

This description of the Danish Higher Education System has been approved by the Danish Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and the Ministry of Culture.

Public higher education institutions in Denmark are governed by national legislation concerning degree structures, teacher qualifications and examinations. All programmes are accredited by national, independent accreditation agencies and the Accreditation Council.

Higher education institutions

Higher education is offered by four types of higher education institutions and regulated by three Ministries:

- Academies of Professional Higher Education (*Erhvervsakademi*) and University Colleges (*Professionshøjskole*) are regulated by the Ministry of Education and offer professionally oriented first cycle degree programmes.
- Research universities (*Universitet*) are regulated by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and offer first, second and third cycle degree programmes in all academic disciplines.
- A number of university level institutions are regulated by the Ministry of Culture and offer first, second and third cycle degree programmes in subject fields such as architecture, design, music and fine and performing arts.

Overview of degrees in the Danish Higher Education System

Danish higher education institutions use the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) for measuring study activities. 60 ECTS correspond to one year of full-time study.

Danish qualifications levels	Ordinary higher education degrees	Adult/Continuing higher education degrees	Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area – Bologna Framework	European/National Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning – EQF/NQF
Academy Profession level	Academy Profession degree (90-150 ECTS)	Academy Profession degree (60 ECTS)	Short cycle	Level 5
Bachelor's level	Professional Bachelor's degree (180-240 ECTS)*	Diploma degree (60 ECTS)	First cycle	Level 6
	Bachelor's degree (within fine arts) (180 ECTS)			
	Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS)			
Master's level	Master's degree (within fine arts) (120-180 ECTS)	Master degree (60-90 ECTS)	Second cycle	Level 7
	Master's degree (120 ECTS)**			
PhD level	PhD degree (180 ECTS)		Third cycle	Level 8

* Can be obtained through a full regular bachelor's programme (180-240 ECTS) or a top up bachelor's programme (90 ECTS) following an Academy Profession degree. A few Professional Bachelor programmes are 270 ECTS.

** A few Master's programmes are up to 180 ECTS.

Qualification framework

The Danish qualification levels form the basis for the Danish National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education, which is certified in accordance with the overarching Bologna Framework according to the principles adopted by the European Ministers of Higher Education. Danish higher education qualifications at levels 5-8 in the Danish Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (NQF) are also compatible with the levels 5-8 in the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

Admission and progression

General access to higher education in Denmark requires a secondary school leaving examination or comparable qualifications. Admission to some particular programmes requires entrance examination or submission of a portfolio of artistic work.

Completion of a short cycle degree qualifies students for admission to a first cycle degree. Degree holders with a short cycle Academy Profession degree can obtain a Professional Bachelor's degree within the same field of study with a top up programme (90 ECTS). Completion of a first cycle degree qualifies students for admission to the second cycle.

Ordinary Higher Education degrees

The Academy Profession degree is awarded after 90-150 ECTS and includes a period of work placement of at least 15 ECTS. The programmes are development-based and combine theoretical studies with a practical approach. Programmes are, among others, offered within Marketing Management, Computer Science and Chemical and Biotechnical Science. The Danish title is field of study followed by the abbreviation AK and the English title is *AP Graduate in* [field of study].

The Professional Bachelor's degree is awarded after 180-240 ECTS and includes a period of work placement of at least 30 ECTS. The programmes are professional higher education programmes at bachelor level. They are development-based and combine theoretical studies with an applied approach. Examples of professional bachelor degree holders are nurses, primary and lower secondary school teachers and certain types of engineers. The Danish title is *Professionsbachelor i* [field of study] and the English title is *Bachelor of* [field of study].

The Bachelor's degree from a university is awarded after completion of a 3-year programme (180 ECTS). The programmes are research-based and are offered in all scientific fields. The Danish title is *Bachelor (BA) i* [field of study] or *Bachelor (BSc) i* [field of study] and the English title is *Bachelor of Arts (BA) in* [field of study] or *Bachelor of Science (BSc) in* [field of study].

The Bachelor's degree (within fine arts) is awarded after 180 ECTS. The programmes are based on research and artistic research. Programmes are offered within the arts. The Danish title is *Bachelor (BA) i* [field of study] or *Bachelor i musik (BMus)* [field of study] and the English title is *Bachelor of Arts (BA) in* [field of study] or *Bachelor of Music (BMus)* [field of study].
A higher education degree within theatre or filmmaking is awarded after 4 years of study (240 ECTS).

The Master's degree is awarded after 120 ECTS. The programmes are research-based and are offered in all scientific fields. The Danish title is abbreviated to *cand.*[latin abbreviation of academic area] *i* [field of study]. The English title is *Master of Arts (MA) in* [field of study] or *Master of Science (MSc) in* [field of study].

The Master's degree (within fine arts) is awarded after 120-180 ECTS. The programmes are based on research and artistic research. The Danish title is abbreviated to *cand.*[latin abbreviation of academic area] [field of study]. The English title is *Master of Arts (MA) in* [field of study] or *Master of Music (MMus)* [field of study].
Music Academies offer a specialist degree of 2 to 4 years following the master's degree.

The PhD degree is awarded after 180 ECTS. PhD programmes are offered by the universities and some institutions under the Ministry of Culture.

Detailed descriptions of degrees and degree levels can be found in the Qualifications Framework for Danish Higher Education at www.iu.dk. Please consult the relevant Diploma Supplement for information about the learning outcome of the specific degrees.

Adult and continuing higher education

The programmes normally consist of 2 years of part-time study, equivalent to 1 year of full-time study (60 ECTS credits). Certain master programmes require 1½ years of full-time study (90 ECTS credits). Admission requirements are a relevant educational qualification and at least 2 years of relevant work experience.

Adult education qualifications are available at levels corresponding to those of the ordinary higher education system.

- The Academy Profession degree (*videregående voksendannelse*) is awarded after studies at short cycle level and gives access to diploma programmes.
- The Diploma degree (*diplomuddannelse*) is awarded after studies at first cycle level and gives access to master programmes.
- The Master degree (*masteruddannelse*) is awarded after studies at second cycle level.

The 7-point grading scale

The grading system used in all state-regulated education programmes as of September 2007 is the 7-point grading scale. The grading scale is compatible with the ECTS grading scale.

The 7-point grading scale	12	10	7	4	02	00	-3
The ECTS grading scale	A	B	C	D	E	Fx	F

Apart from the 7-point grading scale, pass/fail assessment may also be used. 02 is the minimum grade for passing an exam.