

RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND WORK

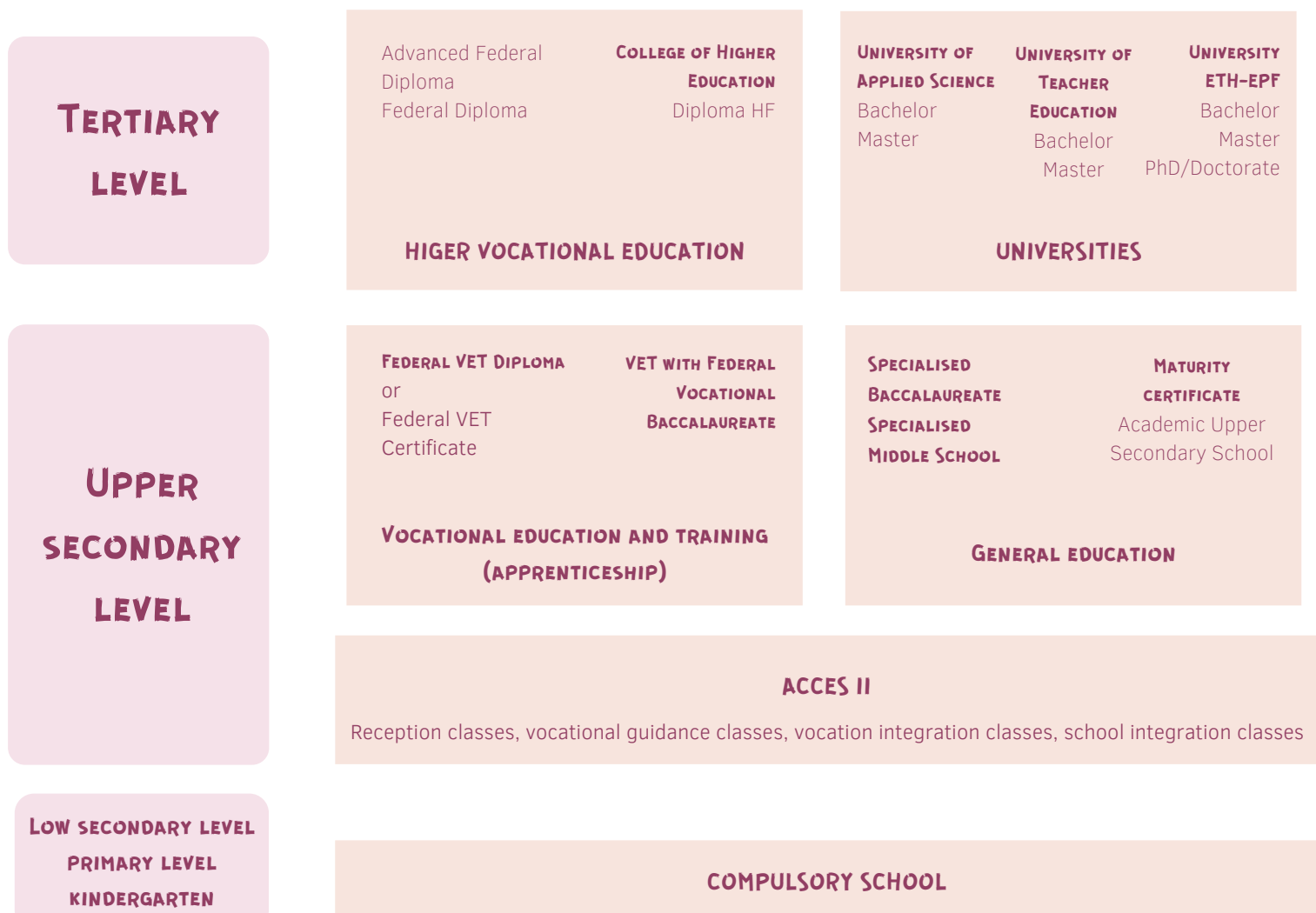
These notes were produced as part of a collaboration between the Coordination asile.ge and the Law Clinic of the University of Geneva. They are intended for unaccompanied minors and unaccompanied young adults living in Geneva. Their purpose is to inform about certain rights in understandable terms to make them accessible to everyone. For more detailed information, you can consult the Law Clinic's brochure on the rights of young unaccompanied migrants.

Description

The right to education includes the right to school education and training.

Compulsory education forms the basis of the school education system and includes primary and secondary education. It applies to children residing in Switzerland, regardless of their nationality, as soon as the child stays in Switzerland for more than three months (unaccompanied minors are considered as residing in Switzerland). This does not apply in principle to adults, except in certain specific cases.

Here is a summary of the different training possibilities in the canton of Geneva:



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Your diploma determines your possibilities of access to tertiary education. If you cannot access these institutions directly, there are possibilities of joining these courses (additional "bridge" examinations, professional practice, etc.). In addition, each institution of higher education has its own admission criteria. You can find more information on this site: <https://www.orientation.ch>.

Am I allowed to go to school?

You have the right to go to school, it is even compulsory as soon as you have been residing in Switzerland for more than three months. In Geneva, education is compulsory until the age of 18.

There is the Reception Service for Secondary Education II (ACCES II) for allophone migrant students aged 15 to 19. No conditions are required to join these reception classes. ACCES II is made up of reception classes, professional orientation classes (COP), professional integration classes (CIP) and school integration classes (CIS).

For the School of General Culture (ECG) and the College, or to join an apprenticeship or general training, you will have to pass the Fundamental Expectations Test (TAF) or the computerized assessment of academic knowledge (EVA test).

If you do not have the necessary language skills, you can obtain tutoring adapted to your situation, because you have the right to sufficient education. You are also entitled to accommodation if you have special educational needs, including in the Reception Service, up to the age of 20. However, integrating an ordinary class must be favoured in the spirit of the inclusive school.

Am I allowed to do an apprenticeship?

You have the right to do an apprenticeship (also called vocational training) if you are at least 15 years old and have the consent of your legal representative. You can do an apprenticeship in either full-time (professional high school) or "dual-track" (while working). The conditions for both schemes are slightly different.

You can do a full-time apprenticeship if you live in Geneva and have the required level of education for the relevant course, regardless of your status (permit). However, the number of slots and the age of the participants are limited.

You have the right to do a dual-track apprenticeship if you have an apprenticeship contract, the right to carry out a paid activity (B, F permits) and you have achieved the school level required for the intended course. For N permits, it is necessary to obtain a work authorisation from the Cantonal Office for Population and Migration (OCPM), which is not easy.

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Apprenticeship

	Dual apprenticeship	School-based apprenticeship (full-time)
Scheme	Theoretical training at school (1 or 2 days per week) and practical training in a company / work-place (3 or 4 days per week)	Theoretical and practical training at school. Please note that this only exists for certain professions!
Conditions for admission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must have the academic level required for the course. This is similar to a job search: you have to find a training company that will hire you and then train you for the duration of the training (2 years for an AFP and 3-4 years for a Federal Certificate of Competence, "CFC"). An apprenticeship contract is then signed by the company, you and your legal representative. The contract must be approved by the Office for Vocational Guidance, Training and Continuing Education (OFPC), which takes care of registration at the school (vocational training centre) 	<p>You must have the academic level required for the course.</p> <p>Schools choose their own admission procedures, but often these are entrance examinations.</p> <p>Please note that there are specific deadlines to be respected as slots are limited!</p> <p>In principle, the maximum age is 20 years</p>
Status	<p>If you have a B or F permit.</p> <p>If you have a N permit, you need to obtain a work authorisation from the Cantonal Office of Population and Migration (OCPM), and that is not easy.</p>	Any legal status
Holidays	Up to the age of 18, at least 5 weeks per year	In line with school holidays
Salary	Salary paid by the company	No salary

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Apprenticeship without a legal status (permit) and further informations

If you are without legal status, you can obtain a residence permit under very restrictive conditions, only to complete your apprenticeship.

Apart from a formal apprenticeship, you can do internships for a maximum of three weeks, regardless of the residence status.

The Office for Guidance, Vocational and Continuing Education offers a space for advice and information, called the Cité des Métiers, where you can come – free of charge and without an appointment – so that professionals can help you identify leads in line with your interests and abilities. At the Cité des Métiers, you can have your CV and cover letter proofread. You can get answers to your questions about apprenticeships, internships or training.

Am I allowed to work?

You have the right to work from the age of 15. Your legal representative must agree to the signing of your employment contract. Your employer can find all the useful information on this link: <https://www.ge.ch/demander-permis-travail/titulaire-livret-f-b-refugie>

The conditions differ depending on your legal status. If you have a B or F permit, your employer must announce your hiring to the authorities. If you have an N permit and you are outside a federal centre, you also need to have a work authorisation. If your asylum application has been rejected or without legal status, you do not have the right to work.

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What happens if I'm over 18?

There are specific courses for adults who have interrupted their studies, so they can resume or complete them: the School of General Culture for adults (ECGa) and the College for adults. They are aimed at students over the age of 19 who do not have access to the traditional system of education. You need to have at least a level equivalent to that acquired at the end of secondary school to be admitted, as well as one year of professional experience.

There are also other training courses and other forms of skills recognition (for example, the Adult Qualification system, which makes it possible to obtain a Federal Certificate of Vocational Education and Training (AFP) or a Federal Certificate of Competence (CFC) based on professional experience and under certain conditions). You can contact the Cité des Métiers for more information.

Am I allowed to go to university?

If you hold a secondary school certificate or another equivalent title, you can have access to a University/University of Applied Sciences. If you do not have a high school certificate or if it is not recognized, you can still apply for admission if you are over 25 and have professional experience. In any case, there may be additional exams - including French language tests - depending on the studies you choose and your background.

Depending on your financial situation, you can obtain a state scholarship. This is possible if you are admitted at a University/University of Applied Sciences, you have a B permit and you have been in Geneva for 5 years. This is also possible if you are recognized as a refugee (B refugee, F refugee or F permit). If that is not your case, there are also private foundations that may support you financially for your studies.

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Addresses

For information and guidance

- **Cité des métiers:** reception and information area open to the public, free and without appointment: information on internships, apprenticeships, recognition of foreign certificates, recognition of skills, help with writing CVs and cover letters, etc.
- **www.orientation.ch:** list of apprenticeship slots, information on professions (trades) and training in Switzerland, etc. You will find information about the training system in several foreign languages at: <https://www.orientation.ch/dyn/show/13772?id=8>
- **Internships:** information on introductory courses (a few days to a few weeks): <https://www.citedesmetiers.ch/thematiques/formations-et-metiers/des-stages-pour-sinformer-sur-les-professions/>

To learn French

- **www.francais-integration.ch:** online directory for French and literacy courses
- **Open University of Geneva:** continuing education centre for adults.
- **Bonjour Genève:** where to practice French in Geneva? You will find on this link different associations that offer free French lessons.

For the University of Geneva and Universities of Applied Sciences

- **Horizon académique:** professional and social academic integration program. The program is intended for people in the field of asylum (N, F, B or C refugee permit), and family reunification B permits who have already completed a university course in their country and wish to pursue higher education (Uni / HES) in Swiss.
- **Free consultations of the University Conference of Student Associations (CUAE)**

