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## Educational pathways

**After graduating from school, there are various educational paths. You can enter the world of work directly through an apprenticeship or go to secondary school.**

Today, it is no longer so important which career path you choose at the beginning. In Switzerland, all education and training leads to a degree. Each degree guarantees the continuation of further education.

As a result, you can shape your professional career individually and achieve your professional goals through further training.

Find out more on the information page for career guidance:

**Career Guidance Switzerland (available in 14 languages)**

### Pathways

## Basic Vocational Education and Training / Apprenticeship

Basic vocational education and training (= apprenticeship) is the most common form of vocational training for young people in Switzerland. It is a mixture of theory and professional practice. The professional qualification is recognised throughout Switzerland.

The apprenticeship is exciting and varied, as it combines school and work practice. During the training, the apprentices already receive an income.

Young people can choose from around 230 professions. You choose an apprenticeship on your own.




After completing the apprenticeship, there are a wide range of further training opportunities at colleges of higher education, private institutions and universities of applied sciences.

Fact sheet available in different languages: **"What is an apprenticeship?"**

### Professional Qualification for Adults BAE

Did you miss out on an apprenticeship? Do you work in a profession and want to earn a degree?

Here you can find information on shortened basic vocational education and training:

-  Information and registration for counselling
-  Example of shortened vocational education and training - Field report H. Zenuni
-  Example of shortened vocational education and training - video portrait M. Imfeld

## Higher education / higher education entrance qualification

If you like to go to school and still want to learn a lot, you can go to a **Mittelschule** ([🔗 Upper Middle Education / Upper Secondary Education](#)) (upper secondary level). **Mittelschulen** ([🔗 Upper Middle Education / Upper Secondary Education](#)) offer a variety of courses leading to a baccalaureate or a technical or vocational baccalaureate.

The **Mittelschulen** ([🔗 Upper Middle Education / Upper Secondary Education](#)) lead to the university entrance qualification and enable examination-free admission to all Swiss universities and colleges.

In the Canton of St.Gallen, the following schools can be completed after lower **Sekundarstufe I** ([🔗 High School Level for 7th-9th Grade](#)):

- **Kantonsschule am Burggraben St.Gallen**
- **Kantonsschule am Brühl St.Gallen**
- **Heerbrugg Cantonal School**
- **Sargans Cantonal School**
- **Wattwil Cantonal School**
- **Wil Cantonal School**

The schools are spread throughout the canton. There are other fee-paying schools for higher education in the Canton of St.Gallen:

- **Interstate Baccalaureate School for Adults ISME in St.Gallen and Sargans**
- **Non-state grammar school Friedberg, Gossau**

The Canton of St.Gallen also has the patronage of the Swiss School of Rome.

[🔗](#) Information on the training courses in 11 languages

[🔗](#) Matura Navigator

## Studies at university / college / university of applied sciences

After successfully completing a high school diploma or a vocational baccalaureate, it is possible to study at a university or university of applied sciences, depending on the degree.

If you would like to complete a university degree with a **foreign baccalaureate certificate**, you can obtain information on the equivalence of your degree from Swissuniversities/ Swiss Enic. There you can check whether your school-leaving certificate meets the general admission requirements for Swiss universities. ([www.enic.ch](http://www.enic.ch) > admission to studies).

The Swiss higher education landscape offers a wide range of study opportunities at all levels (Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate). There are different types of higher education institutions:

- Universities (UH)
- Universities of Applied Sciences (FH)
- Universities of Teacher Education (PH)

Classes are held in different languages depending on the course of study: German, French, Italian or English.

### Information on choosing a course of study

[📄](#) Informationen zu Studium und Beruf [🌐](#) DE [📄](#) PDF, 135 kB



#### Overview

Presentation of the Swiss education system / Canton of St.Gallen



#### Explanatory film English

Subtitles: Arabic/ Italian/ Persian/ Turkish/ Tigrinya/ Ukrainian



#### Explanatory film French

Subtitles: Arabic/ Italian/ Persian/ Turkish/ Tigrinya/ Ukrainian

## Support

### Career Choice / Career Counselling

At Career Counselling, you can find out more about possible career paths, professional development and retraining.

Use the information platform [Berufsberatung.ch](#) with helpful information in different languages.

#### Consultation


You can contact the cantonal vocational, study and career counselling service at the [Career Information Centre \(BIZ\)](#) for a free consultation .

 [Berufswahlfahrplan.pdf](#)  PDF, 205 kB

 [Berufsabschluss für Erwachsene in einfacher Sprache](#)  PDF, 43 kB

 [Berufswahlplaner.pdf](#)  PDF, 3768 kB

#### viamia - professional assessment for people over 40

 [viamia for people over 40](#)

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### Financing of education / scholarships

Costs may be incurred for training after compulsory schooling. These depend on:

- the type of education (free or tuition fees)
- the place of training (nearby or in another canton)

You can apply for financial support from the Canton of St.Gallen - a so-called scholarship.

#### Scholarship - Information and Support

 [Information on scholarships in the Canton of St.Gallen](#)  deutsch

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#### Integration into vocational training, studies and work

### Brückenangebot: Bridging year between school and work

A **Brückenangebot** (🔗 [Bridging year between school and work](#)) lasts 1 year and is for adolescents and young adults who would like to complete basic vocational training after compulsory schooling in the form of a Federal Certificate of Proficiency (EFZ) or the Federal Vocational Certificate (EBA).

There are offers such as:

- **Pre-apprenticeship**
- **Integration course**
- **Vocational Preparation Year**
- **Design preparatory course for young people**

The targeted teaching, individual support and initial experience in a vocational internship prepare the participants well for their future apprenticeship.

Young people with the following residence permit are allowed to attend a **Brückenangebot** (🔗 [Bridging year between school and work](#)) :

- Permit B (Residence Permit / Recognized Refugees)
- Permit C (Settlement Permit)
- Permit F (temporarily admitted refugees / temporarily admitted persons)
- Status S

## Information and links

- [🔗 Brochure](#)
  - [🔗 Further information on bridge services in the Canton of St.Gallen](#)
  - [🔗 GBS Commercial Vocational and Continuing Education Centre St.Gallen](#)
  - [🔗 bzbs Vocational and Further Education Centre Buchs Sargans](#)
  - [🔗 BWZ Vocational and Continuing Education Centre Raoperswil-Jona](#)
  - [🔗 BWZ Vocational and Continuing Education Centre Toggenburg, Wattwil](#)
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## Invol+: Pre-Integration Apprenticeship

The Integration Pre-Apprenticeship+ (InVol+) helps you to prepare for an apprenticeship and lasts one school year. Participants attend the school during 1-2 days per week, during which language skills and professional skills are promoted, and spend 3-4 days per week in the internship.

The InVol+ is aimed at:

- Temporarily admitted persons
- recognised refugees
- Immigrants from EU/EFTA countries
- Immigrants from third countries
- Persons with protection status S

The InVol+ is offered in 6 professional fields:

- Retail & Logistics
- Gastronomy
- Mechatronics
- Construction and ancillary construction industry
- Nursing Assistant SRC
- Automobile

- [🔗 Integration Pre-Apprenticeships Ti-SG](#)
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## Motivational Semester

Young people who have completed school or dropped out of further education and have not yet found an apprenticeship can start a motivational semester.

You can join the program on a weekly basis.

[Brochure Motivation Semester](#)

[Motivational Semester rheinspringen bridges St.Gallen](#)

[Further information on the Motivation Semester](#)

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## Navigation 20-30

Are you between 20 and 30 years old and it was not possible for you to learn a profession after compulsory schooling? In the **Navigation** programme, you will be accompanied and supported on your way to vocational training. Admission to the program is possible weekly.

[Flyer rheinspringen navigation](#)

[More information about rheinspringen - navigation](#)

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## Studies: Access to higher education for refugees

More than 20 Swiss universities offer support services for refugees interested in studying. Here you will find an overview of all contacts as well as information on university access for refugees.

[Prospects for studying in Switzerland](#)  mehrsprachig

[Offers for refugees interested in studying - Information in 12 languages](#)

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