

Country Profile - Ukraine

General Comments

Location

The state of Ukraine is located in the Eastern Europe. It borders on Poland, Russia, Belarus, Slovakia, Hungary, Moldova and Romania

Legislative Framework

In 1991 Ukraine became an independent presidential parliamentary state. A new constitution adopted on 26 June 1996 declared Ukraine a republic. It includes the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and 24 oblasts (administrative regions).

Academic year

The academic year is divided into 2 semesters. The 1st semester generally begins on the 1st of September and the second one in January/February.

Medium of instruction

The state language is Ukrainian and is the medium of instruction for the majority of education programmes in the country.

Schooling

Schooling in the Ukraine is compulsory from the ages of 6. School education is made up of three levels of schooling as follows:

- First (I)** - elementary school, which provides primary general education (Grades 1 to 4),
- Second (II)** - basic school, which provides general basic secondary education (Grades 5 – 9),
- Third (III)** - upper school, which provides complete general secondary education (Grades 10 – 12).

First level education – Primary education

Elementary and Basic Schools

The first and the second stages of schooling; elementary and basic schools; form the formal basic education of 9 years of duration, which is compulsory for children aged 6 – 15 years of age. Curricula for elementary schools are usually being determined centrally by the Ministry of Education of Ukraine and consist of the following subjects:

- Ukrainian
- Mathematics
- Environment
- Music.Art
- Physical training
- Working education
- Health protection

Basic school programme generally consists of the following subjects:

Ukrainian Language
Ukrainian Literature
Foreign literature
Foreign language
Mathematics
History of Ukraine
World History
Science of Law
Geography
Environment/Nature study
Biology
Physics
Chemistry
Music. Art
Physical Education
Working Education
Health Protection

At the end of Grade 9 pupils take examinations, and those who are successful are granted the *Svidotstvo pro Nepovnu Seredniu Zagal'nu Osvitu* (Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Education). Students who hold this qualification are entitled to continue on to senior secondary school education.

Second level education – Post-Primary education

After completing the first two levels of education (Grade 9) pupils may continue their education at senior secondary school or at a vocational school. The majority completing Grade 9 go on to senior secondary school. Since 1991, several types of school have been offering senior secondary education including gymnasiums and lyceums.

Gymnasiums and lyceums

These are regarded as the most prestigious schools and are usually specialised. They admit students on a competitive basis and offer advanced training in their specialism (e.g. physical and mathematical lyceums, art gymnasiums, etc.). There are also schools of mixed type known as school-gymnasium or school-lyceum in which only the senior grades (level three) offer advanced level schooling. Individual schools design their own working syllabus, based on ministry guidelines, and have direct control over about one-quarter of the total teaching time.

On completion of this period of study, pupils sit for the *Atestat pro Povnu Zagal'nu Sersdniu Osvitu* (Certificate of Complete General Secondary Education), which gives access to university and other higher education institutions.

Higher Education

Higher education in Ukraine is provided via higher education institutions such as vocational schools, colleges, institutes, conservatories, academies and universities. Providers of higher education consist of public and private institutions, however the majority are public institutions. Higher education is centrally administered by the Department of Education. Non-public higher

education institutions are legally acknowledged and controlled by the state through licensing mechanisms and accreditation.

According to the "Law on Education" of Ukraine the higher educational institutions' status the following 4 levels of accreditation are set:

Level I - vocational schools and others equaled to them;

Level II - technical secondary schools and colleges;

Level III, IV - universities, academies, institutes, conservatories.

The levels of accreditation represent the hierarchy of degrees according to the qualification of graduates (levels of proficiency). There are: Junior Specialist, Bachelor, Specialist and Master.

Junior Specialist - *Dyplom Molodshoga* (Level I) – Programmes leading to Junior Specialist awards are provided in vocational schools for a period of 2 to 4 years, often 3 years. Entry is on the basis of successful completion of full comprehensive secondary education.

Bachelor - *Dyplom Bakalavra* (Level II) – The entry requirement to a Bachelor programme is a certificate of completed secondary education. Bachelor programmes are delivered by colleges, graduates have attained a profound general cultural education, fundamental and professional skills and knowledge to cope with typical professional tasks in a certain branch of national economy, science, engineering, culture or arts. The programme leading to the Bachelor award generally lasts 4 years. Entry is on the basis of successful completion of full comprehensive secondary education.

Specialist - *Dyplom Spetsialista* (Level III, IV) – Graduates of a Bachelor programme may take an additional programme leading to a Specialist award at an institute, conservatory, academy or university. The Specialist diploma provides special skills and knowledge in a particular area of national economy, science, engineering, culture or arts. The programme leading to the Specialist award generally lasts 1 year. Entry is on the basis of a first degree e.g. Junior Specialist or Bachelor qualification.

Master - *Dyplom Magistra* (Level IV) – A Master qualification may be obtained subsequent to a Bachelor or Specialist qualification. Graduates get profound special skills and knowledge of innovative character, have primary experience to use it and are able to produce new ideas to cope with professional tasks in certain branch of national economy, science, engineering, culture or arts. The educational program is to provide a graduate with knowledge and habits in teaching and research activity. The programme leading to the Master award generally lasts 1 year. Entry is on the basis of successful completion of a Bachelor Degree.

Level I and II institutions are similar to further education and vocational schools in Ireland. The offer programmes to school leavers leading to the qualification of Junior Specialist. Levels III and IV are comparable to higher education institutions in Ireland.

The Ukraine's State higher education system includes 940 higher education institutions, 806 of which are public and 134 which are private. A list of recognised higher education institutions is available at <http://www.education.gov.ua/pls/edu/educ.hei.eng>

Quality Assurance System

The National QA system is implemented by means of the licensing and accreditation process outlined above. Higher education quality control includes internal and external assessment which is effected by higher education institutions, public bodies and the public.