

# Top 10 Universities in Finland for International Students

The happiest place on earth. Finland. They have set the benchmark for governance, sustainability, and safety worldwide and are continuously leading the charge in innovation and technology. Moreover, their tertiary education system has also been ranked as a world leader. This Nordic nation sees upward of 12 000 undergraduate qualifications achieved yearly and roughly the same amount of Master's graduates.

They impressively offer more than 400 bachelor's and master's degree programs in English. The programs are offered throughout 35 Universities and Universities of applied science. Even more impressive is that a little over half of the graduates are females, once more solidifying their place as a leader in the space of equal opportunities.

It might seem to be a daunting undertaking to study in a country that does not have English as an official language, but with around 7 in 100 graduates being foreign, Finland is offering ample opportunities to make study-abroad-dreams come true. Furthermore, just under a quarter of the Doctorate degrees were awarded to international students. Before 2017 higher education was free to foreign students, but the laws have since changed. But many institutions still offer scholarships or options to waive tuition fees.

The capital, Helsinki, and the city of Turku are considered the student hubs of Finland with most universities situated here. Geographically Finland changes vastly from North to South. The northern regions feature blistering cold winters and weeks of sunshine in the summer but these extremes are a welcome attraction to some.

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## How satisfied are international students studying in Finland?

The “International Student Satisfaction Awards” were created by Studyportals, and it allows thousands of international students across Europe to rank their university according to various areas of satisfaction. Across the board Finland scored incredibly high, finishing off 4th in Europe in 2016. They peaked with an outstanding score of 9.5+ for the University of Tampere. The whole country scored an excellent average of 9.1.

Other than an excellent education system and world-class facilities, Finland offers plenty of outdoor and leisure activities, breath-taking scenery, and a smorgasbord of cultural emersions. It is ideally located between the east and the west of Europe and ensures unique cultural offerings, blending a multitude of influences from its neighboring countries with their rich heritage. This all culminates into an enriching and fulfilling experience as an international student.

## What are the most popular programs in Finland for international students?

Arts and Humanities top the list as the most popular field of study in Finland. Business, Administration, and Law follow behind and Engineering and Construction round off the top 3 most popular disciplines in the country.

As for international students, specialty degrees are becoming increasingly popular. BA in eSports Business is one such niche degree from Kajaani University of Applied Sciences. It gives students an in-depth look at a market set to break the billion-dollar mark in the next 3 years. BA in Business Administration continues to be a popular choice for both local and international students, focussing on the fields of international trade or computer applications.

International student enrolment has remained constant in the recent past. Roughly 20 000 students flock to Finland yearly to take up studies here.

## What is the most prestigious university in Finland?

Finland is home to many top-ranking universities, and of these, The University of Helsinki is deemed the most prestigious. It ranks under the top 100 of the Times Higher Education Ranking. Its history stretches back nearly 400 years and throughout all this time they have upheld the highest of standards.



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## 1. University of Helsinki

Finland's largest university has 4 campuses in the capital city but also has 11 other localities spread across the country. This ensures enough space for top facilities dedicated to their 11 faculties. They were founded in 1640 so the university comes with a long and rich history.

Helsinki University is at the forefront of research and innovation in scientific fields. Student life in Helsinki offers endless opportunities for leisure and extra-curricular activities. It is a highly liveable city with a calm spirit, effective services, and impeccable infrastructure.

## 2. Aalto University

Aalto University is the youngest on the list, founded in 2010. It was formed through the merger of three esteemed universities in the metropolitan area of Helsinki. At Aalto students are encouraged to study across disciplines and customize their study experiences to suit a specific goal. Many students graduate Aalto with extensive experience in their chosen career field as the university emphasizes the importance of a work/study balance

## 3. Tampere University

At Tampere University, they only offer 2 undergrad programs in English, but their master's programs are the main attraction. 34 programs are available over an expansive range of fields. From Innovative governance to Game Studies, there is no shortage in their range of programs..

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## 4. University of Oulu

Oulu University is another enticing university for individuals drawn to research. The city of Oulu is located along the coast of central Finland. Because of this northern location, they have the unique opportunity to research and innovate based on the distinctive landscapes surrounding the university. The institution is more than half a century old and they are keeping their eyes fixed on the future. Their main areas of focus are innovation and sustainability. Learning from the past to adapt to the future. They have a very larger research output that is very attractive to those looking to pursue studies in scientific research and training.

## 5. University of Turku

To the southeast of Finland lies the University of Turku who offers a multitude of courses and master's degrees in English. 3 BA and 17 Masters programs and 300 individual courses to be exact. It is particularly favorable for international students as it has a vast support network across Europe through the Coimbra group. UTU has a large English-speaking community. That, along with the size of the campus, allows international students to settle in quickly.

## 6. University of Eastern Finland

UEF does not currently offer any undergraduate programs in English, but their master's programs are so highly regarded that they simply need to be added to the list. These 27 programs are offered across 8 faculties. They aim to keep their student groups small to ensure students get quality time and attention in the learning environment. Moreover, they have a long list of candidates eligible for free studies, including EU citizens and exchange students!



## 7. Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology LUT

LUT is one of the leading technological institutions in Finland. Here students have a choice of 5 Engineering and Technology degrees in English, 4 of which are double degree programs. This university also guarantees any accepted student automatic entry into a master's program after their degree has been obtained.

## 8. University of Jyväskylä

The University of Jyväskylä is another beacon of excellence in the master's degree realm. Jyväskylä is a relatively small city where nearly 1 in 3 residents is a student. This creates a vibrant environment with many extra-curricular opportunities. JYU delivers a high output of research mainly in the fields of natural science and human and social science. They also offer many options for student exchanges and scholarship opportunities.

## 9. Åbo Akademi University

AAU has 9 different master's degree programs cover a variety of fields. They pride themselves in high-quality student-teacher relationships by keeping classes small. The campus is spread over two cities, Turku and Vaasa. Nearly a quarter of residents in these towns are affiliated with the university so international students can assure themselves that they will be met with bustling student culture.

## 10. Tampere University of Applied Sciences

The sister school of Tampere University offers courses completely in English, through 6 fields. There are various engineering options as well as business, arts, and nursing portfolios to choose from. The disciplines of natural sciences and technology produce many studies along with research into their application into business and industry.