



# Educational programmes, ISCED and educational attainment

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Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

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# ISCED on UIS website



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- Technical Guides
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### Literacy

- Science & Technology
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- Statistical Capacity Building
- Millennium Development Goals
- Education for All
- World Education Indicators
- LAMP - Literacy Project

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### Data Centre

## CURRENT SURVEYS

- Education
- Literacy
- Science & Technology
- Culture & Communication

## DOCUMENTS

- Classifications & Manuals
- Publications
- Fact Sheets & Periodicals

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- UIS Mission
- Governing Board
- Jobs
- Contact us

site map

UNESCO Action Areas

Home > International Standard Classification of Education - ISCED - Updated: 2009-08-11 5:11 pm

## International Standard Classification of Education - ISCED

### Comparing education systems globally

The world's education systems vary widely in terms of structure and curricular content. Consequently, it can be difficult for national policymakers to compare their own education systems with those of other countries in order to learn from their experiences.

### What does the UIS do?

UNESCO developed the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) to facilitate comparisons of education statistics and indicators of different countries on the basis of uniform and internationally agreed definitions. First developed in the 1970s, the current version, known as ISCED 1997, was formally adopted in November 1997.

However, classification issues continue to arise, especially as education systems expand and diversify. In response, Member States requested that the UIS propose a revised ISCED to the UNESCO General Conference in 2011. The revisions will be based on the conclusions of the regional consultations with experts in 2008 and 2009.

### To learn more:

- **ISCED mappings**
- List of **respondent countries** to the ISCED questionnaire
- ISCED 1997 classification is available in all **six official UN languages**
- ISCED Review
  - Concept paper on ISCED review process available in **Arabic, English, French, Spanish** and **Russian**
- Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) for the review of ISCED
  - January 2009 meeting: **Agenda, Report** (coming soon)
  - July 2009 meeting: **Agenda, Report** (coming soon)
  - TAP members: **Biographies**
- UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education

# Published ISCED mappings

## Arab States

- Algeria
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Mauritania
- Morocco
- Qatar
- Sudan
- United Arab Emirates
- Yemen

## Central Asia

- Armenia
- Georgia
- Mongolia

## East Asia and the Pacific

- Brunei Darussalam
- Macao, China
- Singapore

## Latin America and the Caribbean

- Anguilla
- British Virgin Islands
- Cayman Islands
- Colombia
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Montserrat
- Panama
- Saint Lucia

## South and West Asia

- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- India
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Pakistan

## Sub-Saharan Africa

- Botswana
- Burundi
- Cape Verde
- Central African Republic
- Comoros
- Congo
- Ethiopia
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Mali
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Source: <http://www.uis.unesco.org/publications/iscedmaps> (August 2009)

# Montserrat ISCED mapping

				National			ISCED						
				E F		G				K L		M	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
ID	Name of the education programme	Minimum entrance requirements	Main diplomas, qualifications or certificates awarded at end of programme	Theoretical entrance age	Theoretical duration (in years)	Is the programme part of Compulsory Education?	ISCED97 level	ISCED97 programme destination	Programme orientation or Position in National Structure	Theoretical entrance age	Theoretical duration	Notes	
1	Nursery	3 years old	na	3	2	N	Pre-primary education	0	na	na	3	2	The Ministry of Education is currently in the process of upgrading 16 to Diploma in Early Childhood Education.
2	Primary	5 years old	Primary education certificate	5	7	Y	Primary education	1	na	na	5	7	There is a Special Education Unit that caters for students with related needs. However, it is attached to one of the primary schools.
3	Lower secondary	Primary education certificate	na	12	3	Y	Lower secondary education	2	A	G	12	3	
4	Upper secondary	50% in promotion examinations and age	Secondary education certificate	15	2	Y	Upper secondary education	3	A	G	15	2	The less academic students at this level are exposed to a programme that combines some general and pre-vocational subjects.
5	Advanced level programme	Secondary education certificate	Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) diploma / Associate degree	17	2	N	Post-secondary non-tertiary education	4	A	G	17	2	

# Montserrat ISCED levels 1, 2, 3

B	D	E	F	G	H		K	L
Name of the education programme	Main diplomas, qualifications or certificates awarded at end of programme	Theoretical entrance age	Theoretical duration (in years)	Is the programme part of Compulsory Education?	ISCED97 level		Theoretical entrance age	Theoretical duration
Primary	Primary education certificate	5	7	Y	Primary education	1	5	7
Lower secondary	na	12	3	Y	Lower secondary education	2	12	3
Upper secondary	Secondary education certificate	15	2	Y	Upper secondary education	3	15	2

# Kuwait ISCED mapping

				National			ISCED						
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
ID	Name of the education programme	Minimum entrance requirements	Main diplomas, qualifications or certificates awarded at end of programme	Theoretical entrance age	Theoretical duration (in years)	Is the programme part of Compulsory Education?	ISCED97 level	ISCED97 programme destination	Programme orientation or Position in National Structure	Theoretical entrance age	Theoretical duration	Notes	
1	Kindergarten	4 years old	na	4	2	N	Pre-primary Education	0	na	na	4	2	
2	Primary	6 years old	na	6	5	Y	Primary Education	1	na	na	6	5	
3	Intermediate	Successful Completion of Primary Stage	na	11	4	Y	Lower Secondary Education	2	A	G	11	4	
4	Secondary	Successful Completion of Intermediate Stage	Secondary Certificate	15	3	N	Upper Secondary Education	3	A	G	15	3-4	Religious general programmes last for 4 years
5	Tec/Voc Secondary	Completion Intermediate Level	Tec/Voc Secondary Certificate	15	3-4	N			C	V			
6	Diploma Programs	Secondary Certificate	Diploma	18	2	N	Post-secondary Non-tertiary Education	4	B	V	18	2	
7	Bachelor	Secondary Certificate	Bachelor Degree	18	4	N	Tertiary Education (First Stage)	5	A	First Degree	18	4	
8	Master Programs	Bachelor Degree	Master Degree	22	2	N				Second Degree	22	2	
9	Graduate Diploma Programs	Bachelor Degree	Graduate Diploma	22	2	N			B	Second Qualification	22	2	
10	Ph.D. programs	Master degree	Ph.D	24	2+	N	Tertiary Education (Second Stage)	6	na	na	24	2+	

# Kuwait ISCED levels 5, 6

B	D	E	F	G	H		K	L
Name of the education programme	Main diplomas, qualifications or certificates awarded at end of programme	Theoretical entrance age	Theoretical duration (in years)	Is the programme part of Compulsory Education?	ISCED97 level		Theoretical entrance age	Theoretical duration
Bachelor	Bachelor Degree	18	4	N	Tertiary Education (First Stage)	5	18	4
Master Programs	Master Degree	22	2	N			22	2
Graduate Diploma Programs	Graduate Diploma	22	2	N			22	2
Ph.D. programs	Ph.D	24	2+	N	Tertiary Education (Second Stage)	6	24	2+

# Algeria ISCED mapping

A	B	C	D	National			G	H	I	J	CITE		M
				E	F						K	L	
ID	Titre du programme	Conditions minimales d'admission	Diplômes, accréditation ou certification obtenue(e) à la fin du programme	Âge d'entrée théorique	Durée théorique (en année)	Ce programme fait-il partie de l'éducation obligatoire?	Niveau de la CITE 97	CITE97 Type d'enseignement ultérieur	Orientation du programme (si requis)	Âge d'entrée théorique	Durée théorique (en année)	Observations	
1	Enseignement préparatoire	5 ans	na	4	2	N	Education préprimaire	0	na	na	4	2	
2	Enseignement primaire	6 ans	Brevet d'étude primaire	6	6	O	Enseignement primaire	1	na	na	6	6	
3	Enseignement moyen	Brevet d'étude primaire	Brevet d'étude moyen	12	3	O	Premier cycle de l'enseignement secondaire	2	A	G	12	3	
4	Formation professionnelle spécialisée (CFPS)	Fin d'études primaires	Certificat de formation professionnelle	12	6 mois	O			C	V			
5	Formation d'aptitude professionnelle	Fin d'études primaires	Certificat d'aptitude professionnelle	12	1	O							
6	Enseignement secondaire	Brevet d'étude moyen	Baccalauréat de l'enseignement secondaire	15	3	N	Deuxième cycle de l'enseignement secondaire	3	A	G	15	3	
7	Enseignement secondaire Technique	Brevet d'étude moyen	Baccalauréat Technique	15	3	N				V			
8	Enseignement professionnel et technique	3 e année moyen	Certificat de Maîtrise Professionnelle	15	2	N			C	V			
9	Enseignement professionnel et technique	2 e année secondaire	Brevet de technicien (BT)	16	2	N							
10	Brevet de technicien supérieur	3 e année secondaire	Brevet de technicien supérieur (BTS)	18	3	N	Enseignement post secondaire non-supérieur	4	B	V	18	3	
11	Etudes d'enseignement supérieur	Baccalauréat	Diplôme d'enseignement supérieur (DES)	18	4	N	Premier cycle de l'enseignement supérieur	5	A	Premier diplôme	18	4	
12	Licence	Baccalauréat	Licence	18	4	N							
13	Ingénieur d'état	Baccalauréat	Ingénieur d'état	18	5	N							
14	Etudes Vétérinaires, Dentistaires et de Pharmacie	Baccalauréat	Diplôme de Vétérinaire, Dentiste, Pharmacien	18	5	N							
15	Etudes en médecine	Baccalauréat	Docteur en Medecine	18	7	N							
16	Master	Licence ou Ingénieur d'état	Master	22+	3	N			Deuxième diplôme	22+	3		
17	Formation d'Enseignant du primaire	Baccalauréat	Maître d'Enseignement primaire	18	3	N			B	Premier titre	18	3	
18	Formation de professeur de l'enseignement moyen	Baccalauréat	Diplôme professeur de l'Enseignement moyen	18	4	N							
19	Formation de Professeur de l'enseignement secondaire	Baccalauréat	Diplôme de Professeur de l'Enseignement secondaire	18	5	N							
20	Etudes universitaires appliquées	Baccalauréat	Diplôme d'étude universitaire appliquées (DEUA)	18	3	N							
21	Doctorat	Master	Doctorat	25+	5	N	Deuxième cycle de l'enseignement supérieur	6					25+



# Algeria ISCED levels 2, 3

B	D	E	F	G	H		K	L
Titre du programme	Diplômes, accréditation ou certification obtenu(e) à la fin du programme	Âge d'entrée théorique	Durée théorique (en année)	Ce programme fait-il partie de l'éducation obligatoire?	Niveau de la CITE 97		Âge d'entrée théorique	Durée théorique (en année)
Enseignement moyen	Brevet d'étude moyen	12	3	O	Premier cycle de l'enseignement secondaire	2	12	3
Formation professionnelle spécialisée (CFPS)	Certificat de formation professionnelle	12	6 mois	O				
Formation d'aptitude professionnelle	Certificat d'aptitude professionnelle	12	1	O				
Enseignement secondaire	Baccalauréat de l'enseignement secondaire	15	3	N	Deuxième cycle de l'enseignement secondaire	3	15	3
Enseignement secondaire Technique	Baccalauréat Technique	15	3	N				
Enseignement professionnel et technique	Certificat de Maîtrise Professionnelle	15	2	N				
Enseignement professionnel et technique	Brevet de technicien (BT)	16	2	N				

# Ethiopia ISCED mapping

National							ISCED								
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M			
ID	Name of the education programme	Minimum entrance requirements	Main diplomas, qualifications or certificates awarded at end of programme	Theoretical entrance age	Theoretical duration (in years)	Is the programme part of Compulsory Education?	ISCED97 level	ISCED97 programme destination	Programme orientation or Position in National Structure	Theoretical entrance age	Theoretical duration	Notes			
1	Pre-primary (Kindergarten)	4 years old	na	4	3	N	Pre-primary education	0	na	na	4	3			
2	Primary	7 years old	Grade 8 Completion Certificate	7	8	Y	Primary Education	1	na	na	7	6			
3	Secondary First Cycle (Grades 9-10)	Grade 8 Completion Certificate	Ethiopian General Secondary Education	15	2	N	Lower Secondary Education	2	A	G	13	4			
4	Secondary Second Cycle Preparatory Programme (11-12)	Ethiopian General Secondary Education	Ethiopian Higher Education Entrance Certificate	17	2	N	Upper Secondary education	3	A	G	17	2			
5	Pre school certificate	Ethiopian General Secondary Education	Pre school teaching certificate	17	10 months	N			C	G					Lasts 10 months; provided by KOTEBE TTC private institute
6	First cycle of primary teaching certificate (1-4)	Ethiopian General Secondary Education	First cycle of primary teacher training certificate	17	1	N				G					In teacher training institute or private institutions
7	Second cycle of primary teaching certificate (5-8)	Ethiopian General Secondary Education	Second cycle of primary teacher training certificate	17	3	N									Provided by the teacher training commission
8	Technical / Vocational education training (TVET)	Ethiopian General Secondary Education	Completion certificate	17	1-3	N				V					
9	Technical / Vocational education training (TVET)	Ethiopian General Secondary Education	Completion certificate	17	2	N							Examples: Electrician, plumbing		
10	Technical / Vocational education training (TVET)	Ethiopian General Secondary Education	Completion certificate	17	3	N							Examples: Nursing, Business Accountants		
11	Secondary Education teacher	Ethiopian General Secondary Education	Secondary Teaching Diploma	19	4	N	Tertiary education (First Stage)	5	B	First Qualification	19	4	University; Ask Country		
12	Uundergraduate Degree	Ethiopian Higher Education Entrance Certificate	Bachelor's Degree	19	3-6	N			A	First Degree			3-6	Bachelor of Art(), Science, Education	
13	Postgraduate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Masters Degree	22+	2-3	N				Second Degree	22+	2-3	Medicine(MED), Law(LL Masters of Art, Science(MSc.), Education(MEd.), Law(LLM)		
14	Postgraduate Degree	Master's Degree	Ph.D Degree	24+	3-4	N		Tertiary education (second stage)	6			24+	3-4		

# Ethiopia ISCED levels 1, 2

B	D	E	F	G	H		K	L
Name of the education programme	Main diplomas, qualifications or certificates awarded at end of programme	Theoretical entrance age	Theoretical duration (in years)	Is the programme part of Compulsory Education?	ISCED97 level		Theoretical entrance age	Theoretical duration
Primary	Grade 8 Completion Certificate	7	8	Y	Primary Education	1	7	6
					Lower Secondary Education	2	13	4
Secondary First Cycle (Grades 9-10)	Ethiopian General Secondary Education	15	2	N				

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