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# Estonian Education Curriculum

# Educational possibilities in Estonia

Until age of 7 kids usually go to kindergarten, which means that they obtain preschool education.

In grades 1-9 they obtain basic education.

In grades 7-9 in addition to obtaining basic education, it is possible to get prevocational training in basic school (for problematic students who cannot finish school).

For persons without basic education who have passed for minimum school-leaving age (17 years) it is possible to continue their education in vocational schools on vocational training programmes ( within 0,5-2,5 years one obtains vocational skills) or in upper-secondary schools for adults.

After basic education there are three choices to continue studies.

Upper-secondary school- for general upper secondary education (3 years).

Upper-secondary school with prevocational training - for general -upper education and some vocational skills (3 years).

Vocational school - only for vocational training without secondary education (1-3 years).

After (general or vocational) secondary education there are two choices to continue study:

- vocational school - for vocational training (0,5-3 years)
- professional higher education (3-5 years).

Professional higher education institution or university's college - for professional higher education (3-5 years).

University for academic higher education (Bachelor's 3 years-> Master's 2 years -> Doctorate 3-4 years).

Full time studies take place at universities and institutions of professional higher education, both free of charge and on a fee-paying basis.

# Basic Education

Basic education can be acquired in

- primary schools ( grades 1-6)
- basic schools (grades 1-9)
- upper secondary schools, that can only be applied to when student has finished basic school.

Basic school is divided into three stages of study:

- stage I (1-3 grades)
- stage II (4-6 grades)
- stage III (7-9 grades)

Basic education can be acquired on the basis of three national curricula: the national basic school and upper secondary school curriculum, the simplified national basic school curriculum and the national curriculum for the students with moderate and severe learning disabilities.

# Weekly workload for pupils

The maximum permitted weekly workload of pupils is as follows:

20 lessons in grade 1

23 lessons in grade 2

25 lessons in grade 3 and 4

28 lessons in grade 5

30 lessons in grade 6 and 7

32 lessons in grade 8

34 lessons in grade 9



Studying Estonian as second language is compulsory in Russian or non-Estonian basic schools. Pupils whose home language is not Estonian, but who study in an Estonian basic school can also study Estonian as a second language.

In order to finish basic school, students are required to complete the curriculum and successfully pass three basic school graduation examinations - in Estonian and literature or Estonian as a second language, Mathematics and in one subject chosen by the pupil.