

Finnish Education System

**Global Educational
Reform Movement**

The Finnish Way

COMPETITION  **COLLABORATION**

**TEST-BASED
ACCOUNTABILITY**  **TRUST-BASED
RESPONSIBILITY**

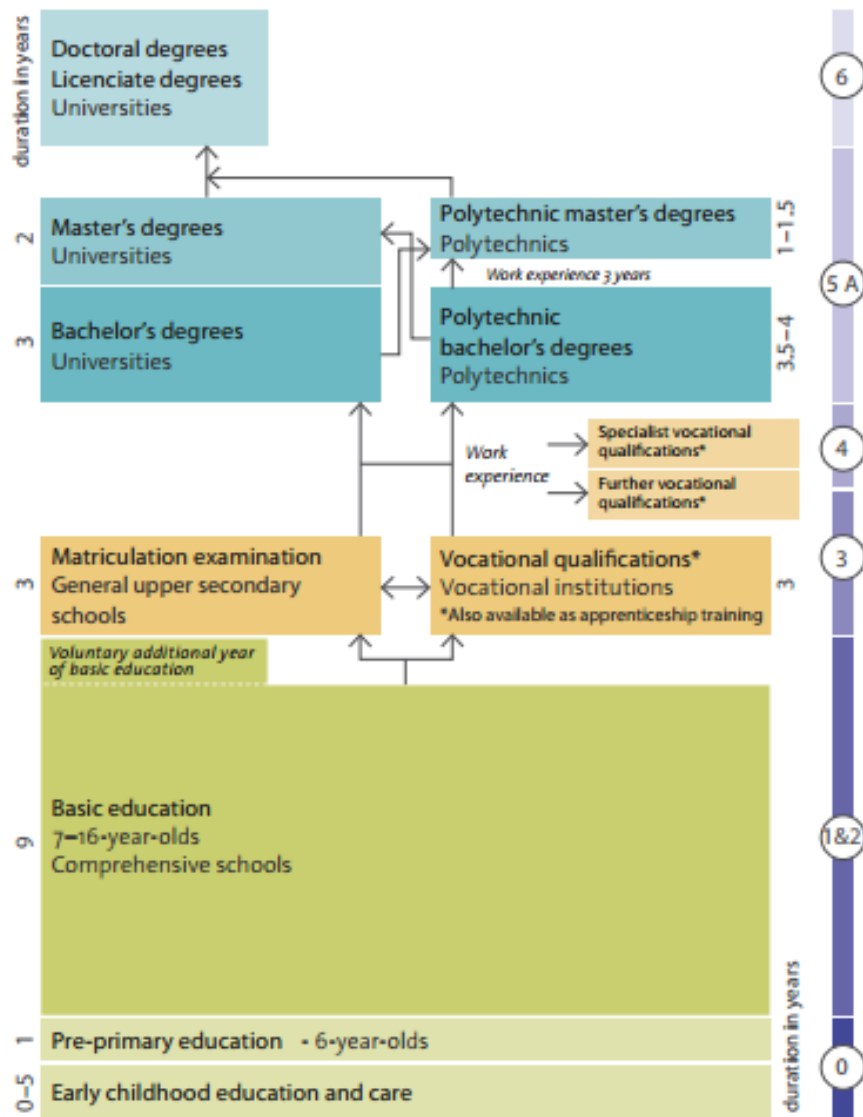
STANDARDIZATION  **PERSONALIZATION**

SCHOOL CHOICE  **EQUITY**

Education system in Finland

The main objective of Finnish education policy is **to offer all citizens equal opportunities** to receive education. The system is **highly permeable**, that is, there are **no dead-ends preventing progression** to higher levels of education.

The focus in education is on learning rather than testing. There are no national tests for pupils in basic education in Finland. The only national examination, **the matriculation examination**, is held at the end of general upper secondary education. Commonly admission to higher education is based on the results in the matriculation examination and entrance tests.



Education system in Finland, structure

- Flexible Education System for Lifelong Learning (LLL)
- Required Teacher Qualifications and master degree in comprehensive schools

Flexible Education System for Lifelong Learning (LLL)

Common LLL objectives of core curricula and strategic plans:

- Readiness to continue studying in the next level
- Learning to learn - Increasing responsibility for one's own learning
- Personal growth



Leading Principles:

- Equity
- Flexible structures
- A high level of education for all

Fundamental basis of the educational system:
Public funding, high quality teachers, education as a basic service

Required Teacher Qualifications by Type of Finnish School

Type of School	Age of pupils	Grades	Required teacher qualifications
Kindergarten	0-6		Kindergarten teacher (BA)
Pre-school	6		Kindergarten teacher (BA) Primary school teacher (MA)
Comprehensive School (Peruskoulu)			
Primary School	7--12	1--6	Primary school teacher (MA)
Lower-Secondary School	13--15	7--9	Subject teacher (MA)
General Upper-Secondary	16--18	10--12	Subject teacher (MA)
Vocational Upper-Secondary			Vocational teacher (BA) Subject teacher (MA)
University	19--		Higher academic degree (MA/PhD)
Polytechnic			Higher education degree (MA/PhD)