

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING - VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Apprenticeship training is a practice-oriented vocational training pathway and the main form of vocational training in Austria. An average of 40% of an age cohort opt for an apprenticeship occupation. Currently there is a choice of around 200 apprenticeships in Austria (such as metal technology, joinery, chef, retail trade services, mechatronics, office assistance, information technology specialising in technology).

A prerequisite for taking up an apprenticeship is that the young person is already beyond compulsory school age in Austria. Basic knowledge (particularly of German and mathematics) is very important. The duration of the training (**apprenticeship period**) is **2 to 4 years**. Most apprenticeships last 3 or 3.5 years.

Apprenticeship training is also termed **dual training** because training is provided at two places of learning. The practical training **at the training company** is complemented and deepened by instruction at **part-time vocational school**.

TRAINING COMPANY

(80% of the training time)

- learning the latest techniques by performing them oneself
- learning while doing productive work
- learning jointly with others
- exercising a qualified activity immediately after the apprenticeship training

PART-TIME VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

(20% of the training time)

- promoting and complementing company-based training with occupation-related specialist instruction
- deepening general education (German, mathematics, etc.)
- subject-oriented foreign language training (English)



Part-time vocational school is either attended on a yearly basis (one to two times a week) or as a course (eight to twelve weeks in one block). The apprentice spends the remaining time learning and working at the company.

WHY LEARN AN APPRENTICESHIP OCCUPATION?



- ☑ An apprenticeship certificate gives young people good opportunities on the labour market.
- ☑ They already earn their own money during the training.
- ☑ They can apply the knowledge they have acquired immediately in practice.
- ☑ They obtain a vocational qualification.
- ☑ They can complete their matriculation certificate at the same time (*Berufsreifepprüfung*: “apprenticeship with the matriculation certificate” scheme).

A CAREER WITH AN APPRENTICESHIP

After the training in an apprenticeship occupation, young people have many possibilities of continuing education and training which offer them advancement and development options, such as:

- an additional apprenticeship-leave exam in a related occupation
- **industrial master** exam
- **master craftsperson** examination
- **access to academic programmes**
- **managerial position** in a company
- self-employment
- **Berufsreifepprüfung** (“apprenticeship with the matriculation certificate”) or **Studienberechtigungsprüfung** to take up studies at a university or university of applied sciences



The number of vacant apprenticeships that cannot be filled is increasing - particularly in western and southern Austria. If you are interested, please contact your AMS adviser.

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