

Fact Sheet of the University of Helsinki

University bilateral agreements, 2025-2026



The University of Helsinki is the oldest and largest institution of academic education in Finland, an international scientific community of 40,000 students and researchers.

In international university rankings, the University of Helsinki typically ranks around the top 100.

The University of Helsinki seeks solutions for global challenges and creates new ways of thinking for the best of humanity.

The University of Helsinki welcomes about 1,200 exchange students per year and offers them a wide variety of courses taught in English. The degree programmes offering the courses include dozens of International Master's Programmes and Bachelor's level programmes.

Contact information

[International Exchange Services](#)

P.O. Box 59
FI-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland

Address for courier post (FedEx, DHL, UPS etc.):

International Exchange Services, University of Helsinki
Unioninkatu 38
FI-00170 Helsinki, Finland

[Website for exchange students](#)

Course offer and restrictions for exchange students

The University of Helsinki has the widest range of disciplines in Finland with 11 [faculties](#) and around 37 Bachelor's degree programmes and 56 Master's degree programmes. [Information on courses suitable for exchange students](#). Course lists for the following academic year will be published in late March/April.

University-level bilateral exchange students are required to choose the majority of their courses from one faculty, closest to their educational background. Exchange students need to have sufficient prior academic background in the disciplines taught at the receiving Faculty. One year of completed studies is required from all applicants.

Additionally, the following disciplines have a more extensive requirement:

- The prerequisite for Medicine is two full years of pre-clinical and one full year of clinical studies. In Psychology (Faculty of Medicine), the prerequisite is two full years of university-level studies in Psychology. Medicine and Psychology are also highly restricted and access to them cannot be guaranteed to exchange students admitted via university-wide agreements.
- For Life Sciences (the faculties of Agriculture and Forestry, Biological and Environmental Sciences, and Pharmacy), the prerequisite for studies in Helsinki is two years of completed university studies in the field in question.

Within one faculty, students can choose courses from several study programmes. One of the study programmes will be chosen as the student's host programme. Students are welcome to choose some courses from other faculties, as well, if they meet the requirements for the courses. Please note that some faculties/study programmes offer courses in English mainly on Master's level (suitable for advanced Bachelor students as well): Agriculture and Forestry, Biological and Environmental Sciences, Geography, Law, Pharmacy, and Translational Medicine.

Fields not offered at the University of Helsinki: architecture, business, engineering, fine arts, and nursing. Dentistry is not open to exchange students.

Students interested in a laboratory or research group traineeship can check the [traineeship page](#). Please note that the thesis work option mentioned on the page is only open to university-level bilateral exchange students on a case-by-case basis, unless agreed otherwise in the bilateral agreement.

Restrictions: Courses from the following degree programmes are open only to exchange students placed in that programme and who are majoring in the same academic field at their home university:

Degree programme	Faculty	Course codes	Please note
Study track of English at the Bachelor's Programme in Languages	Arts	KIK-EN	
Master's Programme in English Studies	Arts	ENG-	
Other foreign languages at the Bachelor's and Master's Programme in Languages	Arts		Considered case by case depending on the student's educational background
Politics, Media and Communication and Global Politics and Communication	Social Sciences	PVK, PVM, GPC	
Master's Programme in Economics	Soc. Sci.	ECOM	
Law, International Business Law, Global Governance Law	Law	OIK, IBL, GGL, OTM	
Psychology	Medicine	PSYK, PSYM	Social Psychology is taught at the Faculty of Social Sciences (Study programme for Social Research).

	The following degree programmes accept only one or two exchange students in total each semester:			
	Medicine	Medicine		A set international schedule for each semester
	Translational Medicine	Medicine	TMED	Spring semester only
	Veterinary Medicine	Veterinary Medicine		A clinical practice period from February to May on advanced level
	Urban Studies and Planning	Science	USP	
Finnish courses and other language courses for exchange students	Information on language courses for exchange students Please note that courses teaching English language are not open for exchange students, with the exception of the courses listed on the page for language courses suitable for non-Finnish speakers . There are Finnish courses available for those exchange students wanting to learn Finnish. The course includes 4 hours of teaching each week. For more, please see our page on Finnish courses . Students are not required to participate in Finnish courses, but may do so if they wish.			
Terminology related to the courses	The Courses in English website includes courses of various levels. Some courses require previous studies in the discipline in question. The following terminology will help the students to find out if the courses are suitable for them: - Basic studies: Bachelor’s level courses that do not usually require previous studies from the student - Subject studies or Intermediate studies: Bachelor’s level courses, intermediate level, require some previous studies from the student, mainly for 2 nd or 3 rd year students of the subject - Advanced studies: Master’s level courses, for students who have completed a Bachelor’s degree or have equivalent level			
Workload	Students should aim to complete 30 ECTS credits per semester, i.e. the full semester workload. The minimum requirement is 20 ECTS per semester. One ECTS credit equals 27 hours of work, including both lectures and homework. A full year of 60 ECTS credits corresponds to a workload of 1,600 hours. Course descriptions may use terms “cr” or “ECTS cr” or “op”. They all mean the same thing, ECTS credits.			
Registration information for incoming students				
Registration periods	For autumn semester (late August – December) April 1 – April 15		For spring semester (January - May) September 1 – September 30	
Online registration system	At the University of Helsinki, we are now referring to the incoming student application process as ‘registration’. The nominated students submit their registrations by using the online system of the University of Helsinki, and include the listed enclosures there. Please do not send paper copies. Students should read carefully further instructions . Enclosures, uploaded as attachments to the online system: - Learning Agreement (= study plan approved and signed by home university coordinator) - Official Transcript of Records from the student’s home university N.B. The University of Helsinki requires exchange students to have language skills in English, Finnish or Swedish (the language the student mainly plans to study with) that correspond to Level B2 on the CEFR scale. However, exchange students do not need to submit proof of English language proficiency . We trust our partners to check that their nominees have the required B2 level.			

	Webinars for registration questions
Duration of exchange	Autumn Semester: 26 August – 19 December 2025 (including orientation period) Spring Semester: 7 January – 29 May 2026 (including orientation period) Full Academic Year: 26 August 2025 – 29 May 2026
Information on acceptance	Decisions regarding acceptance are made by faculties of the University of Helsinki. Acceptance information is available about 4-6 weeks after the registration deadline. Accepted students receive an acceptance e-mail from their host Faculty with a formal acceptance letter as an e-mail attachment. Finnish immigration authorities can check the validity of the formal acceptance letter directly from the University of Helsinki, if necessary.
Support services and housing for exchange students	
Housing	<p>For the students wanting to live in a student dormitory, University of Helsinki has agreed with housing providers, including Unihome and HOAS (Foundation for Student Housing in the Helsinki Region), on a number of rooms for incoming exchange students. Apartments are located around Helsinki. Students should choose their housing option based on their budget and their wishes.</p> <p>Exchange students submit their housing application as a part of their exchange registration. Their information will be forwarded to housing providers. Applicants will be informed if a separate housing application is needed during the exchange registration period. Each exchange student will receive only one housing offer. Exchange students coming under university-level bilateral agreements are guaranteed housing but not necessarily the room type they have wished for.</p> <p>Mandatory fees prior to arrival (subject to change): room deposit: 260€ (shared apartment) or 500€ (other apartment types) to be paid to the housing provider according to their instructions. Students should be prepared to pay the deposit when they receive instructions from the housing provider. This can be several months prior to arrival.</p> <p>Information about various other housing options is available at our housing page.</p>
International Exchange Services	<p>With any questions during their stay at the University of Helsinki, exchange students are welcome to contact the International Exchange Services, represented on each campus together with the local Student Services. Please check the address and office hours as well as online appointment times of each campus's Student Services at our Contact page.</p> <p>With any questions before or during their stay, students can e-mail studentexchange@helsinki.fi or call +358 2941 22401 (Monday-Friday 12 – 2 PM).</p>
Orientation and Tutoring	<p>Each semester begins with a mandatory orientation week during which students take care of all practicalities and sign up for courses.</p> <p>During orientation, incoming exchange students receive help from student tutors, who introduce Finnish university life to the new exchange students and help them with practical issues such as SIM cards, getting a monthly ticket for public transportation, etc.</p>
Hobbies and social activities	<p>University of Helsinki has hundreds of student organisations, and exchange students are welcome to join. Please see our Student organisations page.</p> <p>Students' ESN network organises many activities for exchange students.</p>
Practical Information	City of Helsinki University Library Learning Center Aleksandria Student benefits Student Cafeterias

	Student Union Unisport
Information for accepted students	
Residence permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who are non-EU nationals need to apply for a Residence permit according to the instructions provided by the Finnish Immigration Service (Migri). Information regarding applying for a Residence permit is also available at the closest Consulate of Finland. University of Helsinki recommends that students submit their application electronically, because it makes the application process faster and cheaper. Students are advised to apply immediately after receiving their acceptance e-mail from the University of Helsinki. Even if the student has submitted the Residence permit application electronically, he/she needs to visit the Finnish consulate in person to verify his/her identity and to present the original copies of any supplements needed for the application. In addition to this, VFS services may be available in various cities depending on your country. However, please note that Finland has only outsourced its residence permit process to VFS in selected countries, so even though your country may be found on their site, it is not necessarily possible to use them for residence permits to Finland. Please check with VFS. Because of the time required for the residence permit process, students should apply for a Residence permit immediately after receiving acceptance information from the University of Helsinki. Please note that cost for the online residence permit is 350 euros (subject to change)
Health insurance and health services	<p>Students who are non-EU nationals must have acquired comprehensive health insurance prior to applying for a Residence permit. For more, please see Migri's Insurance page.</p> <p>For information on student health services, please refer to our page on Healthcare for exchange students.</p>
Student Union membership	<p>Student Union membership fee for exchange students is ca. 27-30 euros per semester (subject to change). Joining the Student Union is voluntary.</p>
Cost of living	<p>Cost of living page</p>
Course enrolment	<p>Students need to have their University of Helsinki User ID to register for courses. Students receive the User ID by applying for it prior to arrival in Finland. Course registration happens after arrival.</p> <p>After course information for the following academic year is published, there may be some changes, so the Learning agreement is only a preliminary plan. Students are advised to re-check the list of courses offered during the academic year of their exchange before they arrive.</p>
Grading system	<p>The University of Helsinki uses a six-level grading scale from 0 to 5.</p> <p>5 = excellent or A 4 = very good or B 3 = good or C 2 = satisfactory or D 1 = passable or E 0 = fail or F or FX</p> <p>Please note that reference to the A-F grading scale is only indicative. In addition to applying this grading scale, a pass/fail grade may be used when grading certain courses, e.g. ones containing practical training or practical skills. Please note it is not possible to receive a numeric grade for these pass/fail courses.</p> <p>The University of Helsinki grading scale is not a proportionate scale and does not therefore fully correspond to the ECTS grading scale: the ECTS system is based on an expectancy of the distribution of different grades,</p>

	the Finnish system is not. This means that in the Finnish system each student is graded on his/her individual performance, not in relation to the performance of others.
Transcripts of records	<p>Students can get an official hard copy of their transcript free of charge from the Student Services. However, we recommend the official digital version.</p> <p>Students are responsible for ordering their official transcript. It is not automatically sent to the partner university. Please check the details on our Transcript page.</p>
Promotional materials and social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotional materials (section: Materials and Links) • University of Helsinki in Instagram • University of Helsinki in Facebook • Youtube
Campuses	<p>University of Helsinki has four campuses, all located within 10 kilometres from each other. You can find pictures in the promotional materials above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Centre Campus for Arts and Social Sciences (location on a map) • Kumpula Science Campus (location on a map) • Meilahti Campus for Medicine (location on a map) • Viikki Campus for Life Sciences (location on a map) • Maps of all campuses
Safety and security	<p>The health and safety of students and staff is the top priority for the University of Helsinki. University of Helsinki's safety and security guide is available online (section: Materials and Links). We also encourage students to read our emergency situation page.</p>
Special needs	<p>University of Helsinki has services for students with special needs. Please refer to our page on individual arrangements.</p>
Information provided on	25 November, 2024