


Dual apprenticeship

Lehre / duale Ausbildung
 Austria

1 Target group

Q6. Does the legal basis define the minimum and maximum age limits for enrolment of the target group of this scheme?

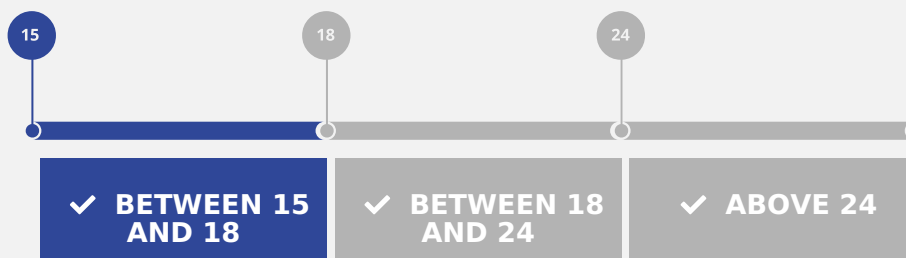


Minimum age is 14 years (yet 9 years of compulsory schooling have to be fulfilled). [1]

No maximum age defined.

[1] Minimum age for apprentices is regulated in the Law on Child and Youth Employment Act (Kinder- und Jugendlichen-Beschäftigungsgesetz 1987, version of 28.01.2019) in § 2 (1a)

Q7. What is the average age of learners in practice?



Almost 60% of beginners are 15 to 16 years old (Dornmayr & Nowak 2018, p. 23).

Source: Dornmayr H. and Nowak S. (2018). Lehrlingsausbildung im Überblick 2018. Strukturdaten, Trends und Perspektiven. ibw-research report No. 193. <https://www.ibw.at/en/resource/download/1726/ibw-forschungsbericht-193.pdf> [accessed 28.01.2019].

2 Overview of the scheme

Q8. Is the scheme included in the ISCED 2011 mapping?



✓ YES

✓ NO

Programme 354 in ISCED 2011 mapping

Q9. Is there any organization at the national level with roles in co-ordinating the scheme?



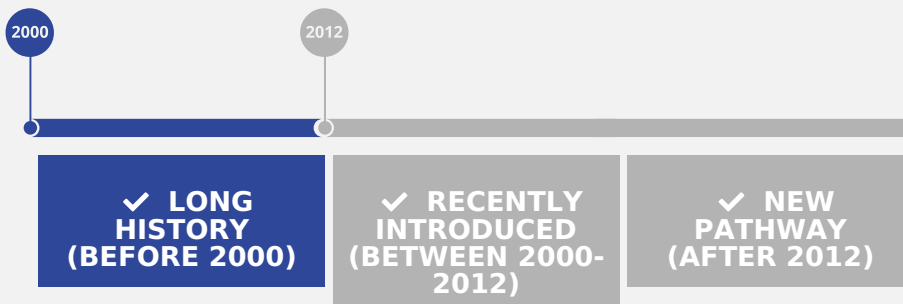
✓ YES

✓ NO

The Federal Advisory Board on Apprenticeship (BBAB Bundes-Berufsausbildungsbeirat) essentially governs apprenticeship training [1] although its role is legally defined as being one of an adviser to the ministries (“of economy” as well as “of education”). BBAB is composed of an equal amount of member from the social partners (Austrian Economic Chambers, Chamber of Labour). By unanimous voting, it defines the basic design and almost all aspects of apprenticeship training (esp. of in-company training).

[1] Vocational Training Act (Berufsausbildungsgesetz, BAG): § 31

Q10. When was the scheme introduced?



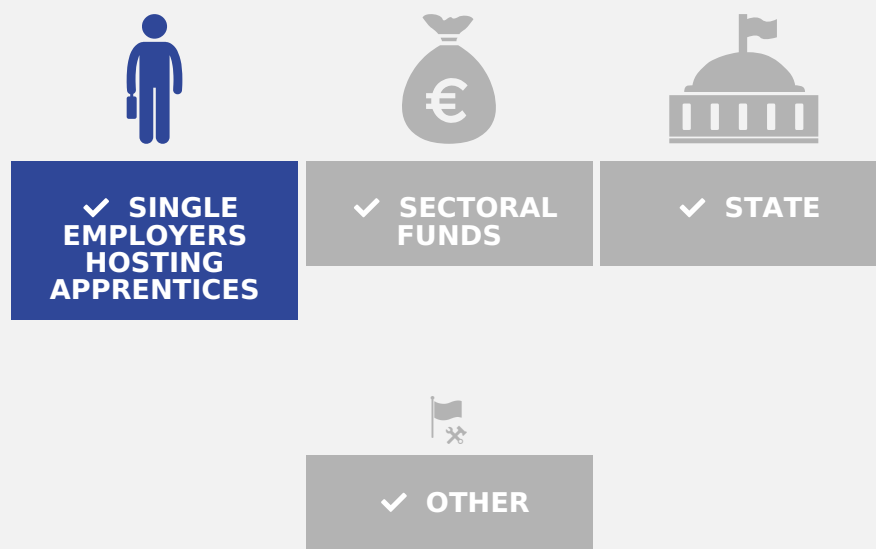
The current framework was established in 1969. It however harks back to a tradition of training in the crafts system for centuries.

Q11. How did the apprenticeship scheme originate?



The dual apprenticeship scheme shows a long tradition harking back to the medieval guild system. It has since then been the main pathway of establishing young people within the crafts occupations and also expert positions within the industries.

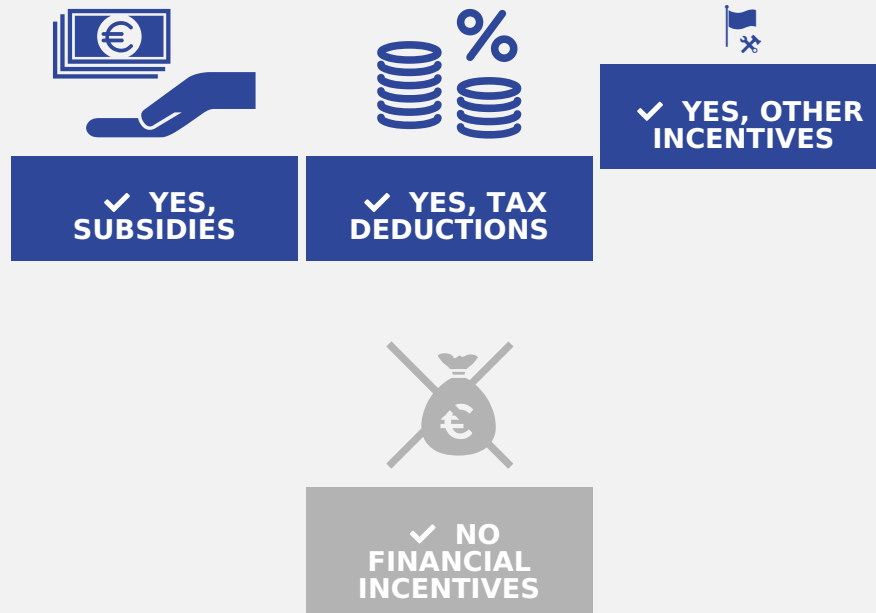
Q12. What are the sources of financing of the direct costs for the in-company training part of the apprenticeship scheme?



The training enterprises bear the costs of company-based training, whereas the costs of

The training enterprise bears the costs of company-based training, whereas the costs of school-based education (part-time vocational school) are financed by public funds. Since in-company training covers 75-80% of the apprenticeship scheme duration, by far the greatest part of costs of vocational training is borne by enterprises.

Q13. Are there any financial incentives for companies that offer apprenticeship places?



Since 2016, every training company gets a direct public subsidy for each apprentice. This basic subsidisation is linked to the apprenticeship wage and gradually reduced over the apprenticeship years. More concretely, training companies get back 3 times a monthly apprenticeship wage in the first training year, twice during the second year and one monthly apprenticeship wage for the third (and fourth) training year. The basic rationale behind this design is to compensate training companies for the low productivity of apprentices in their initial years.

Additionally, training companies may get “criteria-based subsidies” in the form of grants [1]. These incentives are earmarked to...

- foster quality e.g. through coaching, building training alliances, providing extra preparation for the final apprenticeship examination (FAE) or the qualifications of trainers, and/or
- address specific target groups and/or occupations e.g. by employing apprentices from supra-company scheme, by training girls in occupations typically dominated by boys (ie max. 30% share of girls), or providing training for inclusive/integrative programmes etc.

Incentives mentioned so far are financed by the Austrian insolvency remuneration fund, which is financed entirely by companies themselves (0.35% of lump sum of wages; 0.2% of it are earmarked for direct subsidisation of training companies). In essence, it is a compulsory training fund which redistributes the levy of all companies to the ones that train apprentices.

Additionally, training companies get indirect financial subsidies by:

- waivers in the area of non-labour costs, i.e. employers do not have to pay their part of social security contributions for apprentices for sickness, unemployment and accident insurance
- tax deduction, i.e. charging the training expenditures lead to a reduction of the

companies' taxable profit).

In some sectors and/or regions additional training funds exist:

- In the construction sector a third supra-company learning site (BAUakademien) is financed by compulsory levies for all companies in the sector since 1982.
- In western Austria (Bundesland Vorarlberg) a voluntary training fund exists in the electro- and metal industry (VEM). All participating companies voluntarily pay in a levy of 2.4‰ of the lump sum of wages. Training companies get a one-time bonus for each of their apprentices who positively succeed in a skills competition.

In Austria, also apprentices themselves may get subsidies. These are financed from funds of the labour market policy budget, i.e. the Public Employment Service (PES). [2]

[1] Companies have to apply for these criteria-based subsidies at the local apprenticeship offices. They have to proof their expenses and get them partly reimbursed up to a certain amount: https://www.wko.at/service/bildung-lehre/Gesamtuebersicht_Foerderarten_lehre.html.

[2] For details see <https://www.ams.at/unternehmen/service-zur-personalsuche/foerderungen/foerderung-der-lehrausbildung>.

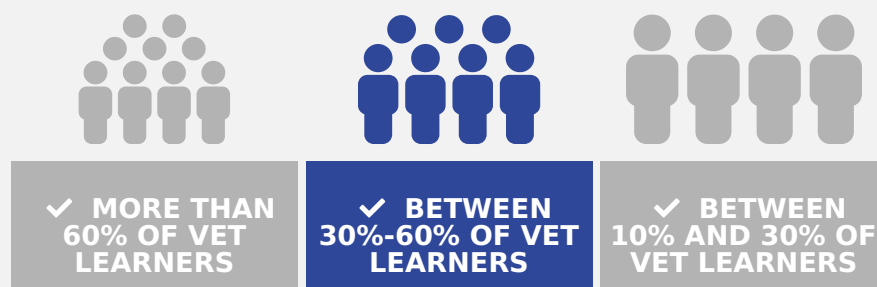
Source Schmid Kurt (2019): Financial Incentives for Companies to Engage in VET: Options, Pros & Cons. DC dVET Discussion Note; forthcoming.

Q14. How many learners are enrolled in this scheme?

2018: 99,613 were enrolled in the apprenticeship scheme by 31.12.2018

[1] Chamber of Commerce: Lehrlinge nach Sparten: 2002-2018
http://wko.at/statistik/jahrbuch/LL_Sp.xlsx [accessed 29.01.2019].

Q15. What is the share of apprentices enrolled in this scheme in relation to all VET students for the corresponding educational level(s) as reported in Q3?





✓ LESS THAN
10% OF VET
LEARNERS

In school year 2017/18, around 34% of the young people engaged in an IVET track within upper secondary education conducted an apprenticeship [1]. The rest of IVET learners at this stage are engaged in Vocational Colleges or Vocational Schools.

[1] Statistik Austria. Schülerinnen und Schüler im Schuljahr 2017/18 nach Geschlecht

http://www.statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET_NATIVE_FILE&Revis...

[accessed 29.01.2019].

Q16. Which is the type of qualification obtained through the apprenticeship scheme?



✓ FORMAL VET
QUALIFICATION
(WHICH DOES
NOT INDICATE
THE PATHWAY)



✓ FORMAL VET
QUALIFICATION
(WHICH
INDICATES THE
PATHWAY)



✓ FORMAL
APPRENTICESHIP
QUALIFICATION
(JOURNEYMAN,
ETC.)



✓ OTHERS

The apprenticeship certificate (Lehrabschluss) is legally regulated.

Q17. Is the qualification included in the National Qualification Framework (NQF)?



✓ YES

✓ NO

✓ THERE IS NO
NQF

In the eight-level Austrian National Qualifications Framework (NQF) it is at level 4 [1].

[1] <https://www.qualifikationsregister.at/> [accessed 29.01.2019].

Q18. How does the qualification link to the scheme?



✓ IT IS A
SPECIFIC TYPE
OF
QUALIFICATION
WHICH CAN
ONLY BE
OBTAINED
THROUGH THIS
APPRENTICESHIP
SCHEME



✓ THE SAME
QUALIFICATION
CAN BE
ACHIEVED ALSO
THROUGH OTHER
SCHEMES (I.E.
SCHOOL-BASED
VET)

There are no other programmes than the apprenticeship scheme which leads to the formal apprenticeship certificate.

However, the Vocational Training Act also opens access to the apprenticeship leave exam to persons who have not completed any formal training (dual training or school) and thus provides them with the possibility of acquiring a formal vocational qualification ("extraordinary access to apprenticeship leave exam"). In concrete terms, they must meet the following conditions: they must be over 18 years of age; and furnish evidence that they have acquired the knowledge and skills required for the respective apprenticeship occupation, e.g. by exercising a relevant semi-skilled or other practical activity of appropriate length or by attending a relevant course. Also, completion of at least half of the period stipulated for the respective apprenticeship occupation is accepted as evidence if there is no other possibility of entering into an apprenticeship contract for the remaining apprenticeship period.

Q19. Does the scheme provide direct access to higher education?

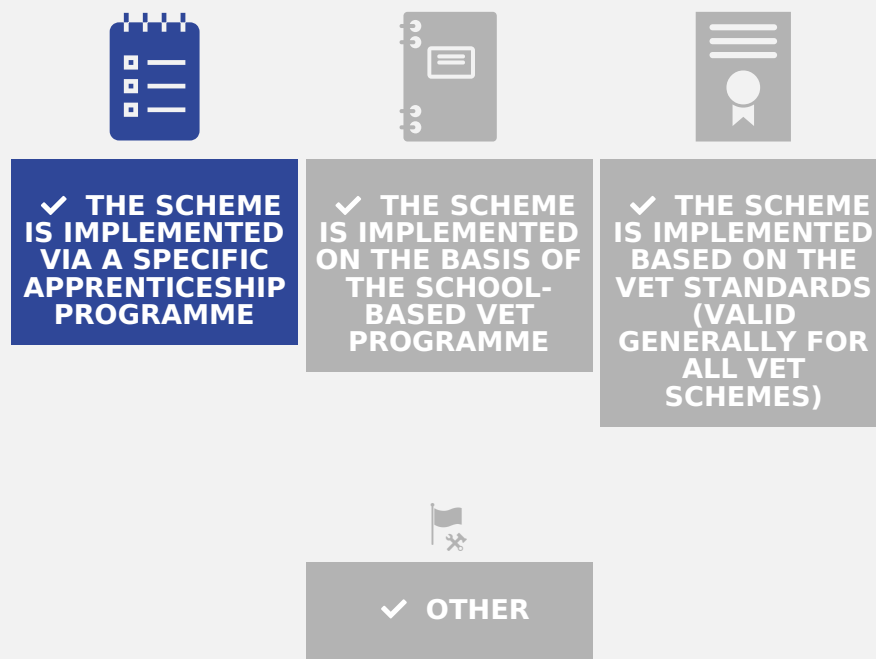


Direct access to higher education is possible at level (ISCED 2011 level) 55.

Direct access is also possible to level 66 for universities of applied science (Fachhochschulen) if the study field corresponds to the apprenticeship programme and the applicant passed positively the entrance procedure at the university of applied science.

3 Programme

Q20. How is the scheme linked to a training programme?



There are about 250 different apprenticeship programmes.

4 Duration

Q21. If the scheme is implemented via specific apprenticeship programme, what is its duration?

2-4 years [1]

For each individual apprenticeship occupation, the Ministry of Economy issues a training regulation, which also regulates the duration of the training. The usual duration of an apprenticeship is between 2 and 4 years. There are scenarios where a prolongation of the pre-defined duration is possible:

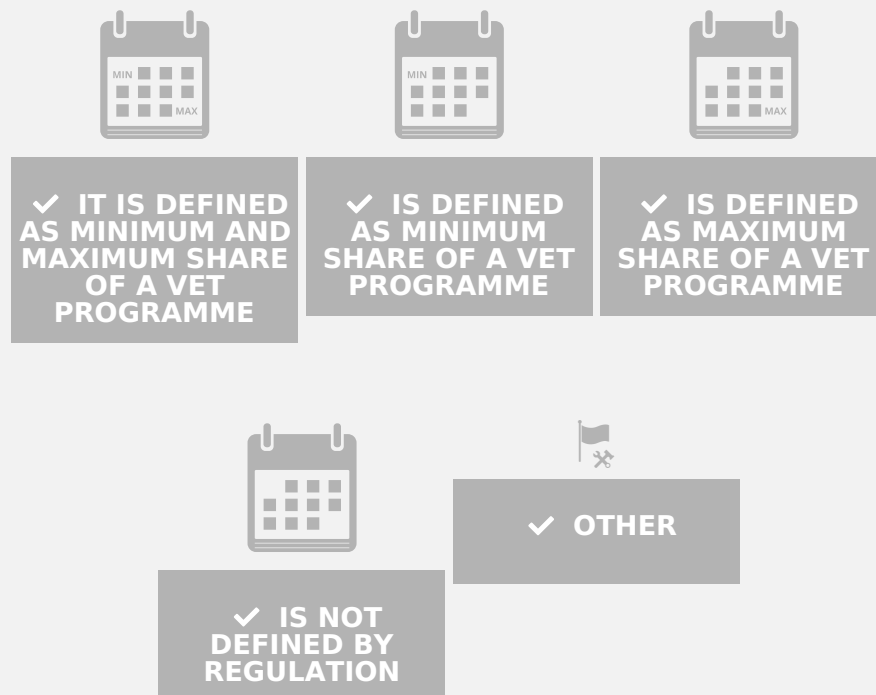
In case an apprentice chooses to accomplish the apprenticeship diploma plus certificate of secondary education (Berufsmatura), the apprenticeship can be prolonged by a maximum of 18 months for that purpose. But prolongation of the apprenticeship is not mandatory. The certificate provides general access to higher education.

With the integrative (inclusive) IVET scheme (IBA in German), the legislator has created a flexible model for people at disadvantage in the labour market. There are two possibilities of integrative IVET, from which one is a prolongation of the apprenticeship by one year, in exceptional cases by up to two years and the other is the acquisition of a partial qualification where only a part of an apprenticeship occupation or of several occupations is taught. [2]

[1] Vocational Training Act (Berufsausbildungsgesetz, BAG): § 6

[2] Vocational Training Act (Berufsausbildungsgesetz, BAG): § 8b

Q22. If the scheme is not implemented via specific apprenticeship programme, how is duration of apprenticeships defined in the regulation?



Q23. Is there a distinction between the training time and working time for the period spent at workplace, as per regulation?



✓ YES, THE
LEGAL
FRAMEWORK
MAKES THIS
DISTINCTION



✓ NO, THE
LEGAL
FRAMEWORK
MAKES NO
DISTINCTION

5 Alternation of work-based (in-company) training and school-based training

Q24. Is it compulsory to alternate training between two learning venues (school and company)?



✓ YES



✓ NO

In-company training is a compulsory part of the scheme, as per regulation.

Q25. Is the in-company training defined as minimum share of the apprenticeship scheme duration?



✓ YES,
EQUIVALENT OR
MORE THAN 50%
OF SCHEME
DURATION



✓ YES,
BETWEEN 20%
AND 50% OF THE
SCHEME
DURATION



✓ YES, LESS
THAN 20% OF
THE SCHEME
DURATION

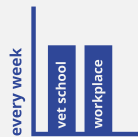


✓ NO, NO
MINIMUM SHARE
IS COMPULSORY

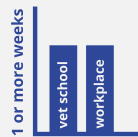
Circa 75-80%

Details for each apprenticeship profession are defined in the framework curricula at national level for the part-time voc. school.

Q26. What is the form of alternation of training between workplace (company) and school?



✓ EVERY WEEK
INCLUDES BOTH
VENUES



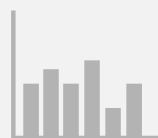
✓ ONE OR
MORE WEEKS
(LESS THAN 1
MONTH) SPENT
AT SCHOOL
FOLLOWED BY
ONE OR MORE
WEEKS AT
WORKPLACE



✓ ONE OR
MORE MONTHS
(LESS THAN 1
YEAR) SPENT AT
SCHOOL
FOLLOWED BY
ONE OR MORE
MONTHS AT
WORKPLACE



✓ A LONGER
PERIOD (1-2
YEARS) SPENT AT
SCHOOL
FOLLOWED BY A
LONGER PERIOD
SPENT TRAINING
AT WORKPLACE



✓ VARIOUS -
DEPENDS ON
AGREEMENTS
BETWEEN THE
SCHOOL AND THE
COMPANY



✓ OTHER

✓ NOT
SPECIFIED

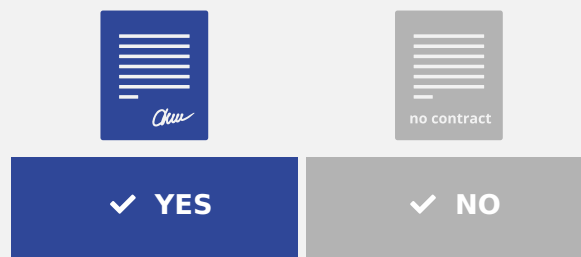
The following organisation forms of teaching at part-time vocational schools exist:

- all year round, i.e. at least on one full school-day or two half school-days a week;
- by block, i.e. for at least eight weeks continuously;
- seasonally, i.e. in block form at a particular time of the year.

The variety of organisation forms is due to consultation between the business sphere and those responsible for school education and takes account of the individual economic and regional sectors' needs.

6 Formal relationship with the employer

Q27. Is any contractual arrangement between the learner and company, required as per regulation?



The apprenticeship contract is signed by the apprentice and the training company. In case of underage apprentices, the apprenticeship contract must also be signed by his or her legal representative.

The apprenticeship contract must be concluded in writing. Standardised forms can be obtained from the Apprenticeship Offices of the economic chambers in the individual federal provinces.

The apprenticeship contract must include the following details:

- the name of the occupation in which apprenticeship is conducted;
- the beginning and end of training;
- details regarding the people authorised to train apprentices at the workplace; and
- the trainer related to the apprentice;
- note concerning compulsory attendance of part-time vocational school;
- periods of training held within the framework of a training alliance with other companies or educational institutions;
- amount of the apprenticeship remuneration;
- day on which the apprenticeship contract is concluded

Q28. What is the nature of the contractual arrangement?



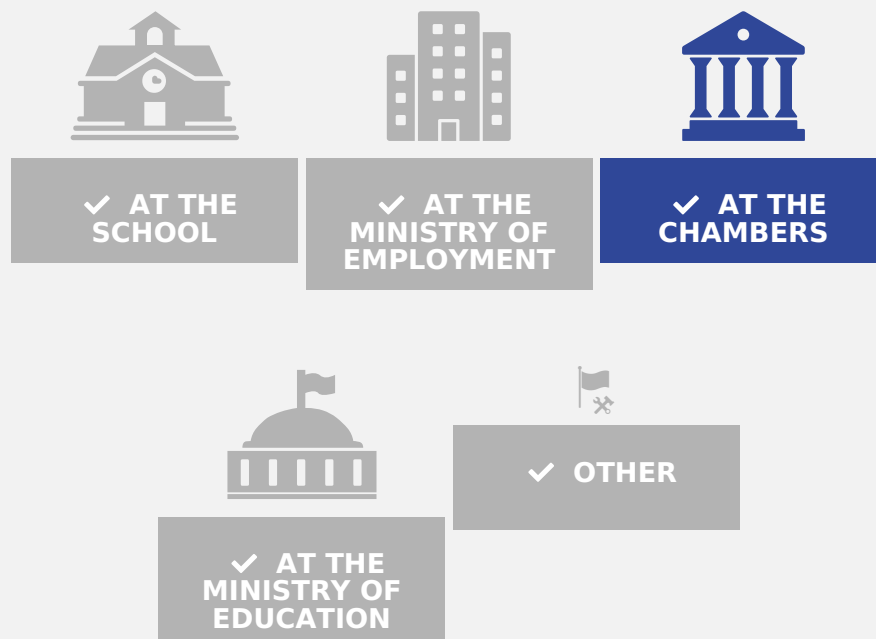
Apprenticeship contract is a specific type as it combines employment and qualification/training, which stipulates that the apprentice has to attend compulsory part-time vocational school.

Entitlements are regulated under labour law: for example, the apprentice is entitled to 5 weeks of vacation per year.

The payment of sick pay is regulated in the Vocational Training Act.

The provisions of the Child and Youth Employment Act must be maintained for apprentices up to the age of 18 years.

Q29. Where is the contract or the formal agreement registered?



The apprenticeship contract must be submitted for recording purposes as fact as

The apprenticeship contract must be submitted for recording purposes as fast as possible, at least within three weeks after the beginning of the training, to the Apprenticeship Office “at the Economic Chambers at the province level, which work on behalf of the Ministry of Economy. The Apprenticeship Office will then examine the data of the apprenticeship contract and the training enterprises’ suitability. The recording of the apprenticeship contract is a prerequisite for the apprentice's later admittance to the apprenticeship-leave exam.

Q30. What is the status of the learner?



✓ APPRENTICE IS A SPECIFIC STATUS



✓ STUDENT



✓ EMPLOYEE



✓ OTHER

Apprentice is a specific status as defined by the law (BAG), i.e. he/she is an employee and a learner as well.

7 Compensation

Q31. Do apprentices receive a wage or allowance?



✓ YES, ALL APPRENTICES RECEIVE A WAGE (TAXABLE INCOME)



✓ YES, ALL APPRENTICES RECEIVE AN ALLOWANCE (NOT A FORM OF TAXABLE INCOME)



✓ APPRENTICES RECEIVE A REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES



✓ NO FORM OF
COMPENSATION
IS FORESEEN BY
LAW

Please specify how the wage or allowance are fixed and if/how they progress in time

Apprentice remunerations are taxable. However, they are usually so low that they do not reach the lower limit of taxation. Social insurance contribution is detracted from the remuneration.

Its amount is specified by collective agreements and ranges between some EUR 380 and some EUR 2,000 gross a month (14 times a year) depending on the apprenticeship occupation and year. The remuneration increases with every apprenticeship year until, in the final year, it totals an approximate average of 80% of the corresponding skilled worker's wage. The reason for this is that the apprentices' share in productive work increases with every year, which means they contribute more to the training company's productivity every year [1].

[1] IBW Austria (2014). Apprenticeship-type schemes and structured work-based learning programmes Austria,

<http://refernet.at/en/dokumente/474-at-apprenticeship-article-2014-en-final/file>.
[accessed 24.05.2016].

Q32. How is the apprentice wage (taxable income) set?



✓ BY LAW
(APPLYING FOR
ALL)



✓ BY CROSS-
SECTORAL
COLLECTIVE
AGREEMENTS AT
NATIONAL OR
LOCAL LEVEL



✓ BY SECTORAL
COLLECTIVE
AGREEMENTS AT
NATIONAL OR
LOCAL LEVEL



✓ OTHER

✓ BY FIRM-
LEVEL
COLLECTIVE
AGREEMENTS OR
INDIVIDUAL
AGREEMENTS
BETWEEN
APPRENTICE AND
COMPANY

The apprenticeship remuneration's amount is laid down for each individual apprenticeship occupation in collective bargaining agreements at national sectoral (or sometimes at company) level. Where no collective bargaining agreements exist, it is necessary to agree on the apprenticeship remuneration in the apprenticeship contract individually.

Q33. Who covers the cost of the wage or allowance of the apprentice?



✓ OTHER

✓ EMPLOYERS

✓ STATE

Apprentices remuneration covers the time spend in company and in the part-time voc. school. The training enterprise bears the costs of company-based training, whereas the costs of school-based education (part-time vocational school) are financed by public funds.

Additionally, financial subsidies for companies are financed by the Austrian insolvency remuneration fund, a fund that is financed entirely by companies themselves (see Q13).

Q34. Does the wage or allowance of the apprentice cover both the time spent at school and in the company?



✓ YES



✓ NO, IT
COVERS ONLY
THE TIME SPENT
IN THE COMPANY

YES, apprenticeship remuneration also covers time spend in part-time vocational school.

8 Responsibility of employers

Q35. Is the company hosting apprentices required by regulation to follow a training plan at the workplace?



✓ YES, THE
TRAINING PLAN
IS AGREED AT
THE LEVEL OF
SCHOOL AND
COMPANY



✓ YES, THE
TRAINING PLAN
IS BASED ON THE
NATIONAL/SECTOR
REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE IN-
COMPANY
TRAINING



✓ NO, IS NOT
REQUIRED
FORMALLY

The amount of training at the workplace, the requirements in terms of equipment and suitability of the trainers etc. are regulated by law.

An Austrian-wide training regulation (Ausbildungsordnung) exists for every apprenticeship.

It includes the job profile (Berufsbild) – a type of curriculum for the company-based part of training, which lays down the minimum knowledge and skills to be taught to apprentices by companies. The competence profile (Berufsprofil), which is also part of the training regulation, formulates in a learning outcome-oriented manner the competences apprentices acquire by the end of their training in both learning sites.
https://cumulus.cedefop.europa.eu/files/vetelib/2016/2016_CR_AT.pdf

Q36. What are the requirements on companies to provide placements, as per regulation?



✓ HAVE TO
PROVIDE A
SUITABLE
LEARNING
ENVIRONMENT



✓ HAVE TO
PROVIDE A
MENTOR / TUTOR
/ TRAINER



✓ OTHER

Companies that want to train apprentices are obliged, before recruiting them, to submit an application for determination of suitability for apprenticeship training (request for declaration) to the respective competent apprenticeship office of the Federal Economic Chamber. Local competence rests with the apprenticeship office of the province where the training company has its seat. The apprenticeship office is obliged by law to examine in collaboration with the Chamber of Labour whether the company meets the prerequisites for apprenticeship training [VTA § 3a] If that is the case, the company will be issued a so-called “declaration”, certifying that the company is entitled to recruit apprentices.

Prerequisites for apprenticeship training:

- Fulfilment of legal conditions: the company must be entitled pursuant to the Trade, Commerce and Industry Regulation Act to carry out the activities in which the apprentice is to be trained. Apprentices cannot only be trained by trade and craft enterprises, but also by members of the liberal professions, such as pharmacists, architects, lawyers, civil engineers, etc., and by associations, administrative offices and other legal entities.
- Fulfilment of corporate conditions: The company needs to be equipped and managed in a way that it is in a position to impart to the apprentice the knowledge and skills included in the occupational profile. Those enterprises that cannot fully impart this knowledge and these skills have the possibility to train apprentices within the framework of a training alliance.

The company size is not decisive for apprenticeship training. Every entrepreneur - also a one-person company - can train apprentices if it is guaranteed that they are assisted appropriately. In addition, a sufficient number of professionally and pedagogically qualified trainers (5 apprentices per part-time trainer or 15 apprentices per full-time trainer) must be available in the company.

There are not learning venues other than the education / training provider and the training company foreseen. In case a company cannot provide the full equipment for an apprenticeship, it is obligatory that an alliance of companies do so [VTA § 2a].

Frequently, the authorised apprenticeship trainer (e.g. the company owner) at the same time acts as the apprentices' trainer. He or she may, however, entrust another competent employee with this task. The success of company-based apprenticeship training is mainly determined by the trainer's professional competence and pedagogical (teaching) skills. The work of the IVET trainer not only requires certain previous professional qualifications but also proof of knowledge and skills related to vocational pedagogy and law. Candidates have to take the IVET trainer examination, which is one module of the master craftsperson examination, to assess their knowledge and skills. The IVET trainer examination is waived upon successful completion of a forty-hour IVET trainer course. Some qualifications or exams (e.g. successful completion of a foreperson course) are treated as equivalent to the IVET trainer examination or IVET trainer course. The majority of trainers train their apprentices on a part-time basis alongside their regular work. But there are also full-time trainers and full-time training supervisors in many large enterprises.

Q37. Are there any sanctions on companies that do not provide training to apprentices at the workplace?



✓ YES



✓ NO

Sanctions exist for those training companies not fulfilling their obligations:

- to register an apprenticeship contract in time
- to grant the apprentice the time required to attend vocational school, or
- to prompt the apprentice to attend school regularly, or
- not to use the apprentice for non-professional activities, or
- to observe the fixed quantitative ratio in accepting apprentices (see Q36),
- to entrust a suitable trainer with training duties, or
- to lodge a complaint in accordance with para. 9 (which defines the responsibilities of the trainer) in time or
- to assure all measures needed to provide supplementary training (e.g. a training alliance)

Committing an administrative offense is fined with up to € 1,090, in the cases of b, d and f; however, they may be fined with at least € 145, and after repeated offenses with a fine of at least € 327 to € 2,180.

Companies who are not allowed to train but nevertheless train apprentices may be fined with up to € 3.270.

Q38. What is the role of chambers, employers' and employees' representatives, sectoral councils (if existent), in shaping apprenticeship content, as per regulation?



✓ ROLE IN
DESIGNING
QUALIFICATION



✓ ROLE IN
DESIGNING
CURRICULA



✓ OTHER



✓ NO ROLE

The social partners play a particularly important role in the governance of the apprenticeship training system. The social partners are essentially in charge of taking decisions about what in-company curriculum and/or competence profile a qualification for an apprenticeship occupation is based on and they exert a decisive impact on the structure and content of apprenticeship training via their work in relevant advisory councils (Bundesberufsausbildungsbeirat, BABB; Landesberufsausbildungsbeiräte, LABB).

https://cumulus.cedefop.europa.eu/files/vetelib/2016/2016_CR_AT.pdf

Q39. What is the role of chambers, employers' and employees' representatives in implementing the apprenticeship scheme, as per regulation?



✓ ROLE IN
FINAL
ASSESSMENT OF
APPRENTICES



✓ ROLE IN
ACCREDITATION
OF COMPANIES



✓ ROLE IN
MONITORING OF
THE IN-COMPANY
TRAINING



✓ OTHER



✓ NO ROLE

The social partners (and especially the Chamber of Commerce in their regional apprenticeship offices) have considerable administrative tasks and responsibilities:

- accrediting companies (see Q36)
- monitoring the in-company training
- organising practical part of the final apprenticeship exam
- doing essentially all administrative documentation with respect to training companies and in-company trainers
- providing information and giving support to companies about apprenticeship training

The Quality Management in Apprenticeship (Qualitätsmanagement Lehrlingsausbildung, QML) initiative was launched in 2013 by the social partners. Its goal is to ensure that even more young people complete an apprenticeship and pass the apprenticeship-leave examination – without lowering the level of the exam. QML builds on a set of annually evaluated indicators of apprenticeship dropouts, the number of apprentices who (do not) sit for the final exam as well as the number of apprentices who (do not) acquire the apprenticeship certificate.