of grade 13, pupils who have successfully completed the Mittlerer Schulabschluss and have been through initial vocational training can also enter the Fachoberschule directly in grade 12.

The general education qualifications that may be obtained after grades 9 and 10 carry particular weight in the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany and are the basis for the determination of the educational path and its particular direction.

In the majority of Länder, pupils who have successfully completed the Mittlerer Schulabschluss and qualifies them to study at a University.

The general education qualifications that may be obtained after grades 7 carry particular weight in the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Haupt- und Realschule (Hauptschule leaving certificate) after 9 years, either in the general or the vocational form, can be acquired under certain conditions.

The general education qualifications that may be obtained after grades 11 carry particular weight in the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Haupt- und Realschule (Realschule leaving certificate) after 10 years, either in the general or the vocational form, can be acquired under certain conditions.

Haupt- und Realschule (Realschule leaving certificate) after 11 years, either in the general or the vocational form, can be acquired under certain conditions. The general education qualifications that may be obtained after grades 10 carry particular weight in the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Addition to the gymnasiales Oberstufe requires a formal entrance qualification which can be obtained after grade 10 or 11. The干什么．．．．．．has so far only existed in a few Länder and offers school-leavers with the Mittlerer Schulabschluss who have completed vocational education and training to five years' working experience the opportunity to obtain the Fachoberschulabschluss. The pupil can obtain the Fachoberschulabschluss by proving their proficiency in a second foreign language.

In some Länder special types of transition from early childhood to primary education (Kindergarten, Kindergartensätze) exist. In Berlin and Brandenburg the primary school comprises six grades. Teaching pupils with special educational needs in inclusive classes at general education schools or in special education schools with a focus on “learning” award school-specific qualifications.

The general education qualifications that may be obtained after grades 9 and 10 carry particular weight in the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany and are the basis for the determination of the educational path and its particular direction.

In the majority of Länder, pupils who have successfully completed the Mittlerer Schulabschluss and have been through initial vocational training can also enter the Fachoberschule directly in grade 12.

The general education qualifications that may be obtained after grades 9 and 10 carry particular weight in the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany and are the basis for the determination of the educational path and its particular direction.