

Uddannelsesvalg efter folkeskolen



I'm a 16 year old person living in Denmark. I'm born in Denmark, but my parents are from South Africa. I just finished primary school in Denmark and am now considering what my next step should be. I'm fluent in danish.

What educational path would you recommend for me?

Thanks for sharing a bit about your background — that's really helpful.


In Denmark, finishing **primary school (folkeskole)** at around age 16 means you're now deciding between several types of **upper secondary education**. Your choice depends on what kind of future you're aiming for (university, trades, business, etc.), and also what you enjoy and are good at.

Here's a quick overview of your **main options** and what kind of students they fit:

1. Gymnasiale uddannelser (General upper secondary education)

These prepare you for **university**. You'll spend 3 years studying subjects like Danish, English, math, science, and more.


- **STX** (*Studentereksamen*) – Broad focus: good if you're unsure or want a strong academic base.
- **HHX** (*Higher Commercial Exam*) – Focus on business, economics, languages. Great if you're interested in commerce or management.
- **HTX** (*Higher Technical Exam*) – Focus on science, IT, engineering. Ideal if you like tech, innovation, or natural sciences.
- **HF** – 2-year course, more practical, good if you want a shorter route to higher education or didn't love school.

 **Choose this if:** You want to go to university or are still figuring things out and want to keep your options open.

2. Erhvervsuddannelser (Vocational education & training / EUD)

Combines school and **apprenticeship**. You learn a trade and get paid while working. It can take 3–5 years.

- Examples: Electrician, carpenter, chef, mechanic, hairdresser, social and healthcare worker.
- Often you start with **grundforløb** (basic course) before getting into the hands-on part.

 **Choose this if:** You enjoy doing practical work, want to earn while you learn, and are not planning to go to university (though some pathways can still get you there).

Things to think about when choosing:

- What are you good at or passionate about?
 - Do you prefer academic or practical learning?
 - Do you want to go to university, or start working sooner?
 - Are you open to moving to a new school environment with new people?
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Bonus: With your South African heritage

You could also consider eventually taking a **gap year**, doing volunteer work or studying abroad in South Africa, or combining your background with international studies (e.g. languages, international business, development studies).

Personal Recommendation (based on what you've said):

Since you're fluent in Danish, born in Denmark, and just finished folkeskole, **STX** or **HHX** would be a strong and flexible starting point — especially if you're not totally sure what you want to do yet.

But if you're more **hands-on** and don't love classroom work, starting a **vocational education** might be the perfect fit — Denmark has a great system for this.

Would you like me to help you explore specific schools near where you live or match your interests to programs more closely?