

International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) 2011

Webinar for Asia
8-9, December 2020



What is ISCED 2011?

- ❖ **International Standard Classification of Education**
- ❖ **Framework** to facilitate comparisons of education statistics across countries
- ❖ **Methodology** for translating national educational programmes and related qualifications into an international comparable set of categories
- ❖ A product of international agreement and adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO Member States
- ❖ Maintained by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)

ISCED 2011 questionnaire – where to find it

The National Education Systems questionnaire (ISCED 2011), prefilled with information provided by country focal points is available on the UIS website <http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-questionnaires> along with reference documents

2021 SURVEY OF FORMAL EDUCATION

UIS/ED/A	Students and Teachers (ISCED 0-4)	DOWNLOAD
UIS/ED/B	Educational Expenditure (ISCED 0-8)	DOWNLOAD
UIS/ED/C	Students and Teachers (ISCED 5-8)	DOWNLOAD
UIS/ED/ISC11	National Education Systems	DOWNLOAD

Supporting documents:

Instruction Manual: Survey of Formal Education	DOWNLOAD
International Standard Classification of Education 2011	DOWNLOAD
ISCED Fields of Education and Training (ISCED-F 2013)	DOWNLOAD
Fields of Education and Training 2013 (ISCED-F 2013) – Detailed field descriptions	DOWNLOAD
ISCED 2011 Operational Manual	DOWNLOAD
Changes to 2021 Questionnaires	DOWNLOAD

ISCED 2011 Questionnaire - contents

Overview:

- ❖ General Information – Respondents, Reference Year
- ❖ National Education Programmes (Table 1) to produce ISCED mappings
- ❖ Provision of free and compulsory education (Table 2) as per national legislation and/or educational laws – SDG4 indicators
- ❖ ISCED appendices (definitions and programmes)

ISCED Questionnaire - Respondent



Data for the academic year ending in 2020

Deadline for returning the completed questionnaire: 19 February 2021

This questionnaire collects information on the national education programmes and their classifications according to the 2011 revision of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011). This information is used to ensure the production of internationally comparable data and indicators that are gathered through the UIS education questionnaires and to produce ISCED mappings which are essential tools for comparing national education systems. The questionnaire is also used to collect the provision of free and compulsory education as per national legislation and/or educational laws.

Completing the questionnaire

Please refer to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) 2011 and the Annexes before completing this questionnaire or for further information regarding the classification. This questionnaire may have been pre-filled with previously submitted details of national education programmes. If any information is missing or if there have been changes to your national education system, please update the relevant tables and resubmit the questionnaire. For more details please visit the following useful links:

- International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) 2011: <http://uis.unesco.org/en/topic/international-standard-classification-education-isced>
- Validated ISCED mappings are available at: <http://uis.unesco.org/en/isced-mappings>
- All UIS questionnaires and manuals are available at: <http://www.uis.unesco.org/UISQuestionnaires/Pages/country.aspx>

Coverage

This questionnaire covers the entire formal education system from early childhood educational development to tertiary education in both public and private institutions within the borders of your country. The information provided should include both formal initial education programmes and formal adult education programmes.

Table 1: National education programmes

Please ensure that all formal education programmes included in the Survey of Formal Education, including ISCED 01 category 'early childhood educational development', as well as formal adult education programmes are listed in this questionnaire. For pre-filled questionnaires, new programmes can be entered at the end of the pre-filled section and changes to existing programmes should be clearly indicated.

It is recommended to fill in the rows starting from the lowest level of education (ISCED 2011 level 0) to the highest level (ISCED 2011 level 8). Each row should be filled in from left to right. A new row should be used for each distinct programme and qualification that would result in different ISCED programme (ISCED-P) and educational attainment (ISCED-A) codes. Where one programme leads to two or more qualifications, please list it once for each qualification as the ISCED-A codes for each qualification may be different.

Table 2: Free and compulsory education

This part of the questionnaire compiles information on free and compulsory education, as prescribed in national legislation and/or educational laws. While practice can be different from theory, the aim of this table is to gather information on the national legal frameworks that guide compulsory and free education, rather than on current practices.

Using the Excel questionnaire

This questionnaire has been designed for optimal functionality in Microsoft Excel 2010 but can also be used with other versions of Excel. It has been locked to preserve the layout and the integrity of automatically filled cells.

Submitting this questionnaire

Completed questionnaires should be sent by email as an attachment to: uis.survey@unesco.org

For more information

For any queries concerning the questionnaire, please contact the UNESCO Institute for Statistics by:

Email: uis.survey@unesco.org
 Tel: +1 514 343 6880
 Fax: +1 514 343 5740
 Mail: UNESCO Institute for Statistics
 PO Box 6128, Station Centre-ville
 Montreal, QC H3C 3J7
 CANADA
 Web: <http://www.uis.unesco.org>



Respondent information sheet: Similar in all UIS questionnaires

General information on the data collected in the questionnaire

Questionnaire code: UIS_ED_ISC11_2020

Country: Please select a country
 ISO code:

1. Please provide information on the person(s) responsible for completing this questionnaire.

Contact 1: Person in charge of completing the questionnaire:

Full name:	
Organization:	
Organization unit:	
Function:	
Email address:	
Phone number:	
Fax number:	

Contact 2: Head of the organization (if different from Contact 1):

Full name:	
Organization:	
Organization unit:	
Function:	
Email address:	
Phone number:	
Fax number:	

3. Reference period for the information provided in this questionnaire:

School year starts (dd/mm/yyyy):	
School year ends (dd/mm/yyyy):	

ISCED Questionnaire – National Programmes

TABLE 1: NATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES ACCORDING TO ISCED 20

Programme information (All formal education programmes (including formal adult education))						Classification according to ISCED 2011				
Name of the programme in national language	Name of the programme in English	Minimum entrance requirements if applicable, in national language	Minimum entrance requirements if applicable, in English	Name of the qualification awarded at end of programme in national language (fill in multiple lines if more than one qualification)	Name of the qualification awarded at end of programme in English (fill in multiple lines if more than one qualification)	Theoretical entrance age	Theoretical duration	ISCED 2011 level	ISCED 2011 type or orientation (where applicable)	ISCED 2011 level completion and position in national degree structure (where applicable)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

SDG 4 indicators calculated using this table:

- 4.1.2: Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)
- 4.1.3: Gross intake ratio to the last grade (primary education, lower secondary education)
- 4.1.4: Out-of-school rate (1 year before primary, primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)
- 4.1.5: Percentage of children over-age for grade (primary education, lower secondary education)
- 4.2.2: Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex
- 4.2.4: Gross early childhood education enrolment ratio in (a) pre-primary education and (b) early childhood educational development

ISCED Questionnaire – National Programmes

- * **One line** to describe each formal education programme
- * As info completed, **code of programme** automatically generated
- * Order from **lowest to highest** level of education (col. 9)
- * If **changes** in the national education system, modify prefilled information accordingly

TABLE 1: NATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES ACCORDING TO ISCED 2011

Programme information (All formal education programmes (including formal adult education))								Classification according to ISCED 2011							
Name of the programme in national language	Name of the programme in English	Minimum entrance requirements if applicable, in national language	Minimum entrance requirements if applicable, in English	Name of the qualification awarded at end of programme in national language (fill in multiple lines if more than one qualification)	Name of the qualification awarded at end of programme in English (fill in multiple lines if more than one qualification)	Theoretical entrance age	Theoretical duration	ISCED 2011 level	ISCED 2011 type or orientation (where applicable)	ISCED 2011 level completion and position in national degree structure (where applicable)	Does the programme provide direct access to higher ISCED 2011 level(s)? (for levels 2-4 only)	Minimum ISCED 2011 level of training required to teach that programme	Notes	ISCED 2011 Programme three-digit code	ISCED 2011 Educational Attainment three-digit code
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
								-	-	-	-	-		---	---
								-	-	-	-	-		---	---

ISCED Questionnaire – National Programmes

Requested information

- **Name** of the programme in **national** language
- **Name** of the programme in **English**
- Minimum **entrance requirements**, in **national** language
- Minimum **entrance requirements**, in **English**
- Name of the **qualification awarded** at end of programme in **national** language
- Name of the **qualification awarded** at end of programme in **English**
- **Theoretical entrance age**
- **Theoretical duration**

ISCED Questionnaire – National Programmes

Requested information (continued)

- ISCED 2011 **level**
- ISCED 2011 **type or orientation** (general/vocational)
- ISCED 2011 **level completion and position in national degree structure**
- Does the programme provide **direct access to higher ISCED 2011 level(s)**? (for levels 2-4 only)
- Minimum ISCED 2011 **level of training required** to teach that programme
- **Notes** (if further clarifications are needed)
- ISCED 2011 **Programme three-digit code**
- ISCED 2011 **Educational Attainment three-digit code**

ISCED Questionnaire – National Programmes

While duration is important, the complexity, and the access to higher level are also taken into account

Theoretical duration

8

Duration by ISCED level

ISCED level	Typical duration [most common duration]	
0	No duration criteria. However, a programme should account for at least the equivalent of 2 hours per day and 100 days a year of educational activities in order to be included.	: Early childhood education
1	4 to 7 years [most common: 6 years]	: Primary education
2	2 to 5 years [most common: 3 years]	: Lower secondary education
3	2 to 5 years [most common: 3 years]	: Upper secondary education
4	6 months to 2 or 3 years	: Post-secondary non-tertiary education
5	2 to 3 years	: Short-cycle tertiary education
6	3 to 4 years when directly following ISCED level 3; or 1 to 2 years when following another ISCED level 6 programme	: Bachelor's or equivalent level
7	1 to 4 years when following ISCED level 6; or 5 to 7 years when directly following ISCED level 3	: Master's or equivalent level
8	Minimum 3 years	: Doctoral or equivalent level

Classification system of ISCED 2011

Three digits code

2 5 4

Level of education

category

sub-category

(type/orientation)

(completion and access)

Classification system of ISCED 2011

Level label	Level	Category	Subcategory	Notes on subcategories
Early childhood educational development	0	01	010	Educational programmes targeting under 3 year olds
Pre-primary education		02	020	
Primary	1	10	100	
Lower secondary	2	24 general	241	Insufficient for level completion or partial completion and without direct access to upper secondary
			242	Partial level completion and without direct access to upper secondary
			243	Level completion, without direct access to upper secondary
			244	Level completion, with direct access to upper secondary
		25 vocational	251	Insufficient for level completion or partial completion and without direct access to upper secondary
			252	Partial level completion and without direct access to upper secondary
			253	Level completion, without direct access to upper secondary
			254	Level completion, with direct access to upper secondary

Classification system of ISCED 2011

Level label	Level	Category	Subcategory	Notes on subcategories
Upper secondary	3	34 general	341	Insufficient for level completion or partial completion and thus without direct access to tertiary
			342	Partial level completion and without direct access to tertiary
			343	Level completion, without direct access to first tertiary programmes (but may give direct access to post-secondary non-tertiary) ¹
			344	Level completion, with direct access to first tertiary programmes (may also give direct access to post-secondary non-tertiary) ¹
		35 vocational	351	Insufficient for level completion or partial completion and without direct access to tertiary
			352	Partial level completion and without direct access to tertiary
			353	Level completion, without direct access to first tertiary programmes (but may give direct access to post-secondary non-tertiary) ¹
			354	Level completion, with direct access to first tertiary programmes (may also give direct access to post-secondary non-tertiary) ¹
Post-secondary non-tertiary	4	44 general	441	Insufficient for level completion and without direct access to tertiary ²
			443	Level completion, without direct access to first tertiary programmes ²
			444	Level completion, with direct access to first tertiary programmes ²
		45 vocational	451	Insufficient for level completion and without direct access to tertiary ²
			453	Level completion, without direct access to first tertiary programmes ²
			454	Level completion, with direct access to first tertiary programmes ²

1. May include programmes previously classified at ISCED level 4 if they are equivalent to ISCED level 3 programmes

2. Except programmes previously classified at ISCED level 4 if they are equivalent to ISCED level 3 programmes

Classification system of ISCED 2011

Level label	Level	Category	Subcategory	Notes on (sub) categories	Notes
Short-cycle tertiary	5	54 general	541	Insufficient for level completion	
			544	Sufficient for level completion	
		55 vocational	551	Insufficient for level completion	
			554	Sufficient for level completion	
Bachelor's or equivalent	6	66 ¹ orientation unspecified	661	Insufficient for level completion	
			665	1 st degree (3-4 years)	
			666	Long 1 st degree (> 4 years) (bachelor or equivalent)	
			667	2 nd or further degree (following a bachelor or equivalent)	If equivalent to other programmes already classified in level 6.

1. The correspondences for academic and professional programmes at ISCED levels 6, 7 and 8 are identical to those for programmes where orientation is unspecified.

Classification system of ISCED 2011

Level label	Level	Category	Subcategory	Notes on (sub) categories	Notes
Master or equivalent	7	76 ¹ orientation unspecified	761	Insufficient for level completion	
			766	Long 1 st degree (≥ 5 years) (master or equivalent)	Unless equivalent to programmes already classified in level 6, then 666.
			767	2 nd or further degree (following a bachelor or equivalent)	
			768	2 nd or further degree (following a master or equivalent)	
Doctoral or equivalent	8	86 ¹ orientation unspecified	861	Insufficient for level completion	
			864	Sufficient for level completion	Programmes that lead directly to a doctoral degree only.

1. The correspondences for academic and professional programmes at ISCED levels 6, 7 and 8 are identical to those for programmes where orientation is unspecified.

ISCED Questionnaire – National Programmes

- ❖ When processing the submitted questionnaires, here are **some common** issues that we raise:
 - Missing information
 - Inconsistence between QA, QB, QC and QISC2011
 - Is the programme classified at the correct level?
 - Long tertiary first degrees classified differently by countries/regions: some in ISCED 6 and some in ISCED 7
- ❖ We contact the respondents to solve any issue detected:
 - Asking for clarifications
 - Providing technical advice
 - Suggesting changes and requesting approval

ISCED Questionnaire - Legal Framework

TABLE 2: FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION

		Age-span of compulsory education			
		Starting age	Ending age	Duration	
	Compulsory education				
2: Free education		Number of tuition-free years/grades			
		Pre-primary ISCED 02	Primary ISCED 1	Secondary ISCED 2 and 3	Total
	Free education				

SDG 4 indicators produced from this table:

4.1.7: Number of years of (a) free and (b) compulsory primary and secondary education guaranteed in legal frameworks

4.2.5: Number of years of (a) free and (b) compulsory pre-primary education guaranteed in legal frameworks

ISCED Mappings

What are ISCED mappings?

- ❖ Outputs of a collaborative process between UIS and Member States to map national education systems according to the ISCED.
- ❖ Essential tools for organizing info on national education systems, their programmes and related qualifications in order to ensure cross-national comparability of education statistics and indicators.
- ❖ Ensure a transparent process of coding programmes into comparable categories for use in international statistics
- ❖ UIS website main ISCED page for further information uis.unesco.org/isced-mappings
- ❖ (*new – upcoming*) ISCED Diagrams – visualization (<http://emis.uis.unesco.org/>)

ISCED Mapping

Who uses ISCED mappings?

- ❖ **Member States:** to report their data in an internationally comparable framework.
- ❖ **UIS:** to ensure international comparability of education statistics.
- ❖ **Data users:** for more specific information on a country's education system.
- ❖ **Other international and regional statistical organizations:** to undertake comparative data collections, including household surveys and population censuses.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L	M	N	O	P	R	S
Aruba ISCED 2011 Mapping																
School Year reference: 2019																
ID	Name of the education programme (National language)	Name of the education programme (English)	Minimum entrance requirements (National language)	Minimum entrance requirements (English)	Main diplomas, qualifications or certificates awarded at end of programme (National language)	Main diplomas, qualifications or certificates awarded at end of programme (English)	Theoretical entrance age	Theoretical duration (in years)	ISCED 2011 level	ISCED 2011 Type (ECED/Pre-primary) or Orientation (G/V/U)	ISCED 2011 Completion (F/P/N) & Position in national degree structure	ISCED 2011 Access (Y/N)	Notes	ISCED 2011 Programme code (ISCED-P: 3 digit)	ISCED 2011 Attainment code (ISCED-A: 3 digit)	

Thank you !

UIS Survey website with survey instruments:
<http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-questionnaires>

For data, visit the UIS Data Centre: <http://data.uis.unesco.org/>