



## Information for immigrants on the education system

# Characteristics of the education system in the Basque Country

The basic educational objective of Obligatory Education is to promote a child's personal development so that he/she may be included as a citizen in the society in which he/she lives.

Education is, therefore, a key element for obtaining the individual's integration and independence.

Our education system guarantees that all children who live in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country have the right to education and a place at school in the neighbourhood or town where they reside or at the nearest establishment, should there be no school where they live.

Schooling is free from the age of 3 to 16 and obligatory as of the age of 6.  
It includes:

Infant education (EI)	from 3 to 6 years
Primary education (EP)	from 6 to 12 years
Obligatory Secondary education (ESO)	from 12 to 16 years

In the schools **girls and boys are together** in classes.





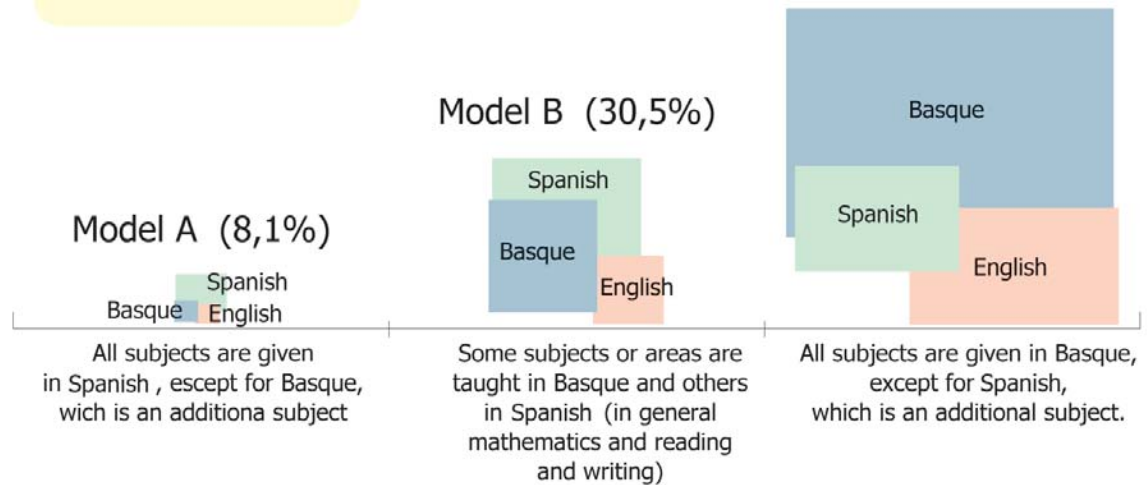
# of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country

At schools in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, lessons are given in two languages: **Basque and Spanish**. These are the Autonomous Community's **two official languages**.

There are **three linguistic teaching models**:

### As a guide:

Of the pupils aged 3 years enrolled in the academic year 2003/2004, 61,4% enrolled in model D, 30,5% in model B and 8,1% in model A.



The three models also include English from the age of four.

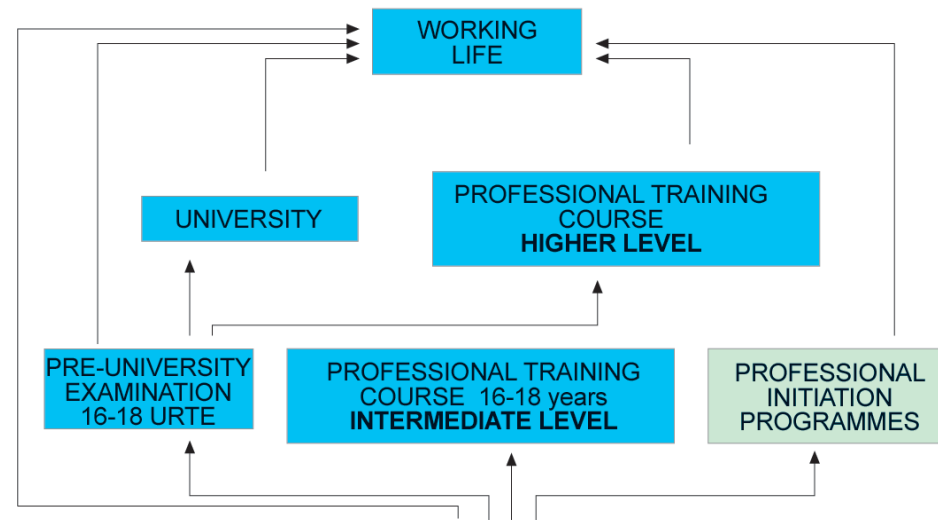
During the ordinary enrolment period (February) families choose the educational establishment and linguistic model for their children.



# Organisation chart of the education system

Pupils that pass Obligatory Secondary Education obtain the “Certificate of Success in Obligatory Secondary Education”, which enables them to study the pre-university examination course or intermediate level training courses.

Those who do not pass Obligatory Secondary Education obtain the “Certificate of Studies” which permits access to Professional Initiation Programmes.



12-16 years	2 <sup>nd</sup> Course 1 <sup>st</sup> Course	Obligatory secondary education ESO (free)	Secondary education institute
6-12 years	3 <sup>rd</sup> Course 2 <sup>nd</sup> Course 1 <sup>st</sup> Course	Obligatory primary education EP (free)	Infant/primary education establishment
3-6 years	Infant education (free)	Infant education EI	Infant/primary education establishment
0-3 years	Pre-school educ. (subsidized)		Infant school
AGE	COURSE	STAGE	PLACE OF STUDY



# Pupil enrolment

For children to attend scholastic establishments, they must first be enrolled

## Information on the enrolment procedure

Families may visit the nearest scholastic establishment to their home, as all establishments have information on the enrolment procedure.

Moreover, information on enrolment will be provided at the Territorial Education Office in each Historic Territory

### **Alava**

San Prudencio 18 bajo. 01005 VITORIA-GASTEIZ  
Telephone: 945 01 72 00

### **Guipuzcoa**

Andia 13. 200004 SAN SEBASTIAN  
Telephone: 943 02 28 50

### **Biscay**

Gran Vía 85. 48001 BILBAO  
Telephone: 94 403 10 00

## Enrolment process

Enrolment of pupils in Infant, Primary and Secondary Education normally takes place in February. For post-obligatory education, from 16 to 18 years, enrolment takes place in April.

The dates are announced on the notice boards of scholastic establishments and in the Education Offices.

Enrolment takes place in the scholastic establishment itself. You will be provided with a form asking you for basic information on the pupil to be enrolled. This information is confidential.

The establishment usually asks for a number of documents together with this form. Nobody is denied a place for not having them.

Once the enrolment period has come to an end, the provisional list of pupils admitted to the establishment is published. If the child is on the list, he/she is enrolled. If the child does not appear on the list, due to a lack of places, you may submit a claim.

Children who arrive after the enrolment period –after February- may carry out the enrolment procedure at scholastic establishments and Education Offices.

At the Education Offices, the family's request is studied together with the free places available at the establishments requested and the family is told which scholastic establishment their child must attend.



## Calendar

The school year begins in September and ends in June.

There are three holiday periods:

**Christmas:** in December

**Holy Week:** in March or April

**Summer:** from the end of June to the beginning of September.

There are also occasional holidays, depending on each establishment's school calendar.

Primary school pupils attend school 5 hours at day, which are divided into two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, with a break for lunch.



## Timetable

Secondary school pupils attend school 6 hours a day, which are divided into morning sessions and some afternoon sessions.

The rest period is included in these hours: break.

This timetable is extended if the pupil eats in the school canteen: from the beginning of morning classes until the end of afternoon classes.

Example of a timetable:

	Infant & Primary school	Secondary school
Morning	09:00 - 12:00	09:00 - 13:00
Afternoon	15:00 - 17:00	15:00 - 17:00

## Organisation of a teaching institution. Basic vocabulary

**Management team:** This is formed by those who manage the establishment.

**Teaching staff:** This includes all teachers at the establishment. They make decisions regarding the pupils' education and learning processes.

**Tutor:** This is the teacher responsible for the pupils of a class. This is usually the person who is in touch with families and reports on the learning process of each pupil in his/her charge.

**Parents' association:** This is formed by the families of the school. It is usually responsible for organising extracurricular, sports and cultural activities for the pupils, and also activities related to parent education. Participation in this association is voluntary.

**Non-teaching staff:** These are the people responsible for non-teaching services: canteen, porter's office, cleaning service ....

**Maximum representation body or school council:** This includes the participation of all layers of the educational community: (parents, teachers, pupils and non-teaching staff). It is responsible for deciding the most important aspects of life at the establishment.





## Further information

### Grants

Although education is free, text books, school equipment and lunch if necessary must be paid. To help families pay for these expenses, every year parents may apply for economic aids, called grants.

The following aids are covered:

**Text books and school equipment**



**Lunch**

The call for applications usually takes place in October. Information is available at the establishment where the pupil studies, where these grants must also be processed. However, immigrant pupils who join schools during the school year may apply for grants later.

### School canteen

Most establishments have a canteen service run by the establishment itself.

### Extracurricular activities

These are activities that take place at the end of the school day. They are usually fun, sports or cultural activities, organised through the establishment's parents' association, but most of the time a fee is charged for participation in them.

### Translation service

This is requested by the establishment itself through each Historic Territory's Compensatory Education Association.

### Continuing education of pupils: EPA

Basque and Castilian language classes are given to immigrants over 18 years of age..

