



Oulu2026
Euroopan kulttuuri-
pääkaupunki



General Upper Secondary Education (lukio) in Finland and in Oulu

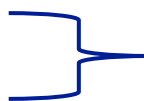


SIVISTYS- JA
KULTTUURIPALVELUT

OULU

Overview of the Finnish Education system

- Stages of Education in Finland:
 - Age 6: pre-primary education
 - Ages 7-12: primary education
 - Ages 13-15: lower secondary education
 - Ages: 16-18: upper secondary education (general/vocational)
 - Ages 18+: Higher education
- All 6–18-year-olds participate in compulsory education
 - All compulsory education is free of charge to the student



Comprehensive school (peruskoulu)

Pathways after Comprehensive School

- After a 9-year comprehensive school, students choose
 - general upper secondary education (lukio)
 - or vocational education (ammattikoulu)

Both give eligibility for higher education (University or University of Applied Sciences)





General Upper Secondary Education Structure

- Syllabus designed for 3 years (can be completed in 2–4 years)
- Modular instruction, no strict lesson plan
- Instead, students create individual study schedules
- Each student must complete at least 150 credits
- One study unit, or course, is generally 1-3 credits
- Assessment after each study unit



Courses are picked from a tray of choices



Example. This is all hybrid courses in Oulu in periods 1 and 2. It's a lot less than what the students choose from when choosing courses that they have in-person at their school. The codes are courses.

1. periodi 6.8.-26.9.

1.	RAA04.elukio.osyk	SAB37.elukio.kastelli	TE05.elukio.laanila			
2.	RUA04.elukio.ralu	SAB34.elukio.kastelli				
3.	BI11.elukio.kilu	FI06.elukio.ousa				
4.	EAA07.elukio.lyseo	RUA07.elukio.ralu	S25.elukio.ralu	SAA04.elukio.kastelli	MAB13.elukio.kastelli	UE08.elukio.halu
5.						
6.	ENA08.elukio.kilu	HI08.elukio.madis				
7.						
8.						
Keskiviikkoisin klo. 16.15-17.45: UO01.elukio.lyseo & UO02.elukio.lyseo						

2. periodi 29.9.-25.11.

1.	EAA04.elukio.lyseo	RAA05.elukio.lyseo	SAB38.elukio.kastelli		
2.	S210.elukio.ralu	SAB35.elukio.kastelli			
3.	KEo6.elukio.osyk	ENA07.elukio.kilu			
4.	RAA07.elukio.lyseo	SAA01.elukio.kastelli	SAA02.elukio.kastelli	EN20.elukio.kilu	
5.	RUA08.elukio.ralu				
6.					
7.					
8.					
Keskiviikkoisin klo. 16.15-17.45: UO01.elukio.lyseo & UO02.elukio.lyseo					

(RAA04.elukio.osyk → RAA04 = 4th French course, elukio = hybrid, osyk = what school is in-person teaching held at)

Curriculum and Local Autonomy

- National core curriculum set by Finnish National Agency for Education
- Local providers adapt curriculum to regional needs and strengths
- Students can take electives from higher education or vocational institutions

Matriculation Examination

- National exam at the end of lukio
- 5 compulsory tests:
 - Finnish or Swedish,
 - plus four tests from at least three categories
 - second national language,
 - foreign language,
 - mathematics,
 - general studies (humanities/natural sciences)
- Additional tests possible
- The exam is completely digital
- Students get a certificate for the Matriculation exam as well as a certificate of final grades



Equity and Support

- Education is free at all levels (except some adult/arts/higher ed. for non-EU/EEA)
- Free materials, meals, and transport for students living far from school
 - Course material and books
 - A computer
- Students have access to a guidance counselor, special education teacher, school social worker and school psychologist
- There is also usually a home room teacher



Pedagogical Autonomy at National and Local Level

- Teachers must hold a master's degree
- Teacher education includes teaching practice
- Teachers have high professional autonomy
- Local authorities and schools have high autonomy
- Quality assurance relies on self-evaluation and national evaluations, not inspections
- Most education is publicly funded and must follow the national curriculum



General Upper Secondary Education in Oulu

- Oulu has 10 General Upper Secondary Schools
 - 9 regular schools
 - 1 adult upper secondary school
 - Adult students
 - Preparatory education after Comprehensive school
 - Students that can't speak Finnish
- We have roughly 5 000 students and 280 teachers



Oulun eLukio - Hybrid Teaching in Oulu

- Some courses are held in one school and students from other schools may attend remotely
- Every school has at least one Hybrid Classroom
 - A Teams Room device for streaming
 - A catchbox microphone for teacher and students
 - A camera that follows the teacher
- Teachers are encouraged to use digital learning platforms, such as Moodle
- Hybrid Teaching is mostly used for prep courses for the Matriculation Exam, advanced foreign language courses and some elective courses

Planned AI Tools

- Oulu is focusing on AI Tools and instructions for both faculty and students in the future
- Planned in 2026
 - M365 Copilot for all Teachers
 - K-13 Copilot Chat for Students
 - AI training for all faculty
 - Instructions and guidelines for how to use AI both for Teachers and Students

OuLukiopäivät – Local In-Service Training for all Teachers

- OuLukiopäivät – A combination of the words Oulu and Lukio and day (päivä)
- Teaching in Lukio is held independently for the day and all teachers meet
- The day usually consists of
 - A lecture or similar for all teachers
 - A meeting of the different subject teachers
 - Elective workshops and lectures
- The most common feedback is that discussions among teachers is the most important part of the day