



Study in Finland

DXB → HEL • Helsinki, Finland

Finland offers high-quality education, internationally recognised qualifications, modern research facilities and an innovative, student-centred teaching system. Students also benefit from a safe society, excellent infrastructure and more than 600 English-taught bachelor's and master's programmes.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why should international students study in Finland?

Finland offers high-quality education, internationally recognised qualifications, modern research facilities and an innovative, student-centred teaching system. Students also benefit from a safe society, excellent infrastructure and more than 600 English-taught bachelor's and master's programmes.

2. What can international students study in Finland?

Study options include:

- Preparatory and pathway programmes
- Bachelor's degrees
- Master's degrees
- Doctoral and research programmes
- Exchange programmes
- Selected professional and continuing-education courses

Most English-taught programmes are available at higher-education level.

3. What is the difference between a university and a university of applied sciences?

Finnish higher education has two main sectors:

- Universities focus on academic education, scientific research and research-based degrees.
- Universities of Applied Sciences—UAS provide professionally oriented education with strong connections to employers and industry.

Both award recognised bachelor's and master's degrees, but their admission requirements and teaching approaches differ.

4. Where can students find English-taught programmes?

International students can search for programmes and submit applications through [Studyinfo.fi](https://studyinfo.fi), Finland's official national application portal.

Programme descriptions normally explain:

- Entry requirements
 - Tuition fees
 - Application dates
 - Selection methods
 - Required documents
 - Scholarships
 - Course content
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5. What are the general admission requirements?

Requirements vary by institution and programme, but applicants commonly need:

- Valid passport
- Secondary-school or university qualifications
- Academic transcripts
- Evidence of English proficiency
- Motivation letter or application questions
- CV for selected postgraduate programmes
- Relevant work experience where required
- Portfolio for creative programmes
- Entrance examination, interview or SAT results where applicable
- Programme-specific supporting documents

Meeting minimum eligibility requirements does not guarantee admission.

6. What qualifications are required for a bachelor's degree?

Applicants normally need a secondary-school qualification that provides eligibility for higher education in the country where it was completed.

Individual institutions determine whether a particular qualification satisfies their requirements. Some programmes also use entrance examinations, interviews, certificates or SAT results for student selection.

7. What qualifications are required for a master's degree?

University master's programmes usually require a relevant recognised bachelor's degree.

A master's programme at a university of applied sciences generally requires:

- A relevant bachelor's degree, and
- At least two years of relevant professional experience after completing the degree

Requirements differ, so students must check the individual programme description.

8. Do students need IELTS or TOEFL?

Applicants to English-taught programmes normally need to demonstrate sufficient English ability. Accepted evidence may include:

- IELTS Academic
- TOEFL iBT
- PTE Academic
- Cambridge English examinations
- Previous education completed in English under specified conditions

Minimum scores and exemptions differ between institutions.

9. Can students apply without IELTS?

Possibly. Some institutions accept alternative English tests, qualifying previous education or an entrance examination that measures language ability.

Students should not assume that previous English-medium study will automatically provide an exemption.

10. Are entrance examinations required?

Some bachelor's programmes use an entrance examination, an online assessment, an interview or SAT results. Universities of applied sciences may participate in a shared International UAS Exam.

Master's programmes may assess applicants through academic records, work experience, motivation, portfolios, interviews or preliminary assignments.

11. What is the joint application?

The joint application allows students to apply to several Finnish higher-education programmes using one application form on Studyinfo.

Some programmes instead use:

- Separate applications
- Rolling admissions
- University-specific application periods

Applicants can accept only one Finnish higher-education study place beginning in the same academic term.

12. Is there an application fee?

Applicants from outside the EU, EEA and Switzerland generally pay a €100 application fee when applying for bachelor's or master's programmes. The fee does not guarantee admission and is normally non-refundable. Applicants should check their fee status on Studyinfo's official application-fee page.

13. When are the main application periods?

Many English-taught programmes beginning in autumn participate in a joint application held early in the calendar year, often in January.

Separate and rolling applications may follow different schedules. Students should check each programme individually and begin preparing at least 9 to 12 months before their intended intake.

14. When does the academic year begin?

The main academic year normally begins in August or September. Some institutions offer programmes beginning in January, but spring entry is more limited.

15. How much are tuition fees?

Students from outside the EU and EEA generally pay tuition for English-taught bachelor's and master's programmes.

Programme Indicative annual tuition

- Bachelor's degree: €8,000–€20,000
- Master's degree: €8,000–€20,000
- Doctoral degree: No tuition fee

Fees vary by institution and programme. Applicants should confirm the exact amount on Studyinfo or the university's website. Official tuition guidance.

16. Who may be exempt from tuition fees?

Exemptions may apply to:

- Citizens of EU or EEA countries
- Citizens of Switzerland
- Holders of certain Finnish or EU residence permits
- Students studying in Finnish or Swedish
- Doctoral students

Exemption rules depend on nationality, residence status and programme language. Students must provide the required evidence to the institution.

17. Are doctoral programmes free?

Finnish doctoral programmes do not charge tuition fees, regardless of nationality. However, admission does not automatically include a salary or scholarship.

Doctoral applicants need a realistic funding plan for their research and living expenses.

18. Are scholarships available?

Finnish universities may offer:

- Partial tuition-fee waivers
- Full tuition-fee waivers
- Early-bird discounts
- Academic-performance scholarships
- Limited living-cost grants
- Doctoral research funding

Scholarships are competitive and are usually offered by individual universities rather than through a general Finnish government scholarship programme. Official scholarship guidance.

19. Does Finland offer fully funded government scholarships?

Finland does not provide a general government scholarship programme for international bachelor's and master's students.

Individual universities may offer tuition waivers, but students are normally responsible for their own living expenses. Applicants should be cautious about organisations advertising guaranteed “fully funded Finnish government scholarships.”

20. How much should students budget for living expenses?

The Finnish Immigration Service currently requires students to have at least:

- €800 per month, or
- €9,600 for one year

Official Study in Finland guidance recommends budgeting approximately €900–€1,200 per month, depending on location and lifestyle.

This covers expenses such as accommodation, food and local transport but does not include tuition. Official cost guidance.

21. Which living expenses should students consider?

Students should budget for:

- Accommodation
- Food and household expenses
- Public transport
- Health insurance
- Student healthcare fees
- Books and equipment
- Telephone and internet
- Winter clothing
- Flights and personal expenses

Helsinki and the surrounding region are generally more expensive than smaller Finnish cities.

22. What financial evidence is required for the residence permit?

For a first student residence permit, applicants normally need to provide a six-month bank statement showing sufficient funds in their own bank account.

Important conditions include:

- Funds must be available for the first year.
- The student must be able to access the account in Finland.
- Tuition funds must be available in addition to living funds if tuition has not been paid.
- A tuition scholarship can be documented separately.
- Sponsorship letters alone are not accepted.
- Migri may request evidence explaining the source of recent deposits.

Expected earnings from work in Finland cannot be used to satisfy the first-permit income requirement. Migri financial requirements.

23. Do international students need a visa or residence permit?

Non-EU/EEA students generally need a residence permit for studies lasting more than 90 days.

EU and EEA citizens do not require a student residence permit, but they must register their right of residence if staying in Finland for more than three months.

24. When can a student apply for the residence permit?

Students can apply after receiving admission from a Finnish educational institution.

They should submit the application promptly because they must also prove their identity at a Finnish embassy, consulate or other designated service location before the application can be completed.

25. What is the student residence-permit process?

The usual process is:

- 1 Receive admission from a Finnish institution.
- 2 Accept the study place.
- 3 Pay tuition or document a scholarship.
- 4 Arrange compliant health insurance.
- 5 Prepare proof of funds and supporting documents.
- 6 Apply through the Enter Finland portal.
- 7 Pay the residence-permit processing fee.
- 8 Book an identity-verification appointment.
- 9 Provide biometrics and original documents.
- 10 Wait for the decision and residence-permit card.

Students should avoid making non-refundable travel arrangements before receiving the permit.

26. Which documents may be required?

Documents may include:

- Valid passport
- Passport photograph
- Admission certificate
- Tuition-payment receipt or scholarship decision
- Bank statement
- Health-insurance certificate
- Academic certificates and transcripts
- Evidence of the source of funds
- Documents for accompanying family members
- Certified translations and legalisation where required

The exact checklist depends on the applicant's circumstances.

27. Is health insurance compulsory?

Yes. Non-EU/EEA students applying for a residence permit must normally have private insurance covering medical expenses.

The required coverage depends on the length of study:

- For studies lasting less than two years, broader medical-expense coverage is generally required.
- For studies lasting at least two years, lower coverage may be accepted because the student may receive a municipality of residence and access to Finnish public services.

Students must check Migri's current insurance limits, deductible requirements and approved period before purchasing a policy.

28. Can the residence permit cover the whole programme?

A residence permit for degree studies can generally be granted for the entire duration of the programme, provided the student meets the financial, insurance and other requirements.

Students must continue making satisfactory academic progress and maintaining the requirements of their permit.

29. Can international students work while studying?

A student residence permit normally allows paid employment in any field for an average of 30 hours per week.

The number of hours may exceed 30 in some weeks, provided the permitted average is respected over the applicable period. Work that forms part of the degree, such as required practical training or a thesis assignment, may be treated differently.

Students should always follow the conditions stated in their own permit. Migri guidance for students.

30. Can part-time work pay for tuition and living expenses?

Students should not rely on part-time employment to finance their education.

Employment can be difficult to obtain, particularly without Finnish or Swedish skills. Part-time earnings are also unlikely to cover both tuition and living costs. Studies must remain the student's principal activity and progress normally.

31. Is it possible to live in Finland using only English?

Students can generally manage their studies and daily life in English, particularly in university cities.

However, learning Finnish or Swedish can significantly improve:

- Part-time employment prospects
 - Graduate career opportunities
 - Workplace integration
 - Professional networking
 - Long-term settlement options
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32. Can students change their course or institution?

A student may be able to transfer or change programmes, but the change can affect:

- Residence-permit conditions
- Tuition fees
- Scholarship eligibility
- Study duration
- Academic progress
- Future permit applications

Students should consult both institutions and Migri before withdrawing from their current programme.

33. What academic-progress requirements apply?

Students must remain enrolled and make satisfactory progress.

When applying for an extended permit, Migri may assess completed credits and whether the studies are progressing at a normal rate. Insufficient progress without a credible explanation can affect the application.

34. Can international students bring their families?

Eligible family members may apply for residence permits based on family ties. These can include:

- A spouse
- A registered partner
- A qualifying cohabiting partner
- Unmarried children under 18

Each family member submits a separate application, and the family must satisfy applicable income and documentation requirements.

35. Can a student's spouse work in Finland?

A family member who receives a residence permit based on family ties generally has unrestricted access to employment and education.

The family permit is normally linked to the duration of the student's residence permit, but each application is assessed separately.

36. Can minor students study in Finland?

International minors can study in Finland, but admission, accommodation, parental consent, guardianship, finances and welfare arrangements must be carefully documented.

A parent does not automatically receive a residence permit solely because the child has been admitted. Families should check their individual eligibility before making arrangements.

37. What happens after graduation?

A graduate may:

- Apply for a residence permit based on employment
- Apply for a permit to look for work or start a business
- Continue into another eligible programme
- Apply under another residence category for which they qualify

Graduation does not automatically extend the student's right to remain in Finland.

38. How long can graduates remain to look for work?

Eligible graduates can apply for a residence permit to look for work or start a business for a maximum of two years.

The permit may also be used in as many as three parts, subject to the applicable duration and timing rules. It provides an unrestricted right to work. Applicants currently need at least €800 per month for the requested permit period. Migri post-study permit guidance.

39. When should graduates apply for the job-search permit?

Students in Finland should apply for an extended permit before their current residence permit expires.

A graduate who has left Finland may be able to apply for a first job-search permit within five years after the study permit expires, subject to the rules in force at the time.

40. Does studying in Finland guarantee employment?

No. Employment depends on the graduate's qualifications, language skills, experience, professional network, labour-market conditions and right to work.

Completing internships, learning Finnish or Swedish and building employer connections during study can improve career prospects.

41. Does studying in Finland guarantee permanent residence?

No. Admission, a student residence permit, employment and permanent residence are separate processes.

Finland introduced revised permanent-residence rules in January 2026. Eligibility can depend on:

- Type and duration of legal residence
- Completed qualification
- Employment history
- Income
- Finnish or Swedish ability
- Compliance with residence requirements
- The application pathway used

Students should check the current Migri criteria before making long-term plans.

42. Can international students study medicine in English?

Most undergraduate medical education in Finland is delivered in Finnish or Swedish. Applicants generally need strong proficiency in one of these languages and must satisfy highly competitive admission requirements.

Students seeking a fully English-taught medical degree will usually need to consider other countries. Finland does, however, offer English-taught programmes in health technology, biomedical sciences, public health and related fields.

43. Where can international students live?

Common accommodation options include:

- Student housing foundations
- University-linked residences
- Shared apartments
- Studio apartments
- Private rental accommodation

Student housing can be more affordable than private rentals, but demand is high. Students should apply as soon as they accept their study place.

44. Which Finnish cities are popular with international students?

Popular destinations include:

- Helsinki
- Espoo
- Tampere
- Turku
- Oulu
- Jyväskylä
- Vaasa
- Kuopio
- Lahti
- Lappeenranta
- Joensuu
- Rovaniemi

The best location depends on programme availability, living costs, industry connections and personal preferences.

45. How should students select a Finnish institution?

Students should compare:

- Programme content
- University or UAS teaching approach
- Academic eligibility
- Admission method
- Tuition fees
- Scholarships and continuation conditions
- City and living costs
- Internship opportunities
- Graduate career prospects
- Language requirements
- Professional accreditation

Students should choose a programme that fits their academic background and career objectives rather than relying only on rankings.

46. How can IEC Edu Consultancy help?

IEC Edu Consultancy supports students with:

- Academic and financial assessment
- University and programme selection
- Eligibility and document checks
- Studyinfo applications
- Motivation letters and supporting documents
- Entrance-examination guidance
- Scholarship applications
- Residence-permit document guidance
- Financial-profile preparation
- Accommodation and pre-departure support
- Post-arrival assistance

Contact IEC Edu Consultancy for a personalised assessment and a carefully selected list of suitable Finnish universities and programmes.

Admission requirements, tuition fees and immigration regulations can change. Applicants should verify current information with Studyinfo, their selected institution and the Finnish Immigration Service before applying.

Ready to study in Finland?

Our counsellors compare Finnish universities and universities of applied sciences, prepare your application and guide your residence-permit file from start to finish.

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