



MONIHELI

From basic education to upper secondary studies

OmaPolku

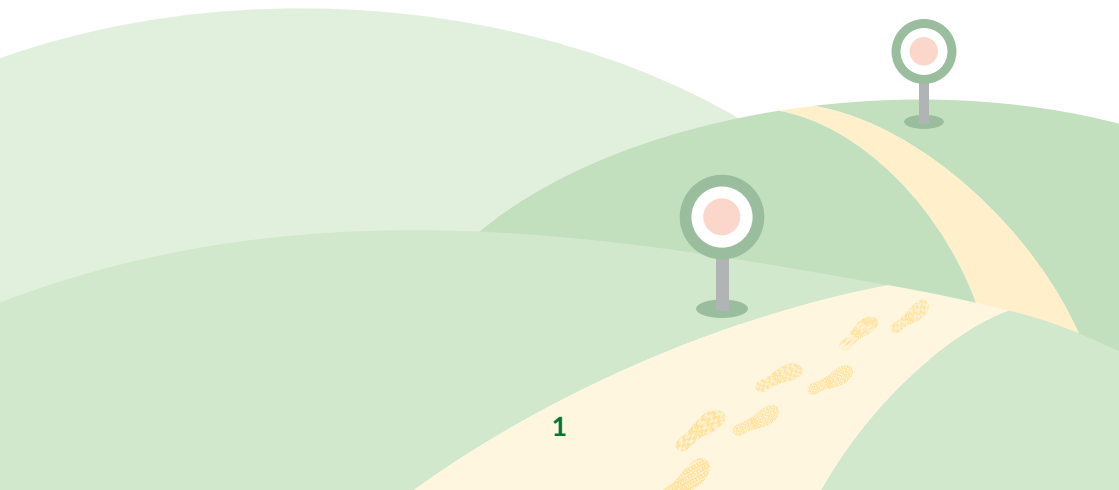



Compulsory education continues after basic education

Compulsory education requires pupils to continue their studies after completing primary and lower secondary education (basic education). These further studies take place in upper secondary education. Compulsory education ends when the student turns 18 or completes an upper secondary qualification before turning 18.

After completing basic education, most students continue their compulsory education in upper secondary education. Upper secondary education options include general upper secondary education and vocational education and training.

Students can also continue their compulsory education in preparatory education and training, such as in preparatory education for an upper secondary qualification (TUVA), training offered by folk high schools for persons of compulsory school age, and basic education for adults. Students who require special support may apply for preparatory education and training for work and independent living (TELMA).





Upper secondary education options after basic education

General upper secondary education is completed at general upper secondary schools

General upper secondary schools provide general education at the upper secondary level. General upper secondary education doesn't provide a qualification for any particular occupation. After completing general upper secondary education, students may continue their studies at a university or university of applied sciences. In Finland, persons applying to study at a university usually first take the matriculation examination at the end of general upper secondary education.

General upper secondary education usually lasts three years. This education includes both compulsory and elective studies. Students who complete the general upper secondary education syllabus receive a general upper secondary education certificate.

Students may also take the matriculation examination at the end of their general upper secondary education. The examination comprises tests in different subjects. Students who complete the matriculation examination receive a matriculation examination certificate.

The student becomes eligible for further studies after receiving the matriculation examination certificate. In other words, the student may apply to study at a university or university of applied sciences. After completing the general upper secondary education syllabus without receiving the matriculation examination certificate, the student becomes eligible to study at a university of applied sciences, but not a university.

The initial vocational qualification is completed at vocational institutions

The initial vocational qualification is completed at vocational institutions. This qualification provides the basic skills for a particular line of work and entrepreneurship as well as the professional competence required in working life.

Completing an initial vocational qualification usually takes three years. The studies include compulsory and elective qualification units. Initial vocational qualifications are available in dozens of industries. The eRequirements (ePerusteet) online service provides more information on each available initial vocational qualification.

The student becomes eligible for further studies after completing the initial vocational qualification. Students may deepen their knowledge by completing a further vocational qualification or specialist vocational qualification, or by applying to study at a university or university of applied sciences. Many students first complete the initial vocational qualification and gain work experience before applying to study at a university of applied sciences.

Completing an initial vocational qualification and general upper secondary education at the same time

Students in upper secondary education may study for two or more qualifications at the same time. In practice, this means completing an initial vocational qualification while simultaneously taking subjects offered in general upper secondary education. Students taking such parallel studies may also take the matriculation examination.

Students may also complete an initial vocational qualification through an apprenticeship

During an apprenticeship, most of the studies for the initial vocational qualification are completed through practical work at a workplace. The student is employed and also takes theoretical studies at a vocational institution.



Preparatory education and other options before upper secondary education

Preparatory education for an upper secondary qualification (TUVA)

Preparatory education for an upper secondary qualification (TUVA) strengthens the student's ability to complete an upper secondary qualification. The aim of TUVA is to help students to be admitted to the upper secondary education option of their choice either during or after TUVA.

TUVA lasts for one year at most. During these studies, students may improve their basic education grades, take general upper secondary and vocational studies, and strengthen their study skills. Students have the right to receive personal and other necessary guidance to complete TUVA.

TUVA education is a good option for you if:

- You're of compulsory school age
- You've completed basic education or equivalent education
- You need more time to choose your further studies, would like to improve your basic education grades, or would like to find out more about the different study options available
- You would like to improve your proficiency in Finnish or Swedish before moving on to upper secondary education
- You're 18 or older but have yet to complete an upper secondary qualification

TUVA education is also referred to as transition phase education. As of August 2022, TUVA replaces the previous forms of transition phase training: tenth grade, preparatory education for general upper secondary education (LUVVA), and preparatory education for vocational education (VALMA).

One-year training at a folk high school for persons of compulsory school age

One-year training at a folk high school for persons of compulsory school age is intended for persons of compulsory school age who have completed basic education. This training allows students to improve their basic education grades, prepare for upper secondary studies, and think about what they want to do with their lives. This training is provided at a folk high school and lasts for one school year. It includes common content for everyone, as well as studies chosen by each student based on their interests.

Basic education for adults (AIPE)

Basic education for adults (AIPE) comprises general education. In basic education for adults, students can complete the basic education syllabus and receive a basic education certificate, improve their basic education grades, and take basic education subjects.

At the start of basic education for adults, the students receive a personal study plan. The personal study plan is constructed based on what types of studies the student needs to take to reach their study goals.

Basic education for adults has two phases. Studies in the introductory phase correspond to basic education subjects taught in grades 1–6 (primary school). The introductory phase teaches students how to read and write if they are illiterate or their skills are lacking. Studies in the final phase correspond to basic education subjects taught in grades 7–9 (lower secondary school).

The introductory and final phases take 1–2 years to complete, depending on the student's individual situation.

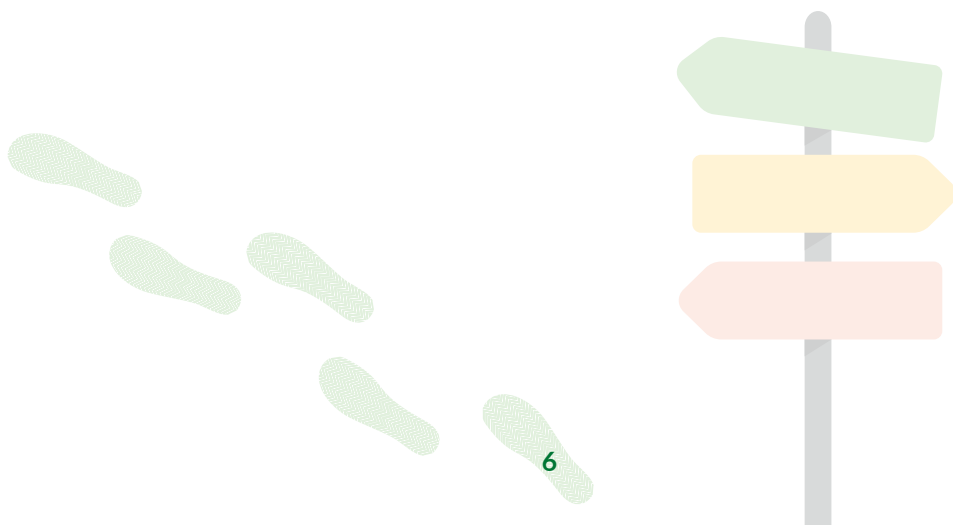
Basic education for adults is a good option for your if:

- You're 17 or older
- You need a basic education certificate or to improve your study skills in order to move on to upper secondary education
- You would like to improve your basic education grades or take one or more basic education subjects
- You need to learn skills taught in the introductory phase of basic education, such as reading and writing skills or maths

Basic education for adults is a good option for people such as those who moved to Finland towards the end of their basic education but didn't complete it before turning 18.

Preparatory education and training for work and independent living (TELMA)

Preparatory education and training for work and independent living (TELMA) is intended for students who need special support. TELMA is a form of special needs education. It teaches skills that students need at home, in working life, and in society. The education lasts for a maximum of three years.





How to apply to study

The joint application procedure for post-basic education takes place in February and March

The joint application procedure is a centralised national application system, through which applicants apply for post-basic education. The joint application procedure for post-basic education is held once a year in February and March.

Who can apply?

All 9th graders are obligated to apply for further studies. They must apply for a student place through the joint application procedure for post-basic education in the spring. The spring joint application procedure is also intended for applicants who have already completed basic education, but have yet to complete any of the following:

- The general upper secondary education syllabus
- A vocational qualification
- A university or university of applied sciences degree

Which education and training programmes may applicants apply for?

During the spring joint application procedure, applicants may apply for up to seven education and training programmes. Applications should be submitted through the Studyinfo.fi online service. Students may use the same application form to apply for the following types of education:

- General upper secondary education
- Vocational education and training
- Preparatory education for an upper secondary qualification (TUVA)
- One-year training at a folk high school for persons of compulsory school age
- Preparatory education and training for work and independent living (TELMA)

After the end of the application period, the applicant must participate in an entrance examination or aptitude test if they receive an invitation to one. Not all education and training programmes require an entrance examination or aptitude test.

Applicants are usually selected based on the grades in their basic education certificate. The results are published in June. If the applicant is admitted, they must accept the student place by the given deadline. The studies start in autumn. Persons of compulsory school age must participate in education and training.

Discretionary admission for applicants without a basic education certificate

Persons without a basic education certificate may also apply through the joint application procedure for post-basic education. Discretionary admission is used when the applicant's school certificate isn't comparable to an equivalent Finnish certificate. If the applicant has sufficient skills to complete upper secondary education, they may be selected for general upper secondary education or vocational education and training through discretionary admission.

The rolling application procedure for post-basic education continues throughout the year

The rolling application procedure for post-basic education continues throughout the year. The rolling application procedure may be used in situations such as when the applicant isn't offered a student place during the spring joint application procedure. In the rolling application procedure, the educational institutions decide on the application periods, application procedures, and selection criteria. Information on education and training programmes, application periods, application instructions and selection criteria is available on educational institutions' websites and the Studyinfo.fi online service.

Who can apply?

You can apply through the rolling application procedure if:

- You didn't receive a student place in the joint application procedure for post-basic education
- You would like to apply for studies towards a vocational qualification or qualification units
- You've previously completed an upper secondary qualification or university or university of applied sciences degree
- You've gained relevant skills from work

Which education and training programmes may applicants apply for?

Through the rolling application procedure for post-basic education, applicants may apply for the following:

- Vocational education and training
- Preparatory education for an upper secondary qualification (TUVA)
- One-year training at a folk high school for persons of compulsory school age
- Preparatory education and training for work and independent living (TELMA)
- Student places left unfilled in the joint application procedure for post-basic education, including general upper secondary education

If the applicant isn't selected, the educational institution will guide them to other suitable education and training or services.

Applications for basic education for adults should be submitted directly to educational institutions

Applications for basic education for adults should be submitted directly to the educational institutions in question. Basic education for adults is provided by general upper secondary schools for adults, folk high schools, some vocational institutions, and other educational institutions. Educational institutions make their own decisions on application periods and student selections. Information on education and training programmes and application periods is available on educational institutions' own websites and the Studyinfo.fi online service.



Find out more

Don't hesitate to contact guidance counsellors. Guidance counsellors work at schools. They can provide you with advice and assistance if you're planning to study, intending to apply for different education programmes, or wondering which occupation would be the best fit for you.

You should also visit educational institutions when they hold open days.

More information on upper secondary education, preparatory education, and other options before upper secondary education is available in Finnish and English at

www.studyinfo.fi

More information on upper secondary education is available in other languages at

www.infofinland.fi

More information on one-year training at a folk high school for persons of compulsory school age is available in Finnish through the search engine offered by folk high schools at

www.kansanopistot.fi/koulutukset

