

School in Bavaria and Ukraine - where are the differences and similarities?

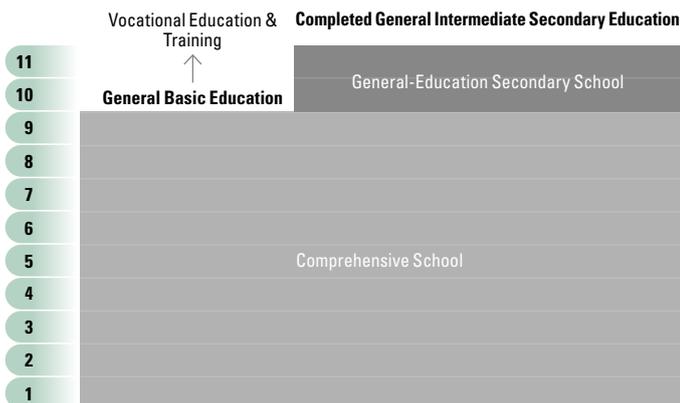
General information about the school systems in Ukraine and Bavaria

In Ukraine, children and young people are educated together up to the 9th grade inclusive. After nine school years, the "general basic education" is acquired.

Afterward, the students decide

- whether they want to continue their school career for another one or two years at a general secondary school or
- enter vocational training right away.

If students in Ukraine decide to stay in secondary school for another two years, they acquire the so-called "full general secondary education." At the end, there is a final school examination and the "external independent assessment" or "national multi-subject test" offered nationwide by the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science. Its successful completion opens the possibility of access to higher education at state universities in Ukraine. Alternatively, access to the so-called third level of vocational education is possible. Hereby, one can acquire in-depth specialized training in a professional field.

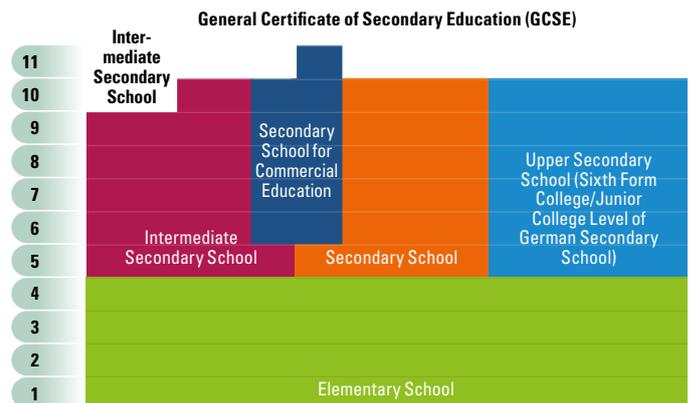


In Bavaria, on the other hand, the common schooling of all students ends after the 4th grade of elementary school. Then, depending on the talent, aptitude, and interests of the students, their school career is continued from the 5th grade onwards at the Bavarian secondary school, the secondary technical school (Realschule), or the pre-university school (Gymnasium). After at least nine years of schooling, a degree can be acquired at each of the listed types of school, which opens the door to professional life (vocational training). However, the various types of schools differ in setting priorities and the demands placed on students.

Successful completion of Bavarian secondary school, for example, paves the way for a variety of skilled trade professions. At the secondary technical school, after ten years of schooling, a so-called "secondary school qualification" can be acquired, which is equivalent to the "full general secondary education" in Ukraine. The commercial school (Wirtschaftsschule) type of school opens up a similar edu-

cational path to the "secondary technical school" from the 6th grade onwards and also enables the "secondary school qualification"; these two types of schools, therefore, differ more in setting their focus (secondary technical school: various focuses, e.g., in mathematics or foreign languages; commercial school: practical basic commercial education). Successful completion of both types of schools can also lead to entry into working life or attendance at a specialized secondary school, which then prepares students for possible studies at a college or university or opens up access to further training opportunities. The pre-university school prepares students for the higher school-leaving certificate examination (Abitur). The Abitur is the highest school-leaving qualification in Bavaria and, in principle, entitles the holder to study immediately at a college of applied sciences (Fachhochschule) or a university.

The Bavarian school system is designed to be very flexible. Those who would like to develop further at school and thus reorient themselves will also be allowed to do so in the range of options outlined here. In principle, there are, therefore, no limits with regard to the school career. For example, a school career that initially led to secondary school in the 5th grade can also be completed with the Abitur.



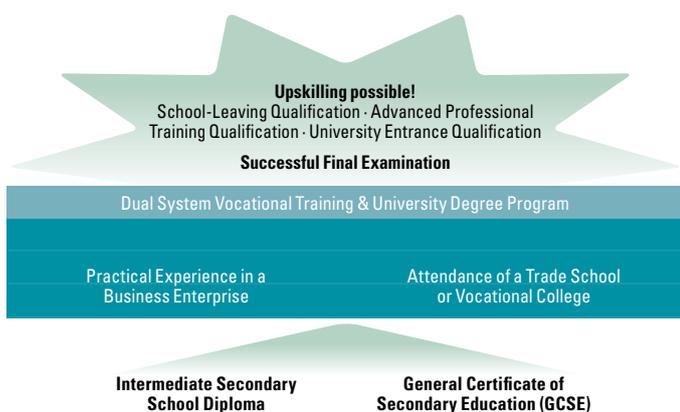
Opportunities for shaping the future of your career

In Bavaria, therefore, there is a wide range of opportunities to prepare oneself for professional life and apply the respective individual interests and talents accordingly in a career.

In Bavaria, entry into a career is made possible after the ninth year of school and usually lasts two to three years. The vocational training is divided here into two parts ("dual system"): On the one hand, the first practical experience is gained in the respective targeted occupational field by participating in and shaping everyday life in a company. On the other hand, the school career is also continued through regular attendance at a so-called "vocational training school". This is because, unlike in Ukraine, vocational training also involves in-depth general education, which is taught at vocational training schools. The vocational training school system is structured according to specialties and adapted to the needs of the occupational

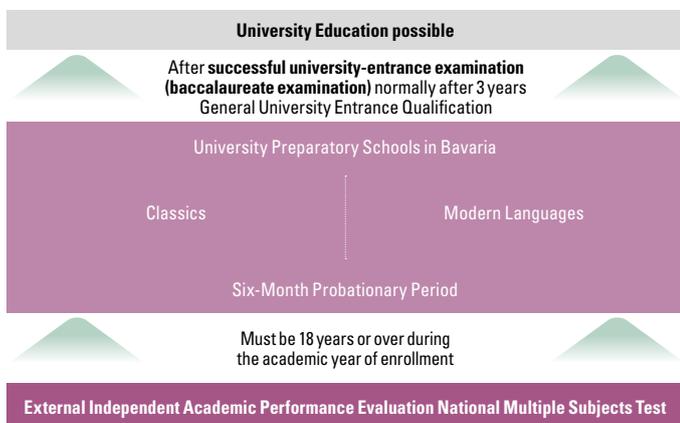
groups. After passing the vocational training, an examination is taken. This, in turn, can then open further doors for professional qualification. It is also possible to take the path to higher education by generally acquiring the relevant qualification in two further years at the so-called upper vocational training school (Berufsoberschule).

As part of continuing vocational education, Bavaria also opens up direct pathways to higher education. For example, after a higher vocational qualification at a technical college (e.g., examination for the master's certificate (Meisterprüfung)), a supplementary examination can also be taken to acquire the (if applicable, subject-linked) advanced technical college certificate (Fachhochschulreife).



Different types of colleges

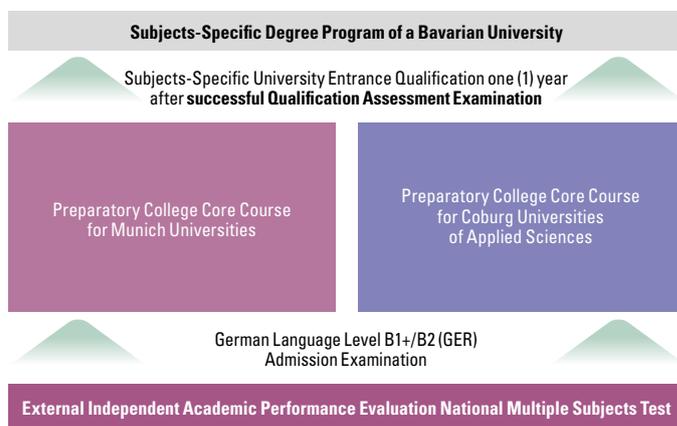
If the aim is to study at a college, there are two different types of colleges to choose from: the colleges of applied sciences (Fachhochschule) and the "universities." Some courses can only be studied at colleges of applied sciences (Fachhochschule), others only at universities; some professions, on the other hand, can only be learned at vocational training schools. Depending on the type of higher education qualification acquired ((Fach-)Abitur), one is entitled to attend all colleges or exclusively colleges of applied sciences (Fachhochschulen).



Opportunities for qualification of Ukrainians for higher education in Bavaria

The Ukrainian school-leaving certificate after the 11th grade with the "full general secondary education" does not yet directly entitle the holder to study in Bavaria. For Ukrainians, however, it allows indirect access to Bavarian colleges and universities. As a rule, students must have successfully completed a one-year course at the Studienkolleg for Universities (Munich location) or for Colleges of Applied Sciences (Coburg location) that is relevant to their future course of study. German must be proven to be at least at level B1+ or B2 (CEFR), and an entrance examination must be passed. Successful completion of the Studienkolleg with the assessment test (Feststellungsprüfung) then opens the way to subject-linked studies at one of the colleges in Bavaria.

By way of comparison, even the secondary school qualification in Bavaria, which corresponds to the Ukrainian qualification of "full general secondary education," does not directly entitle the holder to study: after the secondary school qualification (see above), the advanced technical college certificate (Fachhochschulreife) can be acquired at a specialized secondary school (Fachoberschule) or upper vocational training school (Berufsoberschule). This makes it possible to study at a College of Applied Sciences (subject-linked, if applicable). If the student has the appropriate further qualifications, he or she can strive for the authorization ("allgemeine Hochschulreife", "Abitur") to attend a university. Students who successfully complete the Bavarian Gymnasium also acquire the higher school-leaving certificate examination.



For more information, see:

- » www.km.bayern.de/ministerium/schule-und-ausbildung/schularten.html
- » www.studienkolleg-coburg.de
- » www.studienkolleg-muenchen.de

