

The Hungarian Education System

A beginner's guide

All Children in Hungary from age 6-16 are obliged to attend compulsory education. Most children attend Free State schools. Private school charge fees but are subsidized by the state.

After the reforms of 1989 Russian is no longer a compulsory language in schools and has tended to be replaced by English and German. The reforms have also expanded the rights of students and parents.

Nursery school (Óvoda)

The kindergarten (óvoda) is the first stage of the Hungarian education system. Every child between three and six has the right to attend a nursery school. Attending the kindergarten from the age of five is compulsory. With a maximum of four hours a day, the children are supposed to be prepared for the demands of school.

Primary or Elementary School (általános iskola)

Basic education in Hungary lasts usually eight (in some cases ten) years. The primary school is divided into a lower lever (class 1-4) and an upper level (class 4-8). After finishing the eighth grade students can choose whether they want to switch to a high school or to a vocational school. Until age 16 students must attend basic education

After finishing elementary school (általános iskola) students can decide between three options: high school (gimnázium), vocational school (szakmunkásképző iskola) or trade school (Szakközépiskola). All Hungarians must complete 8 years of elementary school plus two more years in one of the above schools.

To study at a Hungarian university (egyetem) or college (Főiskola) you need a certification of secondary education.

Grades and school-hours in Hungary

Most public schools in Hungary have classes in the morning, ususally from 8 am to 1 pm. There are some afternoon leisure activities offered for students, too. As the relationship between students tends to be very close, they usually spend most of their afternoons together.

The Hungarian grades:

5 (jeles) "excellent"

4 (jo) "good"

3 (közepes) "satisfactory", literally "mediocre"

2 (elégséges) "adequate"

1 (elégtelen) "unsatisfactory"

Holidays in Hungary

In Hungary, students have two months of summer vacation. The school year begins in September and ends in June. Apart from the summer holidays there are approximately two weeks of vacation in winter and one week in autumn and in the Easter period.

Religious education

Religious education in Hungarian state schools is voluntary and not compulsory.

(based on justlanded.com)

Answer the questions:

Is it compulsory to learn Russian in Hungary? _____

Where do 12 year old children learn? _____

Where can students continue their studies after primary school? _____

When are ths school holidays and how long are they? _____

Do you have to go to RE classes at school? _____