



Professional Career with a Future, Switzerland Basel Basic Vocational Education and Vocational Schools



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Basic vocational education and training (vocational apprenticeship) follow from compulsory schooling. Most young people in Switzerland start their careers with basic vocational training. Basic vocational training is the advantage is the combination of professional practice and school lessons (dual system). There are more than 250 apprenticeships in Switzerland with different profiles and requirements. The advantage of the Swiss system of basic vocational education and training lies in the close link between professional practice and school teaching: the young people work in their training company and usually attend a vocational school one or two days a week. Basic vocational training leads to the Federal Vocational Certificate (EBA) in two years and to the Federal Certificate of Proficiency (EFZ) in three or four years. After the professional certificate, the certificate of proficiency can be obtained - even vocational training time is shortened depending on your performance. The cantonal apprenticeship supervisory authority ensures that the federal legal regulations are complied with in vocational training. It issues training permits to companies, conducts training courses for vocational trainers, and ensures that the apprenticeship contracts that must be approved by it are complied with. An up-to-date overview of the selection of apprenticeships can be found on the official Swiss information portal www.berufsberatung.ch. The Career, Study, and Career Counselling Centre advises and informs young people and adults free of charge on all matters relating to career and study choices as well as career planning. You can find detailed information on the web at www.biz.bs.ch.

Keywords: vocational education, vocational apprenticeship, vocational training, professional career, vocational schools, Switzerland Basel basic vocational education

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Dear Readers,

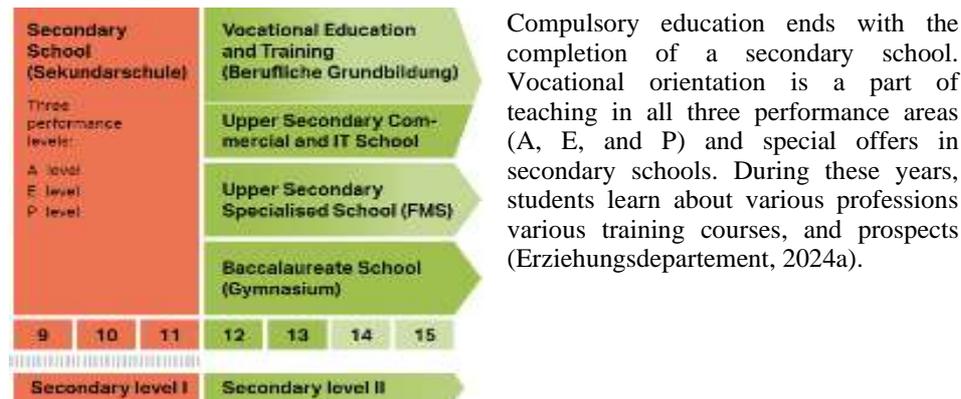


Figure 1
The Education System in Basel (Erziehungsdepartement, 2022b)

Basic vocational education and training (vocational apprenticeship) follow on from compulsory schooling. In Switzerland, around two-thirds of all young people start an apprenticeship after secondary school. There are around 260 different apprenticeships. An apprenticeship combines practice and theory and lasts two, three, or four years (Erziehungsdepartement, 2024c). Most young people in Switzerland start their careers with basic vocational training. There are more than 250 apprenticeships in Switzerland with different profiles and requirements (Erziehungsdepartement, 2024d).

Basic vocational training is the advantage is the combination of professional practice and school lessons. The practical training takes place for three to four days in the teaching company and on one or two days the theoretical lessons are taught at the vocational school (Erziehungsdepartement, 2024e).

The vocational pathway leads the young people either directly to vocational practice and vocational school or a full-time school. Anyone who completes a two-, three- or four-year apprenticeship works in an apprenticeship company and attends a vocational school (dual system) for one or two days a week. High-achieving young people can also obtain the vocational baccalaureate during or after a three- or four-year apprenticeship. This opens the way to higher technical colleges and universities of applied sciences (Erziehungsdepartement, 2024f).

The Swiss system of vocational education and training is very dynamic and has a high degree of permeability between the individual training courses: new occupational profiles are added every year or existing profiles are adapted to the changing requirements of society (Erziehungsdepartement, 2024d).

Basic vocational training leads to the Federal Vocational Certificate (EBA) in two years and to the Federal Certificate of Proficiency (EFZ) in three or four years. The academic

and practical requirements for the professional certificate are less stringent. After the professional certificate, the certificate of proficiency can be obtained - even vocational training time is shortened depending on your performance (Erziehungsdepartement, 2024f).

The advantage of the Swiss system of basic vocational education and training lies in the close link between professional practice and school teaching: the young people work in their training company and usually attend a vocational school one or two days a week. The vocational school imparts theoretical knowledge in the professional field; however, general education subjects and sports are also taught there. The third place of learning is the inter-company courses, in which basic professional expertise is imparted. This parallel training in the company and vocational school – known as the dual or tripartite system – is a broad-based basis for the start of professional life. In some occupational fields, basic vocational training is also offered exclusively at a school. These include, for example, the business secondary school, which leads to the commercial vocational baccalaureate in three years and a subsequent practical year, or the state training workshops for poly-mechanics and clothing designers (Erziehungsdepartement, 2024d).

An up-to-date overview of the selection of apprenticeships can be found on the official Swiss information portal www.berufsberatung.ch. You can find much more information about apprenticeships, professions, training, further education, training course selection, career choice, and career planning here (Berufsberatung, 2024).

The cantonal apprenticeship supervisory authority ensures that the federal legal regulations are complied with in vocational training. It issues training permits to companies, conducts training courses for vocational trainers, and ensures that the apprenticeship contracts that must be approved by it are complied with. The employees of the apprenticeship supervision are there for apprentices and training companies with questions about vocational training and offer advice in the event of difficulties of all kinds (Erziehungsdepartement, 2024d).

The Career, Study, and Career Counselling Centre (Die Fachstelle Berufs-, Studien- und Laufbahnberatung) advises and informs young people and adults free of charge on all matters relating to career and study choices as well as career planning. You can find detailed information on the web at www.biz.bs.ch (Erziehungsdepartement, 2024g).

Sincerely,

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