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Ukraine education FAQ

Ukraine has a 99.4% literacy rate, the highest in the world. Check our explainer for a quick guide to their highly ranked education system.

Which are the hardest universities to get into in Ukraine?

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv Ivan Franko National University of Lviv V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University



Images from top: Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute, Kharkiv National Medical University, Lakshya MBBS (Medical school), Hlukhiv National Pedagogical University, assembly hall of the National Technical University of Ukraine Kyiv Polytechnic Institute and (below) research library of National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

What is the grading system at Ukrainian universities?

Degrees are awarded either on a

100 points scale (90-100 = excellent, 70-89 = good, 50-69 = satisfactory, 0-49 = unsatisfactory)

Or a

5 point national scale (5 = excellent, 4 = good, 3= satisfactory, 2-1= unsatisfactory)

Recent graduates use the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation scale. They convert differently for 2 year degrees and 4 year degrees, please check the table below.

ECTS Grading scale		
GRADE	WES UNDERGRADUATE CONVERSION	WES GRADUATE CONVERSION
Α	Α	Α
В	B+	А
С	В	B+
D	C+	В
E	С	В
F	F	F

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What do the qualifications mean?

Junior Bachelor (Molodshyi Bakalavr)- first level of higher education equals 2 years of studying Bachelor (Bakalavr) - higher education equals 4 years of studying Master (Magistr) - advanced academic or professional training Doctor of Philosophy/Art and Doctor of Science - the highest education level

Some applicants are from colleges and some from unis - what is the difference?

Colleges offer vocational training, similar to apprenticeships for mechanics, electricians and chefs, for youth from the age of 15. With a college qualification you will be entitled to apply for university places alongside school-leavers who attended a full 12 years of school.

I'm looking at Ukrainian secondary school grades - there seem to be two grading systems?

School leavers after 2012 are graded by a 12-point system:

10-12 (excellent, equivalent to A), 7-9 (good, equivalent to B), 4-6 (satisfactory, equivalent to C) and 1-3 (unsatisfactory, equivalent to F)

School leavers before 2012 were graded by a 5-point system: 5 (excellent) 4 (good) 3 (satisfactory) 2-1 (unsatisfactory)

Some applicants went to school for 11 years and others for 12 - why?

Ukraine extended compulsory schooling to 12 years in 2018.

What's the Ukrainian school curriculum like?

Students are taught 1 or 2 foreign languages (English and German are the most common), mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology as well as all general subjects.

Anything you recommend I check in a Ukrainian CV?

All academic institutions in Ukraine must have a license and can't issue degrees or diplomas without accreditation from MOES .

