

Cross Cultural Education poster

What types of schools are there?

Italy

Nursery School: 0 (6 months)-3
Pre-school: 3-6
Primary school: 6-11
Middle school: 11-13
High school: 13-19

Netherlands

Kindergarten: 2-4
Primary school: 4-11
Secondary school: 11-16/18

Mandatory subjects

Italy

In Italy they are not called compulsory, but there are some subjects that are done in all types of high school, these are: **Italian, Math, 1 foreign language, History and PE.**

In addition to these, according to the high school they have chosen they have optional subjects.

Netherlands

In The Netherlands they have compulsory subjects that they have to pass with final exams, they are: **Dutch, English, culture and art education, society education and PE.**

In addition to these, then each student can choose their own package of optional subjects.

Until what age do you have to go to school?

Italy

In Italy you need to go to school until you are 16. You don't need to have any diploma to stop either. It is known in Italy that you have only done middle school when you don't have any diplomas.

Netherlands

In the Netherlands you need to go to school until you have at least an mbo 2 diploma. You will be around 18 years old at that time. You can choose to stop school before you have an MBO 2 diploma at 18, since you are no longer obliged to go to school. You will have trouble finding a decent job, because a lot of employers will ask for certain diplomas or papers.

Optional subject

Italy

In Italy you choose a school path you want to take. So for example, you are interested in literature, you go to a school that focuses on literature. So the path you take determines which subjects you learn.

Chemistry, Geography, Astronomy, Physics, Religion, Biology, Spanish, French, Economics, Greek, Latin, Art, ICT

Netherlands

In The Netherlands you can choose a subject bundle (nature & health, nature & technics, culture & economics, culture & society). After choosing a subject bundle you get taught and take final exams in 2 mandatory subjects (English, Dutch) and 3 optional subject for MAVO and HAVO and 4 optional subjects for VWO.

Economics, Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Art, German, Spanish, French, ICT, Maths, History, Greek, Latin

How do you split up secondary school?

Italy

The children are eventually split into groups with similar academic interests (eg...). In Italy, you start a secondary school at age 11. The secondary split up in middle and high school. The middle school is the same for all students. For high school, each student can choose a different study program, for example literature, scientific, artistic, pedagogical or professional.

Netherlands

From the start the children are split into their academic levels. (VMBO, HAVO, VWO). There is a middle school that it goes from 11 to 16/17/18, depending on the level you do. VMBO is 4 years and the most practical one, HAVO is 5 years and a mix of practical and theory and VWO is six years and mostly theory.