

Letter to the guardians about the 9th grade joint application system 2019



Dear Guardian of a 9th grade student,

Your child is facing an important choice as it is time to apply for further education in the joint application system. Choosing a new educational institution can be a difficult and demanding process. At the same time, it is an interesting and an exciting possibility that is one of the most important choices in life. The Finnish school system is flexible and regardless of the primary choice it offers a opportunity to re-choose or study further. No option is worse than another. It is essential however, that everyone has a chance to apply for the most appropriate educational option. Everyone has their own wishes, interests, individual characteristics, strengths and talents. Most importantly, people of all trades are needed. It is vital that we plan and reflect upon the future in a constructive manner, taking our time, both at school and at home. The mere knowledge of different schools is not enough. When choosing a career, the most important element is knowing oneself.



We cover the basic facts about educational options and application process during student counselling lessons. You can find additional information about the joint application system at www.opintopolku.fi. In addition, the students can use the year 9 student guidance counselling website and or Classroom and the school website.

We encourage the students to visit different educational institutions (up to a maximum of three during school time but students may visit as many as they like outside of school time). The guardians may visit the institutions with their children when schools organise open doors.

We give individual counselling. The guardians may also contact the student counsellor via Wilma, e-mail or by phone. The guardians are involved as we ask you to fill out a **planning form** (in Finnish) and return it by the winter holiday.

9ABFG

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Facts about the joint application system

- The joint application system in spring 2019 is a **nationwide process** and is used to apply for upper secondary or vocational study programmes beginning in the autumn term 2019
- The application form is completed online starting **on the 19th of February 2018, closing at 3pm on the 12th of March 2019**
- There is **one form** to be completed at www.opintopolku.fi
- You can include **five educational institutions on the form**. The order is binding!
- The application form is completed at school with the student guidance counsellor or at home with a guardian.
- The student selection is based on the **grades in the final report card**.
- In case there are aptitude tests or entrance exams, check the info from the school's website or from Opintopolku.
- The educational institutions inform the applicants about the results on the **13th of June 2019 at the earliest**.
- You must confirm the study place with the educational institution by the 27th of June 2019.

Timeline 2018

Joint application timeline

Prosessin vaihe	Aikataulu
1. Application time for vocational education and upper secondary education	19.2.2019-12.3.2019
2. Invitation to the entrance exams and aptitude tests (Some schools don't send an invitation or require students to attend.) Tests are organised in April - May.	March-April
4. The applicants are informed of the results beginning the 14th of June 2018	13.6.2019
5. Confirmation of the study place with the education provider by the 28th June 2018.	27.6.2019
6. The waiting list expires the 17th of August 2018.	17.8.2019

Application timeline for voluntary additional basic education (Year 10), preparatory education for vocational training (VALMA) and preparatory education for upper secondary training (LUVA)

Application time begins the 21st of May and finishes at 3pm on the 23th of July 2019. The results will be published in the beginning of August 2019. The study place must be confirmed according to the guidelines from the school.

Criteria for student acceptance

Students are required to have a basic education certificate to be accepted into an educational programme included in the joint application system. Vocational programmes cannot accept applicants whose illness or handicap that clearly prevents them from participating. The student guidance counsellors and the school nurse help to clarify aspects linked to health in career planning.

The minimum of grade point average and points gained in entrance tests varies from year to year in upper secondary schools and vocational schools. Typically 7.00 has been the minimum in order to enter an upper secondary school or a dual certificate programme.

In this case a student has a special reason such as a learning disability, social reason that has affected their achievement at school, or a certificate completed abroad student can apply for discretionary consideration. An official document is required and it is to be delivered according to the instructions given at www.opintopolku.fi.

Vocational upper secondary qualification programmes

Points are given to the applicants the following manner:

- A. Completing basic education or voluntary additional basic education in the year of lodging of the application 6p
- B. General success in studies max. 16p
- C. Emphasised subjects (arts and skills subjects) max. 8p
- D. The first school on the applicant's list 2p
- E. Possible entrance or aptitude test 1-10p

The applicants are listed based on the points gained according to the aforementioned system. Applicants can often gain extra points based on previous studies, hobbies and other extra activities in dance, music and sports instructor programmes. More information about the points given can be found on the school websites and at www.opintopolku.fi

The points provided by General success in studies (C) are calculated based on the arithmetic average of the following subjects to two decimal places

Finnish as a native tongue and literature/ Finnish and literature	Chemistry
Second national language	Biology
Foreign languages	Geography
Religion or ethics	Health Education
History	Physical Education
Civics	Music
Mathematics	Art
Physics	Handicrafts
	Home Economics

Upper secondary education

Students are selected according to their theoretical subjects' grade point average. The theoretical subjects in the above list are written in black. Some upper secondary schools organise an entrance exam or an interview or require a personal application in addition to considering the grade point average. Some upper secondary schools also ask students to fill out a separate subject election card that is returned according to the school's instructions. The card is used to inform what subjects the student is planning to study during the first year. If a school uses a subject election card, it can be found on the school's website.

Prior to the actual application time (beginning the 19th of February 2019, ending the 12th of March 2019) students can practise completing the form. The demo version can be found at: www.demo-opintopolku.fi. The demo version will be closed about a week before the beginning of the joint application.

Alternative educational paths

- Voluntary additional basic education (Year 10)
- Preparatory education for vocational training (VALMA)
- Preparatory education for upper secondary education (LUVA)
- Upper secondary programmes for adults (well justified cases only)
- Apprenticeship training
- Vocational and general programmes in folk high school

For more information, ask the student guidance counsellors or see www.opintopolku.fi or the institutions' websites.

When applying for programmes that are not part of the joint application system, **students must make sure by themselves** that they fill out a form and deliver it in due time. Student guidance counsellors help when needed.