

Gaining qualifications through dual vocational training



- ESA** First general school-leaving certificate (Erster Allgemeinbildender Schulabschluss)
- MSA** Intermediate school-leaving certificate (Mittlerer Schulabschluss)
- FOS** Technical secondary school (Fachoberschule)
- FHR** University of applied sciences entrance qualification (Fachhochschulreife)
- BOS** Upper vocational school (Berufsoberschule)
- AHR** General university entrance qualification (Allgemeine Hochschulreife)*

** 2nd foreign language requirements not met: Subject-linked university entrance qualification

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- Legal bases/sources:**
<https://www.gesetze-rechtsprechung.sh.juris.de/>
- Schleswig-Holsteinisches Schulgesetz (SchulG) dated 24 January 2007, last amended by the law of 29 January 2025.
 - Landesverordnung über die Berufsschule (Berufsschulverordnung – BSVO) dated 23 June 2016, as amended on 03 February 2023.
 - Landesverordnung über die Abschlussprüfung an berufsbildenden Schulen (Prüfungsverordnung berufsbildende Schulen – BS-PrüVO) dated 20 July 2017, as amended on 3 February 2023.
 - Gesetz über die Hochschulen und das Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein (Hochschulgesetz – HSG) as amended on 05 February 2016, § 39 (2).

YOUR LOCAL CONTACT



Education that creates additional prospects

School-leaving qualifications with dual vocational training



New!
From 01 February 2027
University of applied sciences entrance qualification through online classes

Schleswig-Holstein. Germany's True North.

Education that creates additional prospects

Are you wondering whether you would rather attend school or do practical work? Why not both?
Dual vocational training combines practice and theory, offering various prospects up to the university entrance qualification (Abitur).

The big advantage: You will acquire a **professional qualification** and, assuming appropriate performance, also a **school-leaving certificate**. Building on the apprenticeship, you can obtain **all qualifications up to the university entrance qualification (Abitur)** at vocational schools – so it is possible to study at university afterwards. Furthermore, the acute skills shortage creates excellent career opportunities.

Starting on 01 February 2027:
University of applied sciences entrance qualification through online classes

From February 2027 onwards, with an intermediate school-leaving certificate, you will be able to flexibly obtain the university of applied sciences entrance qualification through **online classes** alongside your apprenticeship. This way, you can combine **dual vocational training** with educational advancement, opening the way to **studying at university**.

This folder provides information on the opportunities for acquiring **general school-leaving certificates** through **dual vocational training**, and presents various options of acquiring the **ESA, MSA, university of applied sciences entrance qualification and university entrance qualification (Abitur)**. We want to demonstrate that dual vocational training opens up new **opportunities**.



How do I find an apprenticeship?

A **trial internship**, an **extended internship** or the **information offered** by the **Federal Employment Agency**, the **job centres**, the **Chambers** and the **youth employment agencies** can help finding the right profession. Once you have found it, apply to an appropriate company. A phone call or an e-mail is the first step in getting an appointment if you are not already familiar with the company from an internship.

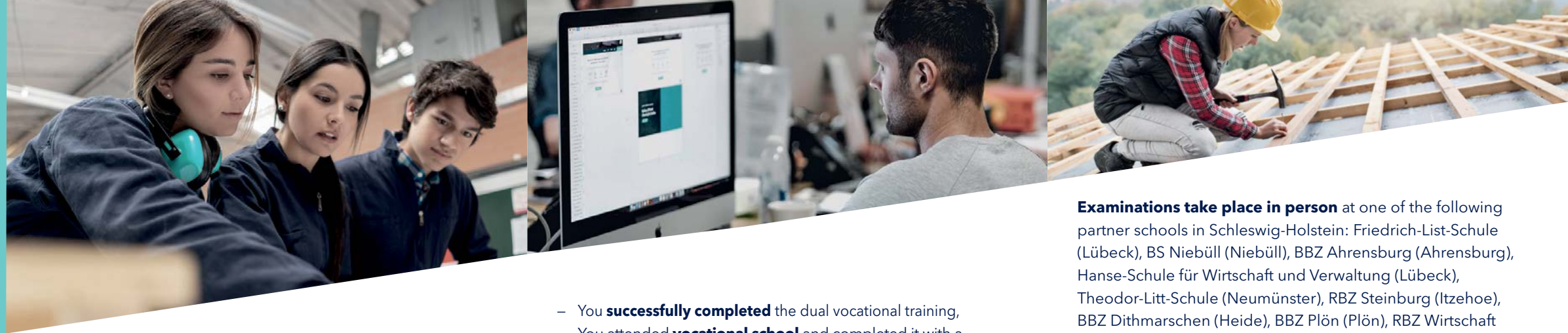
Dual vocational training

Dual vocational training takes place both in a **training workplace** and at the **vocational school**. The duration of training for such a state-recognised apprenticeship is **two**, **three** or **three-and-a-half** years.

The teaching of practical professional skills and the **implementation of theoretical knowledge** take place at the **training workplace**, where the apprentices work three or four days a week.

One or two days a week, you will attend the designated **vocational school**. In some professions, classes are grouped into longer units (block teaching) lasting from one week to three months.

During the apprenticeship, you will take an **intermediate examination**; the apprenticeship concludes with a **final examination**.



First general school-leaving certificate (ESA)

Even **without a school-leaving certificate**, you can find an apprenticeship! There is no legal basis requiring a specific school-leaving certificate as a condition for **dual vocational training**. Of course, with a school-leaving certificate your chances improve.

Companies are desperate to find apprentices; therefore, you should also try finding an apprenticeship if you have **no school-leaving certificate**.

If you start dual vocational training **without a school-leaving certificate**, you will acquire a vocational school-leaving certificate equivalent to the **initial general school-leaving certificate (ESA)**, even if you have not passed the final vocational examination set by the responsible Chamber. You will receive a vocational school-leaving certificate if your achievements in all subjects and learning areas on the timetable have been graded as at least “ausreichend” (sufficient).

Intermediate school-leaving certificate (MSA)

If you start dual vocational training **without an intermediate school-leaving certificate**, your vocational school-leaving certificate at the end of the apprenticeship will include a **qualification equivalent to the intermediate school-leaving certificate (MSA)** if:

- You **successfully completed** the dual vocational training,
- You attended **vocational school** and completed it with a vocational school-leaving certificate indicating an overall average mark of at least **“befriedigend” (satisfactory)** (3.0), and
- You can demonstrate at least **five years of foreign language skills** and your final mark is **at least “ausreichend” (sufficient)** on your certificate.
- This MSA also enables you to attend upper secondary school, for example a vocational grammar school.

University of applied sciences entrance qualification – Your pathway to the next qualification

There are two options for acquiring the university of applied sciences entrance qualification:

1. Alongside an apprenticeship

If you have an intermediate school-leaving certificate (MSA) and start **dual vocational training** lasting at least three years, you can attend extra classes during your apprenticeship. From 01 February 2027 onwards, these will also be held as **extra online classes** for the subjects German, Mathematics, English, Physics and Economics/Politics. At the end of the educational programme, you will obtain the **university of applied sciences entrance qualification** through a separate examination.

You can choose between **four course times**.

Classes are **mandatory**.

Monday and Thursday, 6.30–9.45 pm,
Monday and Wednesday, 6.30–9.45 pm,
Tuesday and Thursday, 6.30–9.45 pm,
or Saturday, 8 am – 3 pm.

Examinations take place in person at one of the following partner schools in Schleswig-Holstein: Friedrich-List-Schule (Lübeck), BS Niebüll (Niebüll), BBZ Ahrensburg (Ahrensburg), Hanse-Schule für Wirtschaft und Verwaltung (Lübeck), Theodor-Litt-Schule (Neumünster), RBZ Steinburg (Itzehoe), BBZ Dithmarschen (Heide), BBZ Plön (Plön), RBZ Wirtschaft (Kiel) and BS Eutin (Eutin).

2. One year of technical secondary school (FOS) after an apprenticeship

After **successfully completing dual vocational training with an MSA**, you can acquire the **university of applied sciences entrance qualification** at the **technical secondary school (FOS)** within one year. The FOS is attended full-time. You may be entitled to student BAföG.

University entrance qualification

With the university of applied sciences entrance qualification, you can acquire the **general university entrance qualification**, equivalent to the university entrance qualification (Abitur), at an **upper vocational school (BOS)** within one year. The course is full-time and you may be entitled to student BAföG.

In all states of the Federal Republic of Germany, the **university of applied sciences entrance qualification** entitles you to study at universities of applied sciences, and with the **general university entrance qualification**, you may additionally study at universities / institutions of higher education.

TIP: If you are already learning a second foreign language at school prior to the dual vocational training, you do not have to catch up on it at the FOS/BOS for the AHR.