



**INFORMATION EVENING
FOR GUARDIANS
REGARDING THE JOINT
APPLICATION FOR
STUDIES AFTER BASIC
EDUCATION 2026 and
MOVING TO UPPER
SECONDARY STUDIES**



COMPULSORY EDUCATION

Compulsory education continues until the age of 18 or until the student completes secondary education.

According to the Compulsory Education Act (1214/2020) §10, a student must apply for education before the end of the final year of basic education.

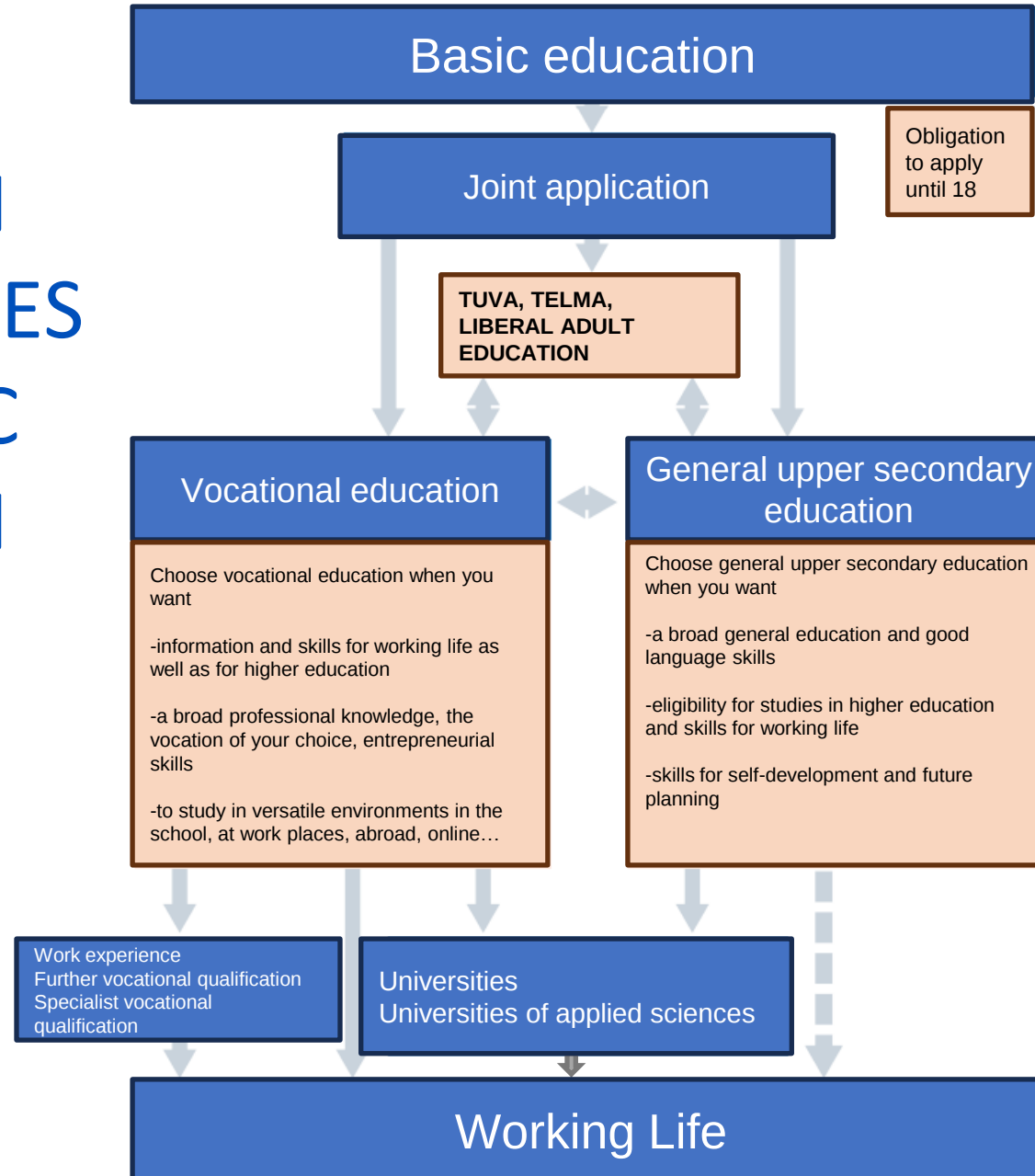
The obligation to apply continues if the student does not receive or accept a study place.

The guardian must ensure that the student fulfills their compulsory education.

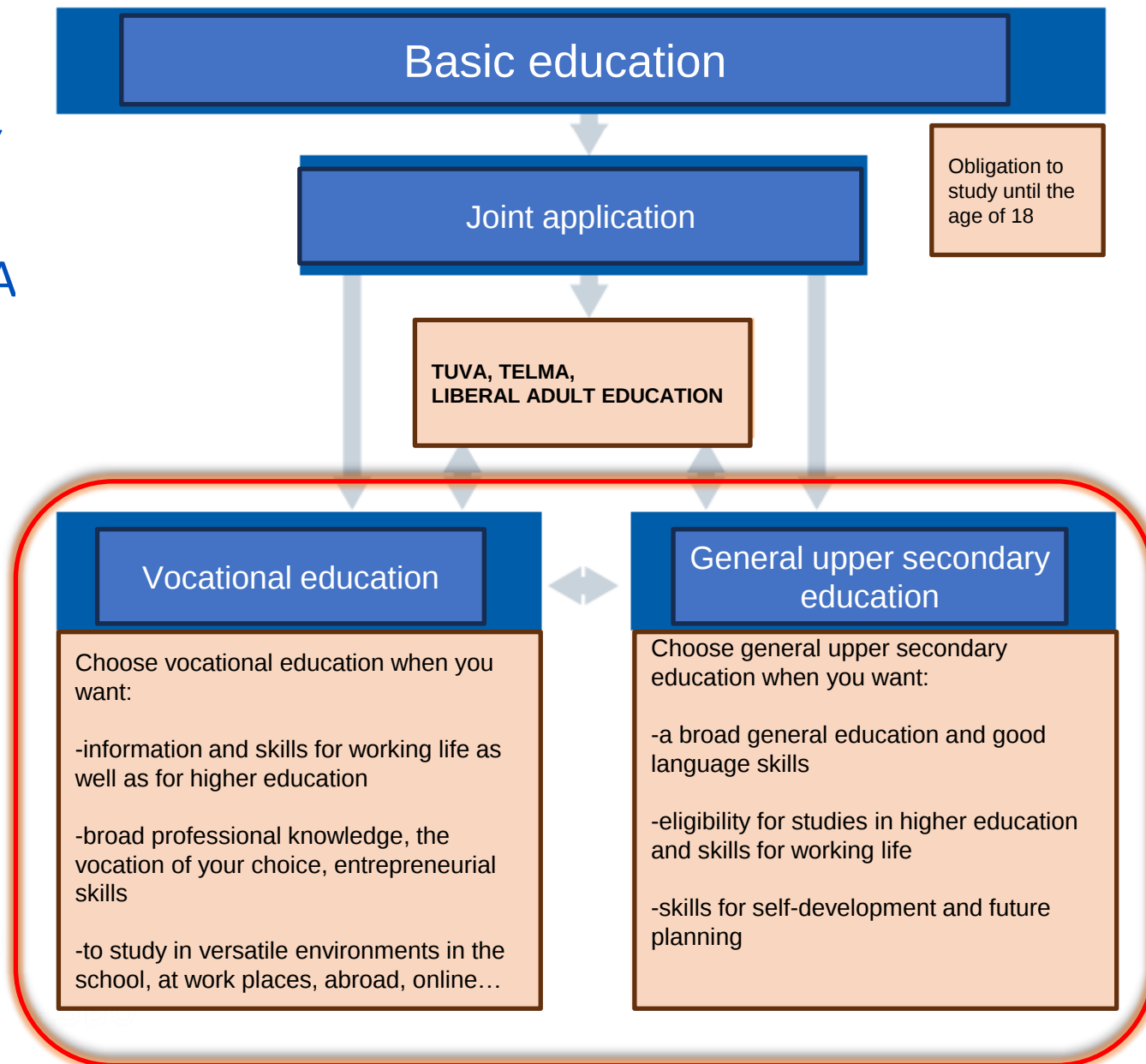
More information: <https://finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2020/20201214>

Questions and Answers about Compulsory Education: <https://okm.fi/en/faq-about-the-extension-of-compulsory-education>

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AFTER BASIC EDUCATION



UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION THAT LEADS TO A DIPLOMA QUALIFICATION



JOINT APPLICATION FOR STUDIES AFTER BASIC EDUCATION 2025

- Is open from Tue 17.2. to Tue 17.3.2026, closing at 15:00
- Application site: www.opintopolku.fi
- [A helpful infographic of the joint application process is found here!](#)

In the joint application for post-basic education, you can apply to:

- ✓ general upper secondary school
 - ✓ vocational upper secondary qualification
 - ✓ vocational education with special support
 - ✓ preparatory education for a qualification (TUVA)
 - ✓ preparatory education for work and independent living (TELMA)
 - ✓ liberal adult education programs for compulsory education students (Opistovuosi oppivelvollisille).
- Possible entrance and aptitude tests take place April-May, 2026
 - Results announced on Thu 11.6.2026 at the earliest
 - Study place must be accepted by Thu 25.6.2026
 - Acceptance from waiting lists ends on 14.8.2026



PREPARING FOR THE JOINT APPLICATION

- Preparation for the joint application takes place throughout 7th-9th grade guidance counseling (with an emphasis in the 9th grade year).
- Individual students map their own interests and possibilities, considering their learning abilities and grades.
- It's important to consider up to seven interesting programs:*
 - Programs can include both vocational qualifications and general upper secondary schools as well as other education, such as liberal adult education
 - The program the student finds most interesting should be number 1 on their list.
 - 6th and 7th choices are so called 'back up options'. These safe options should be carefully chosen.
 - If it is uncertain whether a student gets into a lukio or vocational school program (a program which leads to diploma/qualification), it is smart to include the TUVA program as your seventh option.
- Guardian support for (and involvement in!) the young person's considerations and choices is important.
- The Opintopolku system will receive final grade information from the KOSKI service in the spring (KOSKI = National Student Rights and Achievements Centralized Integration Service).

*program = e.g. different lukio or vocational lines: Otaniemen lukio mathematics and science line, theater and media line, general line = three different programs



GUARDIAN'S CONSULTATION



Students and guardians together decide if the student will complete the joint application at home (with a guardian) OR at school (with the guidance counselor). This decision is recorded by guardians in a Wilma form (this is how guardians are legally consulted).

The form is called: *"Huoltajan kuuleminen perusopetuksen jälkeistä yhteishakua 2026 varten"*, and it is filled out in guardian's Wilma account between 7.1. to 4.2.2026. The form is only available in the browser version of Wilma, not in the Wilma app.

- Wilma > forms > *Huoltajan kuuleminen perusopetuksen jälkeistä yhteishakua 2026 varten*
- Remember save the form by clicking "Tallenna lomake" after filling it out.

The Administrative Procedure Act **requires** the guardian's consultation, which is implemented with the aforementioned form. If guardians cannot access Wilma, the consultation is recorded on a paper form.

Obligation to apply for education

According to the Compulsory Education Act (1214/2020) §10, a student must apply for education before the end of the final year of basic education. The obligation to apply continues if the student does not receive or accept a study place. The guardian must ensure that the student fulfills their compulsory education.

Important! The joint application is the student's own decision – they choose the programs to which they apply. Guardians and the guidance counselor can guide/help the student in the process, but cannot make the decisions for them.

NOTES ON JOINT APPLICATION FORM



The applicant's email address is a mandatory field on the application. When the applicant fills in their email address on the application, they will receive:

- A confirmation email that the application has been received
- The ability to modify the application during the application period via a link in the confirmation email
- A preliminary letter about the selection schedule and procedures
- A results letter via email
- The ability to accept the study place electronically and register as present via a link in a separate email
- New: Students have the option to complete the application with strong authentication (Suomi.fi)
- The applicant's email address must be valid until the end of August.
(because of this, students should NOT use their eduespoo.fi email address, which may stop working after May)
- The applicant can provide contact details for two guardians on the application.
 - It is advisable to save the guardian's information on the application; the guardian will also receive a confirmation email that the application has been received and a preliminary letter.

THE ORDER OF THE DESIRED STUDY PLACES IS IMPORTANT – AND BINDING

- During the application period students can change the desired schools/lines and their order themselves using the link sent to their personal email address.
- After the application period ends, neither the programs nor the order can be changed. It is important that all students make their program choices carefully, as these are permanent decisions.
- If there is an entrance test for the program, the applicant is expected to attend. They will receive an invitation to the test in their personal email or by post. If the applicant applies to the same program in several schools, they get an invitation from the school that is highest on their list.
- **The applicant is always offered the study option that is highest on their list for which their GPA/points are enough → the options that are lower on their list are thus cancelled and the applicant cannot be chosen for those anymore.**

Example: A student is offered the school that is their first preference. They accept their study place, as they should. They are no longer eligible for any of their choices lower on their application list (2nd through 7th).

- If a student does not accept the school they are offered, they are cancelling their application with all schools applied to.
- If the applicant does not have enough points for any of the study options on their list, they are not offered a study place in the joint application. They may be placed on one or more waiting list, and they may apply to other programs after the results are posted (more on this in the last slides)

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION?

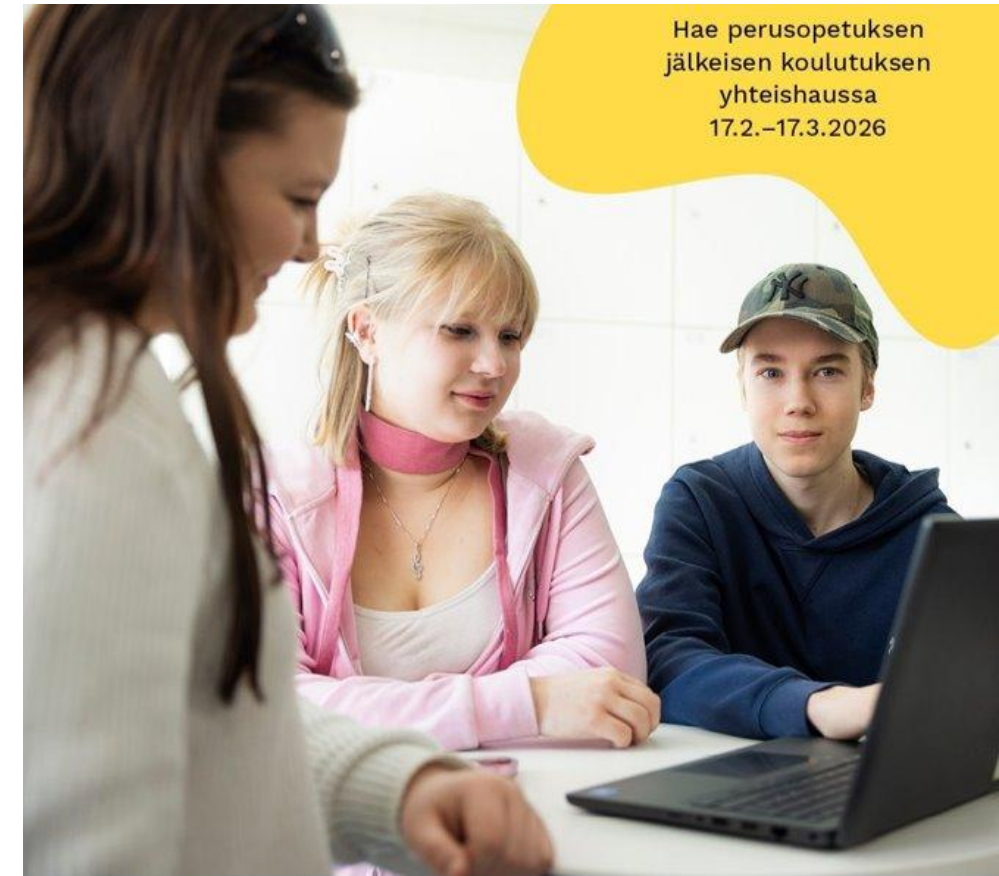


- Ammatilliset oppilaitokset ja lukiot lukuvuosi 2026-2027 - Guide book for Espoo – Kauniainen – Kirkkonummi
- ✓ A printed copy will be given to all 9th grade students, normally in November
- ✓ Will also be found on the Espoo city website: <https://www.espoo.fi/fi/tietoa-yhteishausta>

More information about Espoo upper secondary options:

- [Applying for general upper secondary education in Espoo](#) and [Youtube playlist](#)
- [Omnia joint application website](#) and [Youtube playlist](#)

- Info sessions in lukios and vocational schools
- School websites
- Individual guidance from the guidance counselor
- There are tools to help you calculate your GPA; such as www.yhteishakulaskuri.fi
- www.opintopolku.fi (Opetushallitus) programs offered in all of Finland, instruction videos: <https://opintopolku.fi/konfo/fi/sivu/ohjevideot>
- Previous years' *revised* final average/points required to attain a place in all Finnish upper secondary programs: vipunen.fi



Hae perusopetuksen
jälkeisen koulutuksen
yhteishaussa
17.2.–17.3.2026

Ammatilliset oppilaitokset ja lukiot
2026–2027

PERUSOPETUKSEN JÄLKEINEN YHTEISHAKU 2026
ESPOO KAUNIAINEN KIRKKONUMMI





VISITING SCHOOLS DURING SCHOOL HOURS AND FREE TIME

- The student writes their plan for the visits in their individual "**OMA OPISKELUSUUNNITELMANI**" form in Wilma. The plan needs to be confirmed by the guardian by ticking the "huoltajan suostumus" box. (Wilma > lomakkeet/forms > oma opiskelusuunnitelmani)
- With the guardian's permission in this form, a student can independently visit **two places** during school hours on January 15 and 20 (one lukio on each of these 2 days). On those days, all Espoo lukios have 'Open Door' events at 13:30. (more info on this will be sent in Wilma later)
- If the student wants to visit e.g. a specific vocational line, the guidance counselor can help you organize the visit.
- Travel costs are not covered by school.
- Students and guardians are encouraged to also visit schools during open houses (in the evenings). The times for Espoo schools can be found on [the city website](#).



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- In Espoo, Omnia offers vocational qualifications. Other vocational schools in the capital region are, for example, Varia (Vantaa), Stadin ammattiopisto (Helsinki) and Helsinki Business College (Helsinki)
- Omnia offers currently 46 different vocational qualifications. Examples are:
 - Baker
 - Business Administration
 - Cosmetologist
 - Car mechanic
 - Carpenter
 - Electrician
 - Hairdresser
 - Practical nurse
 - Receptionist
 - Software developer
 - Welder

VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN OMNIA

The following Vocational Qualifications are available in English

- 🌐 **Vocational Qualification in Business: Merkonomi in English**
- 🌐 **Vocational Qualification in Cleaning and Property Services: Site Facilities Operative**
- 🌐 **Vocational Qualification in Information and Communications Technology: Software Developer**
- 🌐 **Vocational Qualification in Restaurant and Catering Services: Restaurant Cook**
- 🌐 **Vocational Qualification in Social and Health Care: Practical Nurse**

Source: <https://www.omnia.fi/en/study-options/upper-secondary-vocational-qualifications/vocational-qualifications-english>

VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Studies last for approximately 3 years
- Studies consist of 180 credits: **Vocational studies 145 credits, elective studies 10-25 credits** and **common studies 35 credits**.
- The study path is individual and flexible, and every student gets a personal study plan, taking into account students' previous skills and knowledge.
- Possibilities for practical training abroad.
- Depending on the field, vocational studies are **often very practical in nature ("hands-on") compared to general upper secondary studies**.
- Possibility for a dual degree – completing a vocational qualification and the Finnish matriculation examination (=ylioppilastutkinto)

VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: DUAL DEGREE

- Anyone who is studying for a vocational qualification can also do a matriculation examination.
- **The student takes the lukio courses needed to participate in the mandatory five matriculation examination tests** (=ylioppilaskirjoitukset).
- If a student wants to do a dual degree, they first apply for the vocational program(s) that they are interested in and enroll in the lukio program once their studies have begun.
- A dual degree is especially suitable for those who are interested in both vocational and lukio studies, want to improve their academic competence for higher education, and want to improve their chances of getting a study place in Finnish higher education in certificate-based admissions.

VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Information about vocational studies: <https://www.omnia.fi/>
- Vocational qualifications in English: <https://www.omnia.fi/en/study-options/upper-secondary-vocational-qualifications/vocational-qualifications-english>
- Information about the dual degree: <https://www.omnia.fi/koulutustarjonta/ammattilukio>



Admission criteria for vocational education 1/2

- 1–16 points for overall school success (=GPA)
- 1–8 points for weighted grades
- 0–10 points for entrance test
- 2 points if the vocational program is the first on your list
- 6 points if you have finished basic education the same year or the previous year of applying

Source: <https://opintopolku.fi/konfo/fi/sivu/perusopetuksen-jalkeisen-koulutuksen-yhteishaun-valintaperusteet>



Admission criteria for vocational education 2/2

If two candidates have the same number of points

Two candidates that have the same number of points are placed in order according to the following criteria:

- the order of the desired programs
- points from the potential entrance or aptitude test
- overall school success
- weighted grades.

After this, if the number of points is still the same, the students are chosen in random order.

Source: <https://opintopolku.fi/konfo/fi/sivu/perusopetuksen-jalkeisen-koulutuksen-yhteishaun-valintaperusteet>



Entrance and aptitude tests in vocational qualifications

Admission based on leaver's certificate and entrance or aptitude test

- If there is an entrance or aptitude test to a vocational line, all applicants get an invitation **Students must follow their personal email closely!**
- **You cannot be chosen to the vocational qualification, if you have not participated in the entrance/aptitude test.**
- If you apply to several vocational qualifications in the same field, you are invited to the entrance/aptitude test of the highest vocational qualification. If you have applied to qualifications in different fields, you may be invited to several tests.
- You can get 0-10 points from the entrance/aptitude test. Even if you get 0 points from the test, you can be chosen into the vocational qualification if your overall points are high enough.
 - **NB!** If you do not pass the aptitude test for a vocational qualification with specific health requirements, you cannot be chosen in the qualification (see slide 12)

Check the admission criteria under each vocational program to see if there is an entrance test.

More information: <https://opintopolku.fi/konfo/fi/sivu/perusopetuksen-jalkeisen-koulutuksen-yhteishaun-valintaperusteet>

Discretionary admission in vocational education

1/2

All vocational qualifications can be applied to through discretionary admission. This requires a specific reason, such as

- ✓ learning difficulties (note: this may no longer be the case for 2026 – possible changes may be coming as legislative processes are ongoing as of early November, 2025)
 - ✓ social reasons,
 - ✓ the student does not have the language skills required for the training, or
 - ✓ has an individualized curriculum in both Finnish as a mother tongue and mathematics prior to 1.8.2025. (this is the only case where the student is automatically only applying through discretionary admissions).
- In discretionary admission the school evaluates your ability to manage the studies.
 - In discretionary admission the justifications (e.g. report cards, statements from professionals such as the special needs teacher or psychologist etc.) need to be delivered **during the joint application period** directly to the school. The applicant and guardian are responsible for delivering the papers.
 - Up to 30% of the students in each qualification can be chosen in discretionary admission.
 - If this is applicable to you, please talk to the guidance counselor and contact the school that you are applying to for more instructions.

Lähde: <https://opintopolku.fi/konfo/fi/sivu/hakeminen-harkinnanvaraisen-valinnan-kautta>



Discretionary admission in vocational education 2/2

IF admission in the below mentioned qualifications is based solely on entrance or aptitude tests, the student cannot apply in the discretionary admission.

- taideteollisuusalan perustutkinto
- media-alan ja kuvallisen ilmaisun perustutkinto
- tanssialan perustutkinto
- musiikkialan perustutkinto
- sirkusalan perustutkinto
- lentokoneasennuksen perustutkinto
- liikunnanohjauksen perustutkinto
- sosiaali- ja terveystieteiden perustutkinnossa perustason ensihoidon osaamisala.

Discretionary admission in lukio

Discretionary admission in lukio is only used when the student does not have a Finnish leaver's certificate from basic education, or has an individualized curriculum in both Finnish as a mother tongue and mathematics **prior to 1.8.2025**. **Note: changes to this are possible in 2026, legislative processes ongoing.**





LUKIO EDUCATION



LUKIO EDUCATION

Lukio studies require:

- taking responsibility for your own choices and studies
- willingness to develop your own study skills
- time management and planning skills
- a lot of reading and writing
- ability and willingness to learn to use digital devices and learning material



LUKIO EDUCATION – NATIONAL LINE

- Studies usually take three years
- The national line comprises (at least) 150 credits → mandatory studies 94-102 credits; electives
- In Espoo lukios, the school year is divided into 5 periods of about 6 weeks, after which there is a test week. The schedule/subjects studied is different in each period.
- Matriculation examination "finals" at the end of studies: at least 5 subjects out of which one needs to be Finnish as a mother tongue/Finnish as a second language
- Matriculation examinations are taken electronically
- Can be retaken as many times as you would like



LUKIO EDUCATION – NATIONAL LINE

Specializations in lukios:

- General lukios with weighted curriculum (painotus) – the applicant applies to the general lukio and can choose more courses in the weighted subject. E.g. Espoonlahden lukio has an emphasis on languages → any student can choose from a wide selection of language studies.
- Lukio lines (lukiolinja) – the applicant applies to the specific lukio line and has more studies in that subject. E.g. Matinkylän lukio has a visual arts line → those students who are admitted to the visual arts line, can choose more art courses than others.
- Specialized schools (erityislukio) – the applicant applies to the specialized school and can replace some mandatory studies with studies in that subject. E.g. Tapiolan lukio is a music lukio, so students who are admitted to the music lukio, can choose more music courses than others and also leave out some mandatory courses in other subjects.

NB! Schools with lukio lines and schools that are specialized lukios (e.g. Matinkylän lukio and Tapiolan lukio) also have general lukio lines! Therefore, you can apply to Matinkylä or Tapiola even if you are not interested in visual arts/music, and on the other hand it is good to have the general line as a back-up school in the application as you may be able to still take some courses intended at students in those specialized lines.



LUKIO EDUCATION: NEW!

THE NATIONAL LINE IN ENGLISH

Beginning in the fall of 2026, municipalities can begin offering the national curriculum in English, culminating in completing the matriculation exams in English.

- Helsinki will offer this beginning next year (Fall, 2026) at both the English School (20 places) and Helsingin Kielilukio
- Espoo will not offer it until a year later (beginning in fall of 2027)

Exact acceptance criteria are still forthcoming, but:

- Applicants must not have studied in Finland longer than 3 years
- Study places will be very limited
- Student's Finnish skills must be too weak to study in Finnish, but Finnish as a 2nd language may be a required matriculation exam
- There will be an entrance exam that tests English language skills



LUKIO EDUCATION – IB Line (the IB's Diploma Program)

- There are 5 IB (International Baccalaureate) lukios in the capital region: 2 Espoo, 2 in Helsinki and 1 in Vantaa (plus one private in Helsinki)
- IB lukios follow a completely different curriculum from the Finnish curriculum – an international one which is the same in IB high schools around the world.
- The first year is a 'pre-IB' year when students try out subjects from all subject areas (somewhat like the national curriculum).
- In the last 2 years (the Diploma Program/DP), students choose 6 subjects from designated groups, 3 of which are 'standard level' and 3 that are 'higher level'
- The studies are very demanding during the DP, including university level topics in many subjects. It must be completed in 3 years in Finland. Final exam re-takes are organized by local DP lukios approximately 2 times per year.
- Applying to Finnish/Swedish-language universities for DP graduates may require quite high final scores. Applying abroad is more common.



Lukio admissions 1/2



General lukio: admission is based on GPA (grade point average)

The following subjects are included in the GPA that determines lukio admission:

- Finnish as a mother tongue / Finnish as a second language
- The second national language (=Swedish)
- English
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Geography
- Religion / Ethics
- History
- Civics
- Health education
- Optional language studies (A2/B2) IF you so choose! (your choice whether a numeric grade or a "pass")

Lähde: <https://opintopolku.fi/konfo/fi/sivu/perusopetuksen-jalkeisen-koulutuksen-yhteishaun-valintaperusteet>

Special lukio lines (e.g. music, sports, IB, bilingual) may have:

- Weighted grades

Some lukios give more weight to grades in one or several subjects.
E.g. counting math and English grades twice

- Entrance and aptitude tests

Lukios can also have entrance and aptitude tests. The number of points you can receive from the test usually count for an additional 5 or 10 points (=10+5 or 10+10 maximum total).

- Points for other evidence

Such as appraisal forms, training, hobbies or other.



Lukio admissions 2/2

Lukios choose students in order of their GPA or total points.

If several applicants have the same GPA/points, the student is chosen based on:

1. which number the school is on the applicants list
2. GPA that also includes PE, crafts, home economics, music and visual art grades.

If this does not help, students are chosen in random order.

Lukios can define a lowest GPA for entrance. In the capital region, it is not possible to get a place in a lukio if the GPA is under 7.0.

Source: <https://opintopolku.fi/konfo/fi/sivu/perusopetuksen-jalkeisen-koulutuksen-yhteishaun-valintaperusteet>



IMPORTANT CLOSING INFORMATION





Preparatory education for upper secondary qualification – TUVA

Preparatory education for upper secondary qualification – TUVA

In TUVA, you can:

- improve your basic skills (e.g. Finnish/S2, mathematics and IT skills)
- raise your grades from basic education
- get to know and learn more about vocational or general upper secondary school education
- complete upper secondary school courses or vocational qualification units
- You can study for one school year (= 38 weeks) in TUVA. You can also study for a shorter period of time if you receive a study place from a general upper secondary school or vocational education during your TUVA year, but this is not common.

Source and more information: <https://www.omnia.fi/en/educations/preparatory-education-upper-secondary-qualification-tuva>

ACCEPTING THE STUDY PLACE

- During the spring/summer, it is crucial that students regularly check the email that they used in their application. Guardians – please remind them.
- The Finnish National Agency for Education sends an electronic letter to all applicants, both those who get a study place, as well as those who do not, on 11.6.2026 (at the earliest)
- **Students** who are offered a study place also receive **a link for accepting the place.**
- The student also receives a message from the school where they got the study place, including possible additional information about accepting the study place and/or starting the studies.
- **Please accept the study place that you are offered right away.** Accepting your study place does not remove you from the waiting lists for other schools that were higher in your application. If you receive a study place from a wait list, the email includes a link to accept that place and cancel the one that you have accepted.
- Guardians can check their child's application and results by signing into the Valpas website:
<https://opintopolku.fi/valpas/>

Which messages applicants (=hakija) and guardians (=huoltaja) receive:

Sähköpostiviestit hakijoille ja huoltajille – OPH lähettää	Hakija	Huoltajat
Vahvistusviesti hakemuksen perilletulosta	X	X
Vahvistusviesti hakemuksen muokkaamisesta	X	X
Ennakkokirje	X	X
Tuloskirje (hyväksymiskirje tai jälkiohjauskirje)	X	
Viesti, jossa on linkki paikan vastaanottamiseen	X	

Lähde: oph.fi

IF YOU ARE LEFT WITHOUT A STUDY PLACE:

- Students will be reminded about what to do if they need guidance counseling during the summer
- Joint application results are released, and places can be accepted on Thursday, 11.6.2026.
- If you are left without a study place:
 - ✓ You get a letter about further guidance from the ministry of education
 - ✓ Contact your guidance counselor on June 11th when the results come in
 - ✓ You are required to apply for a study place in the continuous application process to continue carrying out your obligation to study
- After 11.6, your guidance counselor is on summer break. OHJAAMOTALO gives guidance throughout the summer:
<https://www.espoo.fi/en/youth/ohjaamotalo>



OPINTOPOLKU

Using the link sent to their email from Opintopolku, the student can change which schools they apply to during the application period (or the order of preference). Additionally, the student can accept a study place electronically and register as present via a link included in a separate email. **Strong authentication is not required for this.** It is important that the **email address** provided on the application form is **exclusively used by the student** and remains active throughout the entire joint application process from February to the end of August.

OMA OPINTOPOLKU SERVICE

If the applicant has online banking credentials, a mobile certificate, or an electronic ID card, they can log in to the Oma Opintopolku service at opintopolku.fi.

In the Oma Opintopolku service, you can:

- ✓ Change application preferences during the application period
- ✓ Edit previous answers to questions related to application preferences
- ✓ Edit personal information even after the application period has ended
- ✓ View and print the entire application
- ✓ See the results of selections
- ✓ Accept a study place (or reject it, in which case the place will NO longer be available)

Note that in Oma Opintopolku, the application information of the authenticated person is displayed based on the personal identification number. For example, the online banking credentials of a minor applicant's guardian cannot be used. The service will then attempt to retrieve the application of the authenticated person, i.e., the guardian.

LINKS TO MORE INFORMATION

- Prezi of Capital Area English-language and bi-lingual (Finnish-English) lukios:
<https://prezi.com/view/I76Wf8pQiwfdmtsaaxFI/>
- [Listing of where EIS graduates have gone on to study](#) for the past three years
- [Minimum grade point averages in Espoo areas lukio for the last 3 years](#)



1. Joint Application Demo form is available until 13.2.2026 15:00

Link to the demo form:

<https://opintopolku.fi/konfo/fi/>

2. [Guardian's checklist](#) (in Finnish)

3. Youtube video on filling out the joint application form:

[Klinikka hakulomakkeen täyttämisestä – Klinik om att fylla i ansökningsblanketten \(youtube.com\)](#) (in Finnish/Swedish)

4. Valpas service

<https://opintopolku.fi/valpas/>

5. Opintopolku services for applicants

Video guides on using the service:

<https://opintopolku.fi/konfo/fi/sivu/ohjevideot>

Email address: [neuvonta\(at\)opintopolku.fi](mailto:neuvonta(at)opintopolku.fi) (hakijat)

Phone: 029 533 1010