

STUDYING IN FINLAND FAQ

1. Advantages of studying in Finland (European Union)

- Free Education. Finnish government considers education as a human right, that is the reason why they promote equality of opportunities. Universities are government funded.
- Finland is world known by its quality education all over the world and by being the top 1 in Europe.
- Every single university in Europe has plenty of agreement exchange scholarships with other UE universities and non-EU universities.

2. Characteristics of Finnish Higher Education

- Finnish government has started up an education politics based on bringing the best talents from all over the world to study in Finland.
- Finland is well known by their professionalism of their teachers and professors. Becoming a teacher in Finland requires tough entrance examination and intense training.

Practical information

3. Where can I see all the Finland universities that offer degrees in English?

Please check the following website: <http://www.studyinfinland.fi>

This database provides information about over 500 study programmes in English offered by Finnish higher education institutions.

4. How can I apply for getting admission in Finland?

Most Finnish higher education institutions use an **on-line electronic admissions system** for their Bachelor's and Master's level student intake. You will also need to send in copies of your earlier educational certificates and other required documents. Additionally, depending on the programme, applicants may need to successfully pass an entrance examination.

How you should apply depends on whether you're applying to a university or a polytechnic (UAS), and also on your entry level.

5. What is the difference between university and polytechnic?

Universities promote research and provide academic higher education based on research, whereas polytechnics/UAS's provide professional or 'vocational' higher education. Additionally, post-Master's level degrees can only be awarded by the universities.

6. What are the requirements to access to Finnish universities?

To be considered an eligible applicant to a particular degree programme, you need to fulfill certain requirements.

The eligibility requirements may vary from one programme to another, so it is very important that you always check the details of these requirements directly with the admissions office of the institution you are applying to.

For Bachelor's level entry you are expected to

- hold educational certificates that make you eligible to apply for higher education in your home country.
- fulfill the English language skills requirements (and other possible programme-specific requirements) as set by the receiving institution.
- successfully pass an entrance examination.

7. What are the language requirements to study in Finland?

You may need to provide official proof of your English language proficiency.

- a valid TOEFL or IELTS test score is often required (some other official tests may also be accepted, like PTE - Pearson Test of English or Cambridge ESOL CPE/CAE) - see links in the right-hand margin.
- the minimum test score required may vary from one programme to another.
- some institutions may also offer alternative ways of checking their applicants' language skills, e.g. in connection with the entrance examination.

If you have completed your previous education in English, you may –depending on your nationality- be exempt from the language test requirement.

8. Are Finnish skills required?

You do not need to know any Finnish if you apply to degree programmes taught completely in English.

However, studying Finnish before and during your studies not only will help you to feel more at home in Finland, it will also be an asset if you wish to find employment either during or after your studies.

9. Which certificates do I need to submit for my university application?

When applying for Bachelor's level studies, you need to provide certified copies of your official school leaving certificates showing that you are eligible to apply for higher education in your home country. Certificate copies must be accompanied with an official translation into English.

10. Do I need to pass an entrance examination?

It depends on the institution you are applying for.

Polytechnics / Universities of Applied Sciences:

- For detailed info on the entrance examinations, please contact the Higher Education Institution you are applying to.
- In most cases, the polytechnic/UAS Bachelor's level entrance examinations are held in Finland, and those who are invited to the exams must personally travel to Finland to take the test
- Some UAS's may also offer an option of taking the entrance examination abroad. On the **FINNIPS** network website you can find a list of the countries where the network arranges Bachelor's level entrance examinations.
<http://www.finnips.fi/>
- There are some Universities of Applied Sciences which offer an option for taking the entrance test on-line (this is not a common option, but some individual programmes *may* offer it as an alternative), then the UAS in question will advise you further (requirements, test procedure, etc.)

Academic Universities:

- The Finnish universities -as opposed to polytechnics/UAS's- mainly only offer English-language study programme options on Master's level and beyond. There are some Bachelor's level options available at university level, however, and in those programmes entry may be based on other criteria than entrance exams (SAT test scores etc.) You need to check these requirements directly with the admissions office of the Finnish university you're applying to.
- If you are applying to a Finnish University: in case you are required to take an entrance examination, you need to be in direct contact with the Finnish university you are applying to in order to find out if you can take the examination in your home country. Many entrance examination can be taken in a Finnish Government Office in Nepal.

11. When are the deadlines to apply for Finnish universities?

First of all, remember that the academic year in Finland is divided into two terms:

- Autumn term (from August/September to December)
- Spring term (from January to the end of May)

Applying to polytechnics/universities of applied science (UAS)

Joint admission to the **Bachelor's level programmes** at polytechnics (UAS):

- **January-February:** the main application period; for studies starting in the autumn term. Application period for 2013 autumn admission: 7 Jan - 12 Feb 2013
- **August-September:** the application period for studies starting in the spring term (it should be noted however that on this round there is a significantly smaller selection of programmes on offer, since not all polytechnics offer the

spring term admission option)

Application period for 2014 spring admission: 2 - 13 Sept 2013

- the application dates can also be found on the www.admissions.fi site - on the front page, or in the section "Application practicalities > Timetable for joint application" - some time before the applications open.

Applying to universities

- The exact application times and deadlines depend on the institution and the programme
- However, in most cases the annual application period to the university degree programmes begins between mid-November and January.
- For Bachelor's level admission at universities, please contact the university directly about info on how and when to apply.
- If you are applying to the universities that have their admissions via University Admissions Finland, please also see the [UAF 'Application periods' page](http://universityadmissions.fi/), <http://universityadmissions.fi/>

12. What are the tuition fees to study in Finland? There are not tuition fees to study in Finland. However, getting admission is quite difficult due to the high competition.

13. How much money do I need for living? In Finland, the general cost of living is relatively high, but still approximately the same as in other EU countries.

When applying for their student residence permit, international students (non-EU/EEA students) need to show that they have at least 500€ per month (6000€ per year) at their disposal. [NB: regarding student residence permit applications submitted on or after 1st March 2013, the required amount of funding will be 6720€ per year / 560€ per month.]

The average monthly living expenses for a student in Finland are approximately 700-900€. This may vary a bit, depending on your study location in Finland – for example, accommodation and other living costs may be higher in the Helsinki metropolitan area and other larger cities.