

ISCED Level Mapping for the United Kingdom Educational System

ISCED	Explanation	United Kingdom
ISCED 0	Pre-primary education is defined as the initial stage of organised instruction. It is school- or centre-based and is designed for children aged at least 3 years.	Nursery schools/classes Pre-Primary, 3-5yrs
ISCED 1	This level begins between 5 and 7 years of age, is compulsory in all countries and generally lasts from four to six years.	Primary schools (Key stage 1 and 2), 5-11yrs
ISCED 2	This continues the basic programmes of the primary level, although teaching is typically more subject-focused. Usually, the end of this level coincides with the end of full-time compulsory education.	Secondary schools (key stage 3) Comprehensive school College, formerly 'O' levels, 11-16yrs
ISCED 3	This level generally begins at the end of compulsory education. The entrance age is typically 15 or 16 years. Entrance qualifications (end of compulsory education) and other minimum entry requirements are usually needed. Instruction is often more subject-oriented than at ISCED level 2. The typical duration of ISCED level 3 varies from two to five years.	Secondary schools (Key stage 4) Sixth Form 'A' levels, 14 or 15 or 16 – 18yrs
ISCED 4	These programmes straddle the boundary between upper secondary and tertiary education. They serve to broaden the knowledge of ISCED level 3 graduates. Typical examples are those designed to prepare pupils for studies at ISCED level 5 or for direct labor market entry.	Work based training BTEC awards/NVQs/HNC/Ds
ISCED 5	Entry to these programmes normally requires the successful completion of ISCED level 3 or 4. This level includes tertiary programmes with an academic orientation (type A) which are largely theoretically based and tertiary programmes with an occupational orientation type B) which are typically shorter than type A programmes and geared for entry into the labor market.	Undergraduate degree Professional qualifications (e.g, dentistry, law, medicine) Masters Degree
ISCED 6	This level is reserved for tertiary studies that lead to an advanced research qualification (Ph.D. or doctorate).	PhD/Doctorate