



With the Professional Baccalaureate, the Ideal Route to University of Applied Sciences in Basel, Switzerland



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The Swiss system of vocational education and training is very dynamic. The advantage of the Swiss system of basic vocational education and training lies in the close link between professional practice and school teaching. Most young people in Switzerland start their careers with basic vocational training. Basic vocational training is favorable, because it is the combination of professional practice and school lessons. The vocational pathway leads the young people either directly to vocational practice and vocational school or a full-time school. 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. High-achieving pupils can also obtain the vocational baccalaureate (BM) during or after their apprenticeship. With this way, they have exam-free access to the universities of applied sciences. The vocational baccalaureate can be obtained in various disciplines and in different ways. It is always related to vocational training and can be obtained during the apprenticeship (BM1), after successful completion of the apprenticeship (BM2) or within the framework of the business secondary school (WMS) or the computer science secondary school (IMS). In order to be admitted to the vocational baccalaureate school, one must meet the admission requirements or pass an entrance exam. This applies to both BM1 and BM2. The Canton of Basel-Stadt offers baccalaureate courses for working people and the one-year passerelle course for adults with a vocational baccalaureate. Both allow students to study at a university or university of applied sciences with certain restrictions. You can find detailed information on the web at www.berufsberatung.ch and www.berufsmaturbb.ch/home.html.

Keywords: professional baccalaureate, vocational education, professional career, Switzerland Basel basic vocational education, university of applied sciences

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Dear Readers,

High-achieving pupils can also obtain the vocational baccalaureate (BM) during or after their apprenticeship. With this way, they have exam-free access to the universities of applied sciences. In the vocational baccalaureate school (BMS), you will expand your general education and specialist knowledge in addition to the lessons at the vocational school. The vocational baccalaureate enormously improves professional development opportunities. Access to a Swiss university or the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology ETH is also possible with the additional passerelle course and an examination (Erziehungsdepartement, 2024a).

Basic vocational education and training leads to the Federal Vocational Certificate (EBA) in two years or to the Federal Certificate of Proficiency (EFZ) in three or four years. After the professional certificate, the certificate of proficiency can be obtained. It can also be shortened depending on the performance. Particularly motivated and talented young people have the opportunity to obtain the vocational baccalaureate during or after basic vocational education and training (Erziehungsdepartement, 2024b).

The vocational baccalaureate can be obtained in various disciplines and in different ways. It is always related to vocational training and can be obtained during the apprenticeship (BM1), after successful completion of the apprenticeship (BM2) or within the framework of the business secondary school (WMS) or the computer science secondary school (IMS). The technical orientations of the vocational baccalaureate are (Erziehungsdepartement, 2024a):

- Engineering, Architecture and Life Sciences
- Economy and services
- Design and Art
- Health and social affairs
- Nature, landscape and food

For more information about apprenticeships, professions, training and further education, you can refer to the official Swiss information portal "berufsberatung.ch" for vocational, study and career counselling (Berufsberatung, 2024).

In the case of BM1, the profession you choose usually determines the orientation. In BM2, vocational baccalaureate students choose their own orientation, regardless of which profession they have previously learned. In order to be admitted to the vocational baccalaureate school, one must meet the admission requirements or pass an entrance exam. This applies to both BM1 and BM2. The BM2 can be achieved either in a full-time year (2 semesters) or part-time (in 4 semesters). In the case of the part-time variant, up to 80 percent of the workforce is possible, depending on the chosen orientation (Erziehungsdepartement, 2024a).

Information about the different orientations, the exact requirements and more about the vocational baccalaureate can be found on the website [Apprenticeship plus Vocational Baccalaureate](https://www.berufsmaturbb.ch/home.html) (Berufsmatur, 2024).



Figure 1
Look into your future: What you can become with BM
(<https://www.berufsmaturbb.ch/home.html>)

Following the vocational baccalaureate, access to universities can also be achieved through a passerelle course and an examination. The Canton of Basel-Stadt offers baccalaureate courses for working people and the one-year passerelle course for adults with a vocational baccalaureate. Both allow students to study at a university or university of applied sciences with certain restrictions (Erziehungsdepartement, 2024c).

Sincerely,

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