

4.4 The educational system in Finland

Compulsory Education	20+	Yliopistot Universities	Ammattikorkeakoulut Polytechnics
	19	Lukiot Upper secondary schools	Ammatillinen koulutus Vocational schools and apprenticeship training
	18		
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	16	Perusopetus Basic education	
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	9	Esiopetus kouluissa tai päiväkodeissa Pre-school education in schools or children's day care centres	
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Explanation of the Finnish educational system

1. Pre-school	For children aged 6 to 7, voluntary
2. Primary and lower secondary school	<p>9-year, integrated school where basic education (the equivalent of lower secondary school in Germany) is acquired, no separation or streaming of pupils.</p> <p>About 50 % of school leavers subsequently go on to upper secondary school, fewer than 10 % failing to achieve a basic educational qualification. These so-called "indentures" may later use practical occupational experience as the basis of a vocational qualification or acquire continuing training qualifications.</p>
3. Upper secondary education	<p>Upper secondary school has a 3-year course leading to the upper secondary school leaving certificate.</p> <p>Students wishing to attend an upper secondary school need to fulfil certain educational attainments during basic education. The individual upper secondary schools themselves set the level of entry requirements.</p>
4. Vocational education and training	In order to pursue certain VET leading to skilled worker status, certain educational attainments need to be fulfilled during basic education. The level of entry requirements is regulated specifically

	<p>for every occupation.</p> <p>There is very limited availability of dual vocational education and training. VET takes place in state/local government training centres and comprises theoretical and practical instruction. There are also compulsory periods of practical experience within a company and specific, practical project work.</p> <p>Completion of VET confers entitlement to pursue a subject related course of higher education at a polytechnic (University of Applied Sciences) or a university.</p> <p>Continuing training qualifications (such as comparable with the master craftsman qualification) may be acquired after 4 years of occupational experience and following a course of continuing vocational training.</p> <p>Initial and continuing vocational education and training are based on state examination regulations.</p>
<p>5. Higher education</p>	<p>Higher education courses of study may be pursued at universities or practically oriented polytechnics (Universities of Applied Sciences). Universities offer Bachelor and Masters qualifications. The entry requirements are the upper secondary school leaving certificate or a VET qualification. An entry examination also needs to be passed. The individual universities themselves set the level of requirements in the entry examination.</p>