



## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN FINLAND

High-quality vocational education and training (VET) gives nations and their economies a skilled professional work force that plays a key role in promoting competitiveness and prosperity. On an individual level, it offers young people the skills required in work life today. This is not enough, however; it should also provide them with a solid foundation for the life-long learning they need to further develop their competencies and succeed in the changing world of tomorrow. Drawing from its expertise in a diverse selection of vocational programs, the FinnWayLearning educational consortium stands ready to offer answers to these challenges.





## School-based vocational education and training

The Finnish curriculum for VET is set at three different levels. At the top level, there is a national core curriculum that determines the composition of studies for each vocational qualification. It also includes provisions on student assessment and counseling, on-the-job learning and special education. Furthermore, it sets and defines the roles played by the next two levels, the local level which consists of the locally approved curriculum that is specific for each education provider, and the personal level, each student's individual study plan.

Finnish national vocational qualification requirements use a learning-outcome based approach, and as such reflect substantial input from the world of work. All vocational education includes a period of on-the-job training, which takes at least half a year of the three usually required for a vocational qualification. During this period, the student/trainees work with skilled



workplace instructors to gain optimal benefits for their work life readiness. On-the-job training commonly culminates in a skills demonstration, a work assignment that is performed in an authentic setting and assessed by vocational teachers in cooperation with workplace representatives.

## Pre-vocational programs

Students may apply to a pre-vocational program aimed at ensuring a successful transition to education leading to a vocational qualification. The programs are specifically designed to assist prospective students who do not have a clear career choice or require preparatory education to reach sufficient capabilities for vocational education.

## Apprenticeship training

Apprenticeship training provides another route to vocational qualifications. Approximately three quarters of apprenticeship training takes place in a work environment, where each trainee is assigned a workplace instructor. The program also includes classroom studies, usually provided either by a vocational institute or an adult education center.

## VET teacher qualifications

Vocational teachers in Finland must have completed an appropriate university or polytechnic degree and the pedagogical studies for teachers. In addition to this, they need at least three years of relevant work experience; the requirements for guidance counselors and special needs teachers also include a specialization in these subjects.

## What FinnWayLearning can offer

- study visits covering any aspect of Finnish vocational education and training (prices start at €1000/day for a group of 10 or less)
- training for teachers, experts and workplace instructors (starting from 2500€/day)
- expert consultation

Please contact us to find out more!



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