

Annex 1. Characteristics of education systems

Table X1.1. Typical graduation ages, by level of education (2021)

The typical age refers to the age of the students at the beginning of the school year; students will generally be one year older than the age indicated when they graduate at the end of the school year. The typical age is used for the gross graduation rate calculation.

	Upper secondary		Post secondary non-tertiary		Tertiary								
	General programmes	Vocational programmes	General programmes	Vocational programmes	Short-cycle tertiary		Bachelor's or equivalent			Master's or equivalent			Doctoral or equivalent
					General programmes	Vocational programmes	First degree (3-4 years)	Long first degree (more than 4 years)	Second or further degree (following a bachelor's or equivalent programme)	Long first degree (at least 5 years)	Second or further degree (following a bachelor's or equivalent programme)	Second or further degree (following a master's or equivalent programme)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	
OECD countries													
Australia	17-18	18-32	a	18-37	19-24	18-30	20-23	22-25	22-34	a	23-26	29-44	26-35
Austria	17-18	16-18	a	19-31	a	18-19	21-24	a	a	24-27	24-28	a	28-32
Belgium	18	18-19	a	20-22	a	21-25	21-23	a	22-24	a	22-24	23-32	27-31
Canada	17-18	19-35	m	m	a	20-24	22-24	m	22-29	22-26	24-29	m	28-34
Chile	17	17	a	a	a	19-26	22-27	22-28	23-26	24-26	26-36	m	29-37
Colombia	16-17	16-17	18-20	a	a	19-25	m	22-26	m	a	25-35	a	31-42
Costa Rica	17-18	18	a	a	20-25	20-25	22-27	22-30	a	29-40	a	a	33-49
Czech Republic	19-20	19-20	19-33	a	a	21-23	22-24	a	24-35	25-26	24-26	26-38	29-33
Denmark	18-19	19-25	a	26-39	a	21-25	22-25	a	a	a	24-26	38-45	28-32
Estonia	18	18	a	20-30	a	a	21-24	a	a	23-25	23-28	a	29-35
Finland	19-20	18-26	a	32-46	a	a	22-26	a	a	26-28	25-30	30-41	29-37
France	17-18	16-19	m	m	m	19-21	20-21	m	22-35	22-23	22-24	24-32	26-30
Germany	18-19	19-22	20-23	21-24	a	22-28	21-25	a	24-30	23-27	24-27	24-27	28-32
Greece	17-18	17-18	a	20-24	a	a	22-24	23-25	a	a	24-31	a	28-38
Hungary	17-19	19-21	a	20-22	a	20-22	21-24	a	27-42	23-26	23-26	a	27-32
Iceland	18-19	18-25	27-48	21-35	a	21-31	22-25		26-42	26-27	24-34	a	25-35
Ireland	17-18	18-25	a	20-26	m	m	21-23	23-25	23-33	m	m	m	27-32
Israel	17-18	17-18	m	m	m	m	24-29	27-31	24-36	m	27-36	m	31-38
Italy	18-19	18-19	a	19-24	a	20-22	21-24	m	m	24-26	24-26	m	27-33
Japan	17	17	18	18	20	20-21	22	a	a	24	23	m	26
Korea	18	18	a	a	a	20-22	23-25	m	a	a	24-31	a	29-36
Latvia	18-19	20-21	a	20-24	a	21-28	22-24	23-25	24-39	24-29	23-27	a	30-40
Lithuania	18	19-24	a	19-26	a	a	21-22	a	22-32	23-24	24-26	27-29	28-32
Luxembourg	17-19	18-20	a	21-30	a	20-23	22-24	a	a	a	23-28	25-31	28-32
Mexico	17-18	17-18	a	a	a	20-22	20-24	m	a	a	23-26	a	24-28
Netherlands	16-18	18-21	a	a	a	20-27	21-23	a	a	a	23-26	a	28-31
New Zealand	17-18	17-33	18-28	18-31	18-38	18-25	20-22	22-23	21-27	a	22-29	a	26-35
Norway	18	18-23	a	22-36	22-27	21-27	21-24	a	a	24-26	23-27	25-30	28-35
Poland	19	19-20	a	21-27	a	22-32	22-23	a	25-35	24-25	24-25	a	29-32
Portugal	17	17-18	a	19-26	a	20-22	21-22	a	a	23-24	23-26	a	28-37
Slovak Republic	18	18-19	a	19-29	a	20-23	21-22	a	a	24-25	23-24	25-31	26-29
Slovenia	18	17-19	a	a	a	21-25	21-23	a	a	24-25	24-26	a	27-33
Spain	17	17-21	a	18-39	a	19-23	21-23	a	a	22-25	22-26	27-32	27-36
Sweden	18	18	19-23	19-33	21-28	21-29	22-26	a	a	24-27	24-29	a	28-35
Switzerland	18-22	18-24	21-23	a	a	22-36	22-26	a	29-38	23-26	24-28	27-34	28-34
Türkiye	17-19	17	a	a	a	19-24	22-24	a	a	23-24	24-29	a	30-36
United Kingdom	15-17	16-19	a	a	18-25	18-30	20-22	22-24	a	a	22-25	a	25-32
United States	17	a	a	19-22	20-21	20-21	21-23	a	a	a	24-31	24-31	26-32
Partner and/or accession countries													
Argentina ¹	18-20	18-20	m	m	22-24	22-24	22-24	22-24	m	a	24-26	m	27-29
Brazil	17-18	17-18	a	18-27	m	18-19	21-27	a	m	a	24-31	a	28-35
Bulgaria	19	19	a	21	a	a	22-23	a	a	24-25	23-25	a	29-32
China	18-20	18-20	m	m	20-22	20-22	22-24	22-24	m	a	24-26	m	27-29
Croatia	18-19	15-19	a	a	a	20-21	21-22	a	a	24-26	24-26	26-40	26-35
India	16-18	16-18	m	m	21-23	21-23	21-23	21-23	m	23-25	23-25	m	28-30
Indonesia ¹	19-21	19-21	m	m	20-22	20-22	23-25	23-25	m	a	25-27	m	28-30
Peru	18-20	18-20	m	m	20-22	20-22	22-24	22-24	m	a	24-26	m	27-29
Romania	18-23	18-35	a	19-35	a	a	21-30	a	a	23-30	23-30	a	26-30
Saudi Arabia	18-20	18-20	m	m	20-22	20-22	22-24	22-24	m	24-26	24-26	m	28-30
South Africa ¹	19-21	19-21	m	m	21-23	21-23	22-24	22-24	m	a	24-26	m	27-29

Note: See StatLink and Box X1.1 for the notes related to this Table.

Source: OECD/Eurostat/UIS (2023). For more information see Source section and [Education at a Glance 2023 Sources, Methodologies and Technical Notes](#), (OECD, 2023_[1]).

Table X1.2. Typical age of entry, by level of education (2021)

The typical age refers to the age of the students at the beginning of the school year

	Short-cycle tertiary	Bachelor's or equivalent	Master's or equivalent	Doctoral or equivalent
OECD countries	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Australia	18-28	18-20	21-26	22-30
Austria	17-18	18-21	22-26	25-29
Belgium	20-23	18-20	21-23	23-27
Canada	17-20	18-19	21-27	24-29
Chile	18-21	18-19	18-31	25-32
Colombia	17-22	17-20	24-34	30-41
Costa Rica	17-21	18-19	23-42	32-48
Czech Republic	19-21	19-20	22-24	24-28
Denmark	19-26	20-22	23-25	24-28
Estonia	a	19-20	19-25	24-29
Finland	a	19-21	22-31	25-32
France	18-20	18-20	20-23	23-26
Germany	20-26	18-21	19-24	25-28
Greece	a	18-19	23-29	23-32
Hungary	19-21	19-20	19-23	24-28
Iceland	19-33	19-21	23-31	25-31
Ireland	18-32	18-19	22-28	22-28
Israel	18-25	20-25	24-33	26-33
Italy	19-20	19	19-23	23-27
Japan	18	18	22-23	24-28
Korea	18	18	22-27	24-32
Latvia	19-24	19-22	19-25	24-31
Lithuania	a	19	19-25	25-29
Luxembourg	20-23	19-21	22-27	24-28
Mexico	18-19	18-19	22-34	25-39
Netherlands	19-23	18-20	22-25	23-27
New Zealand	18-28	18-19	21-27	22-28
Norway	20-24	19-20	19-24	25-31
Poland	19-37	19-20	19-23	24-26
Portugal	18-20	18-19	18-22	23-32
Slovak Republic	19-22	19-20	22-23	24-27
Slovenia	19-21	19	22-24	24-28
Spain	18-20	18	18-24	23-30
Sweden	19-27	19-22	19-24	24-30
Switzerland	20-28	18-25	22-26	24-30
Türkiye	18-22	18-21	22-29	25-30
United Kingdom	17-29	18-21	21-30	21-30
United States	18-22	18-19	22-28	22-27
Partner and/or accession countries				
Argentina	m	m	m	m
Brazil	m	m	m	m
Bulgaria	a	19	19-24	25-33
China	m	m	m	m
Croatia	31	18-22	21-24	24-40
India	m	m	m	m
Indonesia	m	m	m	m
Peru	m	m	m	m
Romania	a	19-20	22-25	25-30
Saudi Arabia	m	m	m	m
South Africa	m	m	m	m

Note: See StatLink and Box X1.1 for the notes related to this Table.

Source: OECD/Eurostat/UIS (2023). For more information see Source section and [Education at a Glance 2023 Sources, Methodologies and Technical Notes](#), (OECD, 2023_[1]).

StatLink  <https://stat.link/xsqjr0>

Table X1.4. School year and financial year used for the calculation of indicators, partner and accession countries

Country	Financial year												School year											
	2019						2020						2021						2022					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
Argentina																								
Brazil																								
Bulgaria																								
China																								
Croatia																								
India																								
Indonesia																								
Peru																								
Romania																								
Saudi Arabia																								
South Africa																								

Note: See StatLink and Box X1.1 for the notes related to this Table.

Source: OECD/Eurostat/UIS (2023). For more information see *Source* section and [Education at a Glance 2023 Sources, Methodologies and Technical Notes](#), (OECD, 2023^[1]).

Table X1.5. Starting and ending age of students in compulsory education, theoretical starting age and duration of education levels, and ages of entitlement to Early Childhood Education and Care (2021)

Ages refer to the age of the students at the beginning of the school year

	Compulsory education		Entitlements to early childhood education and care		Theoretical starting age and duration									
					Early childhood educational development		Pre-primary education		Primary education		Lower secondary education		Upper secondary education	
	Starting age	Ending age	Starting age of universal entitlement	Starting age of free provision	Starting age	Duration	Starting age	Duration	Starting age	Duration	Starting age	Duration	Starting age	Duration
OECD countries	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Australia	6	17	4	m	0	3	3	2	5	7	12	4	16	2
Austria	5	15	m	5	0	3	3	3	6	4	10	4	14	4
Belgium	5	18	3	3	0	3	3	3	6	6	12	2	14	4
Canada	6	16-18	0	5	0-2	1-2	3-5	1-2	6	6	12	3	15	2-3
Chile	6	18	m	m	0	3	3	3	6	6	12	2	14	4
Colombia	5	16	5	5	0	3	3	3	6	5	11	4	15	2
Costa Rica	4	16	4	4	0	4	4	2	6	6	12	3	15	2
Czech Republic	6	15	m	m	a	a	3	3	6	5	11	4	15	4
Denmark	6	15	6	m	7 mo.	3	3	3	6	7	13	3	16	3
Estonia	7	16	m	m	x(7)	x(8)	0 ^d	7	7	6	13	3	16	3
Finland ¹	6	16	0	6	9 mo.	2	3	4	7	6	13	3	16	3
France ²	3	16	3	3	a	a	3	3	6	5	11	4	15	3
Germany	6	18	1	m	0	3	3	3	6	4	10	6	16	3
Greece	5	14-15	m	m	0	4	4	2	6	6	12	3	15	3
Hungary	3	16	0	0	0	3	2.5	3	6	4	11	4	15	3-5
Iceland	6	16	a	a	0	3	3	3	6	7	13	3	16	4
Ireland	6	16	m	m	0	3	3	2	5	8	13	3	16	2
Israel	3	17	3	3	0	3	3	3	6	6	12	3	15	3
Italy	6	16	0	3	a	a	3	3	6	5	11	3	14	5
Japan	6	15	3	3	a	a	3	3	6	6	12	3	15	3
Korea	6	14	0	0	0	3	3	3	6	6	12	3	15	3
Latvia	5	16	1	1	1.5	3	3	4	7	6	13	3	16	3
Lithuania	6	16	0	0	0	3	3	4	7	4	11	6	17	2
Luxembourg	4	16	m	m	a	a	3	3	6	6	12	3	15	4
Mexico	3	17	m	m	0	3	3	3	6	6	12	3	15	3
Netherlands	5	17	4	4	a	a	3	3	6	6	12	3	15	3
New Zealand	5	16	m	3	0	3	3	2	5	6	11	4	15	3
Norway	6	16	1	a	0	3	3	3	6	7	13	3	16	3
Poland	6	15	3	3	a	a	3	4	7	4	11	4	15	4
Portugal	6	18	4	4	0	3	3	3	6	6	12	3	15	3
Slovak Republic	6	16	3	3	a	a	3	3	6	4	10	5	15	4
Slovenia	6	14	0	m	11 mo.	2	3	3	6	6	12	3	15	4
Spain	6	16	3	3	0	3	3	3	6	6	12	3	15	3
Sweden	6	15	1	3	1	2	3	4	7	6	13	3	16	3
Switzerland	4-5	15	4	4	a	a	4	2	6	6	12	3	15	4
Türkiye	6	17	m	3	0	2	3	3	6	4	10	4	14	4
United Kingdom	4-5	16	3	3	0	3	3	2	5	6	11	3	14	4
United States	4-6	16-18	m	m	0	3	3	3	6	6	12	3	15	3
Partner and/or accession countries														
Argentina ³	4	17	m	m	m	m	m	m	6	6	12	3	15	3
Brazil	4	17	0	4	0	4	4	2	6	5	11	4	15	3
Bulgaria	7	16	3	3	a	a	3	4	7	4	11	3	14	5
China	6	14	m	m	m	m	m	m	6	6	12	3	15	3
Croatia	5-6	15-16	m	m	0	3	3	4	7	4	11	4	15	4
India	6	13	m	m	m	m	m	m	6	5	11	3	14	4
Indonesia ³	7	15	m	m	m	m	m	m	7	6	13	3	16	3
Peru	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Romania ⁴	5	18	0	3	0	3	3	3	6	5	11	4	15	3
Saudi Arabia	6	14	m	m	m	m	m	m	6	6	12	3	15	3
South Africa ³	7	15	m	m	m	m	m	m	7	7	14	2	16	3

Note: See StatLink and Box X1.1 for the notes related to this Table.

Source: OECD/Eurostat/UIS (2023). For more information see *Source* section and [Education at a Glance 2023 Sources, Methodologies and Technical Notes](#), (OECD, 2023^[1]).

Box X1.1. Notes for Annex 1 Tables

Table X1.1 Typical graduation ages, by level of education (2021)

The range of typical ages is the range encompassing at least 50% of the share of graduation rates.

1. Year of reference differs from 2021: 2020 for Argentina and South Africa; 2018 for Indonesia.

Table X1.2 Typical age of entry, by level of education (2021)

The range of typical ages is the range encompassing at least 50% of the share of entry rates.

Table X1.3. School year and financial year used for the calculation of indicators, OECD countries

Table X1.4. School year and financial year used for the calculation of indicators, partner countries and accession countries

Table X1.5. Starting and ending age of students in compulsory education, theoretical starting age and duration of education levels, and ages of entitlement to early childhood education and care (2021)

The theoretical ages refer to the age of the students at the beginning of the school year except for the ending age of compulsory education which corresponds to the age at which compulsory schooling ends. For example, an ending age of 18 indicates that all students under 18 are legally obliged to participate in education. Since the theoretical ages indicated refer to the beginning of the school year, students may be older than the theoretical ending age at the end of the academic year.

1. In 2015, the Basic Education Act was revised and the participation of 6-year-olds in pre-primary education became mandatory. However, this is not encompassed by the Compulsory Education Act, which stipulates that compulsory education usually begins in the year when children turn 7 years old.

2. As of September 2020, 16-18 year-old students are required to train by several means: schooling, apprenticeships, training courses, civic service, and support or social and professional integration measures.

3. Year of reference differs from 2021: 2020 for Argentina and South Africa; 2018 for Indonesia.

4. From the school year 2020-2021, education is compulsory from last grade of pre-primary education to the last two grades of upper secondary education (e.g. grades 11 and 12).

See Definitions and Methodology sections and (OECD, 2023^[1]), *Education at a Glance 2023 Sources, Methodologies and Technical Notes*, <https://doi.org/10.1787/d7f76adc-en>, for more information.

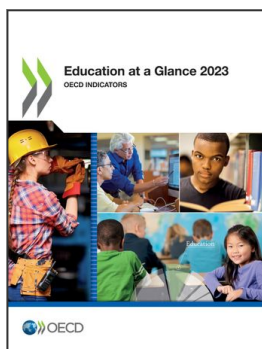
Data and more breakdowns are available at <http://stats.oecd.org/>, *Education at a Glance Database*.

Please refer to the Reader's Guide for information concerning symbols for missing data and abbreviations.

Reference

OECD (2023), *Education at a Glance 2023 Sources, Methodologies and Technical Notes*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/d7f76adc-en>.

[1]



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