

Student admission in Oulu International School as of 1.1.2021

Dno

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Summary

On 19.12.2019 §189, the City of Oulu Education and Culture Committee have confirmed the principles to be applied in the admission of students to Basic Education. The principles of student admission in the City of Oulu were reviewed expressly for Oulu International School. The new decision repeals the previous decision on the student admission of Oulu International School.

Class size is defined as follows: for grades 1-2 maximum 22 students and maximum 25 students in grades 3-9.

In addition, in the future student admission will be carried out in the same way as for other schools in Oulu separately for grades 1-6 and 7-9. Continuous enrolment may increase the class size to 25 in grades 1-2 and to 28 in other grades. As of 2022, pre-schoolers from Pikku-Ainon päiväkoti will apply to the international school through language tests.

Motion

The Education and Culture Committee approves the Oulu International School's new admission policy as proposed as of 1.1.2021. These will replace the principles decided for the International School by the Education and Culture Committee on 19.12.2019 § 189.

Decision

The motion was approved.

Introduction

Background

Oulu International School is a basic education school delivering the national curriculum and IB programme. The language of instruction is English, but Finnish is taught to all students either as a mother tongue or as a second language. In addition, Swedish starts in the sixth grade according to the Curriculum. The International School addresses well the needs of students coming from international families or students who are linguistically gifted.

The size of the International School has increased since 2015 to 2020 by more than 100 students (437 on 20.9.2020). Due to the increase in the number of students, it is necessary to review student admission in order to keep the class sizes within reasonable limits.

The students of Oulu International School learn all school subjects in English. Their language skills must be at such a level that they are able to follow the teaching of all subjects, teachers' instructions and learning materials in English.

Students' English language proficiency is expected to be at the level of B1 according to the European Framework of Reference for Languages, in order for language not to become an obstacle for learning different

subjects. Admission to the International School requires passing the English language test. The language test includes a written and an oral component. The same principle and language level requirement is also applied by other international schools in Finland.

Student admission as of 1.1.2021

The City of Oulu Education and Culture Committee has confirmed the principles applicable to the student admission in basic education on 19.12.2019 §189.

For the International School, the City of Oulu student admission guidelines as of 1.1.2021 are proposed to be as follows:

The class sizes of Oulu International School are defined as follows:

- in grades 1-2, maximum of 22 students
- in grades 3-9, maximum of 25 students

Admission is done separately for grades 1-6 and 7-9.

A maximum of 22 students are admitted on the basis of the annual entrance test in February. For those who enroll during the spring and summer, an entrance test is held in August.

In the entrance test, those students who pass the test with at least the minimum required score are admitted, and are placed in a ranking order starting from the highest score. Those students who exceed the admission score limit but cannot be admitted due to lack of space, are kept on a waiting list to wait for admission for one academic year.

Students waiting for admission will be taught at another City of Oulu school. Admission priority is given based on the order of scores, and secondarily by lottery if there are applicants with the same score and hence all of them cannot be admitted.

Foreign-language children moving from abroad and from other parts of Finland are admitted to the school on a continuous basis. Continuous admission may increase the class size to 25 in grades 1-2 and to 28 in other grades.

As of 2022, pre-school children attending the City of Oulu Pikku-Ainon päiväkoti will apply to the international school through language tests.

As of spring 2021, Finnish-speaking applicants living in Finland will have to pass a Finnish language test in order to be admitted to the international school. Only the English language test will be scored (the

Finnish test score is not ranked). Students will be admitted to class based on the ranking list of the English test scores, taking into account the class size.

Admission of students from another municipality to the international school always requires an agreement between the municipalities.

Decision history	Education and Culture Committee 19.12.2019 § 189
Annexes	-
Attachments	-
Rapporteur	Director of Education and Culture Mika Penttilä
Prepared by	Education and Culture Services/ Director of Basic Education and Youth Marjut Nurmivuori tel. 044 703 9767, Regional Manager Leena Sankilampi tel. 050 341 3980, Quality Manager Pauliina Kanervo tel. 050 592 3965 and Regional Planner Minna Hellsten tel. 044 703 9042
Implementation information	Extracts: preparers, Principal of the International School Raija Perttunen, Director of the Pikku-Aino Kindergarten Helinä Pykäläaho No right of appeal.