

# SUMMER UNIVERSITIES IN FINLAND



Summer universities give an opportunity for both personal and professional development. All summer universities operate in close partnership and permanent collaboration with Finnish universities, Universities of Applied Sciences and other institutions of learning. One goal of the summer universities is to extend the variety of studies offered in a particular field. This objective is pursued, for instance, by making university-level studies from various Finnish universities more widely available, thus making it possible to study subjects that are not included in the curricula of other local institutions of learning.

**FACTS** There are 20 summer universities in Finland, and they organise courses both in cities and smaller towns across the country throughout the year.

The summer universities offer a wide variety of courses, such as Open University studies, Open University of Applied Sciences studies, language courses, Finnish language courses and further vocational training courses in various fields. Approximately half of the courses are organised as Open University Studies. Sometimes the applicants must take a test before being admitted on a course, or there might be other prerequisites. In most cases, though, there are no restrictions. The language of instruction is mainly Finnish, but some courses are taught in English. Among our non-Finnish speaking students, the most popular courses are on Finnish language and culture.

**FACTS** Each year nearly 62,000 students, including more than 1,100 international students, enrol on courses organised by the summer universities.

The scope of the courses varies from short, one-day vocational training courses to longer Open University Study courses of 3 to 35 ECTS credits. However, it is essential to notice that summer universities offer short-term courses, not degree programmes. When you take part in Open University or Open University of Applied Sciences studies, you earn ECTS credits you might be able to use to apply for compensation at a university or a polytechnic. The scope of the general education courses is, however, measured in teaching hours instead of ECTS credits.

The curricula of the summer universities are very versatile, which explains the fact that our students form a very heterogeneous group: our courses attract comprehensive school pupils, students, people in working life, immigrants, and retired people alike. Young adults are very keen on taking part in the various preparatory courses for high school students; our Finnish courses are popular among international students or other immigrants living in Finland; Open University Studies interest university students as well as people in working life, because these studies offer an interesting and easy way of taking up a new subject or updating one's knowledge in a certain field. Senior citizens are also active summer university students: they populate the lectures of the third age university, which are organised by the local summer university in many cities.

**FACTS** Most courses are open to everyone regardless of age, previous education, or study rights at any institution of learning.



## FINNISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE COURSES

The Summer Universities in Finland have over 30 years of experience in organising Finnish language and culture courses. Annually more than 1,000 non-Finnish speakers from all parts of the world participate in the courses. The course levels vary from level 0 up to level B2–C1. It is also possible to take part in courses on special themes, such as oral or written communication. More and more courses are provided online, which makes it possible to participate from other countries as well. The Summer University of Northern Ostrobothnia in Oulu is specialised in organising online courses. You can find more information on their website at [www.pohjois-pohjanmaankesayliopisto.fi](http://www.pohjois-pohjanmaankesayliopisto.fi).

The Finnish courses are organised during the autumn and spring semesters as well as in the summer. The scope of the courses varies: they might last for a full semester with evening lessons once or twice a week or may be more intensive in nature, lasting for two to three weeks with lessons every working day. In the latter case, a course might include five lessons (45 minutes each) per day, for example.

### FACTS

Every summer university has its own system for admitting students to courses, which means that you should always look for more information on the website of a certain summer university or contact the office directly. You can find a list of all summer universities in Finland on the website of the Summer Universities at [www.kesayliopistot.fi](http://www.kesayliopistot.fi)

## THE ASSOCIATION OF SUMMER UNIVERSITIES IN FINLAND

The Association of Summer Universities in Finland is a national body founded in 1972. The aim of the association is to take care of the interests of summer universities, provide information, as well as collect statistics about their activities. The association also acts as a coordinating link between various interest groups and summer universities both nationally and internationally.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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