

# FINNISH EDUCATION IN A NUTSHELL



# EDUCATION IN FINLAND

**A central objective of Finnish education policy is to provide all citizens with equal opportunities to receive education irrespective of their age, domicile, financial situation, sex or native language.**



# FEATURES OF BASIC EDUCATION

- a nine-year comprehensive curriculum for the whole age group
- no charges
- free school lunch, school transport/5km, text books and teaching materials, school health service
- no degree; a final certificate will be given for completing the syllabus
- may include voluntary one-year pre-school and voluntary one-year additional education (10th form)
- provides eligibility for all upper secondary education
- dropping out of school and repeating years are rare
- compulsory education is fulfilled by completing the basic education syllabus
- local authorities can also provide voluntary morning and afternoon activities for pupils in basic education



<b>Subject</b>	<b>class 1</b>	<b>class 2</b>	<b>class 3</b>	<b>class 4</b>	<b>class 5</b>	<b>class 6</b>	<b>class 7</b>	<b>class 8</b>	<b>class 9</b>	<b>1-9</b>
Mother tongue	7	7	5	5	4-	5	3	3	3	42-
A-language			2	2	2	2	2	3	3	16
B-language							2	2	2	6
Mathematics	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	32
Environmental Studies	1-	2	3	3						9-
Biology/Geography					2	1-	2	2	3	10-
Physics/Chemistry					1	1				2
Chemistry							1	1,5	1	7
Physics							1	1,5	1	
Health Education							0-	0-	0-	3
Religion/Ethics	1	1	1	1-	1-	2	1	1	1	11-
History/Social Studies					2	1-	2	2	3	10-
Music	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1			7-
Visual Art	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	2			8-
Craft	1-	1-	2-	2-	2-	2-	3			13-
Physical education	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2-	2	2	2	18-
Home economics							3			3
Pupil counselling							0-	0-	0-	2
Elective subjects								7	6	13
Lessons per week	19-	19-	23-	23-	24-	24-	30	30	30	222-
Optional language				2	2	2	2	2	2	12

Distribution of classroom hours:  
**Basic education**



# FEATURES OF GENERAL UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL

- the admission requirement for the upper secondary school is the completion of comprehensive school
- upper secondary schools select their students mainly on the basis of previous study record
- in practise application takes place through the national joint application procedure
- upper secondary school studies primarily aim at further studies at the tertiary level
- progress in studies is individual
- syllabus planned for three years
- possible to finish in two years, maximum four years
- students usually 16-19 years of age
- upper secondary school instruction also provided for adults, adjusted to their circumstances
- more than half of each age group complete upper secondary school



# MATRICULATION EXAM

- **at the end of general upper secondary education students usually take the matriculation examination**
- **the examination consists of at least four tests**
  - **compulsory tests:**  
**mother tongue and three other compulsory tests from among the following four tests: a second national language test, a foreign language test, the mathematics test, and one test in the general studies battery of tests (sciences and humanities).**
  - **optional tests:**  
**the candidate may include as part of his or her examination more optional tests**
- **a separate assessment system:**  
**the tests are initially checked and assessed by each upper secondary school's teacher of the subject in question and finally by the Finnish Matriculation Examination Board.**



# eLEARNING AT SCHOOLS IN KUOPIO

- **computers and Internet are often used for educational purposes at schools in Kuopio, either at teacher-led classroom situations or for student-centred individual tasks**
- **several Virtual Learning Environments are in use (Pedanet tools, Moodle)**
- **also open-source (free) material is being utilized**
- **at general upper secondary schools lessons can be saved to be watched later by the students (video lessons)**
- **use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) diversified and flexible learning paths but requires adequate skills from both teachers and students**
- **ICT skills of teachers are supported by offering training for teachers, student ICT skills are enhanced either by integrated teaching or separate voluntary courses.**



# TEACHERS

- **all teachers have university level degrees**
- **pre-school education teachers have Bachelor's degrees from a university**
- **class teachers are Masters of Education and subject teachers have completed a Master's degree in the subject they teach as well as pedagogical studies**



# KUOPIO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- **Regular and intensive courses, Basic to Advanced level courses, Internet courses, Specialised and Tailor-made courses, Language and Computer Skills examinations**
- **Subjects:**  
**Computers, Information Technology and Telecommunications, Languages, Literature and Drama, Social and Community Studies, Music, Dance, Health and Fitness, Art, Cookery, Textile Handicrafts, Children's Art School, Stonework, Metalwork, Woodwork.**
- **Workshops: Computer workshop, Machine knitting workshops and Sewing workshop.**
- **Daytime, evening and weekend courses. Week-long, term-long and year-long courses. Multimedia and web courses.**



# CITY OF KUOPIO

## SCHOOLS:

Basic Education	32
General Upper Secondary Education (incl. North Savo Region Academy of Sports and International Baccalaureate IB)	5
General Upper Secondary Education for Adults	1
Community College	1

## PUPILS/STUDENTS:

Preschool Education	805
Basic Education	8601
General Upper Secondary Education	2147
Community College	11500



# CITY OF KUOPIO

## TEACHERS:

<b>Basic Education</b>	<b>645</b>
<b>General Upper Secondary Education</b>	<b>174</b>
<b>Community College</b>	<b>220</b>

**(incl. full-time and part-time teachers)**

## OTHER STAFF:

<b>School psychologists</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>School pupil welfare officers</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>School helpers</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>School secretaries</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Department of Education</b>	<b>40</b>



# CITY OF KUOPIO

## BUDGET 2009:

<b>Basic Education</b>	<b>57.815.290 €</b>
<b>General Upper Secondary Education</b>	<b>12.600.884 €</b>
<b>Community College</b>	<b>2.193.670 €</b>



# CITY OF KUOPIO

## **EDUCATION IN ENGLISH:**

**The English Kindergarten of Kuopio  
(age group 3-7)**

**Rajala Primary School  
(age group 7-13)**

**Hatsala Classical School  
(age group 13-16)**

**Kuopion Lyseon lukio High School  
(age group 16-19)  
the IB Diploma programme**



# Educational Organization of Kuopio

## Board of Day Care and Education

### Director of Education

Development Committee

Providing Education

Pedagogical Development

Management Group

Management Team

Director of Day Care

Director of Basic Education

Director of Upper Secondary school

Head of Community College

Day Care Management Team

Basic Education Management Team

Upper Secondary Management Team

Community College Management Team

Chief financial management

Financial administration

Chief administration

Administration and personnel

Chief development

Learning environments

Chief information management

Information management

Chief school psychologist

Student welfare

Day Care Centres



Heads  
Personnel  
Children

Schools



Heads  
Personnel  
Pupils

Upper secondary schools



Heads  
Personnel  
Students

Community College



Teams  
Personnel  
Students

**Director of Education, Mrs. Heli Norja**  
Tel. +358(0)17 184 000  
Fax +358(0)17 184 210  
E-mail: heli.norja@kuopio.fi

**Director of Day Care, Mr. Pekka Lindell**  
Tel. +358(0)17 183 500  
Fax. +358(0)17 183 504  
E-mail: pekka.lindell@kuopio.fi

**Director of Basic Education, Mr. Kari Raninen**  
Tel. +358(0)17 184 010  
Fax +358(0)17 184 015  
E-mail: kari.raninen@kuopio.fi

**Director of General Upper Secondary Education,  
Mr. Heikki Turunen**  
Tel. +358(0)17 184 040  
Fax +358(0)17 184 009  
E-mail: heikki.turunen@kuopio.fi

**Community College**  
**Head, Mr. Hannu Pulkkinen**  
Tel. +358(0)17 184 701  
Fax +358(0)17 184 720  
E-mail: hannu.pulkkinen@kuopio.fi



**CITY OF KUOPIO  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES  
Vuorikatu 27  
70100 Kuopio  
Finland**

**Coordinator  
Mrs. Eila Kumpulainen  
eila.anneli.kumpulainen@kuopio.fi  
Tel. +358(0)17 184 001  
Fax +358(0)17 184 015**

