



*Education
lies at the Heart
of Society*

EDUCATION IN FINLAND

We believe education creates wellbeing, builds democracy and reduces inequalities between regions and social groups.

Education in Finland focuses on fostering equal educational opportunities and ensuring high-quality education so that we can safeguard a competent labour force both in good times and bad times.

Better competencies and education and research that are more international help revamp society. The main school reforms between 2016 and 2018 involve new pedagogy, new learning environments and the digitalisation of education. A creative school is in tune with the real world.

We aim to reduce the number of young people who are neither studying nor working.

EDUCATION

One of the most notable events in the history of Finland is the introduction of the Finnish comprehensive school system. It is also one of the mainstays of our wellbeing. In the wake of industrialisation in Finland, new types of education were needed, and a consensus agreement was reached in the 1960s to provide high-quality comprehensive school education for the whole population regardless of social background or geographical location.



ABOVE ALL

By investing in knowledge and skills, Finland soon evolved into a modern information society. Today, Finland uses its policies in education, science and technology sustainably to boost creativity and competencies. Moreover, nature is a valuable asset for Finnish people. International collaboration in the field of education is an important instrument in promoting global wellbeing. Our schools help students grow into citizens with global outlook.

**PISA 2000
READING**

Finnish students ranked 1st among OECD countries and 1st among all 39 participants

**PISA 2003
MATHEMATICS**

Finnish students ranked 1st among OECD countries and 2nd among all 40 participants

**PISA 2006
SCIENCE**

Finnish students ranked 1st among OECD countries and 1st among all 57 participants

**PISA 2009
READING**

Finnish students ranked 2nd among OECD countries and 3rd among all 65 participants

**PISA 2012
MATHEMATICS**

Finnish students ranked 6th among OECD countries and 12th among all 65 participants

LIFELONG LEARNING

High-quality and accessible early childhood education is guaranteed to all children. They have the right to pre-primary education, which serves as a continuum from early childhood education to primary education.

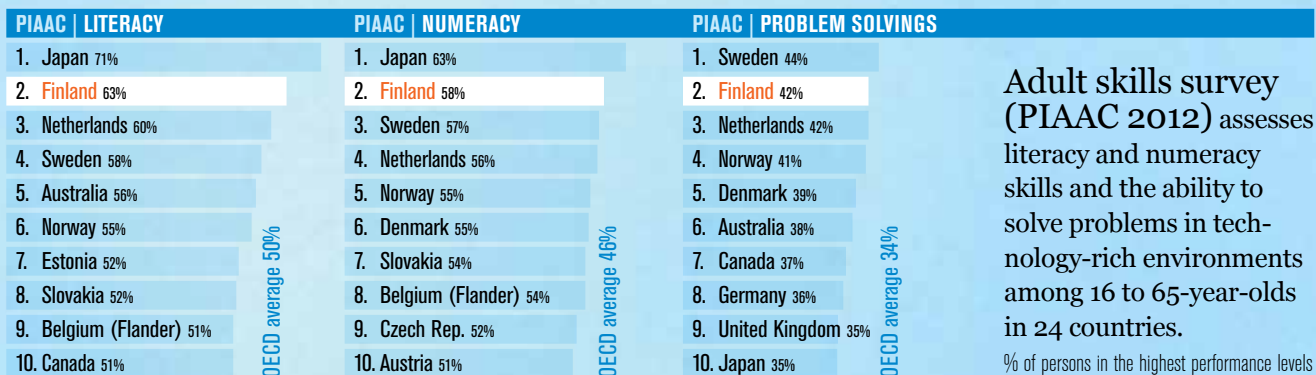
Primary and lower secondary education (a.k.a. basic education) is completely free of charge, comprising instruction, school materials, school meals, health care, dental care, commuting, special needs education and remedial teaching.

More than 90 % of each age group moves on to general or vocational upper secondary studies immediately after basic education. Vocational education and training (VET) has been steadily becoming more appealing. At present, half of all comprehensive school leavers apply to VET and half to general upper secondary education. All those who complete upper secondary education, both general and vocational, become eligible for higher education.

Vocational education and training is planned, implemented and evaluated in collaboration with working life. The basic principles comprise work-life orientation, focus on learning outcomes, modularity as well as individuality and flexibility.

14 universities and 24 universities of applied sciences offer attractive Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes, and universities also confer doctoral degrees. Furthermore, higher education institutions produce applied research of high quality that promotes innovation for the benefit of society.

Around half of the adult population in Finland participates in adult education. Study opportunities are available at all educational levels. Educational institutions catering for liberal adult education offer a wide range of both subject studies and recreational activities.



Adult skills survey (PIAAC 2012) assesses literacy and numeracy skills and the ability to solve problems in technology-rich environments among 16 to 65-year-olds in 24 countries.

% of persons in the highest performance levels

EQUAL OPPOR

The Finnish education system offers everybody equal opportunities for learning, irrespective of domicile, gender, socio-economic status or linguistic and cultural background.

PROFESSIONAL EMPOWERMENT

Teachers from pre-primary classes all the way to university level are highly qualified and committed. Teachers are required to have a Master's degree, including pedagogical studies and teaching practice. Since the teaching profession is very popular in Finland, universities can select the most motivated and talented applicants. Teachers are highly respected professionals, work independently and enjoy professional autonomy.

The education system's administration is strongly based on school autonomy and support. Centralised steering takes place by means of objectives specified in legislation and based on the national core curriculum. Local authorities are responsible for organising education and implementing the national objectives. Beyond that, schools and teachers have wide autonomy in how they provide instruction and what its contents are.

SUPPORTING

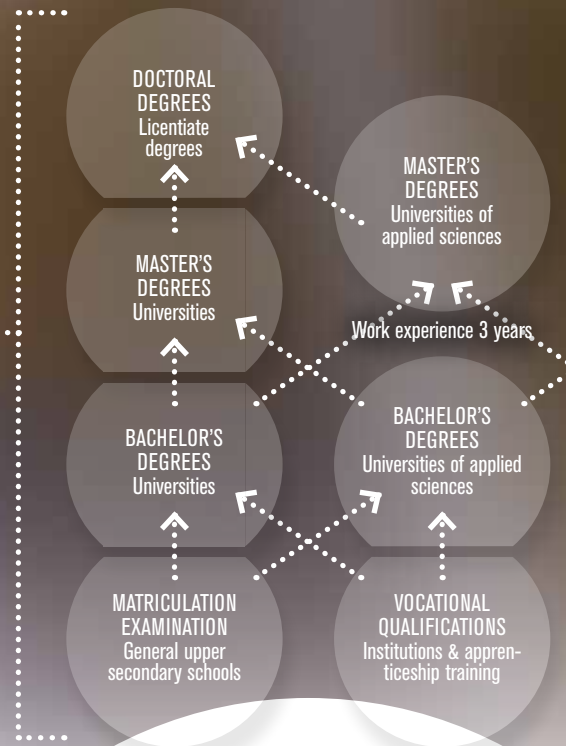
Each student's learning curve and welfare is extensively supported and tailored to individual needs, and guidelines for this purpose are specified in the national core curriculum. Students in the upper grades are offered educational guidance in choosing their post-comprehensive school paths in education.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR



LIBERAL ADULT EDUCATION

- Adult education centres
- Folk high schools
- Summer universities
- Study centres
- Sports institutes



BASIC EDUCATION
Comprehensive schools 7–16 year-olds

PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION 6 year-olds

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

EFFECTIVE CO-OPERATION

Good learning outcomes are achieved at just average expense. The average class size in comprehensive school is 20 pupils, and pupils and students are given fewer hours of instruction than in other countries.

Administrative organs at different organisational levels collaborate actively between schools and between social actors, parents and schools to further enhance the school system.

FLEXIBLE

The education system gives each student great flexibility. Binding decisions are not expected to be made at an early stage. Instead, the road all the way to tertiary education is untracked, with none of the paths leading to a dead end.

R ALL

Education is free at all levels from pre-primary to higher education.

Finland has two official languages, Finnish and Swedish. Both language groups have their own educational institutions.

Foresight and development based on research data and benchmarking are key strengths in Finland's educational system.



SCIENCE

Numerous international comparisons show that Finland is one of the most innovative countries in the world. Both the public and private sector have invested strongly in research and development. The ratio of researchers to overall employment is exceptionally high and there is a considerable number of scientific publications and patents in Finland in relation to the size of the population.

The research system and system of higher education in Finland are currently being overhauled.

Universities enjoy full autonomy. Researcher education, research funding, learning environments and research infrastructures are being enhanced. Universities, universities of applied sciences and government research institutes are being profiled based on their core competences. Smoothly functioning public and private institutions foster efficiency in society and build up social capital. Being able to exploit and apply knowledge and technology in public and private administration remains the best way to secure sustainable economic growth. Both open data and good use of open science boost knowledge-intensive growth.

ENCOURAGING

Evaluation of learning outcomes is based on national surveys. The aim is to produce information that helps both schools and students to develop. Learning, learners and schools are at the core of our activities.

HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS

1. United States
2. Switzerland
3. Denmark
4. Finland
5. Sweden
6. Canada
7. Netherlands
8. U. Kingdom
9. Singapore
10. Australia

U21 ranking 2015

INNOVATION COOPERATION BETWEEN COMPANIES AND RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS

1. Finland
2. Austria
3. Great-Britain
4. Belgium
5. Sweden
6. Denmark
7. Germany
8. Norway
9. EU-26
10. France

Eurostat 2010-2012

SUCCESS BY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

In recent years, thanks to a first-rate system of education, Finland has performed well in international comparisons in various economic and social sectors. Success factors also include a high-quality health care system, well-functioning and highly transparent public institutions, an environmentally friendly approach in decision-making processes and smoothly functioning business environments.

NETWORKED READINESS INDEX

1. Singapore
2. Finland
3. Sweden
4. Netherlands
5. Norway
6. Switzerland
7. United States
8. U. Kingdom
9. Luxembourg
10. Japan

WEF & INSEAD 2015

HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX

1. Finland
2. Norway
3. Switzerland
4. Canada
5. Japan
6. Sweden
7. Denmark
8. Netherlands
9. New Zealand
10. Belgium

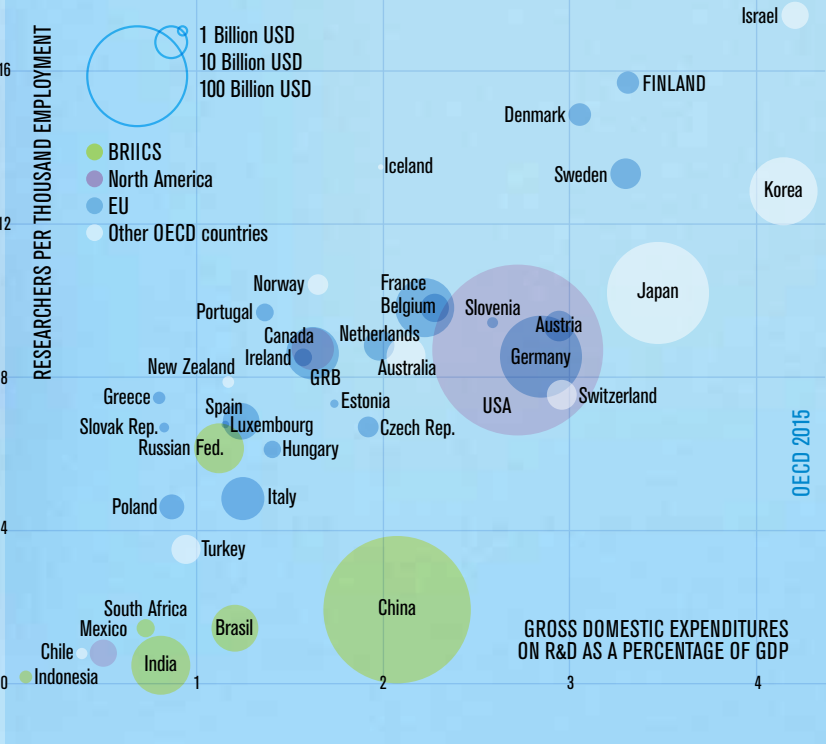
World Economic Forum 2015

GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

1. Switzerland
2. Singapore
3. United States
4. Germany
5. Netherlands
6. Japan
7. Hong Kong
8. Finland
9. Sweden
10. U. Kingdom

World Economic Forum 2015-2016

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT



GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS

1. Finland
2. Singapore
3. Denmark
4. Sweden
5. Norway
6. Switzerland
7. Canada
8. Netherlands
9. New Zealand
10. Hong Kong

INSEAD/WIPO, Global Innovation Index 2015

GLOBAL GENDER GAP

1. Iceland
2. Norway
3. Finland
4. Sweden
5. Ireland
6. Rwanda
7. Philippines
8. Switzerland
9. Slovenia
10. New Zealand

World Economic Forum 2015



Ministry of Education and Culture

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**SUOMI
FINLAND**