

FINNISH NON-GRADED UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL BASIC CHARACTERISTICS

- module based studies, subjects are divided into courses
- the courses of the various subjects are not tied to year-grades
- instead of terms there are periods, usually five or six per year
- students move flexibly in groups that vary with the size and construction
- students have different teachers in the same subject
- students choose their own study programme independently from the course plan
- independent study is possible
- encourages students in “learning to learn” and making independent decisions
- encourages students to take responsibility and develop self-knowledge
- students don’t repeat grades or get promoted
- lack of one’s own class and all the own decisions require efficient student counselling
- one free warm meal is served per school day
- lessons start between eight and ten and Finnish between two and four
- no school on Saturdays
- no school uniforms
- exchange students have to study twenty-five lessons per week

UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL

Aims of education

- from teaching to learning
- utilisation of new information technology
- mathematics and science teaching

Internationalisation

- international co-operation
- increasing multiculturality

Language teaching

- wide range of foreign languages offered

UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSE PLAN

One course = 38 lessons of 45 minutes

COMPULSORY AND ADVANCED COURSES

| Subject | compulsory course | advanced course |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Mother tongue (Finnish/Swedish) | 6 | 2 |
| Compulsory foreign language A | 6 | 2 |
| Compulsory other national language | 5 | 2 |
| Other languages | | 16 |
| Mathematics short course | 6 | 2 |
| Mathematics advanced course | 10 | 2 |
| Biology | 2 | 2 |
| Geography | 2 | 2 |

FEATURES OF THE FINNISH EDUCATION SYSTEM

- equal opportunities for education irrespective of age, domicile, sex, economic situation or mother tongue
- instruction free of charge
- centralized steering of the whole – local implementation
- education system almost entirely publicly funded

SUPPORT ON PERSONAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

- psychosocial support
- life situation and life history of the student
- self-knowledge and self-esteem of the student
- life management experiences
- student welfare services
- multi-professional co-operation

CAREER GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

- educational and occupational plans
- career development
- plans for the future
- the knowledge how to find information from different sources
- knowledge of working life
- studying and working abroad

EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE

- learning and studying process
- individual study plans
- counselling and support when planning studies and choosing courses
- students are aware of their strengths and weaknesses as learners

THE TASK AND STATUS OF UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL

- provides general education and continues general education of the comprehensive school

MAINTENANCE

- schools are usually owned and run by municipalities
- only a few private or state schools

NON-GRADED SCHOOL

- education organised in courses
- upper secondary school is usually completed in three years, also four years is acceptable

