



# Teacher education in Finland

- All Finnish teachers need Master's Degree to be qualified with the exception of kindergarten teachers who need only Bachelor's Degree
- Teacher education is provided by university faculties of education. All public
- There are seven Finnish-language universities and one Swedish-language university offering Teacher Education programmes
- Each Teacher Education unit has teacher training schools for teaching practice, experiments, research and continuing education
- No national curriculum in teacher education



# Degree Programs & Annual Student Intake

Primary Teacher Education Programs, B.A. (Ed.) + M.A. (Ed.):

Annual Intake:

- Primary Teacher Education, no emphasis 20
- Technologically Oriented Primary Teacher Education 20
- Primary Teacher Education with Emphasis in Arts Education 20
- Primary Teacher Education with Emphasis in Special Education 20
- Intercultural Teacher Education 20

Other Programs , B.A. (Ed.) + M.A. (Ed.):

- Early Education 60
- Music Education 20
- Educational Sciences 25

Master's Programs, M.A. (Ed.):

- Education and Globalization 20
- Learning, Education and Technology 20
  
- Pedagogical Studies for Secondary Teachers 160



# Teacher Education Overview (primary)

- Research-based teacher education
  - Traditionally Inquiry- and problem-based learning, constructivism as foundation
  - New directions phenomenon-based learning, pedagogical sensitivity, values, social responsibility
- Students as active researchers in various research activities and groups
  - Teacher as a researcher
  - Self-regulated professional development
- Four practices, total 25 cr.
  - Mainly completed at the teacher training schools
  - Pedagogical portfolio and pedagogical seminars link back to theory
- Qualification upon graduation but depending on the contents of the degree
  - Master's degree, educational sciences as major, multidisciplinary studies in didactics, two minor subjects
- Relation between the theory and practice a question
  - What are the desired competencies of the students upon graduation?



# Teacher Education Overview (Secondary)

- Qualifications for lower and upper secondary levels
- Studies take place during the 3rd and 4th year of studies
  - 3rd year, 30 cr.:
    - Educational sciences (15 cr.)
    - Subject didactics (7 cr.)
    - Teaching practice (5 cr.)
    - Electives (3 cr.)
  - 4th year, 60 cr.:
    - Educational science (16 cr.)
    - Teaching practice (12 cr.)
    - Special education (1 cr.)
    - Basics of educational administration (1 cr.)
- Basic studies in the major must be completed before enrolling



# Entrance Exams

- Teacher education in high demand in Finland
- App 10% accepted in primary teacher education
  - National written entrance exam in the first phase and interviews (and possible demonstration of skills) in the second
    - Example, primary education program, second phase:
      - Interview, 15 minutes (based on a letter of motivation)
      - Demonstration of skills, 10 minutes (pedagogical orientation; PE or arts, natural sciences, social sciences, some other subject taught in schools)
  - Final grading (3-22 p.):
    - National exam, 1-5 p.
    - Matriculation exam mathematics grade, 0-1 p.
    - Matriculation exam Finnish grade, 0-1 p.
    - Demonstration of skills, 1-5 p.
    - Interview, 1-10 p.
  - Variations in the form of the exams also possible, like Intercultural Teacher Education in Oulu
- Secondary teachers: Entrance exams during 2nd year of studies
  - Interview, 0-15 p. and average of studies 0-15 p.