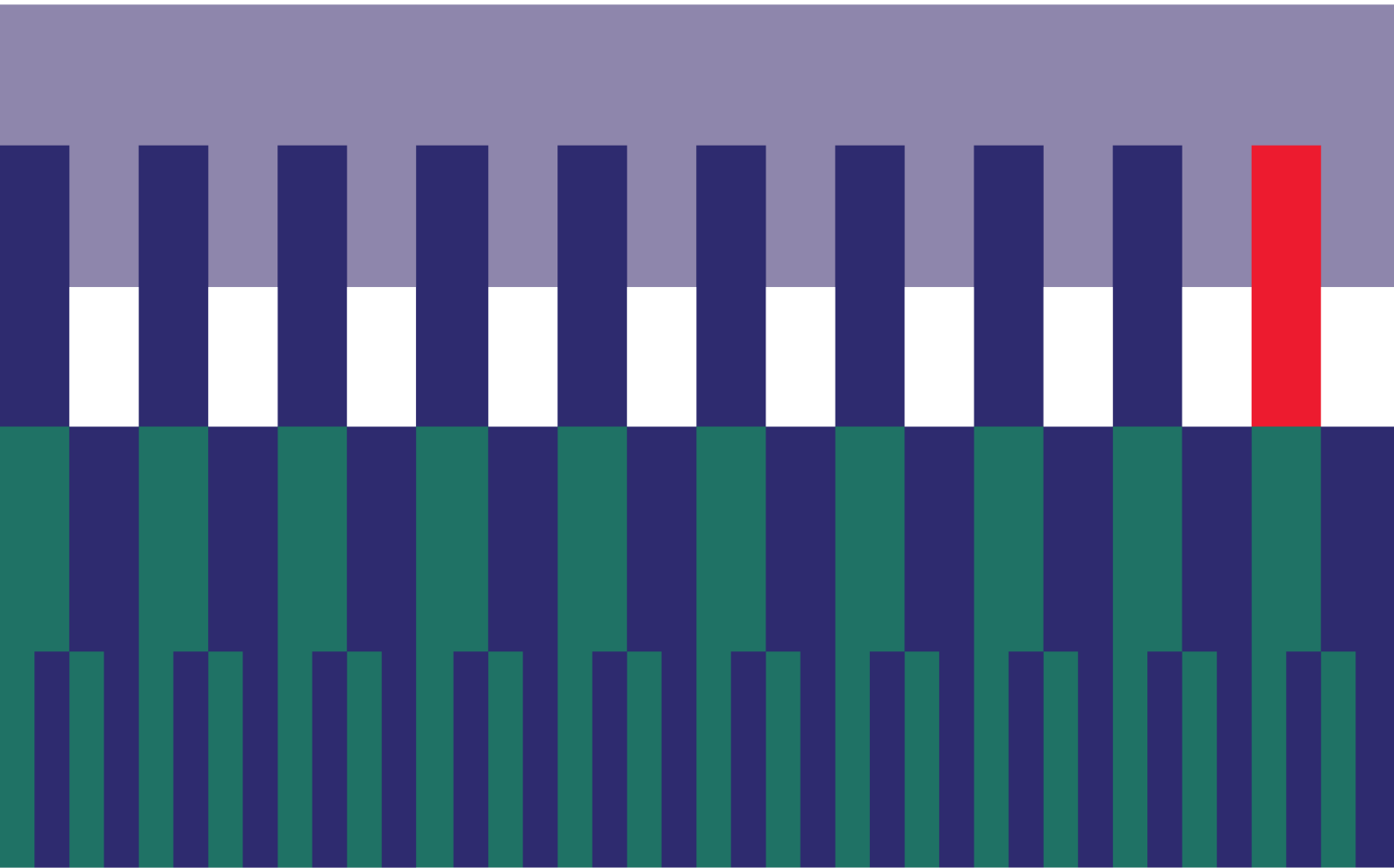




Finnish Institute in Japan
フィンランドセンター

Information Guide for International Applicants

Updated June 2026



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Finnish Institute in Japan
フィンランドセンター

The Finnish Institute in Japan provides information about the Finnish educational possibilities to Japanese students.

We attend annual student fairs in Japan, including the European Higher Education Fair and the Japan Association for Student Services' (JASSO) study abroad fair. In addition, we organize our own higher education events, where participants receive a comprehensive information package and can ask questions about studying in Finland, including the application process and everyday life as an international student.

If you have any questions or project proposals about higher education, please send an email to [info\(at\)finstitute.jp](mailto:info@finstitute.jp).

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1. Study Abroad System and Basic Terminology

Introduction

We're glad you're interested in studying in Finland. While we don't offer personal counseling, we can guide you to useful resources.

Here's some useful information to help you get started. Some key aspects to consider:

Semester Schedules and Study Opportunities

In Finland, the academic year is divided into two semesters, each split into two study periods:

Fall Semester

- Period 1: Early September – mid-October
- Period 2: Mid-October – late December

Spring Semester

- Period 3: Early January – mid-February
- Period 4: Mid-February – late April

In Japan, the academic year starts in April. This difference in timing creates a great opportunity for Japanese students. By arriving in Finland for the Fall Semester, they can study through Periods 1–3 (approx. 75% of the semester) while using only half of the Japanese academic year.

Key definitions

Exchange student (Partner exchange): You go to a Finnish university through your home university's agreement and usually pay tuition at your home university.

Freemover: You apply independently to a Finnish university without an exchange agreement and may have to pay tuition (if you are a non-EU/EEA student).

Degree student: You apply to complete a full Bachelor's or Master's degree in Finland.

Double degree: A program where you receive degrees from both your home university and a Finnish university.

Summer/Winter School: Summer/Winter Schools are the perfect starting point to explore Finland. These are individual courses from a wide variety of subjects, making it uniquely equipped for short education programs.

International PhD Programs: Many Finnish universities offer PhD programs in English, open to international students.

2. Planning and Process

Study in Finland

The Study in Finland website provides comprehensive information on universities, funding admission, and life in Finland: <https://www.studyinfinland.fi/>

The International House Helsinki

The International House Helsinki offers a newcomer video with key information for international students moving to Finland: <https://www.youtube.com/Q3kMcDHULbw>

Studyinfo.fi

Studyinfo (also available in English at <https://opintopolku.fi/konfo/en/>) is the official and up-to-date website with information on degree programmes in Finland. You can use it to explore different degrees, institutions, qualifications, and to apply for studies online.

Some key points to reflect on:

1. What can I study in Finland?

Finland has 13 universities and 22 universities of applied sciences (UAS), offering nearly 600 English-taught bachelor's and master's programmes. Many PhD programmes are also available in English. Find the right programme at [Studyinfo.fi](https://www.studyinfo.fi).

2. How and when do I apply for admission?

Bachelor's and master's applications are submitted online at [Studyinfo.fi](https://www.studyinfo.fi). Most admissions take place from November to January for studies starting in September. Always check specific entry requirements with your chosen university, including for PhD studies. Many higher education institutions also have rolling admissions outside the fixed admission times. Admission fee is 100 euros regardless of the number of applications.

3. What about tuition fees and scholarships?

Tuition fees for non-EU students range roughly €8,000–€20,000 per year for English-taught bachelor's and master's programmes. Scholarships may be available for fee-paying students; applications are usually submitted alongside

the admission application. In addition, the Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI) offers scholarship opportunities primarily for international students and researchers pursuing doctoral studies at Finnish universities or research institutions.

You may also wish to explore scholarships offered by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), as well as funding opportunities provided by Japanese public institutions, foundations, and private organizations. In Finland, there are no tuition fees for PhD students, but you must finance your own living expenses. It is possible to apply for funding for doctoral studies from various foundations. Doctoral training positions are generally salaried positions within universities.

Scholarship availability, eligibility criteria, and application procedures vary by institution and programme. Be sure to check the relevant websites for the most up-to-date information.

4. What about living costs and accommodation?

Finland is a relatively expensive country to live in, so while the official minimum requirement set by Finnish Immigration Service Migri is €800 per month, Study in Finland recommends you reserve a bit more for your living expenses, approximately €900 – €1200 per month, depending on the location. Find more information here <https://www.studyinfinland.fi/funding-your-studies/fees-and-cost-living>. Working while on a student residence permit is allowed, but don't rely on it for all your expenses. Finnish universities can advise on local student housing and support services.

5. Where can I find info about student residence permits?

Non-EU students usually need a residence permit for degree studies. Learn about requirements at [Migri.fi](https://migri.fi) and consult your nearest Finnish embassy or consulate. Start your application online at [EnterFinland.fi](https://enterfinland.fi) once you have an admission offer.

6. How long will my degree take?

Bachelor's: approx. 3–4 years

Master's: 2 years (UAS master's: 1 year, requires ≥ 2 years work experience)

PhD: approx. 4 years

7. Can I stay in Finland after graduation?

Yes! Graduates can apply for a residence permit to look for work for up to two years. See [Migri.fi](https://migri.fi) for information on this and on permanent residence.

8. Language Proficiency Requirements (Approximate Guidelines)

Language requirements for English-taught degree programmes vary depending on the university and programme. However, applicants are generally expected to demonstrate English proficiency at approximately the following levels:

- IELTS: 6.0–6.5
- TOEFL ITP/PBT: 550–580
- TOEFL iBT: 72–92

Please note that actual admission requirements vary by university and programme. Be sure to check the specific admissions criteria of your chosen institution before applying.

3. Research Universities

These universities have strong global reputations and offer Bachelor's, Master's and PhD programs:

1. University of Helsinki

Website: <https://www.helsinki.fi/en>

- Finland's oldest and largest university
- Strong in sciences, humanities, law, medicine, and social sciences

2. Aalto University

Website: <https://www.aalto.fi/en>

- Known for technology, engineering, business, design, and innovation
- Very popular among international students

3. University of Turku

Website: <https://www.utu.fi/en>

- Strong in business, medicine, biosciences, and humanities

4. University of Tampere

Website: <https://www.tuni.fi/en/about-us/tampere-university>

- Focus on technology, health sciences, education, and social sciences



5. University of Oulu

Website: <https://www.oulu.fi/en>

- Known for engineering, IT, and natural sciences
- Good option for students interested in northern Finland

6. University of Jyväskylä

Website: <https://www.jyu.fi/en>

- Strong in business, medicine, biosciences, and humanities

7. University of Eastern Finland

Website: <https://www.uef.fi/en>

- Strong in environmental sciences, forestry, and health sciences

8. University of Lapland

Website: <https://www.ulapland.fi/en>

- Known for social sciences, law, education, art and design
- Strong focus on Arctic studies, tourism, and sustainability in northern Finland

9. Åbo Akademi University

Website: <https://www.abo.fi/en>

- Known for humanities, social sciences, education, chemical engineering, and theology
- Swedish-language university with a strong international and research-oriented profile

10. Hanken School of Economics

Website: <https://www.hanken.fi/en>

- Known for business, economics, finance, and management
- Highly regarded business school with strong corporate connections and international accreditations

11. Uniarts Helsinki

Website: <https://www.uniarts.fi/en/>

- Known for Finland's leading arts university, music, fine arts, theatre and performing arts
- Strong global reputation in classical music education

12. LUT University

Website: <https://www.lut.fi/en>



- Known for engineering, tech, sustainability and business
- Close collaboration with industry and highly international

13. University of Vaasa

Website: <https://www.uvasa.fi/en>

- Known for business, sustainability research, strong international Master's programs
- Strong industry ties—especially within the Nordic energy sector

4. Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)

1. Metropolia University of Applied Sciences (Helsinki area)

Website: <https://www.metropolia.fi/en>

- Fields: Technology, business, health care, arts

2. TAMK – Tampere University of Applied Sciences

Website: <https://www.tuni.fi/en/about-us/tamk>

- Fields: Engineering, media, business, health care

3. Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences

Website: <https://www.haaga-helia.fi/en>

- Fields: Business, hospitality, IT, entrepreneurship

4. Arcada University of Applied Sciences

Website: <https://www.arcada.fi/en>

- Fields: International focus; business, media, technology, health care

5. LAB University of Applied Sciences

Website: <https://lab.fi/en>

- Fields: Business, design, engineering

6. Centria University of Applied Sciences

Website: <https://net.centria.fi/en/centria/>

- Fields: Engineering, business, IT
- Very international-friendly



7. Novia University of Applied Sciences

Website: <https://www.novia.fi/en>

- Fields: Technology, maritime studies, business

8. Diaconia University of Applied Sciences (DIAK)

Website: <https://www.diak.fi/en/>

- Fields: Social services, nursing, community work

9. Humak University of Applied Sciences

Website: <https://www.humak.fi/en/>

- Fields: Humanities, cultural management

10. Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK)

Website: <https://www.hamk.fi/en/>

- Fields: Robotics, automation, engineering, bioeconomy and agriculture

11. JAMK University of Applied Sciences

Website: <https://www.jamk.fi/en/>

- Fields: Cyber security, sport science, sport business, teacher education

12. Kajaani University of Applied Sciences (KAMK)

Website: <https://www.kamk.fi/en/>

- Fields: Game development, Esports business, data center and ICT

13. Karelia University of Applied Sciences

Website: <https://www.karelia.fi/en/>

- Fields: Forestry, bioeconomy, industrial engineering, social and health care

14. Lapland University of Applied Sciences

Website: <https://www.lapinamk.fi/en/>

- Fields: Arctic engineering, logistics, tourism

15. Laurea University of Applied Sciences

Website: <https://www.laurea.fi/en/>

- Fields: Business, service design, security management

16. Oulu University of Applied Sciences (OAMK)

Website: <https://www.oamk.fi/en/>

- Fields: IT, engineering, business, health care



17. Satakunta University of Applied Sciences (SAMK)

Website: <https://www.samk.fi/en/>

- Fields: Logistics, maritime, industrial management and health care

18. Savonia University of Applied Sciences

Website: <https://www.savonia.fi/en/>

- Fields: Engineering, industrial tech, health care and environmental technology

19. Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences (SeAMK)

Website: <https://www.seamk.fi/en/>

- Fields: Food production, agriculture, business and automation

20. South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences (XAMK)

Website: <https://www.xamk.fi/en/>

- Fields: Logistics, maritime, game development, environmental engineering

21. Turku University of Applied Sciences

Website: <https://www.tuas.fi/en/>

- Fields: ICT, engineering, business, health care

22. Vaasa University of Applied Sciences (VAMK)

Website: <https://www.vamk.fi/en/>

- Fields: Energy technology, international business

23. Åland University of Applied Sciences

Website: <https://www.ha.ax/en/>

- Fields: Maritime, shipping and navigation

5. Summer Schools

Many universities in Finland offer summer courses, which are perfect for students who want to study abroad for a short period without committing to a full semester or degree program. These programs typically take place in July and August, and cover a wide range of subjects.

Research Universities

1. Aalto University

Website: <https://www.aalto.fi/en/aaltosummer>

- Study period: July and August

2. University of Eastern Finland

Website: <https://www.uef.fi/en/uef-summer-school>

- Study period: August

3. University of Jyväskylä

Website: <https://www.jyu.fi/en/study-with-us/summer-and-winter-schools/jyvaskyla-summer-school>

- Study period: August

4. LUT University

Website: <https://www.lut.fi/en/studies/lut-summer-school>

- Study period: August

5. University of Oulu

Website: <https://www.oulu.fi/en/apply/arctic-summer-programme>

- Study period: August

Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) Summer Schools

6. JAMK - Jyväskylä UAS

Website: <https://www.jamk.fi/en/apply-to-jamk/jamk-summer-school>

- Study period: April, May, June, and August

7. Metropolia Summer School

Website: <https://www.metropolia.fi/en/study-at-metropolia/summer-studies/reconnecting-with-nature-in-post-digital-world>

- Study period: August

総合大学 (Research Universities) ●

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2. Aalto University
3. University of Turku
4. Tampere University
5. University of Oulu
6. University of Jyväskylä
7. University of Eastern Finland
8. University of Lapland
9. Åbo Akademi University
10. Hanken School of Economics
11. Uniarts Helsinki
12. LUT University
13. University of Vaasa

応用科学大学 (UAS) ●

1. Metropolia University of Applied Sciences
2. Tampere University of Applied Sciences
3. Haaga-Helia University
4. Arcada University of Applied Sciences
5. LAB University of Applied Sciences
6. Centria University of Applied Sciences
7. Novia University of Applied Sciences
8. Diaconia University of Applied Sciences
9. Humak University of Applied Sciences
10. Häme University of Applied Sciences
11. JAMK University of Applied Sciences
12. Kajaani University of Applied Sciences
13. Karelia University of Applied Sciences
14. Lapland University of Applied Sciences
15. Laurea University of Applied Sciences
16. Oulu University of Applied Sciences
17. Satakunta University of Applied Sciences
18. Savonia University of Applied Sciences
19. Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences
20. XAMK South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences
21. Turku University of Applied Sciences
22. Vaasa University of Applied Sciences
23. Åland University of Applied Sciences



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