

Readiness assessment for upper-secondary education

In Denmark, students in Middle School are assessed in order to determine whether they are ready for an upper secondary education. The assessment is meant to provide an overview of what the student should focus on in order for him/her to meet the academic, social, and personal qualifications needed to enroll in, and complete an upper secondary education. This process begins in M9 and proceeds until the end of M10. The assessment is made in correlation with application to any of the following secondary educations:

- 3-year gymnasium
- 2-year HF
- Vocational educations
- Diploma Programme

Qualifications

Academic:

For students **in the Danish system**, the minimum academic qualifications are as follows:

- 5.0 grade point average for a 3-year gymnasium
- 4.0 grade point average for a 2-year HF education
- Passing grades in math and Danish for a vocational education

There is not yet an official conversion from the Danish to MYP grading systems. However, IB schools have estimated that a 5.0 in the Danish system roughly corresponds to a 4.0 on the MYP scale. That said, it is important to note that MYP students applying to a 3- or 2-year upper secondary education in the Danish system will be required to take an entrance exam in Danish, math, and science and English at the school they wish to attend. With the exception of English, the exam will be conducted in Danish. An interview will also be a part of the process.

Personal:

- Motivation for education and the will to learn
- Autonomy, including that the student takes initiative in completing assignments
- Responsibility, including that the student is prepared for his/her classes
- Attendance, including being timely and having low absenteeism
- Is the student ready to commit to a path in the education system?

Social:

- Interpersonal skills, including being able to complete tasks in cooperation with others, to comply with common agreements, and to contribute positively to the community
- Respect, including showing appreciation for other people
- Tolerance, including being able to cooperate with people different from oneself

Process

M9

Students will be assessed for the first time in the fall of M9 by their homeroom teachers and the MYP coordinator. Some will be assessed as “ready” at this point. A student assessed as ready in M9 will only need to renew his or her assessment in M10 if grade levels are declining, or if the school feels that the student’s social and personal skills have changed. Students assessed as ready will not have individual sessions with the municipal UU (“Ungdommens Uddannelse”) counselor, but they will be a part of collective guidance counseling in M10 to learn about the different options available in Denmark.

For students assessed as not yet ready for upper secondary education, a special school- and counseling effort will be launched. The student, parents, teachers, MYP coordinator, deputy head and UU counselor will all be involved to at least some extent. The student will be offered individual or group-based guidance counseling and the team will draft an individual plan outlining specific steps the student can take to work towards readiness. The team will lay particular weight on subjects of relevance to the education the student wishes to pursue, and any other areas for improvement including attendance, participation or group work.

In addition, the student will have the opportunity to try a bridge-building session, where s/he experiences different upper secondary educations for a couple of days. To read more about this, see our [‘Life after ISB’](#) document.

The assessment process will be repeated in the spring of M9 and again in the fall and spring of M10, as necessary.

M10

When a student has been declared ready for upper secondary education, s/he must fill out an education plan with his/her parents and send it to his/her first priority school. This can be done at www.optagelse.dk (click **here** for a guide in English). If the student wants to apply for an education other than what s/he has been assessed for, a new assessment must be completed by the UU counselor.

The deadline to apply for upper secondary education in Denmark is 1 March. It is the student and parents’ responsibility to sign his/her plan of education by this date. The application will be automatically sent when it has been signed.