



Annex A

Summary table of ISCED 2011 codes and criteria

The units of the ISCED classification are education programmes and their related recognised qualifications.

<http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Pages/international-standard-classification-of-education.aspx>

The ISCED classification uses **3 digits**: the **first is the educational level**, the **second** and **third are complementary dimensions**.

The ISCED level of an education programme reflects the degree of complexity and specialisation of the content of the programme measured with respect to gradations of learning experiences and the knowledge, skills and competencies the programme is intended to impart. Educational attainment is measured with respect to the highest education programme successfully completed, which is normally certified by a recognised qualification. If the highest education programme is not successfully completed, the level of attainment of the person is their attainment level before entering the programme.



LEVELS AND COMPLEMENTARY DIMENSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION (ISCED) 2011

Codification of education programmes and educational attainment

Level		Criteria for classifying national programmes by levels	
1 st digit		Main criteria	Subsidiary criteria
No education		–	–
0	Early childhood education	<i>Learning stimulated</i> by environment (§105)* or in interaction with educators (§106).	<i>Qualifications of staff:</i> Pedagogical qualifications for educators (§111).
		<i>Institution:</i> school-based or centre-based (§107)	Existence of a regulatory framework (§112).
		<i>Admission/age:</i> 3 years and above for pre-primary education (§102/108).	Typically not compulsory (§113).
		<i>Intensity:</i> 2 hours of education per day and 100 days a year (§110).	
1	Primary education	<i>Education</i> with systematic teaching and learning in reading, writing and mathematics (§125).	Often coincides with the beginning of compulsory education (§127).
		<i>Admission/age and duration:</i> official age of entry between ages 5 and 7 years; typical duration of 6 years (range is 4 to 7 years) (§122).	
		<i>Teacher:</i> typically one main teacher is in charge of a group (§126).	
2	Lower secondary education	<i>Transition to subject-oriented</i> instruction (§144).	<i>Typical entry age</i> is between 10 and 13 years, the most common being 12 (§141).
		<i>Entry requirements:</i> completion of primary education (or the capacity to study at ISCED level 2) (§145).	<i>Subject teachers,</i> with qualifications in specific subjects as well as pedagogy (§147).
		<i>Cumulative duration:</i> ends after 8 to 11 years of education (often 9) from the start of primary education (§146).	The end of the level often coincides with the <i>end of compulsory education</i> (§148).

Notes

* Paragraph numbers are references to the main ISCED 2011 classification document. See more details in the Reader's Guide.

** European Union Labour Force Survey variable HATLEVEL / HATVOC (European Commission Regulation 317/2013).



Complementary dimensions				Coding		
2 nd digit		3 rd digit		Education programmes ISCED-P (Annex II of ISCED 2011)	Educational attainment ISCED-A (Annex III of ISCED 2011)	EU Labour Force Survey variable HATLEVEL/HATVOC**
-		-		-	010	000
Type of education:						
1	Early childhood educational development (0 to 2 years)	-	-	010	020	-
2	Pre-primary education (from 3 years to the start of primary education)	-	-	020		000
-	-	-	-	100	100	100
Programme orientation:			Level completion and access to higher ISCED level:			
4	General	1	Insufficient for level completion or partial level completion (duration < 2 years or cumulative duration < 8 years since the start of ISCED level 1).	241, 251	100	100
		2	Partial level completion (intermediate programme with duration ≥ 2 years and cumulative duration ≥ 8 years).	242, 252	242, 252	200
5	Vocational	3	Level completion without direct access to ISCED 3 (duration ≥ 2 years, cumulative duration ≥ 8 years).	243, 253	243, 253	200
		4	Level completion with direct access to ISCED 3 (duration ≥ 2 years, cumulative duration ≥ 8 years).	244, 254	244, 254	200

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Level		Criteria for classifying national programmes by levels	
1 st digit		Main criteria	Subsidiary criteria
3	Upper secondary education	<i>Second/final stage of secondary education, in form of general or vocational programmes (§167).</i>	<i>More differentiated programmes: increased range of options and streams (§169).</i>
		<i>Entry requirements: completion of lower secondary education (or the capacity to study at ISCED level 3) (§168).</i>	<i>Teachers often more qualified with respect to the subject matter they teach than lower secondary teachers (§170).</i>
		<i>Cumulative duration: programmes end 12 or 13 years since the beginning of ISCED 1 (§164).</i>	
4	Post-secondary non-tertiary education	<i>Post-secondary education, generally vocational and terminal programmes preparing for the labour market; typically, not considered as tertiary education at the national level (§190).</i>	
		<i>Programmes which serve to broaden rather than deepen the knowledge, skills and competencies of participants. Often not significantly more advanced than programmes at ISCED level 3 (§191).</i>	
		<i>Entry requirements: completion of upper secondary education (§186).</i>	
5	Short-cycle tertiary education	<i>Programmes often designed to provide participants with professional knowledge, skills and competencies; may provide pathway to academic programmes (§207). More complex than levels 3 and 4 but less than 6 (§212).</i>	<i>Institutional transition points: often provided by different institutions from ISCED levels 6, 7 and 8 (§214).</i>
		<i>Entry requirements: successful completion of upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education giving access to ISCED levels 5, 6 or 7 (§208)</i>	
		<i>Minimum duration: 2 years (§213).</i>	<i>Typical duration: 2 to 3 years (§213).</i>

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2 nd digit	3 rd digit		Education programmes ISCED-P (Annex II of ISCED 2011)	Educational attainment ISCED-A (Annex III of ISCED 2011)	EU Labour Force Survey variable HATLEVEL/HATVOC**	
Programme orientation:		Level completion and access to higher ISCED level:				
4	General	1	Insufficient for level completion or partial level completion (duration < 2 years or cumulative duration < 11 years since the start of ISCED level 1).	341, 351	244, 254	200
		2	Partial level completion (intermediate programme with duration ≥ 2 years and cumulative duration ≥ 11 years).	342, 352	342, 352	302/1, 302/2
5	Vocational	3	Level completion without direct access to ISCED 3 (duration ≥ 2 years, cumulative duration ≥ 11 years).	343, 353	343, 353	303/1, 303/2
		4	Level completion with direct access to ISCED 5, 6 or 7 (duration ≥ 2 years, cumulative duration ≥ 11 years).	344, 354	344, 354	304/1, 304/2
Programme orientation:		Level completion and access to higher ISCED level:				
4	General	1	Insufficient for level completion (duration < 6 months)	441, 451	344 354	300/1, 300/2
5	Vocational	3	Level completion without direct access to ISCED 5, 6 or 7	443, 453	443, 453	400/1, 400/2
		4	Level completion with direct access to ISCED 5, 6 or 7	444, 454	444, 454	
Programme orientation:		Level completion and access to higher ISCED level:				
4	General (or academic)	1	Insufficient for level completion (duration < 2 years)	541, 551	444, 454	400
5	Vocational (or professional)	4	Level completion	544, 554	540, 550	500

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Level		Criteria for classifying national programmes by levels	
1 st digit		Main criteria	Subsidiary criteria
6	Bachelor's or equivalent	Programmes often designed to provide participants with intermediate academic or professional knowledge, skills and competencies, leading to a first degree, such as a <i>Bachelor's</i> , or to an equivalent qualification (§224).	The requirement of a doctorate (ISCED level 8) qualification for some of the teaching staff may help distinguish ISCED levels 5 and 6 (§231).
		<i>Entry requirements:</i> successful completion of upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education giving access to ISCED levels 5, 6 or 7; may require the passing of an entrance examination (§226).	<i>Further studies:</i> does not give direct access (usually) to doctoral programmes (ISCED level 8) (§226).
		<i>Minimum cumulative duration of first degrees:</i> 3 to 4 years full-time (§229).	
		<i>Position in the national degree structure:</i> typically a first degree in tertiary education; sometimes a second degree of 1 to 2 years (§230).	
7	Master's or equivalent	Programmes often designed to provide participants with advanced academic or professional knowledge, skills and competencies, leading to a second degree, such as a <i>Master's</i> , or to an equivalent qualification (§241).	<i>Minimum duration of long 1st degree:</i> 5 years; complexity of content comparable to a <i>Master's</i> (§247).
		<i>Position in the national degree structure:</i> typically a second or further degree in tertiary education following a first degree at ISCED level 6 or 7 (§246) or a long first degree of at least 5 years if equivalent to a <i>Master's</i> in terms of the complexity of content (e.g. medicine) (§247).	<i>Further studies:</i> often gives direct access to doctoral programmes (ISCED level 8) (§249).
		<i>Entry requirements:</i> in the case of a 2 nd degree, the successful completion of a <i>Bachelor's</i> or equivalent (ISCED level 6) or a <i>Master's</i> or equivalent (ISCED level 7) is required; in the case of a 1 st degree, the successful completion of upper secondary or of ISCED 4 granting access to tertiary education is required and, eventually, an entry examination (§243).	
8	Doctoral or equivalent	Its successful completion requires the <i>submission of a thesis</i> or an equivalent written work, of publishable quality, which is the output of original research representing a considerable contribution to knowledge in the field (§264).	Degree gives access to faculty positions and research posts (§266).
		<i>Entry requirements:</i> the successful completion of an ISCED 7 programme (§261).	
		<i>Minimum duration:</i> at least 3 years of full-time studies and a total cumulative duration of at least 7 years of tertiary education (§265)	

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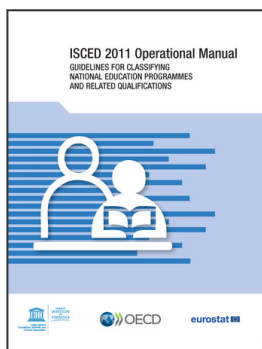


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Programme orientation:		Position in the national degree and qualification structure:				
4	Academic	1	Insufficient for level completion (duration of first degree < 3 years)	641, 651, 661	540, 550	500
5	Professional	5	First degree (at Bachelor's level) (duration 3 to 4 years)	645, 655, 665	640, 650, 660	600
6	Unspecified	6	Long first degree (at Bachelor's level) (duration > 4 years)	646, 656, 666		
		7	Second or further degree (following a 1 st degree at Bachelor's level)	647, 657, 667		
Programme orientation:		Position in the national degree and qualification structure:				
4	Academic	1	Insufficient for level completion (duration of first degree < 5 years)	741, 751, 761	640, 650, 660	600
5	Professional	6	Long first degree (at Master's level) (duration ≥ 5 years)	746, 756, 766	740, 750, 760	700
6	Unspecified	7	Second or further degree (following a 1 st degree at Bachelor's level)	747, 757, 767		
		8	Second or further degree (following a 1 st degree at Master's level)	748, 758, 768		
Programme orientation:		Position in the national degree and qualification structure:				
4	Academic	1	Insufficient for level completion (duration of first degree < 3 years)	841, 851, 861	740, 750, 760	700
5	Professional	4	Level completion	844, 854, 864	840, 850, 860	800
6	Unspecified					

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From:

ISCED 2011 Operational Manual

Guidelines for Classifying National Education Programmes and Related Qualifications

Access the complete publication at:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264228368-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD/Eurostat/UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2015), "Summary table of ISCED 2011 codes and criteria", in *ISCED 2011 Operational Manual: Guidelines for Classifying National Education Programmes and Related Qualifications*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264228368-14-en>

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