

EDUCATION

Here are some facts about the Finnish education system. Please discuss these in your group and compare to your home countries. You do not need to discuss everything – concentrate on the ones that interest you.

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

- A nine-year comprehensive school that is the same curriculum for the whole age group.
- Children begin school in the year they turn 7 years old. Every child can attend one year of free pre-school before that.
- All schools are public schools. There are almost no private schools at all.
- All teachers (also in primary school and pre-school) have a university degree.
- National teaching & syllabus plans, but no national testing.
- Teaching, textbooks and teaching materials, school transport and school meals are free.

UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION

Either: General education “lukio”

- 2–4 years general education, which provides the students with the diploma to enter higher education.
- Application takes place through a national joint application system. Placement to schools depends on the grades in the 9th grade comprehensive school final certificate.
- National teaching & syllabus plans and national matriculation examination.
- Teaching and school meals are free.
- Possibility to obtain both vocational and general education as “dual education”.

Or: Vocational schools “ammattikoulu”

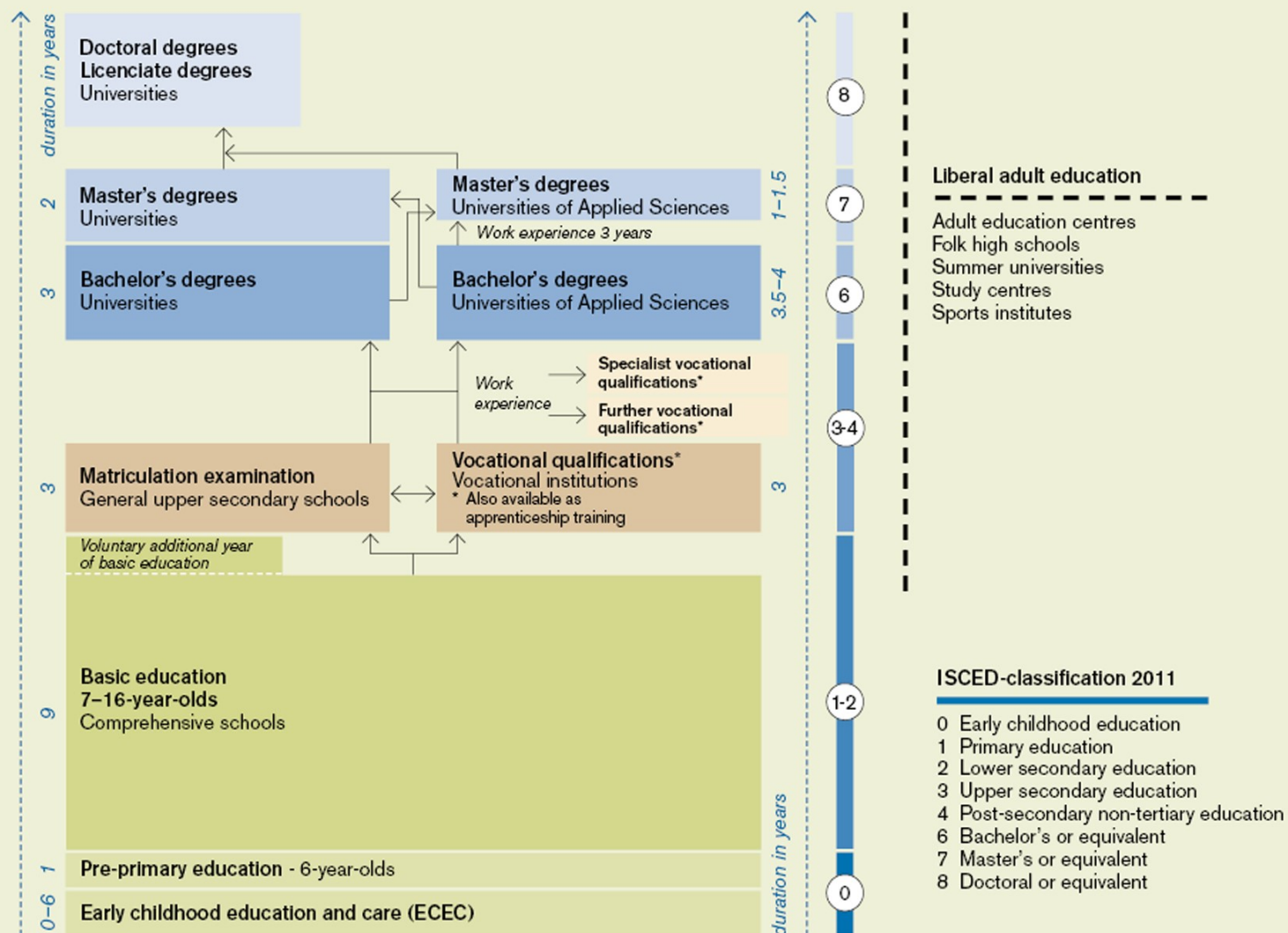
- Education in a specific field plus some general education. Length of studies ca. 2-4 years.
- Teaching and school meals are free.
- Possibility to obtain both vocational and general education as “dual education”.

HIGHER EDUCATION: Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences

- No tuition fees
 - General eligibility is provided by the matriculation examination plus a field-specific entrance exam.
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- **Equal student financial aid for every student:**
 - in post-comprehensive studies
 - max 3–5 years depending on the studies taken
 - max 325 €/month (regardless to parent’s income)
 - + housing supplement 80% of a reasonable rent (max 200 €/month)
 - This money is a gift and not a loan.

Education system in Finland

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(Picture: Minedu.fi/Ministry of Education and Culture)

<https://minedu.fi/documents/1410845/4267227/Education+system+in+Finland+1664px.png/a86a263a-a643-4354-975c-29852bf62e09?t=1488203218734>