

SCHOOLS

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1. The schooling system in the Canton of Zug

For all children who reach the age of six by the end of February, attendance at **elementary school** is compulsory. The elementary school is free of charge, and the period of compulsory attendance is nine years. The school year begins in the second half of August and is interrupted five times by **holidays** of between 1 and 6 weeks at a time (the latter being the summer holidays), amounting to a total of 13 weeks per year. The precise holiday dates can be found on the homepage of the Zug schools.

Prior to the 1st grade at primary school, children from the age of 4 can attend **kindergarten**. This is voluntary but advisable. It enables the child to learn German in play with others of the same age and to prepare for entry into school.

For the first six years, all children go to **primary school**. At lunchtimes, school-aged children can be taken care of from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. on normal schooldays. For further **care** outside school hours, there are crèches and day-families (please see the separate information leaflet "Families and Children"). Associated with the state schooling system are the **music schools**. The **school medical and dental services** ensure that all children are regularly examined. There is also a **school psychological service** and various offers of therapy. Curative pedagogic offers can be used from birth onwards. There are **advisory offices** for prevention of addictions, education of parents and other themes.

Foreign-language children who enter primary school are, in most cases, allocated to the regular class and receive additional German tuition in a small group. The non-profit organisation "schooling.ch - learn better together" provides foreign-language children with additional tuition in various subjects against payment of a (modest) fee.

Primary school is followed by transfer into one of the four types of 2- to 3-year "**Secondary Level I**". Those four types are the lower level of high school, secondary school, lower secondary school or work school. The educational aims of them all are largely identical. However, different standards of schooling are set for the students, taking their predispositions and abilities into consideration.

The two **high schools** in Zug, namely the Cantonal High School Menzingen and the Cantonal College Zug, culminate after four or six years in university entrance matriculation (known in German as the "Matura") with general access to university education (universities, institutes of technology and pedagogic colleges).

Secondary school prepares the students for attendance at vocational and intermediate colleges. It requires a flexible way of thinking, independent work and strong abstraction abilities. **Subsequent paths of education:** From the 2nd and/or 3rd grade: a transition course for the cantonal high school. From the 3rd grade: apprenticeships with attendance at the vocational college (please see the separate information leaflet "Apprenticeship"); vocational college entrance; commercial intermediate school; diploma intermediate school; school of transportation; specialist intermediate schools; teachers' seminar; profession preparation school and others.

The Lower Secondary school (known in German as "Realschule") deepens and broadens what has been learnt at primary school by working on the basis of what the students have experienced. In the treatment of theoretical or scientific problems in lessons, it always builds a close connection to

everyday situations. **Subsequent paths of education:** Apprenticeships with attendance at the vocational college in handicraft, technical, agricultural and domestic as well as service professions; profession preparation school and others.

The **Work school** deepens and broadens the basic education and promotes the practical inclinations. It offers students targeted help in overcoming personal and educational difficulties. **Subsequent paths of education:** On-the-job training in commercial and manual professions. To a certain extent, apprenticeships are also possible in handicraft, technical, agricultural and domestic as well as service professions.

Depending on the subsequent path of education at **Secondary Level II** (apprenticeships, specialist intermediate school, commercial intermediate school, teachers' seminar, nursing college, high school), a higher education at the **tertiary level** can follow: universities, institutes of technology and higher specialist colleges. For education at Secondary Level II and the tertiary level, it is possible to submit a **request for a scholarship**.

The schools report to the Directorate for Education and Culture of the Canton of Zug. The cantonal **School Supervisory Authority** monitors the municipal schools, and every municipality has its own school commission.

Offices: Canton of Zug – Directorate for Education and Culture, Tel. 041 728 31 82 or 83, Baarerstr.19, 6304 Zug
Department for Municipal Schools, Tel. 041 728 31 93, Baarerstr.19, 6304 Zug
Scholarship Office of the Canton of Zug, Tel. 041 728 31 91 or 92, E-mail: info@dbk.zg.ch, Baarerstrasse 19, 6304 Zug

Links: www.zug.ch/bildung/
www.zug.ch/schulen/
www.zug.ch/stipendien/
www.schulen-web.ch/schulen/stadtschulenzug/de/
www.tagesfamilien-zug.ch
www.kinderbetreuung-zug.ch

Info: www.schooling.ch – learn better together. Information and registration: Rupan Sivaganesan, 078 834 46 44
Address directory on www.zug.ch/schulen/, incl. advisory centres for parent education, addiction prevention.

2. Bridging possibilities

For adolescents who have completed their years of compulsory schooling but have not yet found any training to take them further, there are various bridging possibilities.

For foreign-language adolescents who have moved here very recently or have not lived here for long, there is, in particular, the **Integration Bridging Offer (I-B-O)** provided by the Zug Integration School. This school teaches **foreign-language adolescents or Swiss citizens born abroad and aged between about 15 and 20** and who, due to missing or inadequate knowledge of the German language, are not yet in a position to complete a vocational education or to attend a school that will lead them further. The focus is on the **teaching of German as a second language**. This builds the basis for teaching in other subjects (mathematics, project work, information technology, French, English, handicrafts, sport, etc.) in which gaps are closed and knowledge is strengthened and expanded. Education within the I-B-O lasts for one to two years. In that time, the abilities to learn and communicate are developed so that **entry into an apprenticeship or a school of further education** becomes possible. The teaching methodology takes into account the various levels of the students. In the subject "Choice of profession", the students get to know the Swiss vocational education system and are led to the point where they are ready to choose their profession. They are supported in **finding an apprenticeship** and are supported further if necessary during their apprenticeship time.

For **adolescents in general**, there are also two bridging possibilities between compulsory school attendance and further education.

The academic bridging offer (A-B-O) supports adolescents who are willing to learn more in the transition from Secondary Level I into an apprenticeship or a higher school. The combined bridging offer (C-B-O) is open to adolescents who have completed Secondary Level I but have not yet succeeded in moving on to vocational training and show strong motivation for a **practical activity**.

Office: Zug Integration School, Tel. 041 766 03 70, E-mail: integrationsschule.leitung@stadtschulenzug.ch, Grienbachstrasse 11, 6300 Zug.

Link: www.brueckenangebote-zug.ch/

3. Private schools

There is a large choice of private schools in the Canton of Zug. The teaching provided by the recognized private schools fulfils the requirements of the schools run by the public authorities. The private institutes are subject to cantonal inspection.

There are private schools in a number of municipalities and for all levels from kindergarten to Secondary Level II. They include international or bilingual schools, boarding schools and day schools. There are further private schools throughout Switzerland. Attendance at a private school has to be financed by the parents. Some of the schools have scholarship funds. For information, please contact the schools directly or the Directorate for Education and Culture. A list of all the private schools in the Canton of Zug can be found on the homepage of the Zug schools.

Offices: Directorate for Education and Culture, Tel. 041 728 31 85, Baarerstrasse 19, 6304 Zug

Link: www.zug.ch/schulen/