

VET in Spain

Vocational education and training (VET) is mainly the responsibility of education and employment authorities. The national system for qualifications and vocational training is the umbrella for VET programmes, leading to formal qualifications awarded by either the education or employment authorities.

The General Council for Vocational Training is the national government advisory body on VET policy; it comprises representatives of national and regional public authorities as well as the social partners (enterprises and trade unions). Stakeholders are involved in designing and updating VET qualifications in line with labour market needs. They develop occupational standards in all sectors of the economy, which make up the national register (CNCP) and are used as reference for designing and updating VET programmes and qualifications.

Education authority VET offers upper secondary (basic and intermediate) and higher VET qualifications. All programmes last two years (2 000 hours) and include work-based learning in a company and at a VET school:

- basic VET programmes (ISCED 353) are available in the last year of compulsory education, to learners aged 15 or 16. They allow students at risk of leaving education without qualifications to develop their basic skills and prepare for an occupation (such as kitchen assistant, agrogardening) and obtain a basic VET qualification. Students may move on to upper secondary VET and, in some cases, also attain the compulsory secondary qualification opening up the general education path;
- intermediate VET programmes can begin at age 16, after the end of compulsory education. These lead to technician qualifications at ISCED 354 (such as cookery and gastronomy, emergencies and civil protection). Access to higher VET in the same field of study is possible, via an admission procedure;
- at tertiary level, higher VET programmes (ISCED 554) lead to an advanced technician qualification (such as logistics coordinator, 3D animations and games). Graduates can progress to bachelor programmes through an admission procedure.

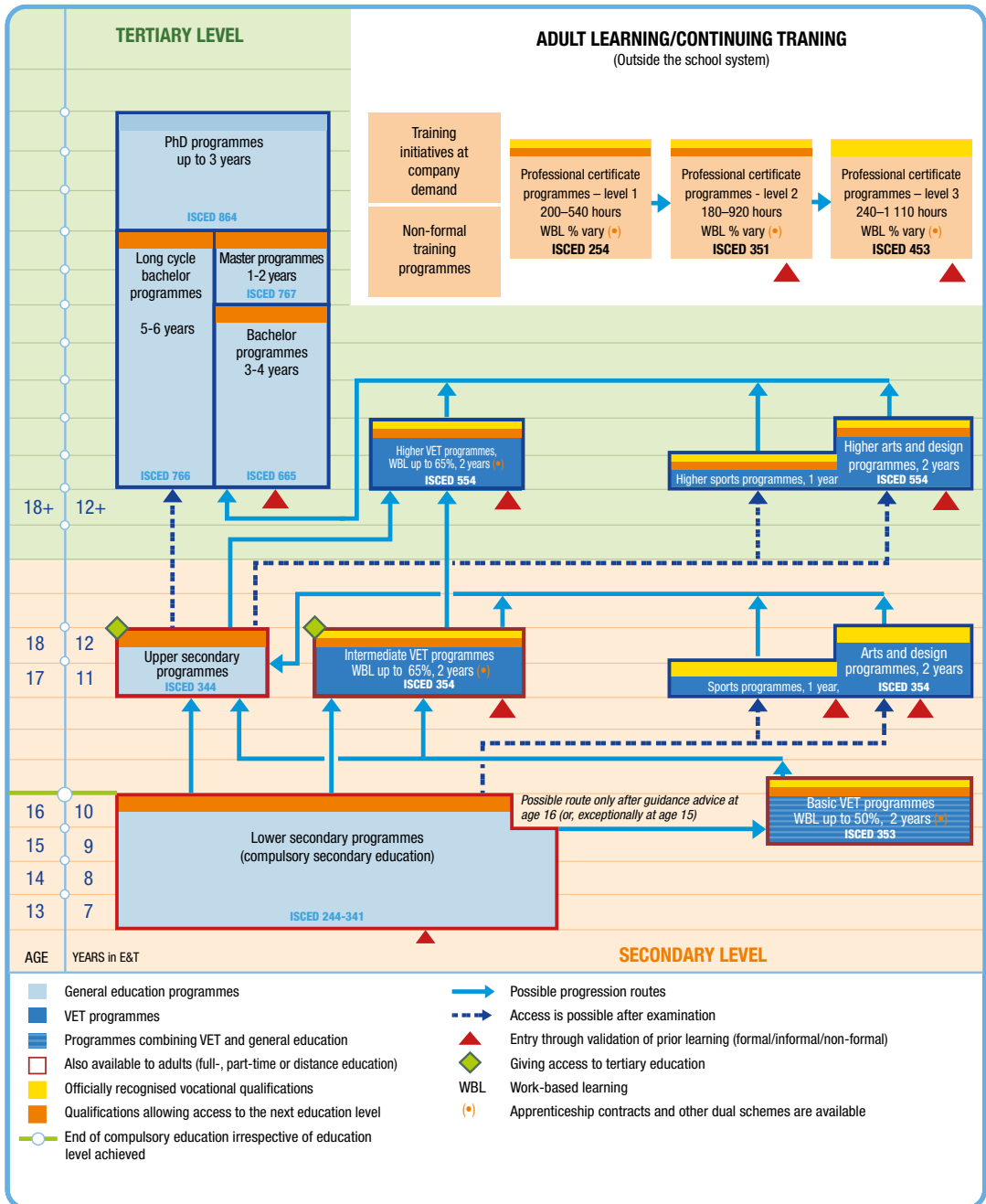
It is possible to acquire VET qualifications through dual VET (apprenticeship contracts or other alternance schemes). In such cases, the programme duration may be up to three years with a minimum of 33% of training spent at the company.

Specific training programmes in arts and design and in sports are offered at ISCED levels 354 and 554.

Adults can enrol in the same VET programmes as young people. Those older than 16 can also attend employment authority VET programmes to obtain a professional certificate corresponding to an occupational profile. Programmes are delivered by authorised VET providers and may include an apprenticeship contract. No formal access requirements apply for entering level 1 professional certificate programmes (ISCED 254) and learners can move on to the next level in the same field. Level 2 (ISCED 351) and level 3 (ISCED 453) programmes are also accessible to those having completed, respectively, compulsory and upper secondary, or equivalent, level studies. Duration varies according to the learning outcomes to be achieved at each level (from 180 to 1 110 hours); access to the next level is possible in limited professional fields. All three levels comprise a compulsory on-the-job training module.

The Spanish VET system is modular allowing recognition and transfer of (units of) competences gained in one VET programme to another, shortening its duration. Units of competences may also be acquired through validation of prior learning.

CVET includes a wide range of courses designed for different needs and skill profiles, allowing people to upgrade their skills and acquire a (partial) professional certificate. It may be financed through public funds (mainly company and worker contributions to social security). Training is offered by private and public institutions accredited by labour authorities as providers of professional certificates and by other VET training centres.



NB: ISCED-P 2011. The Spanish education system is not referenced to EQF levels.

Source: Cedefop and ReferNet Spain.



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