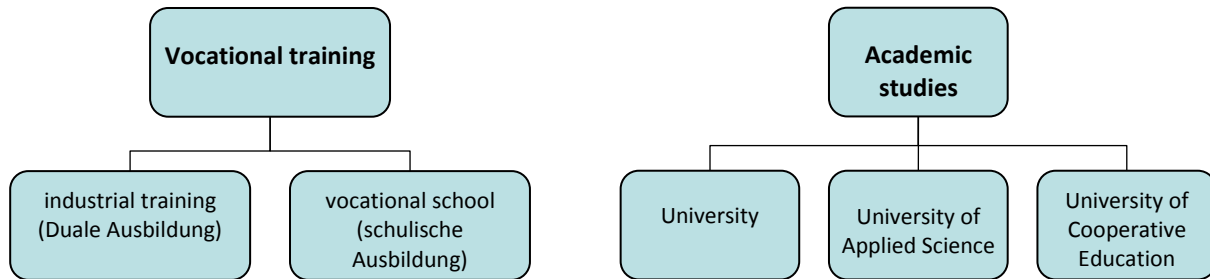


## M 5.12a How to continue after school? Vocational training or academic studies?

You have completed school and would like to learn a profession. In order to obtain a professional qualification in Saxony, you may start a vocational training („Ausbildung“) or academic studies („Studium“).



<b>Basics</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Germany there are specific schools for vocational education, so called „berufsbildende Schulen“ (vocational schools)</li> <li>• A common form of vocational training is the industrial training („duale Ausbildung“ ). You learn within a company and in a school. This training is highly practical. During a industrial training you earn money („Ausbildungsvergütung“).</li> <li>• During the <b>schulische Ausbildung</b> you learn in a school only. It involves more theory and less practical training. You do not earn money. Often, you may have to pay a school fee.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Germany, you may obtain an academic degree at a University (Universität), University of applied science (Fachhochschule) or at a University of Cooperative Education (“Berufsakademie”). These institutions are called <b>Hochschulen</b>. In Saxony you do not need to pay study fees. However, you will have to finance your living and study materials such as books.</li> <li>• During studies at a <b>Universität</b> you acquire mostly theoretical knowledge.</li> <li>• At a <b>Fachhochschule</b> you gain theoretical knowledge and practical experience.</li> <li>• Studying at a <b>Berufsakademie</b> is done whilst you work in a job.</li> </ul>
<b>Prerequisites / Conditions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usually, a school leaving certificate after 9 or 10 years is expected for vocational training.</li> <li>• We recommend German language skills on level B2.</li> <li>• For an industrial training often you do not need recognition of your school leaving certificate. You apply directly at the company.</li> <li>• For a vocational training at a vocational school you apply at the school. Often, a recognition of your school leaving certificate is required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For academic studies you usually need a school leaving certificate after 12 years.</li> <li>• Each Hochschule may define additional entry requirements. Therefore, it is important to get information from the Hochschule directly. Search their websites and also get counselling from the counselling services.</li> <li>• Usually, for academic studies in German you need German language skills on level C1.</li> </ul>

### Counselling

Regarding vocational training for example:

- Youth migration services (**Jugendmigrationsdienste, JMD**): Search for „Jugendmigrationsdienste Sachsen“ under: <https://sab.landtag.sachsen.de/de/wegweise/beratung-kontakte/beratung-kontakte-9373.cshtml>
- **Willkommenslotsen** (counselling for vocational training for refugees)  
Building and construction: Michael Petzsche, BFW Bau Sachsen e.V., [m.petsche@bau-bildung.de](mailto:m.petsche@bau-bildung.de), Tel: 03763 / 500 519  
Handicraft: Gabriele Hochmuth, HWK zu Leipzig, [hochmuth.g@hwk-leipzig.de](mailto:hochmuth.g@hwk-leipzig.de), Tel: 034291 / 301 23  
Industry and Trade: Josephine Meister, IHK zu Leipzig, [meister@leipzig.ihk.de](mailto:meister@leipzig.ihk.de), Tel: 0341 / 126 714 84
- Education counselling of the city of Leipzig (**Leipziger Bildungsberatung**): Contact details under <http://www.leipzig.de/jugend-familie-und-soziales/schulen-und-bildung/bildungsmanagement/lernen-vor-ort/bildungsberatung/>
- the **Jobcenter**
- the **Agentur für Arbeit**
- **KAUSA** Counselling service: ARBEIT UND LEBEN Sachsen e.V., Tel: 0341 / 710 050, [wenig@arbeitundleben.eu](mailto:wenig@arbeitundleben.eu)

Regarding academic studies for example:

- For counselling regarding study choice, study programs and financing of academic studies you may contact **Bildungsberatung Garantiefonds Hochschule**. Apply for an appointment here: <http://www.bildungsberatung-gfh.de/index.php/anmeldung>  
Further information can be found here <http://www.bildungsberatung-gfh.de/> and <http://www.naomi-leipzig.de/jmd-gfh.html>.
- For general information for potential students from abroad contact the **Akademische Auslandsamt** at your desired university (for example regarding application procedures, entry requirements, German language certificates etc.)
- If required, also contact the subject specific counsellors of the **Studienberatung** of the university.
- Perhaps, also counselling with the Professor at the specific faculty may be helpful, particularly if you wish to continue a course of academic studies in Germany.

#### We recommend the following steps:

1. Decide on your professional goal.
2. Find out whether academic studies or vocational training leads to your professional goal. For this you may use counselling (see section above).
3. Find out about entry requirements for this vocational training or academic study course. Utilise the counselling services.

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