

ISCED Level Mapping for the Educational System in the Netherlands

ISCED	Explanation	Netherlands
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.	Peuterspeelzaal, 3-5 jaar
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.	Basisonderwijs, 5-12 jaar
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.	Voortgezet onderwijs of middelbaar onderwijs VMBO (4 verschillende niveau's). HAVO – eerste 4 jaar VWO (gymnasium of atheneum) – eerste 4 jaar LWOO leerwegondersteunend onderwijs of praktijkonderwijs (12 -15 of 16 jaar)
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.	VWO (voltooid of in de laatste 1-2 jaar) HAVO (voltooid of in het laatste jaar) MBO (alleen assistent opleiding) 15 of 16 – 17 of 18 jaar
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.	MBO (3/4 jaar) Eerste jaar van het HBO voltooid Specialistenopleiding
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.	WO HBO Master
ISCED 6	This level is reserved for tertiary studies that lead to an advanced research qualification (Ph.D. or doctorate).	Doctoraat