

Applying to upper secondary education

Joint application

Joint application is a national application system, through which applicants apply to either upper secondary education or higher education in a centralised manner. Through the joint application process for upper secondary education, the applicants apply to vocational upper secondary education and training and general upper secondary education. Through the joint application process for higher education institutions, the applicants apply to universities and universities of applied sciences.

The joint application process for upper secondary education is held once a year in February–March. The spring joint application process is for education programmes that will start in autumn. Applicants fill in the application form in the Studyinfo.fi service online. The same application form can be used to apply to a maximum of five education programmes.

After the end of the application period, the applicant must participate in an entrance or aptitude test if they receive an invitation to one. The selection results are sent out in June. If the applicant is admitted, they must accept the study place by the deadline.

Supplementary application round and rolling admission

If the applicant is left without a study place in the spring joint application process, they can still apply for vacant study places through the supplementary application round and rolling admission in summer and early autumn. It is possible to apply to some vocational upper secondary education and training through rolling admission throughout the year. For information on vacant study places and the application instructions, see the Studyinfo.fi service or the educational institutions' own websites.

Applying to preparatory education

There is a separate application process for post-basic education preparatory education in the summer. Through this process, the applicants can apply to tenth grade, instruction preparing for general upper secondary education (LUVA) and preparatory education for vocational training (VALMA).

Applying to vocational education organised as demanding special support

There is a separate application process in the spring for vocational education organised as demanding special support. This application process includes vocational upper secondary qualifications organised as special support, preparatory education for vocational training (VALMA) organised as demanding special support, and preparatory education for work and independent living (TELMA).

Applying for the long study lines of folk high schools

The application methods for the long study lines of folk high schools vary. For application instructions, see the Studyinfo.fi service or the folk high schools' own websites.

Further information

Further information on upper secondary education is available in Finnish and English at www.studyinfo.fi and in several different languages at www.infofinland.fi.



From basic education to upper secondary education



After basic education

In Finland, the upper secondary education that follows basic education comprises general upper secondary education and vocational education and training.

General upper secondary education and the matriculation examination

General upper secondary education comprises general education that provides a good foundation for continuing your studies at a university or university of applied sciences. Those who complete the general upper secondary education syllabus receive a general upper secondary education certificate. At the end of general upper secondary education, students can take the matriculation examination to earn a matriculation examination certificate.

Vocational upper secondary qualification

After basic education, you can also apply to a vocational institution to complete a vocational upper secondary qualification. Those who have completed a vocational upper secondary qualification have the basic vocational skills needed to work in their own field and the professional qualifications required in working life.

Double degree and triple degree

In upper secondary education, you also have the option to complete a double degree, i.e. take the matriculation examination and complete a vocational upper secondary qualification at the same time. In a triple degree, you take the matriculation examination and complete the vocational upper secondary qualification as well as the full general upper secondary education syllabus.

Apprenticeship training

In apprenticeship training, most of the studies for a vocational upper secondary qualification are completed through practical work at a workplace. The training also includes theoretical studies at a vocational institution.

Preparatory education and other options

Tenth grade

Tenth grade refers to voluntary additional basic education lasting one school year, during which you can raise your basic education grades and receive support for choosing further studies.

VALMA

VALMA refers to preparatory education for vocational training that lasts for one school year, improving your capability to apply to vocational education and training and complete a vocational upper secondary qualification.

LUVA

LUVA refers to instruction preparing immigrants and other foreign-language speakers for general upper secondary education. It lasts for roughly one school year and strengthens linguistic and other capabilities needed in general upper secondary education.

Long study lines at folk high schools

The long study lines at folk high schools are general or vocational training programmes or training programmes intended for immigrants that last for roughly one school year.

TELMA

TELMA refers to preparatory education for work and independent living that is intended for young people who need special support. TELMA education lasts for a maximum of three years.

Eligibility for further studies

In Finland, those who have completed an upper secondary qualification are eligible to continue on to higher education, which is provided by universities and universities of applied sciences.

University or university of applied sciences

Those who have taken the matriculation examination are eligible to apply to a university or university of applied sciences to continue their studies. Completing the general upper secondary education syllabus without taking the matriculation examination only provides eligibility for a university of applied sciences.

Those who have completed the vocational upper secondary qualification are eligible to apply to any university or university of applied sciences to continue their studies.

You can also apply to a university or university of applied sciences if you have completed a foreign qualification that provides eligibility for similar higher education in the country in question.

Open higher education

Courses open to everyone that are included in the curricula of higher education institutions can be completed both at open universities and open universities of applied sciences. Those who have completed an upper secondary qualification can apply to become a degree student at most universities and universities of applied sciences through the separate open university route based on studies completed at an open university or university of applied sciences.