Update August 2018

The Dutch education system

The higher education system in the Netherlands is based on a three-cycle degree system, consisting of a bachelor, master and PhD. Two types of programmes are offered: research-oriented degree programmes offered by research universities, and professional higher education programmes offered by universities of applied sciences.

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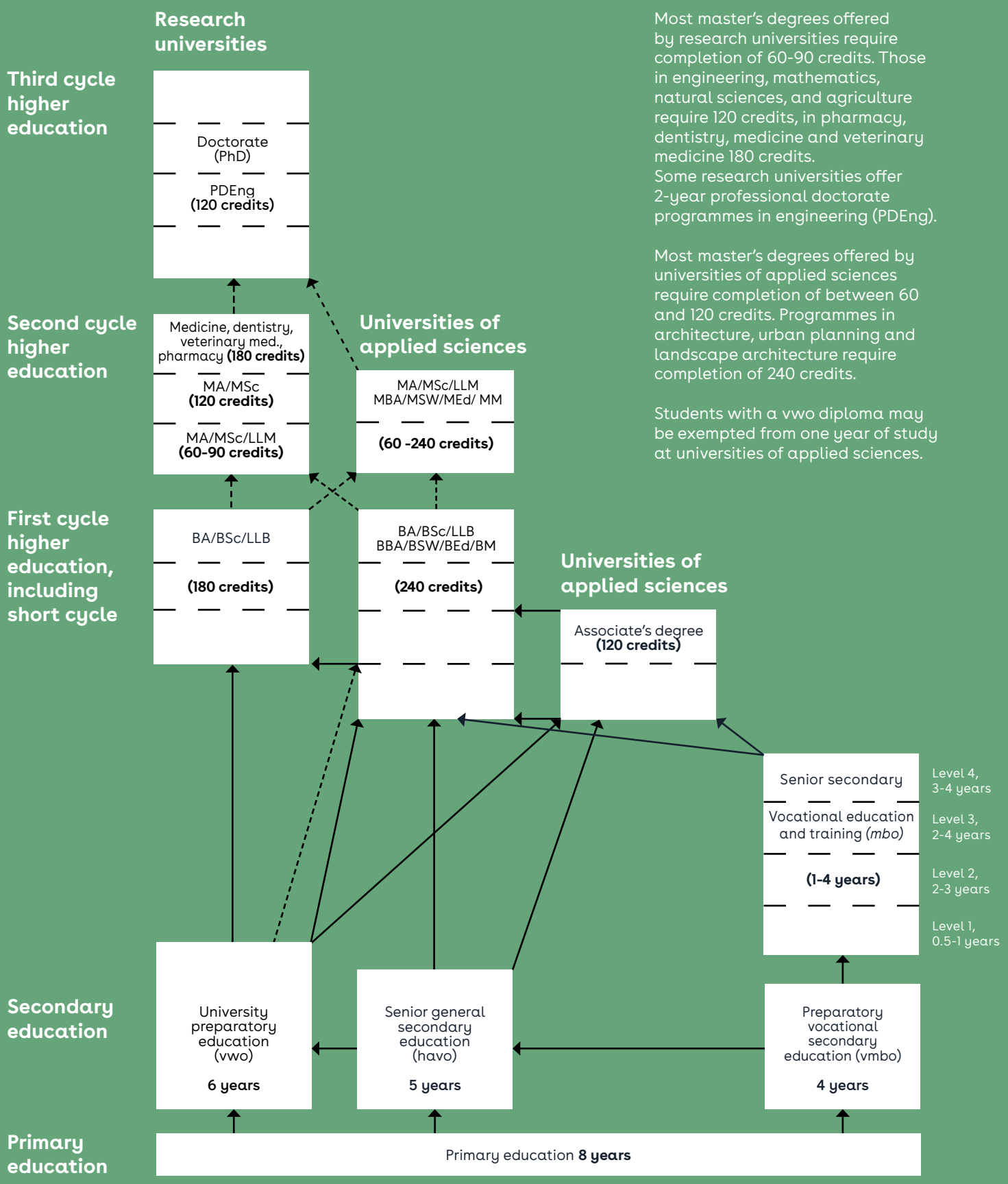

Most master's degrees offered by research universities require completion of 60-90 credits. Those in engineering, mathematics, natural sciences, and agriculture require 120 credits, in pharmacy, dentistry, medicine and veterinary medicine 180 credits.
Some research universities offer 2-year professional doctorate programmes in engineering (PDEng).

Most master's degrees offered by universities of applied sciences require completion of between 60 and 120 credits. Programmes in architecture, urban planning and landscape architecture require completion of 240 credits.

Students with a vwo diploma may be exempted from one year of study at universities of applied sciences.

A solid arrow (⟶) indicates a right to access.
A dotted arrow (- - - →) indicates that some form of selection or bridging requirement may be applied.