

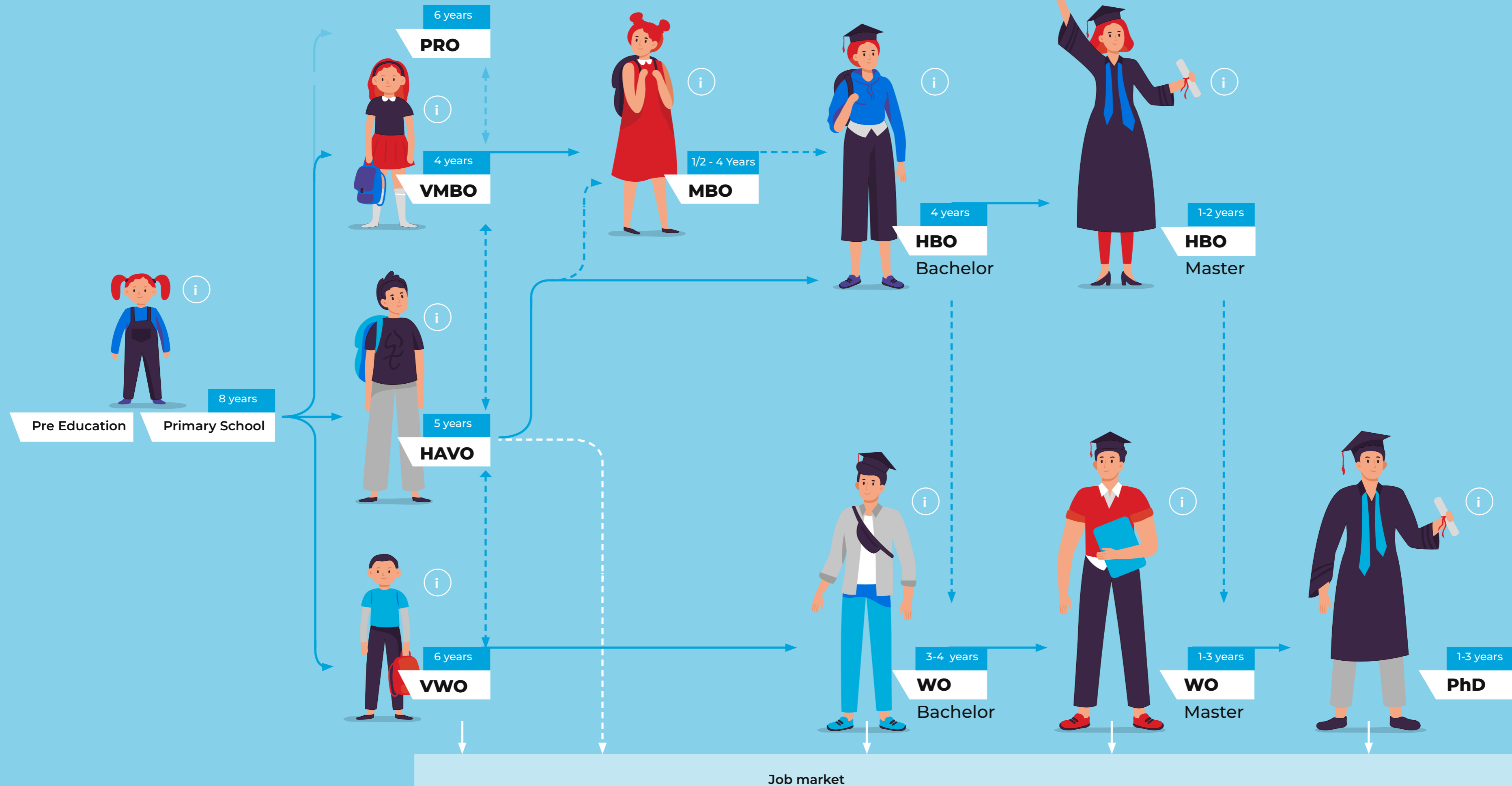
Dutch Education System

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start →

Job market





8 years

Pre Education

Primary School

2 years

VVE | Voorschoolse of vroegschoolse educatie**Preschool education**

Preschool education (or early childhood education) is for toddlers aged 2.5 to 4 years who benefit from extra support in their development. This contributes to a good start in primary school. In preschool education, your child attends childcare for 16 hours per week and follows a special program to stimulate their development.

Learning through play at childcare

Childcare offers a program for preschool education. Pedagogical staff members implement this program with the toddlers.

Preschool education stimulates the development of:

- language;
- preparatory mathematics;
- motor skills;
- social-emotional skills.

PO | Basis school / Primair onderwijs**Primary education**

Primary education lasts 8 years, starting at age 4 in Group 1 and finishing in Group 8. Most children start when they turn 4. At the age of 5, according to Dutch law, children are obliged to attend school ("leerplicht").

In many schools, there is a special class known as "kleuterklas" (kindergarten), where children from Group 1 and Group 2 are brought together. In primary school, kids are in one class from Group 1 to Group 8, with a different teacher handling most subjects every year.

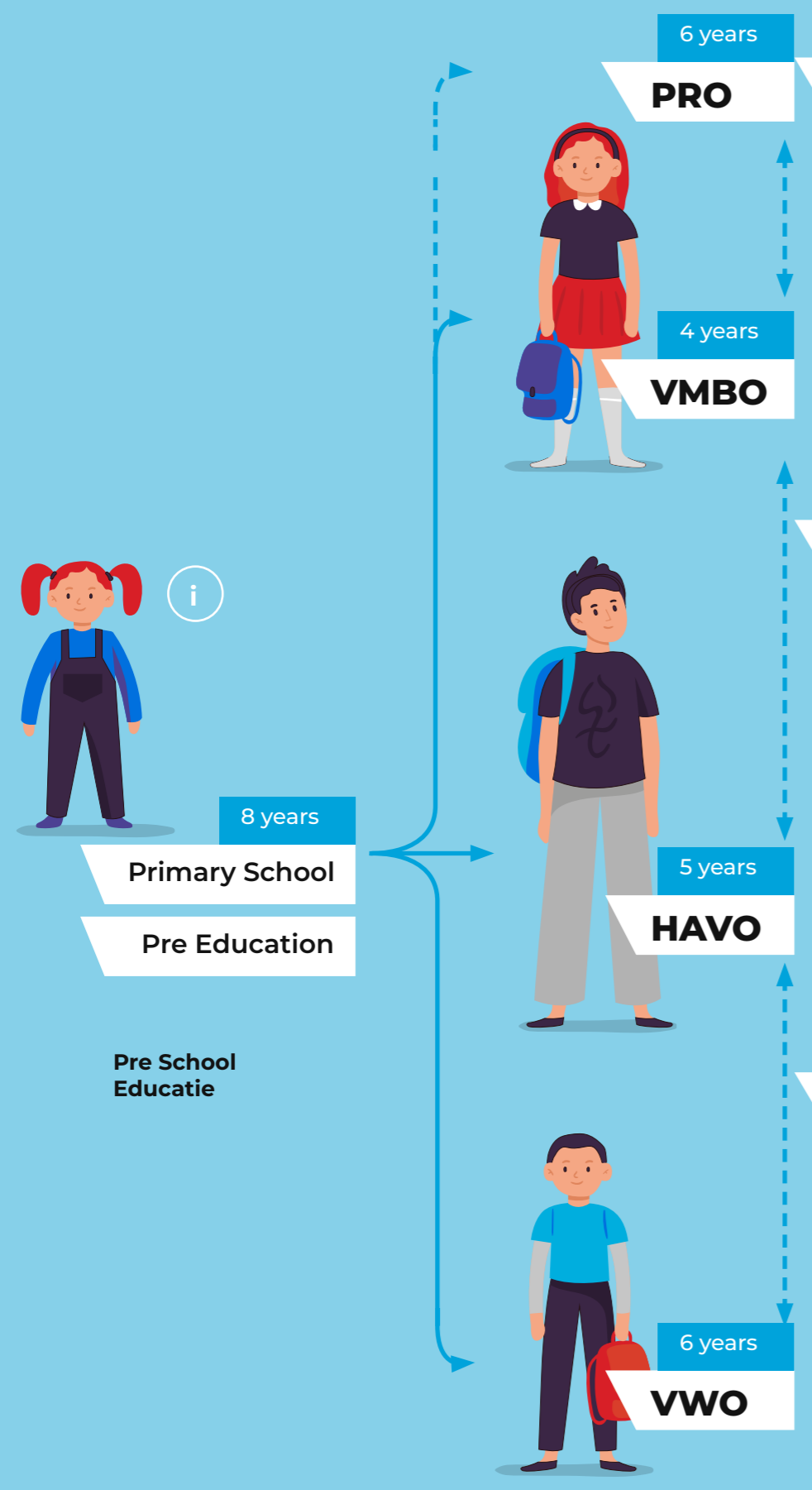
Here, the focus is on imaginative themes, playful learning, social interaction, expanding vocabulary, developing fine and gross motor skills, expressing oneself, and gradually introducing the fundamentals of reading and writing. The more formal academic curriculum begins in Group 3, around the age of six.

The subjects include Dutch, Mathematics, World orientation (geography, history, and natural sciences), Physical education, Arts (drawing, painting, music, drama, etc.), and citizenship.

School usually runs from 8:30 to 15:00 with a break. During the mid-day break, children bring their own lunch. It's common for schools to have Wednesday afternoons off. This may differ per school. So to be sure it's wis to check this with the school of your choice. Traditionally, Dutch primary schools don't give a lot of homework to young kids. They focus more on in-class activities, group projects, and creating a positive learning environment. However, this can vary between schools and teachers.

In Group 8, students take a test, and based on this test and teacher recommendations, they get advice on which level of secondary education to choose.

VO | Voortgezet Onderwijs **Secondary education**



6 years
PRO

Practical training (pro) is a six year pathway in which students receive intensive instruction and guidance. In smaller classes, students mainly learn from practice and by doing. For example, teachers explicitly help students to develop important general skills, such as self-reliance, communication skills and general employee etiquette that is deemed essential in any workplace. Students follow the same subjects that are offered in regular lower secondary education (onderbouw), but in much smaller groups.

To be admitted to practical education, a declaration of admissibility for practical education ("Toelatingsverklaring": TLV pro) is required. The TLV is issued by the appropriate education partnership. The following national admission criteria are used: The student's IQ is between 55 and 80.

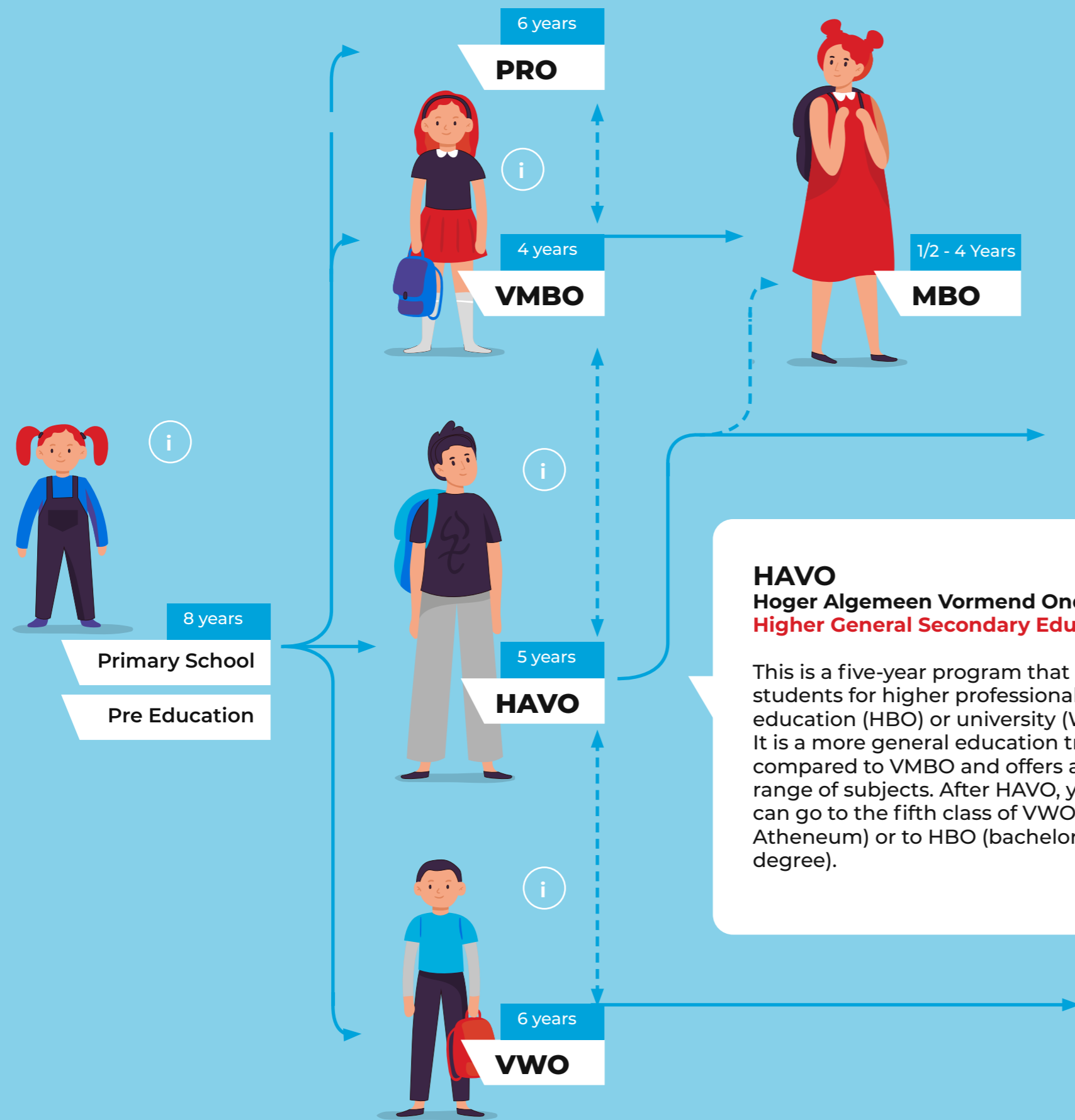
4 years
VMBO

<p>VMBO-TL (MAVO) Theoretische leerweg (theoretical)</p>	<p>VMBO-GL Gemengde leerweg (mixed vocational / general education)</p>	<p>KBL Kaderberoepsgerichte leerweg (intermediate vocational education)</p>	<p>BBL Basisberoepsgerichte leerweg (basic vocational education),</p>
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5 years
HAVO

<p>NT Natuur en Gezondheid (Nature and Health)</p> <p>This profile focuses on subjects related to natural sciences, health sciences, and biology. Students who choose this profile often have an interest in pursuing careers in medicine, healthcare, biology, environmental science, or related fields.</p>	<p>NG Natuur & Techniek (Nature and Technology)</p> <p>This profile emphasizes subjects like mathematics, physics, chemistry, and technology. It's suitable for students interested in engineering, technology, architecture, or other technical fields.</p>	<p>EM Economie & Maatschappij (Economics and Society)</p> <p>This profile covers subjects related to economics, business studies, social sciences, and law. Students who choose this profile may have ambitions to work in business, finance, law, politics, or social sciences.</p>	<p>CM Cultuur & Maatschappij (Culture and Society)</p> <p>This profile focuses on subjects like history, literature, arts, languages, and social sciences. It's suitable for students with interests in humanities, languages, arts, culture, journalism, or social work.</p>
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HAVO
Hoger Algemeen Vormend Onderwijs
Higher General Secondary Education

This is a five-year program that prepares students for higher professional education (HBO) or university (WO). It is a more general education track compared to VMBO and offers a broad range of subjects. After HAVO, you can go to the fifth class of VWO (only Atheneum) or to HBO (bachelor's degree).

MBO | Middelbaar Beroepsonderwijs
Secondary vocational education

<p>LEVEL 1 Entree-opleiding</p> <p>Assistant training</p> <p>for basic executive work</p>	<p>LEVEL 2 basisberoeps-opleiding</p> <p>Basic vocational training</p> <p>for executive practical work</p>	<p>LEVEL 3 Vakopleiding</p> <p>Professional training</p> <p>to become an independent practitioner</p>	<p>LEVEL 4 Middel kader opleiding</p> <p>Middle-management and specialized training</p> <p>After which a person can practice a profession fully independently, with a wide range of applications and/or specialization</p>
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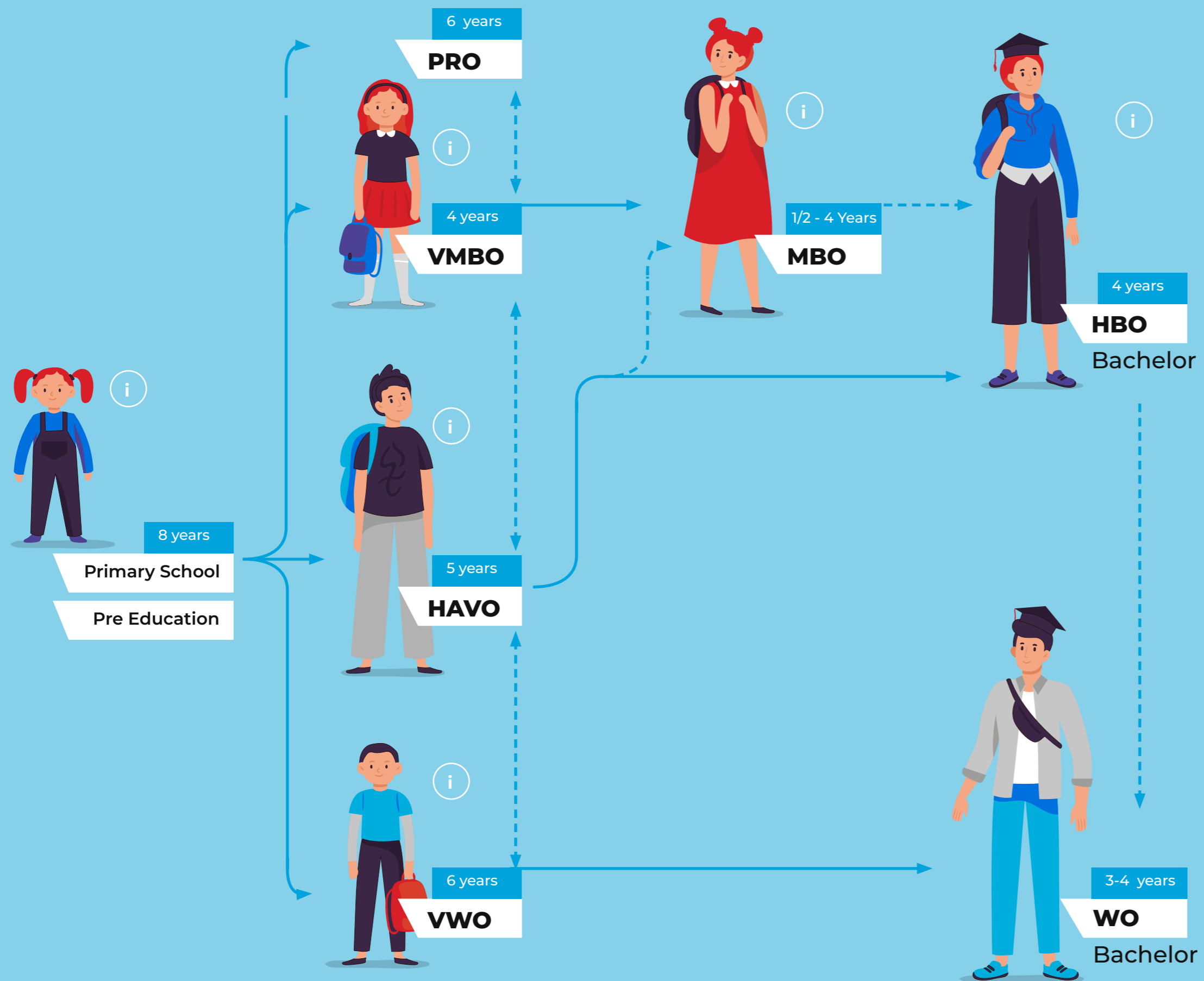
Secondary vocational education takes up to four years, depending on the level of training. Those who complete their training can start work or go on to another form of education. More than 700 vocational courses are provided in the Netherlands.

Levels of training
 Secondary vocational education (MBO) prepares students for a wide range of occupations, from franchise manager to mechanic or nursing assistant. In the future, demand for skilled workers is expected to increase sharply in the Dutch job market.

Pupils who have successfully completed the theoretical, combined, or middle-management vocational program at the VMBO level can enroll in professional and middle-management training (MBO levels 3 and 4). Holders of a level 4 MBO certificate may go on to higher professional education (HBO).

Practical training and classroom learning.
 There are two learning pathways for each MBO course: vocational training (BOL), where practical training takes up between 20% and 60% of the course, and block or day release (BBL), where practical training takes up more than 60% of the course.

International accreditation
 Secondary and pre-vocational education certificates are recognized abroad. The website of SBB, the Foundation for Cooperation on Vocational Education, Training and Labour Market, provides more information on accreditation and certificates.

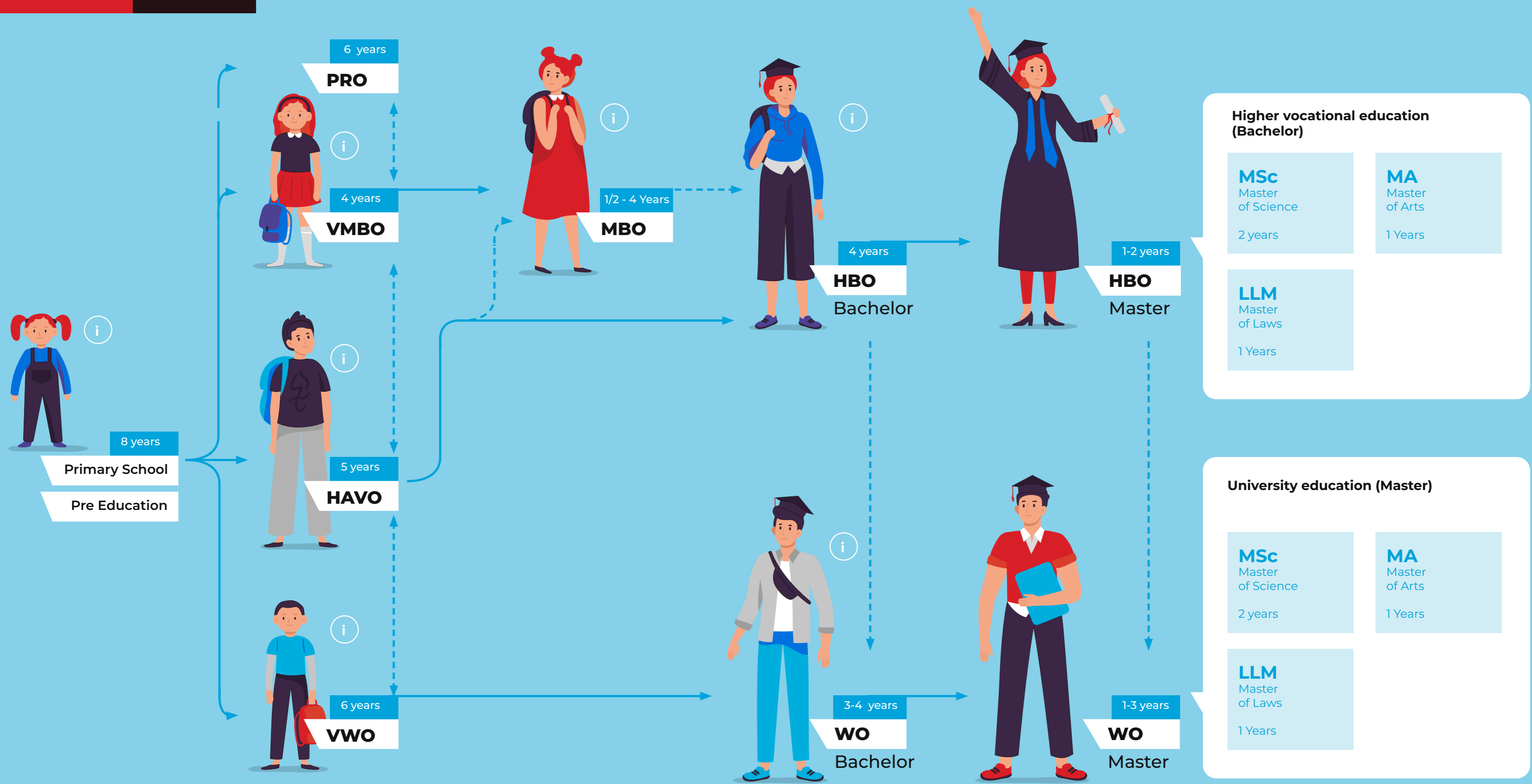


Higher vocational education (Bachelor)
 Higher vocational education (HBO) generally leads to a bachelor's degree. There are also shorter programmes that lead to an associate degree. Higher vocational schools (universities of applied sciences) can also offer a master's programme.

BSc Bachelor of Science 4 years	BA Bachelor of Arts 4 Years	LLB Bachelor of Laws 4 Years	AD Associate Degree 2 Years
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BSc Bachelor of Science 3years	BA Bachelor of Arts 3 Years	LLB Bachelor of Laws 3 Years
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University education (Bachelor)
 Universities (WO) offer programmes leading to a bachelor's or master's degree.



Higher vocational education (Bachelor)

MSc Master of Science 2 years	MA Master of Arts 1 Years
LLM Master of Laws 1 Years	

University education (Master)

MSc Master of Science 2 years	MA Master of Arts 1 Years
LLM Master of Laws 1 Years	

