

## VET in Finland

The Ministry of Education and Culture (MoEC) is responsible for strategic and normative steering of vocational education and training (VET) and leads national development. National VET objectives, the qualifications structure and core subjects are determined by the government.

Authorisations to provide VET are granted by the MoEC. They cover VET fields, qualifications, number of students, language of instruction, locations, special educational tasks and other issues. VET providers may also be assigned tasks to organise labour policy education.

A VET provider may be a local authority, municipal training consortium, foundation or other registered association or State-owned company. They organise training in their areas, matching provision with local labour market needs. They decide independently on issues such as type of education and training provided, and ways of completing studies, within the limits of their authorisation from MoEC.

More than 40% of students who completed basic education start initial VET (IVET) immediately after; most of these obtain their VET qualifications at vocational institutions. Vocational qualifications are available for both young students and adults.

There are 52 vocational qualifications (EQF 4) and nearly 110 further vocational qualifications (EQF 4) and specialist vocational qualifications (EQF 5) in different fields. The most popular fields are technology, communications and transport, and social services, health and sports. Half of the students are female, though the proportion varies greatly from field to field.

Admission to IVET programmes is based on a lower secondary education (basic) certificate; for CVET it is on a case-by-case basis, taking work experience into consideration.

An initial vocational qualification requires 180 competence points (cp). Nominal duration is three years depending on the individual personal competence development plan. In addition to vocational units, vocational qualifications include 35 cp of common units (of the 180) such as communication and language skills, mathematics, citizenship and skills needed in working life. Further vocational qualifications require 120, 150 or 180 cp and specialist vocational qualifications 160, 180 or

210 cp, consisting mainly of vocational units. All include work-based learning.

All qualifications can be obtained in apprenticeship training which also includes courses at vocational institutions. The share of work-based learning is 70% to 80%. Most apprentices are adults.

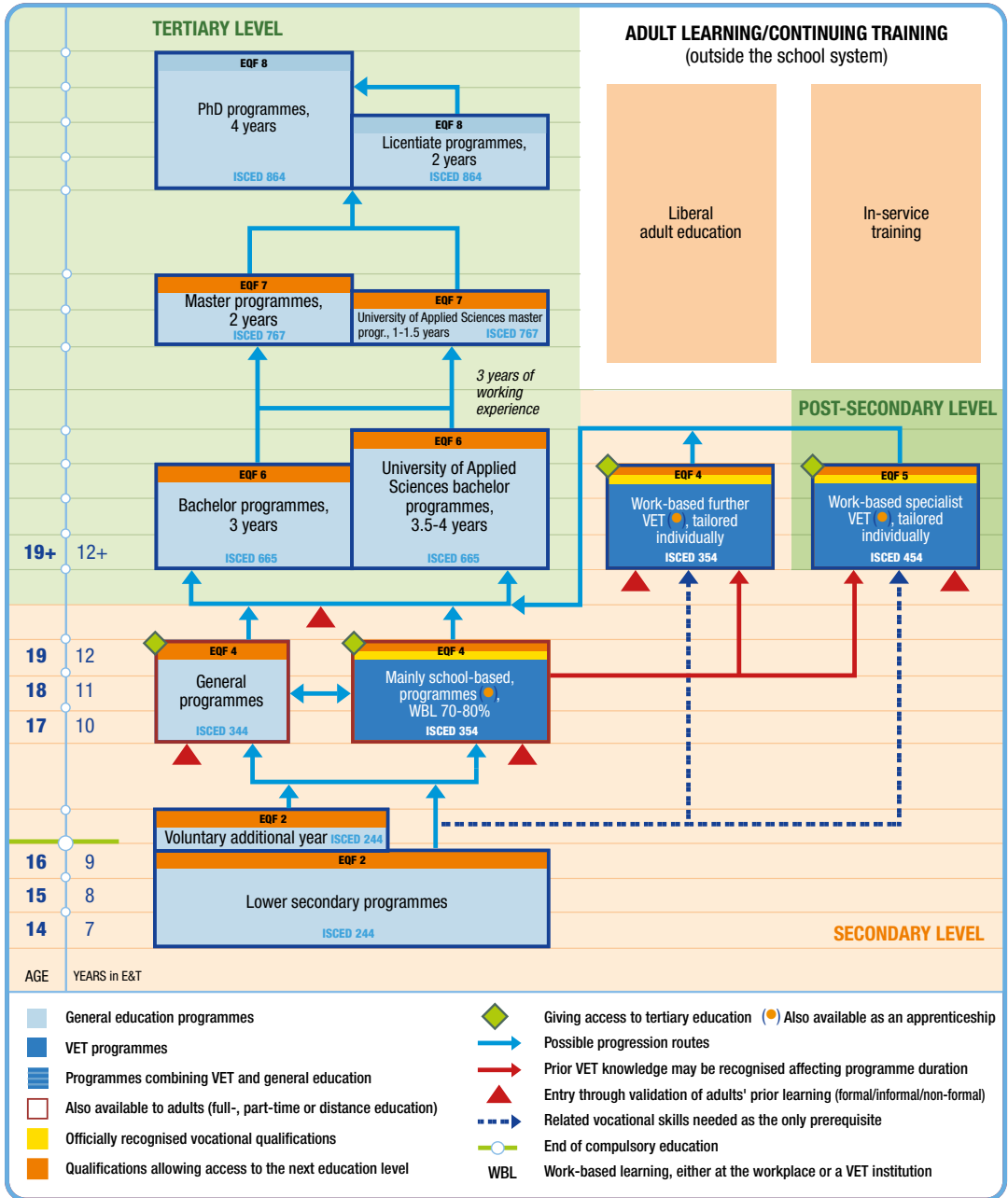
All VET programmes ensure eligibility for higher education studies.

National qualification requirements ensure standardised vocational competence; they are the basis for evaluating learning outcomes. The Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI) develops them in broad cooperation with stakeholders (employers' organisations, trade unions, the Trade Union of Education, and student unions). Representatives from enterprises contribute to development of national qualification requirements; they also organise and plan training at workplaces and competence tests, as well as assessing the tests.

Flexibility and personalisation have become means to respond to changing labour market requirements and individual student needs. Modularisation allows for a degree of personalisation of qualifications; for example, students can choose modules from other vocational qualifications (including both further and specialist vocational qualifications) or universities of applied sciences degrees.

The VET system was reformed as of 2018, with the following focus:

- students may apply for studies at any time of the year;
- VET for young people and adults is in the same framework and regulated by a single act on VET;
- there is a single competence-based method of completing qualifications;
- each student's prior learning is accredited and a personal competence development plan drafted. This defines the skills still to be acquired for obtaining the qualification;
- VET providers are encouraged to organise more learning at workplaces;
- one coherent funding system is applied for IVET, CVET, apprenticeship training and labour market training leading to qualification.



NB: ISCED-P 2011.

Source: Cedefop and ReferNet Finland.



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