The education system of

Argentina

described and compared with
the Dutch system
This document contains information on the education system of Argentina. We explain the Dutch equivalent of the most common qualifications from Argentina for the purpose of admission to Dutch higher education.

Disclaimer
We assemble the information for these descriptions of education systems with the greatest care. However, we cannot be held responsible for the consequences of errors or incomplete information in this document.

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Education system Argentina

Education system Argentina – flow chart

Doctorado
(PhD)

Magister posgrado
(universities)

Especialista posgrado
(universities)

Licenciado/Título Profesional grado
(universities/university institutes)

Técnico Superior, Técnico Universitario, Analista Universitario, Bachiller Universitario, Título Intermedio pregrado
(universities/university institutes)

Bachiller (en) educación secundaria orientada
(ciclo orientado: upper secondary education)

Bachiller en Arte/Bachiller (en)/Técnico (en) educación secundaria modalidad técnico profesional/artística
(ciclo orientado: upper secondary education)

Educación Secundaria
(ciclo básico: lower secondary education)

Certificado de Terminación de Estudios Primarios
(educación básica general: primary education)

Duration of education
### Evaluation chart

The left-hand column in the table below lists the foreign qualifications. The other columns show the Dutch equivalent along with the comparable levels in the Dutch and European qualifications frameworks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foreign qualification</th>
<th>Dutch equivalent and NLQF level</th>
<th>EQF level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Técnico (en)</td>
<td>MBO diploma (qualification level 4)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(modalidad técnico profesional)</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachiller en Arte/Bachiller (en)/Técnico (en)</td>
<td>HAVO diploma with vocational subjects</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(modalidad artística)</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachiller (en)</td>
<td>HAVO diploma</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licenciado/Título profesional</td>
<td>HBO or WO bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Especialista</td>
<td>at least an HBO or WO bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magister</td>
<td>HBO or WO master’s degree</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NB**

- The information provided in the table is a general recommendation from which no rights may be derived.
- NLQF = Dutch Qualifications Framework; EQF = European Qualifications Framework
- The EQF/NLQF level is not so much a reflection of study load or content; rather, it is an indication of a person’s knowledge and skills after having completed a certain programme of study.
- Information about Dutch equivalent qualifications can be found on our website: [education and diplomas the Netherlands](#).
- The Cooperation Organisation for Vocational Education, Training and the Labour Market (SBB), evaluates statements on foreign qualifications and training at VMBO and MBO level. The evaluation may vary if SBB evaluates the diploma for admission to VET schools or the labour market in the Netherlands.
Introduction

Argentina is a South American republic, with a president as the head of state.

Political responsibility for education, set out in the national law on education (Ley de Educación Nacional Nº 26.206), lies with the Ministerio de Educación, Cultura, Ciencia y Tecnología (Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology). The government, provincial authorities and the autonomous city of Buenos Aires carry the main responsibility for ensuring high-quality education. They are also responsible for planning, organising and monitoring finances for the national education system (Sistema Educativo Nacional).

Government & education
The government establishes institutions and finances the universidades nacionales (estatales, state universities). The government, provincial authorities and the autonomous city of Buenos Aires are also responsible for accrediting, authorising and supervising the performance of the private education institutions. In the budget, the state has stipulated that a minimum of 6 per cent of the gross national product must be reserved for education.

General features
- Compulsory education: from 5 to 14 years.
- Language of instruction: Spanish.
- Academic year: from the end of February until December.
- International treaties: various educational agreements with other countries in Latin America, among others.
Primary and secondary education

Basic education consists of pre-school and kindergarten (educación inicial), and primary school (educación primaria). Pre-school and kindergarten are open to children aged between 45 days and 5 years. Education is compulsory from age 5 upwards.

Primary and general education has a length of 12 years, consisting of either 7 years of primary education and 5 years of and secondary school (educación secundaria), or 6 years of each. Primary school starts at age 6.

Secondary education, educación secundaria
Argentina does not distinguish between different types of general secondary education, such as VMBO-T, HAVO and VWO in the Netherlands. The educación secundaria (secondary education) consists of 2 stages:
- 3 years of ciclo básico (lower secondary education);
- 3 to 4 years of ciclo orientado (upper secondary education).

The ciclo básico offers a core curriculum that is common to all profiles. In lower secondary education, subjects are given in the fields of language, mathematics, the natural sciences, social sciences, physical education, social studies, art education and technical education.

The subjects taken during the ciclo orientado depend on which of the following options is chosen by pupils:
- Educación Secundaria Orientada;
- Educación Secundaria Modalidad Técnico Profesional;
- Educación Secundaria Modalidad Artística or;
- Educación Secundaria Modalidad de Educación Permanente de Jóvenes y Adultos.

Educación Secundaria Orientada
This type of education lasts 3 years, involves at least 25 hours per week and prepares pupils, among others, for entry into higher education or the labour market.

Educación Secundaria Orientada includes the following profiles:
- Ciencias Sociales or Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades (social sciences or social sciences and humanities);
- Ciencias Naturales (natural sciences);
- Economía y Administración (economics and management);
- Lenguas (languages);
- Agro y Ambiente (agriculture and environment);
- Turismo (tourism).
• Comunicación (communication);
• Informática (computer technology);
• Educación Física (physical education);
• Arte (art).

Upon completion, pupils are awarded the Bachiller (en) certificate (which also states the profile taken). In principle, this certificate grants access to higher education in Argentina (see Admission to higher education).

**In terms of level, the Bachiller (en) is comparable to a HAVO diploma.**

**Educación Secundaria Modalidad Técnico Profesional**

This type of education includes general and vocationally-oriented education. Programmes of this type usually have a duration of 7 (3+4) years, involve at least 30 hours per week and prepare students for entry into either the labour market or higher education.

In addition to a range of general subjects during the ciclo básico (lower secondary education), the ciclo orientado (upper secondary education) focuses on the vocational component in greater depth.

Upon completion, pupils are awarded the Técnico or Técnico (en) certificate (specifying the name of the profile taken), for example Técnico en Electromecánica (electrical engineering). Other examples are:

• Técnico en Administración de las Organizaciones (organisational management);
• Técnico Químico (chemistry);
• Técnico en Tecnología de los Alimentos (food technology);
• Técnico en Electrónica (electronics);
• Técnico en Informática Personal y Profesional (computer technology);
• Maestro Mayor de Obras (construction engineering);
• Técnico en Aeronáutica (aviation);
• Técnico Aviónico (aviation electronics);
• Técnico en Automotores (motor vehicle technology);
• Técnico en Servicios Turísticos (tourism services);
• Técnico en Multimedios (multimedia);
• Técnico Constructor Naval (naval architecture).

A full list of programmes that award the Técnico certificate can be found in the Catálogo Nacional de Títulos y Certificaciones de Educación Técnico Profesional.
In terms of level, the Técnico (en) obtained via the modalidad técnico profesional is comparable to an MBO diploma at qualification level 4.

NB The level of the above qualification may differ if the diploma is evaluated for purposes other than admission to higher education in the Netherlands.

**Educación Secundaria Modalidad Artística**

Various specialisations exist within art education: música (music), teatro (theatre), danza (dance), artes visuales (visual arts), diseño (design), artes audiovisuales (audio-visual art), multimedia (multimedia) and other specialisations. The duration of these programmes is 7 (3+4) years, with a study load of between 25 and 30 hours per week.

Art education prepares students for entry into both higher education or the labour market, with either the Bachiller en Arte, or the Bachiller/Técnico (en) being awarded upon completion (including a statement of the specialisation taken).

In terms of level, the Bachiller en Arte/Bachiller (en)/Técnico (en) obtained via the modalidad artística is comparable to a HAVO diploma with vocational subjects.

**Educación Secundaria Modalidad de Educación Permanente de Jóvenes y Adultos**

This type of secondary education is geared towards young people and adults, giving them an equal chance of education and to combat illiteracy. Upon completion, pupils/students are awarded the Bachiller certificate, which also specifies the profile taken. Like the programme mentioned above, this certificate gives access to higher education.

**Secondary vocational education**

This type of education is provided by instituciones de formación profesional (institutions of professional education), centros de formación profesional, escuelas de capacitación laboral, centros de educación agraria, misiones monotécnicas, escuelas de artes y oficios and escuelas secundarias o de nivel polimodal.
Admission to higher education

Admission to higher education requires a Bachiller (en)/Técnico (en) secondary school diploma. Higher education institutions may also set additional requirements, such as entrance exams or a preparatory year.

For example, programmes offered by the Universidad de Buenos Aires commence the first year with the Ciclo Básico Común (CBC), a compulsory 1-year programme that prepares students for higher education at this institution.

The CBC consists of 6 compulsory subjects:
- 2 subjects are the same for all specialisations;
- 2 subjects focus on 1 of the following areas of specialisation: ciencias sociales y humanas (social sciences), ciencias biológicas y de la salud (biological and health sciences) or ciencias exactas, tecnología y diseño (exact sciences, technology and design); and
- 2 subjects are directly related to the study programme selected.

Higher education

Unlike the Netherlands, Argentina has no strict binary education system; no strict distinction is made between academic and higher professional education. Some study programmes contain elements of both higher professional education and university education.

Higher education in Argentina is offered at both private and public institutions. There are universidades nacionales (national universities), universidades privadas (private universities), institutos universitarios estatales (public university institutes), institutos universitarios privados (private university institutes), universidades provinciales (provincial universities), a universidad extranjera (foreign university) and a universidad internacional (international university).

The Universidad de Buenos Aires is the country’s largest university. Universities provide undergraduate programmes (grado), postgraduate programmes (posgrado), specialist advanced programmes (especializaciones) and PhD programmes (doctorados). For more information about these programmes, please see the chapter University and higher professional education.

The institutos universitarios (university institutes) are specialist institutes that provide programmes in the fields of defence, aviation and police training. These institutes commonly only offer some programmes leading either to the degree of Licenciado or Título Profesional (a professional qualification).
University and higher professional education

The universidades offer academic and technological research programmes up to and including PhD level, as well as higher professional education programmes. In the Netherlands, these are classified as either academic (WO) or higher professional education (HBO) programmes, depending on the type of study programme.

Pregrado programmes
Various higher-education institutions also offer pregrado programmes in addition to grado programmes. The duration of such programmes varies from 1½ to 4 years, and they result in certificates such as Título de Técnico, Analista Universitario, Técnico Universitario and Técnico Superior (among others).

Programmes resulting in the diploma of Técnico Universitario are more theoretical in nature than the other Técnico programmes, and are predominantly offered in the areas of accounting, management, agriculture, biology, trade, technology, nutrition, human resources, industrial organisation, computer technology, journalism, tax, telecommunications and translation.

The Analista Universitario certificate is an intermediate qualification issued after 1½ to 3 years, and is part of a programme that leads to the degree of Licenciado or Título Profesional (a professional qualification). These are programmes in the field of computer technology, accounting, management, banking and finance, economics, environmental science, human resources, industrial relations, interior architecture and public relations.

Given the differences in duration, type of institution and curriculum content of the above-mentioned programmes, the evaluation of certificates may vary.

Grado programmes
The nominal duration of these programmes ranges from 4 years (2600 hours) to 7 years, and they usually result in a Licenciado or Título Profesional (professional qualification) such as Ingeniero (engineer) Arquitecto (architect), Abogado (lawyer), Médico (doctor) or Odontólogo (dentist).

The duration of programmes in medicine, veterinary science and dentistry is usually at least 6 years. These programmes qualify graduates to practice the professions of doctor, veterinary surgeon or dentist respectively. The final certificate also grants access to advanced programmes in higher education, such as maestría and especialización. Some programmes also grant access to a doctorado; the relevant PhD programme is usually longer in such cases, however.
In terms of level, the Licenciado or Título profesional is comparable to an HBO or WO bachelor’s degree, depending on the type and duration of the study programme.

**Posgrado programmes**

Posgrado programmes include the especialización, maestría and doctorado programmes. They are developed either by universities or centros de investigación (research institutes) and instituciones de formación profesional superior (higher professional institutions). These last two do need to be accredited to a certain level and affiliated with a university, however.

**Especialización**

The purpose of advanced specialist programmes is to allow students to deepen their knowledge within a certain subject or professional field. Advanced specialist programmes aimed at increasing students’ professional capacities, include a larger practical component.

Admission requires completion of an associated grado programme. The programme itself concludes with an individual final project (trabajo final), with a defence in some cases. Upon completion, a certificate with the title Especialista is awarded, with a specification of the profession or specialisation.

These programmes have a minimum load of 360 hours and can vary in length from several months to 4 years. This excludes time spent on the trabajo final and includes the formación práctica (practical classes).

In terms of level, the Especialista is comparable to at least an HBO or WO bachelor’s degree, depending on the type and duration of the study programme.

In some cases, an advanced specialist programme will grant exemptions for a relevant master’s programme. This often requires taking extra subjects, and writing a thesis.

**Maestría**

There are 2 types of master’s programmes:

- the Maestría Académica (academic master’s); and
- the Maestría Profesional (professional master’s).
These programmes conclude with the individual presentation of a final project (trabajo final):

- The Maestría Académica is aimed at research in a single or interdisciplinary field of knowledge. Academic master’s programmes conclude with the writing of a thesis (tesis).
- The Maestría Profesional focuses more on improving skills for a particular profession or field of work. A professional master’s programme may conclude with a project, a case study or an artistic production.

The degree of Magister is issued upon completion, which will specify one of the following options: the specialisation taken, the interdisciplinary field, a profession, or a field of applicability.

Master’s programmes have a minimum load of 700 hours and vary in length from 1 to 3 years. At least 540 hours must be devoted to classes, seminars or similar activities; the remaining hours go towards the trabajo final or other additional activities.

Admission to a posgrado programme requires at least a completed 4-year grado undergraduate degree.

In terms of level, the Magister is comparable to an HBO or WO master’s degree, depending on the type and duration of the study programme.

Doctorado

A Doctor degree is the highest academic qualification obtainable in Argentina. The nominal length of a doctoral programme is set by institutions individually, but generally varies from 2 to 6 years. The programme involves independent academic research in one or multiple disciplines. A doctorado concludes with an individual dissertation (tesis) as well as a public defence, both in Spanish.
Assessment systems

Secondary education
Most secondary schools use a number system ranging from 1-5 (unsatisfactory) to 10 (outstanding), with a 6 as passing grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numerical grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sobresaliente</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Distinguido</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Muy bueno</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bueno</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Suficiente</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>Insuficiente</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Higher education
Most higher education institutions use a number system ranging from 0-3 (unsatisfactory) to 10 (outstanding), with a 4 as passing grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In numbers</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-9</td>
<td>Sobresaliente</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-7</td>
<td>Distinguido</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-5</td>
<td>Bueno</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9-4</td>
<td>Aprobado</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-2</td>
<td>Insuficiente</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-0</td>
<td>Reprobado</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accreditation and quality assurance
Higher education institutions must carry out an internal evaluation (autoevaluación) once every 6 years, with the aim of analysing strong and weak points and to propose suggestions for improvement.

External evaluations are conducted by the Comisión Nacional de Evaluación y Accreditación Universitaria (CONEAU) or by private institutions recognised by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology. The standards for the accreditation processes are established by the ministry in conjunction with the Consejo de Universidades (council of universities).
CONEAU is also concerned with the accreditation of undergraduate (grado) programmes leading to regulated professions determined by the state that can influence the health, safety, rights or education of the populace. CONEAU is also responsible for accreditation of postgraduate (posgrado) programmes (especialización, maestría and doctorado programmes).

The CONEAU website contains more information on accredited grado programmes and posgrado programmes.

Checking documents

A complete file in secondary and in higher education includes the diploma and the corresponding grade list.

Authenticity

Given that grade lists are often issued with diplomas, holders of the qualification are usually able to provide them. Legalised university diplomas dating from January 2012 or later can be verified using the Dirección Nacional de Gestión Universitaria database.

Credential evaluation

A diploma should be evaluated according to the principles of the Lisbon Recognition Convention (1997). A practical implementation of these standards is the European EAR manual.

Overview of higher education institutions

The government website Guía de Carreras Universitarias, offers an overview of all recognised higher education institutions (in Spanish).

Useful links

- Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology: Ministerio de Educación, Cultura, Ciencia y Tecnología (only in Spanish).
- The Instituto Nacional de Educación Tecnológica (INET) hosts the Catálogo Nacional de Títulos y Certificaciones de Educación Técnico Profesional, an overview (in Spanish) including all programmes resulting in the Técnico diploma (among others).
- Database of the Dirección Nacional de Gestión Universitaria listing legalised diplomas and certificates as of 2 January 2012.
- Guía de Carreras Universitarias (set up in collaboration with the Ministry of Education) a current guide containing information provided by the universities on pregrado and grado programmes and posgrado programmes (in Spanish).
• The CONEAU website (in Spanish), which includes search engines for accredited grado and posgrado programmes.
• Search engine for titles recognised by the Ministry of Education (títulos universitarios).
• Argentinian government website offering extensive information on studying in Argentina.