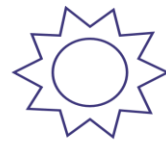


# General education



# EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS IN FINLAND

Foreign national children under six begin early childhood education and care at their local daycare centre. Six-year-olds start pre-school education either at their local daycare centre or local school.

Children aged 7 to 16 years, with no Finnish skills, begin their school career in the preparatory education for basic education, and transfer to mainstream basic education once they have acquired enough proficiency in the Finnish language. After basic education, foreign students, whose Finnish skills are insufficient for study at the upper secondary level, can develop their Finnish proficiency and learning skills in the preparatory education for general upper secondary education or vocational education.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE (9 months - 5 years)

- duration: 0–5 years
- voluntary
- supervised and structured daycare
- child health clinic services
- subject to a charge

## PRE-PRIMARY/PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION (6 years)

- duration: 1 year
- grade 0
- free of charge

## BASIC EDUCATION (7 - 16 years)

- duration: 9 years
- grades 1–9
- includes free school lunches, student support measures, and school health care
- free of charge



## GENERAL UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION/ VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (16 - 19 years)

- duration: about 3 years
- matriculation examination/vocational qualification
- eligibility for higher education institutions
- Finnish as a second language studies continue
- free of charge for students who are obligated to study in Finland

## PREPARATORY EDUCATION FOR BASIC EDUCATION (7 – 16 years)

- for children who do not speak Finnish
- duration: 1 year
- followed by transfer to basic education
- studies comprise Finnish, learning skills and subject instruction
- free of charge

## PREPARATORY EDUCATION FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION / TUVA STUDIES

- duration: 1 year
- voluntary
- for pupils who do not have enough proficiency to start secondary education
- prospect of completing basic education studies or upper secondary courses
- improves Finnish language skills and increases the possibility of entry to general upper secondary schools
- free of charge for students who are obligated to study in Finland
- Kuopio upper secondary school for adults and Savo vocational Collage

