

What do the different educational qualifications mean?

German schools offer a range of academic qualifications. The higher the school leaving certificate, the more opportunities you have when choosing a career. But you also have to go to school for longer.

With a **Hauptschulabschluss** (after the 9th grade) or a **Mittlerer Bildungsabschluss** (after the 10th grade), you can enter vocational training or start an apprenticeship.

Abitur or **Hochschulreife** (after the 12th or 13th grade) is required to enter higher education, e.g. university.

After completing each qualification, you can continue your education in order to gain a higher certificate.

Even if you have dropped out of school, you can study for qualifications later, e.g. at a vocational school.

Bildungsnavi Baden Württemberg shows you the options and explains the different types of schools.



<http://bildungsnavi-bw.de>

What is a vocational school?

You can attend a vocational school after completing secondary school. Vocational schools offer a range of possibilities. You can prepare for a trade, study for a higher school qualification or learn a profession.

There are a variety of vocational schools specialising in different areas:

Gewerbliche Schulen (vocational school – trade) –
Here you can study a trade or technical profession.

Kaufmännische Schule (vocational school – commercial) –
Here you can study for a career in business and commerce.

Hauswirtschaftliche Schule (vocational school – home economics) – Here you can study for careers in housekeeping, health and social services.



Vocational schools in Karlsruhe

Further information

You can find out more information and what is on offer in Karlsruhe on the "**Immigration and Education**" page of www.bildungsregion-karlsruhe.de



"Immigration and Education"
(Bildungsregion Karlsruhe
Themenseite „Migration und Bildung“)

The **Arbeitsstelle Migration** (migration office) is the point of contact at Staatliches Schulamt (state education office) for migrant parents.



Migration office
(Arbeitsstelle Migration)

The **Jugendmigrationsdienst** (youth migration service) supports young people from 12 - 27 years old in the areas of learning German, schools and careers



Youth migration service
(Jugendmigrationsdienst)

Intercultural parent mentors offer support in various languages for recently arrived parents on general questions relating to schools and education in Germany.

Email enquiries to:
bildungskoordination@sus.karlsruhe.de

Stadt Karlsruhe | Schul- und Sportamt
Blumenstraße 2a, 76133 Karlsruhe
Telefon: 0721 133-4101
info@sus.karlsruhe.de

Information on schools for international parents



My child doesn't speak German. Where can he or she go to school?

Children who do not yet speak German are placed in a preparatory class (VKL or VABO). There they learn the German language. Most children remain in this class for about a year before joining regular lessons.

Some children learn faster, others need more time before they can take part in lessons in German. Preparatory classes are available at all types of schools.

What types of schools are there?

Primary school

All children from the age of 6 attend primary school. It goes up to the 4th grade.

Secondary school

From the 5th grade – at about 10 years old – children attend a secondary school.

There are 4 different types of school here: Werkrealschule, Realschule, Gemeinschaftsschule and Gymnasium

Vocational school

After secondary school, you can also attend a vocational school.



Information about the different types of schools in Baden-Württemberg



All schools in Karlsruhe:
www.karlsruhe.de/schulen

How to enrol your child at a school

6 to 10 years: Registration at a primary school (VKL)

Your child will attend the local primary school for the area where you live. Use the primary school search (Grundschulsuche) to find the school for any address. If you have just moved to Karlsruhe, you can also find the name of your local primary school when you register at the residents' registration office (Einwohnermeldeamt).

You must enrol your child directly at the school. If there is no preparatory class there, the school will help you.

Please make an appointment at the school secretary's office. To complete the enrolment, you will need to go to the school in person and take your child with you.

Please bring:

- The child's birth certificate
- The child's passport
- Your own passport



Primary school search in Karlsruhe

11 to 15 years: Enrolment at a secondary school (VKL)

If you would like to enrol your child for a preparatory class at a secondary school, please contact the Gutenbergschule or the Pestalozzischule to make an appointment. The head teacher will then talk with you and your child and find a suitable school.

Please bring:

- The child's birth certificate
- The child's passport
- Your own passport
- School reports, if available.

Gutenbergschule (GWRS)

Gunter Vogel – Head Teacher
Goethestraße 34
76135 Karlsruhe
info@gutenbergschule-
karlsruhe.de
Telefon: 0721 133-4674

Pestalozzischule (GWRS)

Klaus Kühn – Head Teacher
Christofstraße 23
76227 Karlsruhe
poststelle@pestalozzischule-ka-
schule.bwl.de
Telefon: 0721 133-4707

16 to 18 years: Enrolment at a vocational school (VABO)

If your child is 16 years or older, he or she will join a preparatory class at a vocational school. These classes are known as VABO. VABO concludes with an examination in German at the level A2 or B1.

You can enrol online.



Online enrolment for VABO

Geschäftsführende Schulleitung Berufliche Schulen

Oberstudiendirektor (OStD) Andreas Hörner
Südenstraße 51
76135 Karlsruhe
gfs@ka-bs.schule.bwl.de
Telefon: 0721 133-4847

What are the differences between the types of secondary schools?

Secondary school education starts in the 5th grade and continues for between 5 and 9 years. The different types of schools have different focuses and prepare children for different school leaving qualifications.

Werkrealschule >

“Hauptschulabschluss”
(secondary school leaving certificate) after 9th grade; or
“Mittlerer Bildungsabschluss”
(intermediate school leaving certificate) after 10th grade

Realschule >

“Hauptschulabschluss”
(secondary school leaving certificate) after 9th grade; or
“Mittlerer Bildungsabschluss”
(intermediate school leaving certificate) after 10th grade

Gymnasium >

“Abitur” (the highest school leaving certificate) after the 12th or 13th grade

Gemeinschaftsschule >

All qualifications possible

What happens after VABO?

VABO is followed by preparation for a German school leaving qualification. All school-leaving qualifications – from “Hauptschulabschluss” (for entering an apprenticeship) to “Hochschulreife” (for entering higher education) – can be obtained at vocational schools. It is also possible to change to another type of school. The VABO teacher can advise you on this.