



What does Education until 18 mean?

The Austrian Federal Government has decided that all youth until 18 years of age are required to complete an education beyond compulsory school. Why? Because it is an important goal to ensure that all young people have a solid education to enable them to organise their future life independently and to be an active member of society.

What is the purpose of Education?

In Austria, different ways to complete an education are available to young people. On the one hand, this includes the attendance of a secondary school, such as a grammar school, technical college (HTL), business school (HAK), higher vocational school (HBLA) and so on. On the other hand, young people in Austria can complete an apprenticeship in a wide variety of professions, during which they work at a company while also attending a vocational school. Those who cannot find an apprenticeship opening at a company have the option to complete a training at an apprenticeship workshop of the AMS. There, young people are trained together and can change to a company later. Those who do not wish to complete a school or an apprenticeship can alternatively participate in employment projects or complete different types of training.

The goal of Education until 18 is to undergo and positively complete a post-compulsory education. This will help young people with a successful start into professional life. It is about a sense of community and a meaningful occupation. Young women and men with a completed education will find a job more easily, will earn more money later, and will lead a healthier and longer life.

For all further information visit: 
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And what do you like best about me?

The fact that you are completing an education now!

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Who provides help?



A wide variety of support offers are available to young people who do not know what to do after completing school. Each Federal State has set up a **coordinating office** for Education until 18 as first point of contact for young people and their parents. In addition to that, the **youth coaching** offered by the SMS or the Labour Market Service (AMS) provides assistance for finding the right route of education. The consultants working there will ask about the young person's interests, what they can do and what they wish for. The result of the discussion will then be put into a **personal plan for the future**.

What can and should parents do?



It is important that parents encourage their children in completing an education – to ensure a good and secure future for them! This also means that parents are required to register their child with the regional coordinating office if he or she has not attended school or a training in more than four months. Schools, companies and institutions must also register this to ensure that all young people receive help.

When do young people fulfil the duty to complete an education?



When they ...

- attend school,
- complete an apprenticeship or an industry-wide training program (ÜBA),
- participate in preparatory offers for examinations as external students or other trainings (e.g. preparation for the compulsory school final examination, training programs in health professions),
- participate in employment projects,
- participate in offers earmarked for youth who need assistance,
- attend an employment project as provided for under a pathway or support plan.



With what issues will the regional coordinating office help me?

- With any questions relating to Education until 18.
- When parents want to know whether their child fulfils the duty to complete an education.
- When children have problems finding the right school or education after completing compulsory school.
- When young people are unsure how they can optimally apply their talents and interests in professional life.
- When a child has not attended any school or education in more than four months.

