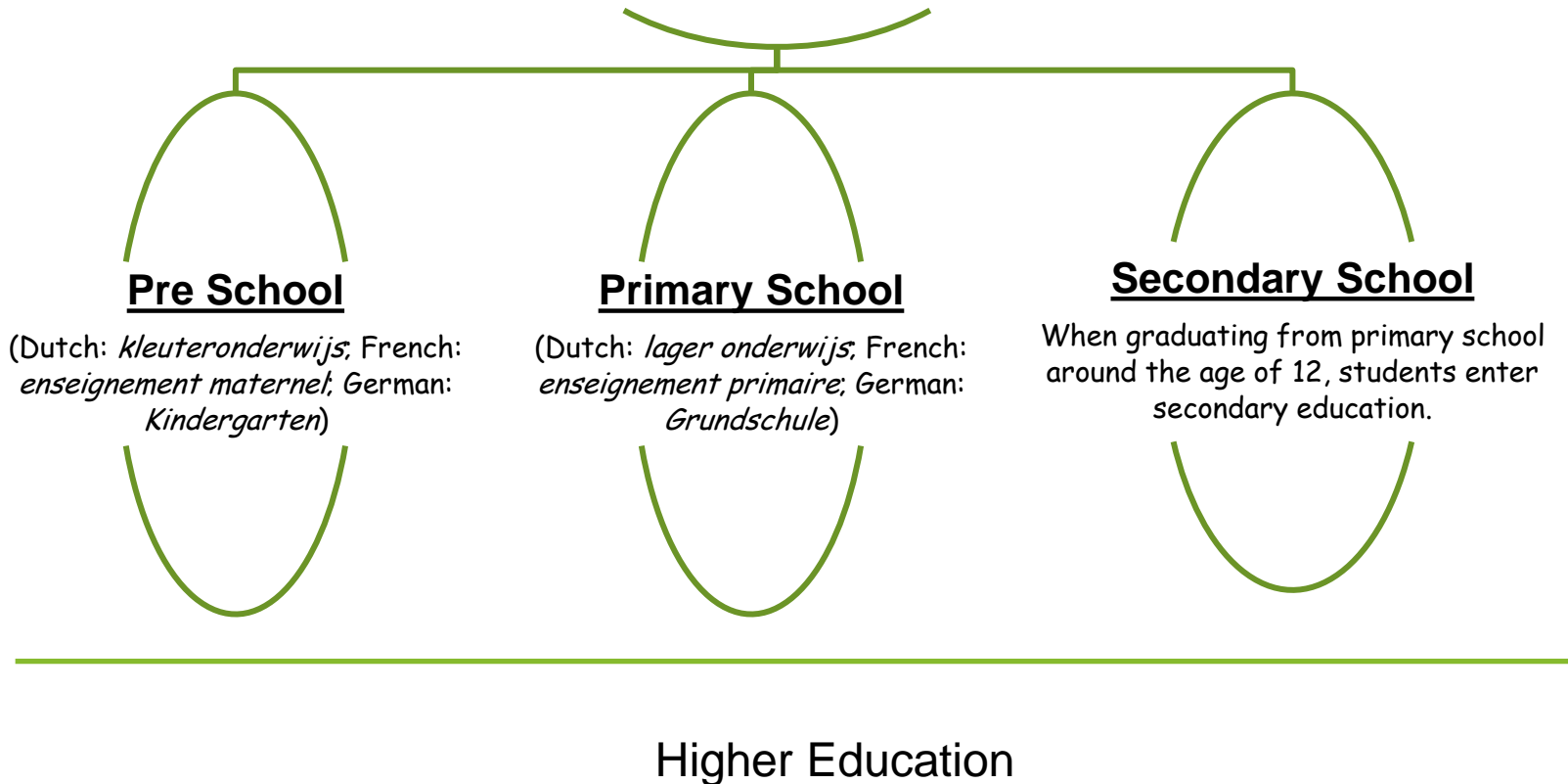


EDUCATION SYSTEM IN BELGIUM

Education in Belgium is regulated and for the larger part financed by one of the three communities: Flemish, French and German-speaking. All three communities have a unified school system with small differences from one community to another.



The structure of the education system of Belgium comprise the following level



OUTLINE

- **Beginning and end dates of compulsory education**

A child becomes subject to compulsory education on 1 September of the calendar year in which they become 6 years old.

Compulsory education lasts for a maximum of twelve entire school years.

Compulsory education ends:

- on the 18th birthday, for pupils becoming 18 years on or before 30 June,

- on 30 June, for pupils becoming 18 years after that date. These pupils do not have to start a new school year.

- or as soon as a pupil obtains the diploma of secondary education, even if they are only 16 at that time for example.

As of the age of 15 or 16 years, pupils can do part-time learning and working in order to comply with compulsory education.

THE STRUCTURE

Primary Education

Primary school (Dutch: *lager onderwijs*; French: *enseignement primaire*; German: *Grundschule*) consists of six years and the subjects given are generally the same at all schools. Primary schooling is free and age is the only entrance requirement.

Primary education is divided into three cycles:

- First cycle (year 1 and 2)
- Second cycle (year 3 and 4)
- Third cycle (year 5 and 6)

Secondary Education

Full-time secondary education ('voltijds secundair onderwijs' or 'secundair onderwijs') caters for youngsters between the ages of 12 and 18 years.

The structure of secondary education consist of 3 stages:

- The first stage: 1st and 2nd grade
- The second stage: 3rd and 4th grade
- The third stage: 5th, 6th and 7th grade (7th only in BSO)

From the second stage, '**mainstream** full-time secondary education' is divided vertically into four branches (Schools):

- GSE - General Secondary Education {ASO}
- TSE - Technical Secondary Education {TSO}
- ASE - Artistic Secondary Education {KSO}
- VSE - Vocational Secondary Education {BSO}

Pupils obtain their diploma of secondary education once they have successfully completed 6th grade ASO, KSO, TSO or a 7th year BSO. This diploma gives them access to higher education.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The first stage: 1st and 2nd grade (Eerste graad)

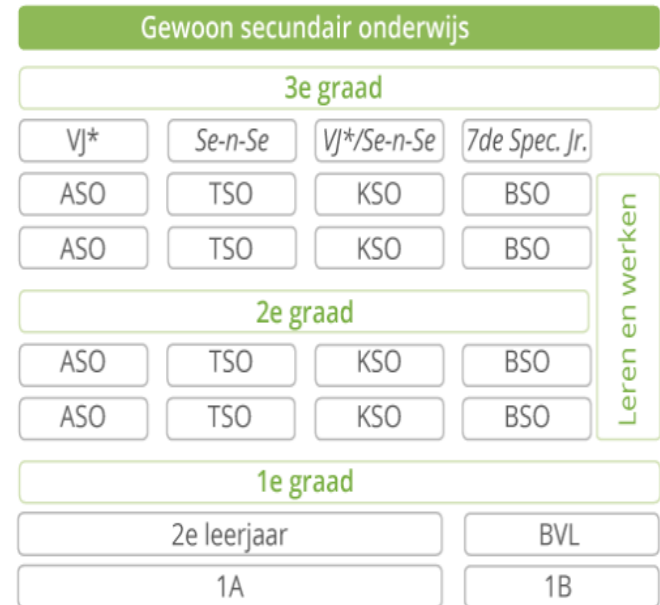
In the first year there is a choice between: Latin (A) & Modern (B)

- 1A, the *first grade A*, contains a limited choice package: Latin, sciences, commerce, technology, agricultural engineering, and so on.
- 1B, the *first year B* is usually followed by students who have difficulty in elementary education with theoretical material. Sometimes they are also students from the special education come.

In the second year there is a choice between:

- 2A, the *second grade A*, after a first grade A, the students have a limited choice of package. There is a division in fact already being made between theoretical studies and practical directions.
- 2B (L), the vocational year , to which most pupils move from 1B. Afterwards, they usually follow BSO.

Note: The **transition from 1st grade B to 1st grade A** is possible until 15 November and from 1st grade A to 1st grade B until 15 January, if the pupil's parents agree and the class council of 1A approves.



*VJ = voorbereidend jaar op het hoger onderwijs

- **The second stage: 3rd and 4th grade (Tweede graad)**

From the second stage, or **degree of orientation** , we distinguish four types of education :

- General secondary education (ASO)
- Artistic secondary education (KSO)
- Technical secondary education (TSO)
- Vocational secondary education (BSO)

Within these forms of education, there is a wide range of **disciplines** .

ASO

In general secondary education ('algemeen secundair onderwijs' - ASO) pupils receive a broad general education. ASO is a sound basis for anyone wishing to pursue higher education.

- **TSO**

In technical secondary education ('technisch secundair onderwijs' - TSO) pupils receive a general education and are taught a number of technical-theoretical subjects. After TSO, pupils can either practice a trade or follow higher education.

- **KSO**

In secondary arts education ('kunstsecundair onderwijs' - KSO) pupils are given a broad general education and can actively emerge themselves in art. After KSO, pupils can either practice a trade or go on to higher education.

- **BSO**

In vocational secondary education ('beroepssecundair onderwijs' - BSO) pupils get a lot of practical lessons. They learn a specific vocation and are also given a general education.

DISCIPLINES

ASO

Economie

Grieks

Grieks-Latijn

Humane wetenschappen

Latijn

Rudolf

Steinerpedagogie

Sportwetenschappen

Wetenschappen

Wetenschappen-
topsport

Yeshiva

TSO

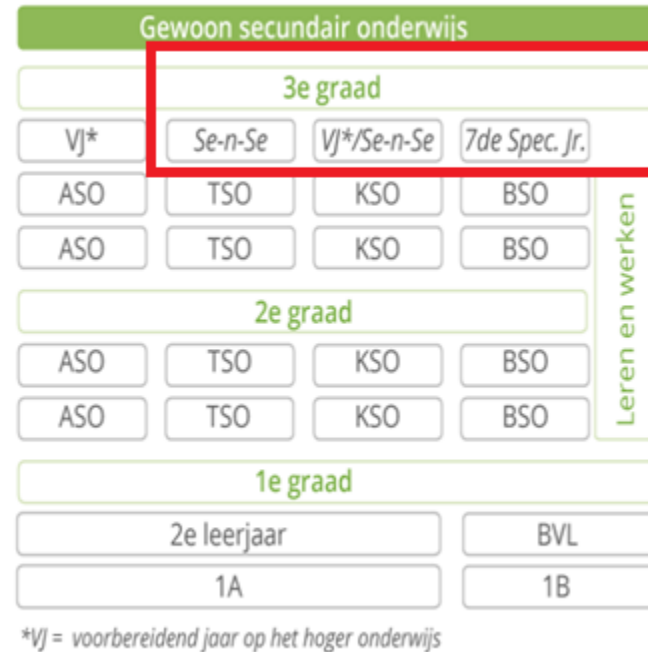
Bio-esthetiek
Biotechnische wetenschappen
Bouw- en houtkunde
Bouwtechnieken
Brood en banket
Creatie en mode
Elektriciteit-elektronica
Elektromechanica
Elektrotechnieken
Fotografie
Glastechnieken
Grafische communicatie
Grafische media
Handel
Handel- talen
Hotel
Houttechnieken
Industriële wetenschappen
Lichamelijke opvoeding en sport
Maritieme technieken Dek
Maritieme technieken Motoren
Mechanische technieken
Plant-, dier- en milieutechnieken
Slagerij en vleeswaren
Sociale en technische wetenschappen
Techniek-wetenschappen
Textiel- en designtechnieken
Textieltechnieken
Toerisme
Topsport
Voedingstechnieken

BSO

- Artistieke opleiding
- Audiovisuele vorming
- Ballet
- Beeldende en architecturale kunsten
- Beeldende en architecturale vorming
- Dans
- Muziek
- Woordkunst-drama

3E GRAAD SE-N-SE TSO – KSO

Se-n-Se is organized by secondary schools. The programs are strongly focused on the labor market and 'workplace learning' (internship) is an essential part of the program. Se-n-Se you want opportunities to promote both employment and to higher education.



GRADING SYSTEM IN BELGIUM

3 types of orientation certificates may be issued:

- an A-attest (A certificate) if the pupil has completed the grade successfully;
- a B-attest (B certificate) if the pupil is admitted to the next grade but certain branches of education and/or courses of study are excluded;
- a C-attest (C certificate) which means that the pupil must stay back.

In Belgium anybody with a qualifying diploma of secondary education is free to enroll at any institute of higher education of their choosing. The 4 major exceptions to this rule are those wanting to pursue a degree in:

Medicine/Dentistry

Arts

Engineering Sciences

Management Sciences

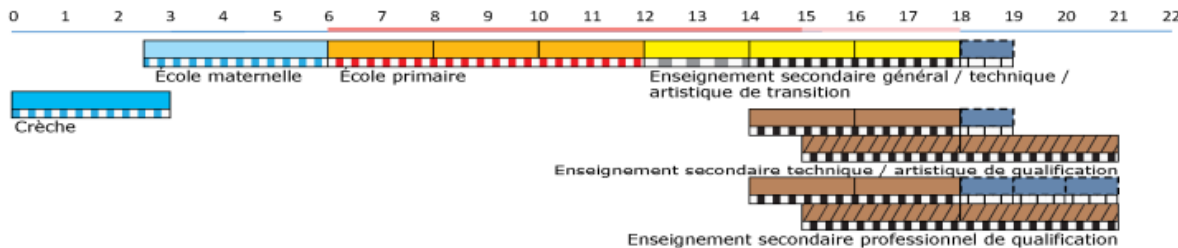
EDUCATION SYSTEM IN BELGIUM

Education	School/Level	Grade From	Grade To	Age From	Age To	Years	Notes
Primary	Primary Education			6	12	6	Getuigschrift van Lager Onderwijs (Primary Education Certificate)
Secondary	General Secondary Education (ASO)			12	18	6	Diploma van Secundair Onderwijs (Secondary Education Diploma)
Secondary	Artistic Secondary Education (KSO)			12	18	6	Diploma van Secundair Onderwijs (Secondary Education Diploma)
Secondary	Vocational Secondary Education (BSO)			12	19	7	Diploma van Secundair Onderwijs (Secondary Education Diploma)
Tertiary	Technical Secondary Education (TSO)			12	18	6	Diploma van Secundair Onderwijs (Secondary Education Diploma)
Tertiary	Kandidaat and Bachelor's degree - University level first stage					2	2 - 3 year programs Before 2004/2005: Kandidaat cycle. A Kandidaat degree was obtained after two- to three-year basic university training. In the fields of Philosophy, Theology and Canon Law the degree conferred was the Baccalaureus. From 2004/2005, the academic bachelor's degree (180 ECTS) prepares students for advanced studies at master's level.
Tertiary	Tertiary						
Tertiary	Licentiaat - Master's degree - University level second stage					2	2 - 3 year program. From 2004/2005, the master programme in at least one year (60 ECTS) was introduced.
Tertiary	Doctoral studies -					2	Since 2004/2005 the highest level of specialization is the doctorate degree and is only awarded by universities.

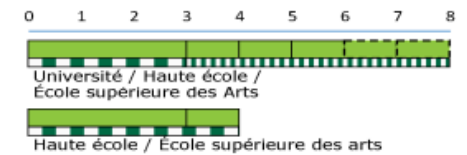
EDUCATION SYSTEM IN BELGIUM

Belgium – French Community

Age of students

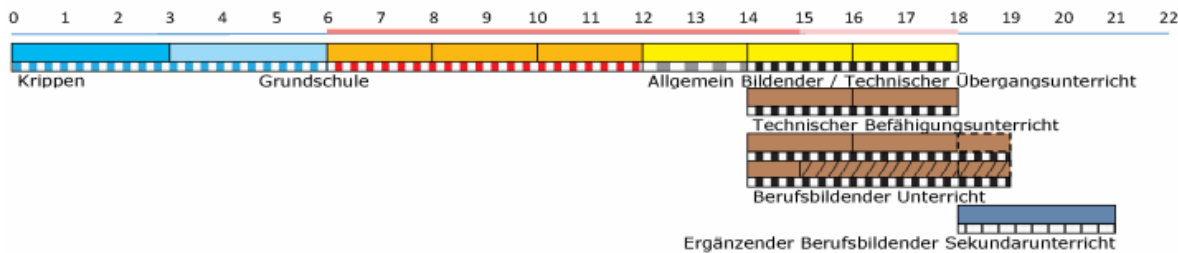


Programme duration (years)



Belgium – German-speaking Community

Age of students

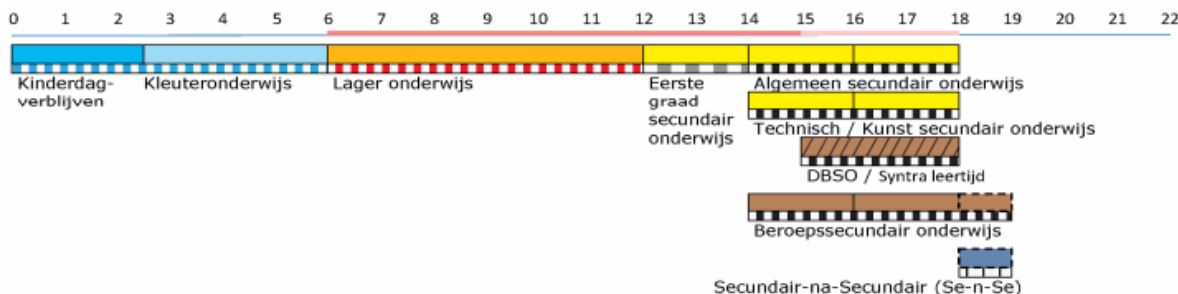


Programme duration (years)



Belgium – Flemish Community

Age of students



Programme duration (years)

