



HELSINKI

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Student life

Finland offers top-rated education at all levels. There are nine universities and eight universities of applied sciences in the Helsinki region that offer degree studies in all fields of study. The new, innovative Aalto University combines three fields: economics, art and technology. It comprises the former Helsinki School of Economics, Helsinki University of Technology and University of Art and Design Helsinki. All students studying in Finland are eligible for many student discounts for example in museums, public transportation and other services.

In 2007, nearly 310,000 students studied in the universities and universities of applied sciences in Finland. Over 11,000 of them were international students: 44% coming from Russia and Europe, 33% the Asian countries and 16% from the continent of Africa. (Statistics Finland 2009)

Universities and universities of applied sciences in Helsinki*

Universities

Aalto / Helsinki School of Economics
Aalto / Helsinki University of Technology
Aalto / University of Art and Design Helsinki
Academy of Fine Arts
National Defense University
Sibelius Academy
HANKEN – Swedish School of Economy and Business Administration
Theatre Academy of Finland
University of Helsinki

Universities of applied sciences

Arcada University of Applied Sciences
Diaconia University of Applied Sciences
Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences
HAMK University of Applied Sciences
Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences
HUMAK University of Applied Sciences

Lahti University of Applied Sciences
Laurea University of Applied Sciences

Source: Hera (Helsinki Education and Research Area)

* Greater Helsinki

The most common doctoral research areas are technology (162 doctorates in 2007) and natural sciences (136). Among the popular doctoral research areas are also medicine, social sciences, and humanities. (Kota online)



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Student benefits

University students are entitled to many national benefits after becoming a student union member. The benefits include:

- housing services,
- discounts in student cafeterias,
- inexpensive health services,
- student price tickets to cultural events and
- a 50 percent discount on public transport.

The Finnish Student Health Service (FSHS/YTHS) provides preventive health care, medical care, mental health care and dental health care.

More information about arriving in Finland, student discounts and other services, and useful tips for international students available at www.hera.fi

Source: www.hera.fi / International Degree Student Services in the Metropolitan Area

Night life

The minimum age to enter a bar or a night club varies between 18 and 24 years. Bars and pubs close their doors at 2 in the morning at the latest; nightclubs can keep their doors open until 4 a.m.

Helsinki has a vivid and lively night life to offer. ABC News' Jerry Shriver visited the city and described it as "a diverse, distinctive and spirit-lifting urban night life scene that simply must be ingested to be believed."

According to Shriver, the advantage of Helsinki's night life is its vast variety: "The options are said to be more glamorous in Stockholm and more exotic in Tallinn, Estonia. But Helsinki, which competes with those nearby capitals for tourists from Japan, Russia, Germany, Canada and the USA, has the edge in numbers. The city's center boasts several dozen out-of-the-ordinary bars, cocktail lounges, nightclubs and performance venues, along with dozens more standard-issue places, all serving a metro area population of 1 million."



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Case story

Tommaso De Benetti – Italy

A student at the Department of Communication in the University of Helsinki

- I visited Finland for the first time on a holiday in 2002. I returned to Finland to start my studies as an Erasmus exchange student in August 2004. I stayed for seven months. I wanted to go to a place that is completely different from Italy and not where everyone else went.

Tommaso is now finalizing his Master's degree: he came back to study in Finland in September 2007. One of the things Tommaso likes about studying in Finland is the fact that the courses have fewer students than in Italy.

- There is a different kind of relationship between the students and the teacher. The work situation in Italy is also challenging and that is one of the reasons I came to Finland.

Tommaso feels very lucky: he now has a job and also plans to stay in Finland after his graduation.

