

## Finland

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In 2012-2013, 294 U.S. students studied abroad for academic credit in Finland.

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### Education System Overview:

**Academic year:** August – June

**Major school holidays/break:** June – August and Easter

**Major exam period(s):** February – March

### Structure of the university system:

- **Years of study required to earn a bachelor's degree:** Earning a bachelor's degree takes 3 to 4 years of full-time study. Higher education in Finland has a dual structure. Universities and polytechnics, also known as universities of applied sciences, provide higher education. Both sectors have their own profiles. Universities emphasize scientific research and instruction, whereas polytechnics adopt a more practical approach. Higher education institutions are very autonomous in organizing their instruction and academic year.
- **The language of instruction in universities:** Finnish and Swedish. There are also more than 500 study programs in English.

### Resources:

Organization: The Finnish National Board of Education

Website: [www.oph.fi/english](http://www.oph.fi/english)

Organization: Ministry of Education and Culture

Website: [www.minedu.fi/OPM/?lang=en](http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/?lang=en)

### Know Before You Go

- [How to Apply for U.S. Passport](#)
- [Country Specific Travel Information](#)



## **U.S. Government-Sponsored Study and Exchange Programs**

- **Fulbright U.S. Student Program**
- **Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program**
- **Gilman International Scholarship**