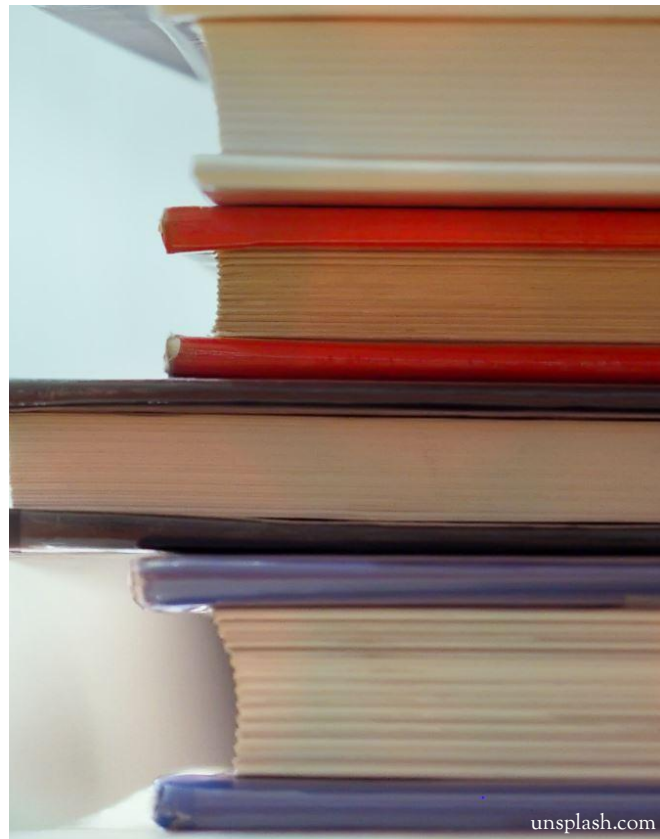


Further studies and joint application in Finland

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File updated: 4.10.2024



Choices after IB

- Vocational qualification in **a vocational institution**
- Bachelors' degree in **university of applied sciences** -> separate application to Masters' degree either in UAS or university
- Bachelors' and Masters' degree in **university** -> you will be directly entitled to complete a Masters' degree (with a few exceptions)



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The Finnish higher education system comprises universities and universities of applied sciences

What's the difference?

- The mission of **universities** is to conduct **scientific research** and provide education based on it. Universities award Bachelors' and Masters' degrees as well as postgraduate degrees, e.g. licentiate and doctoral degrees.
- **Universities of applied sciences** offer more practical education that aims to respond to **the needs of the labour market**. Universities of applied sciences award Bachelors' degrees and Masters' degrees.

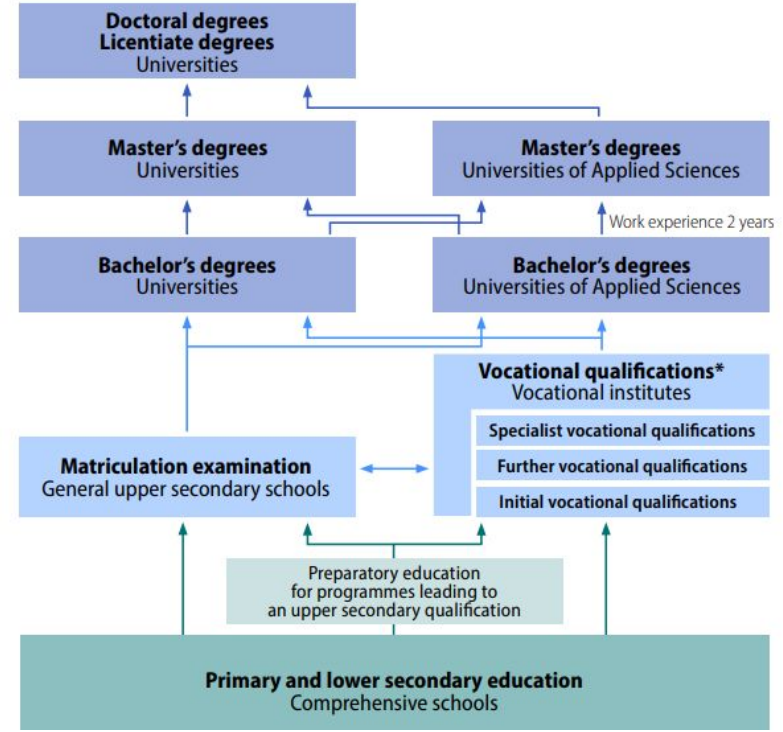
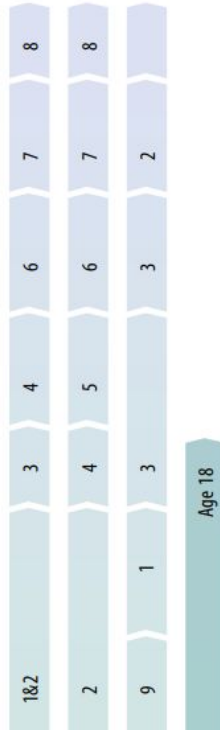


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EDUCATION SYSTEM IN FINLAND

- The duration of Bachelors' degree at a university is approximately **three years** and for a Masters' degree an **additional two years** .
- The completion of a degree at a university of applied sciences usually takes between **3.5 and 4.5 years** (Bachelors' degree).
- The requirement for **Masters' studies** at university of applied sciences is a Bachelors' degree or another appropriate degree **and at least two years of work experience** after the completion of the previous degree.



English-taught programmes in Finland

Universities: All Finnish universities offer master-level programmes taught in English (except the National Defence University). **The following universities offer Bachelor's level education in English:** Aalto University, University of Helsinki, University of Eastern Finland, LUT University, University of Oulu, Tampere University, The University of the Arts Helsinki.
More about the programmes offered by universities: <https://yliopistovalinnat.fi/en>

Universities of Applied Sciences: There's a wide variety of different study programmes in **universities of applied sciences taught in English:** humanities, design, media, business administration, information technology, agriculture, forest management, hospitality management, maritime management & technology, beauty, healthcare (nursing, physiotherapy, paramedic, social services) & engineering.
More about the programmes offered by universities of applied sciences: <https://www.uasinfo.fi/>

Vocational Qualifications: Stadin Ao & Omnia offer vocational qualifications in English: e.g. business, information and communications technology, social and healthcare, logistics, vehicle technology, transportation services, media, laboratory tech, dental technology, beauty, hairdresser/barber, construction work, building maintenance technology etc.



English-taught programmes in Finland

- Complete lists of programmes:
padlet.com/lauraopo/info ->
English-taught programmes in Finland
- Required points for different programmes:
<https://vipunen.fi/fi-fi/layouts/15/xlviewer.aspx?id=/fi-fi/Raportit/Haku-%20ja%20valintatiedot%20-%20korkeakoulu%20-%20pisterajat.xlsb>



Certificate-based admission

- **Universities:** Slightly more than half of all places are filled by certificate-based admission which is **based on a common scoring model**. Study programmes have used this to draw up their own scoring models. Universities **do accept the combination** of IB diploma + additional matriculation exams when counting scores.
- **UASs:** Most places are filled by certificate-based admission. A separate quota for upper secondary school and vocational education graduates. **A national scoring model** is used for selection in almost all institutions and all programmes. UASs **will only accept IB diploma** when counting scores.



Certificate-based admission to universities - changes from 2026 onwards

- The amount of scoring tables **will be reduced** and the scoring principles for different programmes **will be harmonised**
- The aim is to achieve a **more equal** scoring model between different high school diploma subjects: e.g. the emphasis of **languages** is increasing & the gap between **advanced** (ANA HL/SL) and **basic maths** (APP SL) will be evened out in those degree programmes where advanced maths skills are not essential
- Increased emphasis on **mother tongue** (IB: A-language) in all scoring tables



Certificate-based admission to universities - changes from 2026 onwards

- **IB Diploma specific subjects** (e.g. visual arts) will be recognised better
- Until now, in many cases these subjects might have given an applicant less points



Certificate-based admission to universities - changes from 2026 onwards

Example: business studies, scoring table **2023-2025**

Other <u>natural science and humanities</u> subjects in EB, IB, RP and DIA diplomas	22.4	18.6	14.9	11.2	7.5	3.7
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business studies, scoring table **2026-**

Business management	24,5	19,6	14,7	9,8	7,4	3,7
Visual arts	24,5	19,6	14,7	9,8	7,4	3,7

UAS Exam

<https://www.uasinfo.fi/international-uas-exam/>

<https://www.ammattikorkeakouluun.fi/hakijalle/valintatavat/amk-valintakoe/>

- The entrance exam is completed by the applicant's own computer **remotely online**
- In the joint application of spring 2024 91 study programmes use the International UAS Exam
- UAS Exam is also used when applying to programmes taught in Finnish or Swedish
- Regardless of how many study programs you're applying for, you only need to participate in the International UAS Exam **once**
- The exam **sections and duration** of the exam are determined on the basis of the study programmes you apply for
- Applicants complete **all the exam sections in one go** that are included to the study programmes they apply for
- The entrance exam includes both **common** exam sections to all study programmes and **field-specific** exam sections



University entrance exams



- Degree programmes may have **separate entrance exams** or **joint selection** , where you may apply to more than one programme with one exam.
- Most of the entrance exams **do not require** extensive studying of separate material before the exam.
- Entrance exams can be based on e.g. LOPS2019 courses (Finnish lukio), separate material given beforehand and/or separate material given during the exam. (Finnish and Swedish -taught programmes).
- In English-taught programmes entrance exam option can be either **SAT** or **ACT** -test.

University entrance exam reforms 2025



- There will be changes to entrance exams from 2025 onwards.
- The aim is to **reduce and combine** the amount of entrance exams, so that in the future one test may be used to apply to more programmes and universities
- In addition, there would be **no need to prepare** for the tests before the results of the certification-based selection are available
- Final decisions will be announced on **31.10.2024 at latest** in **studyinfo.fi**

The **draft** of the entrance exam reforms is available at:
https://blogs.helsinki.fi/valintahanke/files/2024/09/Esi-tys-valintakoeokonaisuudeksi-2025_FINAL-paivitetty-30.8.2024.pdf

Joint application system - Studyinfo

- At studyinfo.fi you can **find information** on different degrees and qualifications as well as learn about studies in educational institutions in Finland. The service can be used to find different study options and apply for studies online.
- The Finnish **joint applications** are national application procedures the Finnish education institutions mostly use when selecting new students to universities and universities of applied sciences.
- Joint application means that **several educational institutions offer their study programmes on one application form**. It will save you the trouble to fill in multiple application forms as well as the juggle to remember all different deadlines and procedures in every application.



Finnish joint application: spring 2025, dates

8.I.2025 – 22.I.2025. Application period 1 (degree programmes taught in English + Taideyliopisto + Tampereen yliopisto teatteritaide). Max. six options, no preference order.

II.3.2025 – 25.3.2025. Application period 2 (degree programs taught in Finnish and Swedish). Max. six options, preference order must be set.

Exception: application to **vocational qualifications** via flexible selection (no joint application after finishing upper secondary education).



Finnish joint application: spring 2025, results

Application period 1: all results by 28.5.2025

- Offered study place must be accepted by 10.7.2025 at 15.00.
- Acceptance from the queue ends on 5.8.2025 at 15.00.

Application period 2: results of the certificate-based selection by 26.5.2025

- Rest of the results by 3.7.2025 at the latest.
- Offered study place must be accepted by 10.7.2025 at 15.00.
- Acceptance from the queue ends on 5.8.2025 at 15.00.



Joint application to higher education - results

- Results will be published in 'Own Studyinfo'
- IB students graduating that year get a **conditional acceptance** . Final decision is made **after final results of IB Diploma** have been published.
- The applicant may receive a different result for different programs:
 - Accepted
 - Conditionally accepted
 - On the waitlist
 - Failed or cancelled
- If the applicant has been accepted to a study place, they can confirm the study place or remain on the waitlist for another study place. Deadline for the acceptance of a study place is on 10.7.2024.



What happens if the applicants final grades would be higher than PGs?

- Check required **score thresholds** for the educational institutions you applied for.
- If the applicants score would exceed the required acceptance threshold, **contact the educational institution directly** (e.g. their applicant services).
- In such situations educational institutions in Finland **may accept** individual applicants even though they wouldn't have been offered a study place according to their PGs.



Joint application to higher education - results

- Predicted grades must be submitted to Studyinfo. Remember to check the deadline for submitting your PGs and all other attachments required.
- When the final results come in (in July), it's possible to ask **IBO to deliver** the final results to **5 different universities the applicant has applied to** .
- If you deliver the certificate **yourself** , deliver it directly to university **admission services**, unless instructed otherwise.
- Finnish universities may also accept **the school provided certificate** presenting the final grades (provided by DP coordinator) when the applicant is accepting a study place. Check the requirements on the educational institutions website and on Studyinfo.



Application period 1, spring Kevään 1. yhteishaku

- korkeintaan kuusi hakukohdetta
- ei aseteta mielisuusjärjestykseen
- voi tulla hyväksytyksi useampaan

**MAX 6 options, no preference
order**



**You may get accepted into several
programmes**

Hmm...
voin siis hakea
joko molemmissa
yhteishauissa tai
vain toisessa.



Application period 2, spring Kevään 2. yhteishaku

- korkeintaan kuusi hakukohdetta
- asetetaan mielisuusjärjestykseen
- voi tulla hyväksytyksi vain yhteen

MAX 6 options, preference order



**You may get accepted only into one programme in
accordance with your preference order**

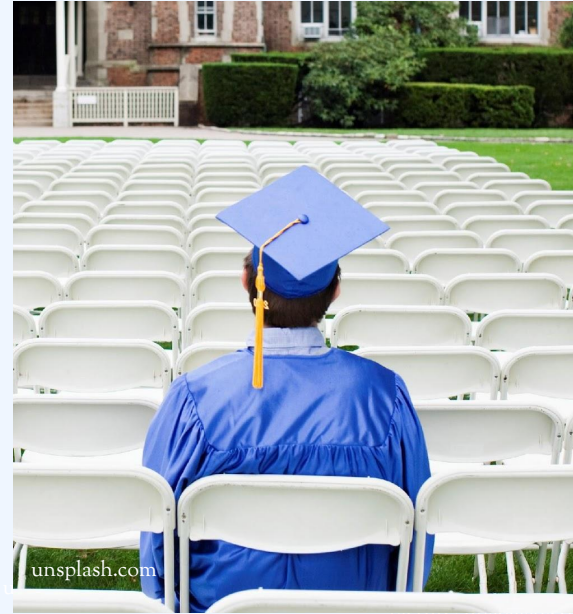
Quota for first-time applicants

- Universities have to reserve **a certain amount** of study places for those applicants who do not hold a higher education qualification or a study place in Finland
- Quota size **varies** depending on the study programme
- The applicant maintains their first-timer status even if they apply but do not either get accepted or accept the offered study place. The applicant will lose the status **only by accepting a study place**
- **Studying abroad doesn't affect** the status as a first-time applicant in Finland



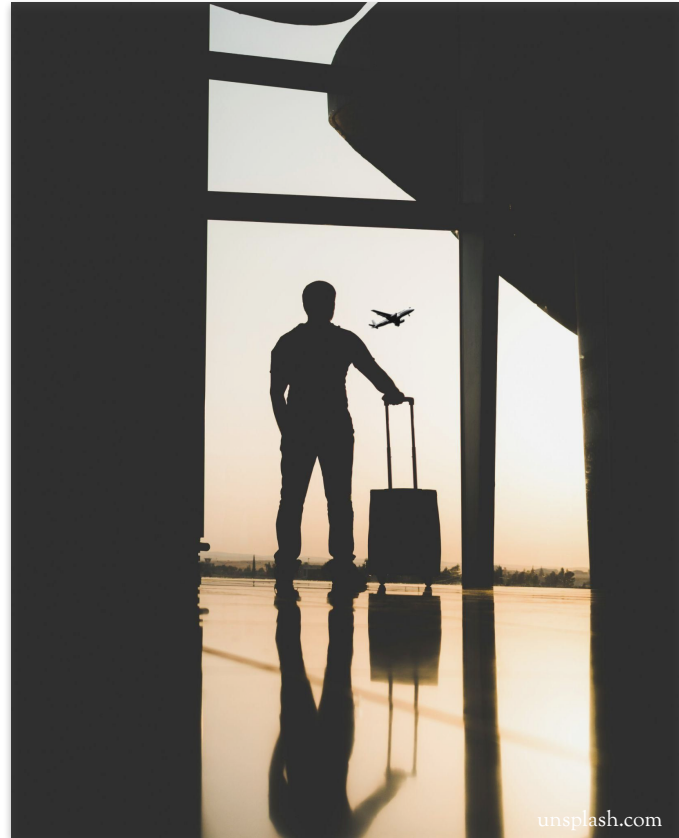
“One study place per term” -provision

- The applicant may accept only one study place leading to a higher education degree in Finland **in education that begins during the same academic term** .
- The applicant may be offered a study place in both application periods 1 and 2.
- If the applicant would be accepted to several programs, they need to **make a choice** between them.



Further studies abroad

Laura Haajanen, guidance counselor
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File updated: 4.10.2024



Choices after IB

Generally university degree systems include the first cycle (lower academic/undergraduate/ Bachelors') degree and the second cycle (higher academic/Masters') degree.

- Bachelors' degree: 3-4 years of full-time study
- Masters' degree: 1-2 years of full-time study

Usually you apply to take Bachelors' degree, but some unis offer integrated Masters' courses.



Erasmus+



- Even though you would decide to stay in Finland to study your Bachelors' (and Masters') degree, you can still study abroad!
- Finnish universities and UASes encourage students to go abroad. The most common way of doing this is via [Erasmus+](#), an exchange program funded by the European Union (either to study or work abroad).
- The min. period for an exchange is 2 months, max. 12 months at a time. However, students may use several exchanges at different stages of their studies - during bachelors', masters' and postgraduate.
- It's possible to receive grants for travel and accommodation costs. It's also possible to receive Finnish Kela study grants when studying abroad.

Where and what to study - general or specific course?

Say you search for biology related courses, you'll find that you can do a degree in biology, but you'll also see options such as conservation biology, biomedical science, forensic science, sport science etc.

A general degree:

- Keeps your options open and gives you more choice in terms of modules and more flexibility to explore different topics
- You may need to do further study or training after your degree, depending on your career plans

A specific degree:

- Allows you to focus on your area of interest and deepen your knowledge of this area, with less of the topics you don't enjoy
- May provide you with a clearer route to a specific career path
- Career options could be limited without pursuing further study or training

Source: <https://www.centreofthecell.org/blog/youth-members/tips-for-deciding-what-to-study-at-university/>



Where and what to study - general or specific course?

- Once you have decided what you want to study, **you will still be faced with a lot of variation between very similar looking programme titles at different universities.**
- This is the time to **do some more in depth research.** It's recommended to **make e.g. a mind map of all the information to help you keep track and compare different programmes.** It can be easy to forget which content is in which programme when flicking between pages online.
- Look at the **compulsory and optional modules for each year of study.** Do you like the look of those topics? Is your favourite part of your subject not included? You could even find the unit guide, to give you more detail about what the programme entails.



Recognition of qualifications completed abroad

- If you complete your studies abroad, you may need to seek for recognition for your qualification to be able to work or continue your studies in Finland.
- A recognition is needed if you intend to work in a **regulated profession** or a job that requires **a certain type** of higher education qualification.
- [Recognition of qualifications in Finland - Finnish National Agency for Education](#)



- Start your research and application process ideally **one year before** applying.
- It is recommended to apply to max. two countries. That way you'll be able to fully concentrate on all details.
- Choose a suitable country/countries. Then choose suitable institutions and programmes.
- You can use e.g. [Shanghai ranking](#) or [World University ranking](#) to search for different universities according to the quality of their academic research.

**Getting ready
to apply**



Application documents

- The documents required may vary a lot depending on where you apply.
- The most common ones are **personal statement** (or motivation letter) and different kinds of **recommendations** .
- When applying to study abroad, different kinds of documents are usually more important in the application process compared to Finland.



How to write a great personal statement?



Application systems in different countries

The Netherlands: You start by registering in Studielink. You then log in to the institutions own application system, where you add the application attachments, among other things.

Spain: First you need to apply for an eligibility decision from UNEDasiss, then apply directly to universities.

Ireland: Joint application system CAO

UK: Joint application system UCAS, which sends applications to universities.

Sweden: Joint application system antagning.se, for English-taught programmes universityadmissions.se

Estonia: Application directly to universities.

Denmark: Joint application system optagelse.dk

US: Multiple application systems, some universities accept applications through more than one system. National systems are Common Application and Coalition Application. Application method to be determined on a university-by-university basis.

Canada: Some provinces and territories have their own systems, otherwise you apply directly to universities.

Germany: No joint application, application via hochschulstart.de (*numerus clausus* applications where the amount of study places is limited), directly to the university or in some cases via uni-assist website. Application method must be checked for each university and place of application.



Application deadlines in different countries

Application deadlines **may vary from year to year.** It is important to check the application deadlines. The table is incomplete and indicative for some countries.

The Netherlands: 15.1. *numerus fixus* -programmes (amount of study places is limited), in other programmes deadline is usually 1.5.

Spain: application deadlines vary, often ending in April

Ireland: Most application periods end on 1.2.

UK: Oxford & Cambridge, dentistry, medicine and veterinary on October, other programmes and universities in the end of January.

Germany: The application periods run from May to mid-July (winter term) and mid-January (summer term).

Sweden: Most English-taught programmes mid-January, other programmes mid-April.

Estonia: Application deadlines are usually between April-June and vary depending on the university.

US: Early decision and Early action applications may end as early as the end of October/November. The main application period for many universities ends at the end of the year, but there is a lot of variation. For many universities, the application period continues until the summer.

Canada: Most application periods end between December and February. Please check with the educational institutions.

Denmark: mid-March

Source: <https://www.opintoihinulkomaille.fi/tervetuloa/hakeminen/>

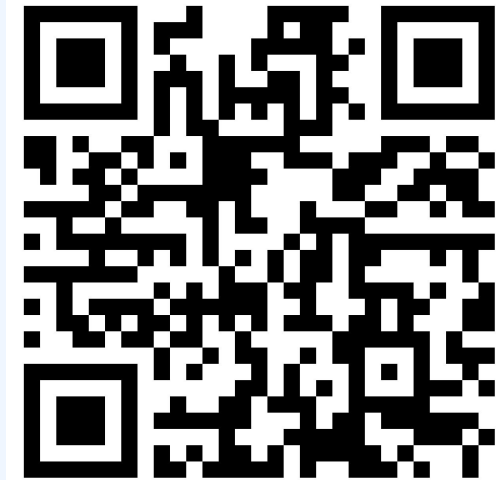


More country-specific information

<https://education.ec.europa.eu/study-in-europe/countries>

<https://padlet.com/lauraopo/opo-info-eaho3hrkkixaxc2h/wish/2926442417> (in Finnish)

Laura-opo's Padlet - study abroad
<https://padlet.com/lauraopo/eaho3hrkkixaxc2h>



picture: unsplash.com



- If the student doesn't receive a study place **the year after graduating** from high school, they still have the right to contact their previous high school guidance counselor
- The student may also contact [Espoon Ohjaamotalo](#) to get guidance counseling, meet a career psychologist or to get help for job-seeking





Questions & contact (22F & 22G)

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