

Information on education and training opportunities to fulfil compulsory education or training requirements

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General information on fulfilling compulsory education or training requirements

Compulsory education or training applies to **all young people up to their 18th birthday** who have completed compulsory education and are permanent residents in Austria. The **goal** is to enable all young people to obtain a qualification that goes beyond the compulsory school leaving qualification and to prevent early dropping out of education.

This information offers a complete **overview** of all **training opportunities** in Austria that count towards fulfilment of compulsory education or training, based on the Compulsory Education or Training Act. The creation and publication of this list takes place in accordance with Section 11 (6) (2) and Section 8 (3) Compulsory Education or Training Act.

Compulsory education or training requirements are fulfilled by:

School attendance	Apprenticeship	Training for health and social professions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AHS (academic secondary school), BMS (intermediate vocational school), BHS (higher vocational college)• Special types of school• Agriculture and forestry schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-company apprenticeship training• Supra-company apprenticeship training• Extended apprenticeship• Partial qualification (modular vocational qualification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training opportunities in the area of healthcare and nursing and social work

Under certain circumstances, compulsory training or education requirements can also be fulfilled through other **training or education measures**. For a detailed list of all offers that fulfil compulsory education or training requirements, see page 5.

Compulsory education ends on a person's 18th birthday. However, it can also end earlier if, after completing general compulsory schooling, one of the following training courses was successfully completed:

- (vocational) intermediate school lasting at least two years
- an apprenticeship or partial qualification according to the Vocational Training Act or the Agricultural and Forestry Vocational Training Act

- training in a healthcare profession for at least 2,500 hours according to the legal requirements

Training-free periods

In order not to violate compulsory education and training requirements, **a maximum of three months may be spent without attending training** within a rolling twelve-month period. This covers free periods during courses and training measures with a modular structure or holiday periods.

In addition, the compulsory education and training requirements are not violated while **waiting for a training course to start**, in particular if, during this time, young people make use of advice from youth coaching or job assistance or are enrolled in a process according to Section 14 Compulsory Education or Training Act (= support from the AusBildung bis 18 coordination centres).

Under certain circumstances, **compulsory education and training is waived**:

- for adolescent mothers during maternity leave and for adolescent parents while in receipt of the individually selected childcare allowance payments
- during conscription procedures, compulsory military service, training service or civil service or during voluntary services (social service year, environmental year, Holocaust memorial service, peace or social service abroad)
- if medical reasons exist that make starting/resuming training impossible
- in the event of other circumstances of comparable significance (e.g. a case of hardship)

Unqualified employment (“auxiliary work”)

In the context of compulsory education and training, performing unqualified employment (“auxiliary work”) is not allowed. However, youth coaching or the Public Employment Service (AMS) may consider unqualified employment to be temporarily meaningful or justified. If this is the case, this must be recorded in the prospect plan by the youth coaching service or in the support agreement by the Public Employment Service (AMS).

During holidays, young people may continue to accept holiday jobs – unless obligatory work placements are envisaged – including in the form of auxiliary activities.

Detailed list of opportunities where attendance or participation fulfils compulsory education or training requirements:

1. Academic or vocational secondary schools

- 1.1. Upper stages (from secondary level II) of **academic secondary schools (AHS)**
- 1.2. **Intermediate vocational schools (BMS)** or **higher vocational colleges (BHS)**
- 1.3. **Special types of schools** (School Organisation Act – Federal Law Gazette number 242/1962 as amended) and private schools (Private School Act – Federal Law Gazette number 244/1964 as amended and Section 8 School Organisation Act definitions)
- 1.4. **Agriculture and forestry schools**

2. Apprenticeship training according to the Vocational Training Act or the Agricultural and Forestry Vocational Training Act

- 2.1. **In-company apprenticeship training** (Section 1 Vocational Training Act or Section 8 Agricultural and Forestry Vocational Training Act)
- 2.2. **Supra-company apprenticeship training** (Section 30b Vocational Training Act or Section 14 Agricultural and Forestry Vocational Training Act)
- 2.3. **Extended apprenticeship** (Section 8b (1) Vocational Training Act or Section 18 Agricultural and Forestry Vocational Training Act), in-company or supra-company
- 2.4. **Partial qualification** (Section 8b (2) Vocational Training Act or Section 19 Agricultural and Forestry Vocational Training Act), in-company or supra-company

3. Training courses for health and social professions

- 3.1. **Schools for healthcare and nursing** (training for higher service in healthcare and nursing, nursing assistant and specialist nursing assistant training, training to become a surgical technical assistant)
- 3.2. **Training to become a surgical technical assistant** at institutions that offer specialised training in care in the area of surgery
- 3.3. **Courses or schools for medical assistant professions** (specialist medical assistant, disinfection assistant, plaster cast assistant, laboratory assistant, autopsy assistant,

surgical assistant, doctor's office assistant, X-ray assistant, surgical technical assistant)

- 3.4. **Courses for training as a nursing assistant**
- 3.5. **Courses to become a dental assistant**
- 3.6. **Courses to become a clinical masseuse/masseur**
- 3.7. **Courses to become a therapeutical masseuse/masseur**
- 3.8. **Courses to become an emergency medical technician**
- 3.9. **Courses to become a paramedic**
- 3.10. **Courses or schools for social care professions** (certified social worker, specialist social care worker, home care assistant)

4. Further education or training measures

To fulfil compulsory education or training requirements, **additional criteria** must be met.

- 4.1. Attendance of **schools or training courses abroad** if these are at least equivalent to comparable Austrian schools or training programmes or are not offered in Austria and therefore no disadvantage is to be expected for young people.
- 4.2. Participation in **officer's or non-commissioned officer's training** if this takes place in the context of a training service or an employment relationship with the Austrian Armed Forces.
- 4.3. Attendance of **preparatory courses for external school-leaving examination or for individual training courses**, for example courses to prepare for the school leaving qualification exam, if a letter of admission and registration at an examination school exist.
- 4.4. Attendance of **vocational training measures with lesson plans and compulsory attendance of participants**, provided no disadvantage is to be expected for young people as a result.

5. Preparatory measures

To fulfil compulsory education or training requirements, preparatory measures must have been deemed admissible in the context of a **support plan set out in writing by the Public Employment Service (AMS)**, or assessed as a promising prospect for the young person in the context of **prospect planning by the Federal Office for Social Affairs and Disability (SMS)** or on its behalf.

- 5.1. Participation in offers or advisory services by the Federal Office for Social Affairs and Disability (**SMS**)
- 5.2. Participation in offers or advisory services by the Public Employment Service (**AMS**)
- 5.3. Participation in **offers by the federal provinces according to province-specific disability acts** for young people with a high need for support that have the goal of integration into continuing education and training offers or into the labour market.
- 5.4. Participation in **offers by the provinces, extracurricular youth work or other projects** with at least 16 hours per week that have the goal of integration into continuing education and training offers.
- 5.5. Participation in **offers by the provinces, extracurricular youth work or other projects** with fewer than 16 hours per week that have the goal of integration into continuing education and training offers (permitted on a temporary basis with simultaneous participation in prospect or support planning).
- 5.6. Participation in a **German language course** necessary for continuing education or training until attainment of the individually required language skills (permitted on a temporary basis as long as this is considered appropriate according to the prospect or support planning).

Non-fulfilment of compulsory education or training

Parents and legal guardians are responsible for ensuring their child fulfils compulsory education or training requirements. In the event of a violation of this obligation, the district administrative authorities may impose an administrative penalty (Section 17 Compulsory Education or Training Act).

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