

Inclusion of special needs students in vocational education

Iceland

[Starfsbraut | Tækniskólinn](#)

DESCRIPTION

In Iceland, young people with special needs have the right to at least 4 years of education in **general upper secondary schools** (age 16-20). While there are no special needs schools at this level, most all upper secondary schools offer a **special needs program** that supports the students with an **individualised curriculum**. Schools offering also vocational education are popular in this respect, as they can offer vocational classes as part of the program. Here, some students attend only **special needs classes** with a few students and individualised requirements, while others **partially attend general classes**. Over time, some of them can be **fully integrated into general courses**, often with support from a special needs program staff member.

REFLECTIONS

The inclusion of students with special needs in general schools benefits both the students with special needs, as it can help them **integrate into society**, and the general student population. In fact, it can foster **greater understanding, tolerance, and respect** of all students for individuals with **diverse needs and strengths**.