

# Vocational Education

## Training in Spain

Initial vocational training in Spain responsibility of the education authorities at either central government or autonomous community level consists of :

- Basic Vocational Training - is included in the compulsory secondary education curricula and in the "Bachilleratos", and has two primary aims: to familiarise youngsters with the importance of technological issues in the modern world and to ensure that the same youngsters have sufficient information at school about occupations, professions and the world of work, in order to facilitate career guidance.

- Specific Vocational Training - this training modality has the aim of providing on-the-job training. It has been organised in educational cycles and divided into modules. This branch of vocational training is structured into two grades:

- a) Middle-level Vocational Schooling - for admission the certificate of compulsory education or approval in an admission test is required.

- b) Higher-level Specific Vocational Schooling - the successful completion of the "Bachillerato" and, in some cases, to have studied certain subjects is required for admission. Those youngsters who are over twenty years of age must pass an admission test.

Initial vocational training in Spain responsibility of the labour authorities consists of:

The Workshop-School, Trade learning Centre and Employment Workshops are considered a public employment/training programme whose goal is favouring the integration of the young people (under twenty-five) into the labour market through their qualifications or through professional practice in occupations related to the rehabilitation of the artistic, historical or natural heritage, as well as other community services.

The educational system in Spain goes from 0 to 18 years and then students can choose university studies.

- Education is compulsory from age 6 to 16:
- From 0 to 6, education is optional. It is also optional after the age of 16.
- From age 6 to 16, education is free in public schools (parents do not pay a fee because the state covers the expenses except for text books, although in several autonomous communities books are also free). Some private schools, called 'centros concertados' are partially supported by public funding.



## Pre-Primary Education

**Age:** 0 - 6 years

**Duration:** 6 years

**Description:**

Divided in two cycles: from 0 to 3 and from 3 to 6.

Education is optional. During this period, children will learn the development of movements, body control, first signs of speech, the basics of co-habitation and social interaction and the discovery of their immediate surroundings. The second cycle focuses on children using speech, learning about the physical and social characteristics of the environment in which he/she lives, etc.

**Timetable:**

The timetable for children this age begins with an hour a day which increases week after week until completing the full school hours from 9am to 14pm. In several schools the timetable runs until 16pm. Children normally have lunch at school

**School year and holidays:**

Classes begin in September and end in June. There are 20 days of vacation for Christmas, 10 days for Easter and 2 1/2 months for summer holidays.

**Subjects:** Science, Spanish language, Gymnastics.

**Exams:** No

**Schools:** There are public or state schools and private or pay schools and many of them are supported by state funding.

## Primary Education

**Age:** 6 to 12 years.

**Duration:** 6 years.

**Description:**

Divided into three cycles: from 6 to 8, from 8 to 10 and from 10 to 12. Education is compulsory. The main purpose of this part of education is to offer students a complete education which may enable the pupil to learn the basic cultural elements, to learn the correct use of speech, reading, writing, and the rules of elementary maths, and also how to interact with the surroundings.

**Timetable:**

Students attend classes from 9am to 16pm. They have a half hour break in the morning. They normally have lunch at school.

**School year and holidays:**

Classes begin in September and end in June. Students have 20 days of vacation for Christmas, 10 days for Easter and 2 1/2 months for summer holidays.

**Subjects:**

Science, Natural sciences, Art, Gymnastics, Spanish language, Local autonomous language, Literature, Foreign language, Maths.

**Exams:**

Students can be graded based on exams or tests during or at the end of each term

**Schools:**

There are public or state schools and private or pay schools and many of them are supported by state funding



## Secondary education

**Age:** 12 to 16 years.

**Duration:** 4 years.

**Description:**

Divided in two cycles: from 12 to 14 and from 14 to 16. Education is compulsory. The main purpose of this part of education is to offer students complete education in different aspects for their development as citizens. Students receive different types of support at this stage, for example: additional help in maths and Spanish language, attention to ethnical minorities, counselling department, etc. At the end of their studies, if students have completed the minimum objectives established in their curriculum, they receive a secondary school certificate, and with this certificate they can look for a job, they can go to upper secondary school or enter a vocational school (intermediate training). If students do not obtain this certificate, they are given two options: one is to follow a “diverse curriculum” programme where they study the main subjects in a synthesised and global manner and the second is to enter a “special school programme”, where they receive training skills as for example hairdressing, plumbing, or gardening. Then they are given certificates which qualify them for these jobs. To register in any of these two programmes, students should have a written authorization from their parents.

**Timetable:**

Classes begin at 8:30 am and finish at 2:30 pm, but can vary depending on the autonomous community. Students have two breaks of twenty minutes each.

**School year and holidays:**

Classes begin in September and end in June. There are 20 days of vacation for Christmas, 10 days for Easter and 2 1/2 months for summer holidays.

**Subjects:**

Natural sciences, Social sciences (geography and history), Gymnastics, Art, Spanish language and literature, or autonomous language and literature, Foreign language, Maths, Music, Technology, Religion or Studying activities, Optional subjects.

**Exams:**

Students are graded on periodical exams, which can be weekly, monthly, or at the end of each term (every three months).

**Schools:**

There are public or state schools and private or pay schools and many of them are supported by state funding.



## Upper secondary education

**Age:** 16-18 years

**Duration:** 2 years

**Description:**

To get access, it is necessary for students to have a secondary compulsory education certificate or a technical intermediate certificate. Education is optional. It comprises two academic years which are not compulsory, and offers the possibility to continue studies at a university. There are several options depending on the studies undertaken at university. The main aim is to prepare students to be admitted at university. When they finished upper secondary education, students obtain a High School Certificate which gives Access to university. They can also get access with an upper degree training (vocational training).

**Timetable:**

Classes begin usually at 8:30 and end at 14:30.

**School year and holidays:**

Classes begin in September and end in June. There are 20 days of vacation for Christmas, 10 days for Easter and 2 ½ months for summer holidays.

**Subjects:**

There are four modalities: Arts, Natural Sciences and Health, Humanities and Social Sciences and Technology.

**Exams:**

Teachers establish frequency of exams, but there is one fixed for the end of each term.

**Schools:**

There are public or state schools and private or pay schools.

## Vocational training

**Age:** From 16 to 20 years.

**Duration:**

There are two modules: From 16 to 18 (intermediate training cycle) and from 18 to 20 (Higher level training cycle).

**Description:**

These are studies that qualify students for developing skills for a given profession: Electricity, Car mechanics, Hairdressing, etc.

**Timetable:**

There are classes in the mornings and afternoons.

**School year and holidays:**

Classes begin in September and end in June. There are 20 days of vacation for Christmas, 10 days for Easter and 2 1/2 months for summer holidays.

**Subjects:**

It depends on the modality, for example, Electricity, Car mechanics, Hairdressing...

**Exams:**

There are exams and practices at certain enterprises.

**Schools:**

There are public or state schools and private or pay schools.



## Vocational training.

Intermediate training cycle

Age: From 16 to 18 years.

Duration:

There are 1-year courses or 2-years courses (from 1300 hours to 2000 hours of duration).

Number of courses:

65 different courses of 22 different professional families of training.

Higher level training cycle

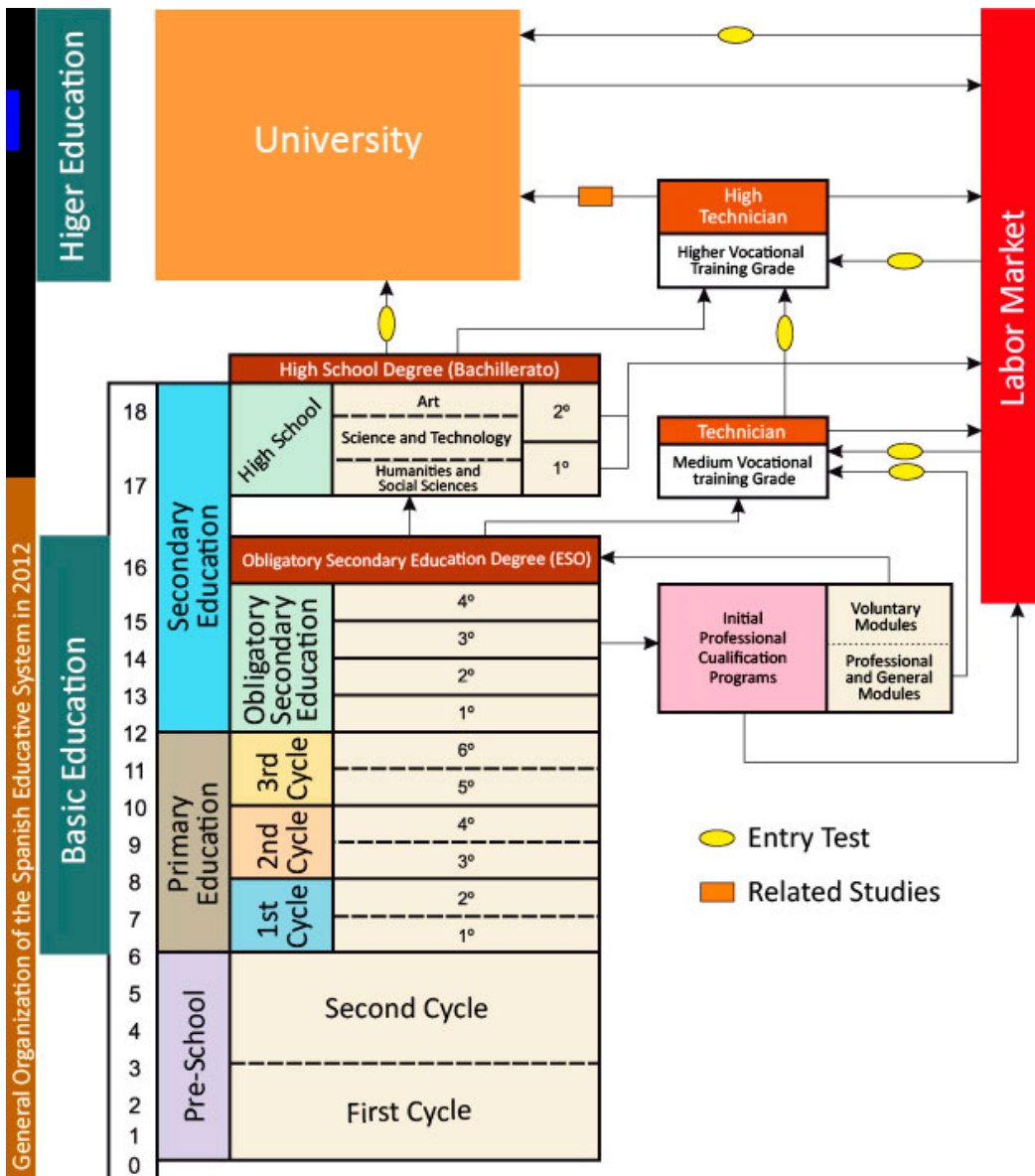
Age: From 18 to 20 years.

Duration:

There are 1-year courses or 2-years courses (from 1400 hours to 2000 hours of duration).

Number of courses:

77 different courses of 22 different professional families of training.



## Sources:

- Leonardo da Vinci Partnership Project  
GLOBAL ANALYSIS OF HEALTH SYSTEM STRUCTURE AND EMPLOYABILITY OF VET SYSTEMS IN THE EUROPEAN HEALTH STRUCTURE
- Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal - INEM por encargo del CEDEFOP
- <http://www.chibrofam.eu>

