Welcome to the Parents' Evening 18.11.2026

Upper Secondary School Principal Minnariitta Raitio
Guidance Counselors Pilvi Kantola, Kaisa Macdonald & Salli Rantanen



Themes of the Evening

- Principals' greetings
- Graduation criteria
- Support for learning
- Second-year students’ updates
- Further studies after upper secondary school
- Supporting a student turning 18

Principals' Greetings

- Matters concerning an adult student cannot be disclosed or discussed with a guardian without the student's permission.
- Wilma accounts are removed automatically, but the student can grant permission in Wilma for the guardian to continue viewing their information.
- Working during studies is not recommended unless strictly necessary
  - increases workload
  - scheduling and priority conflicts
- Extra leaves of absence
  - independent study
  - affects assessment
  - may interrupt a course if there are other absences
- General good conduct and study peace

Graduation Criteria

- **Upper secondary school graduation certificate:** 150 credits
  - compulsory study units 94–102 cr
  - national optional study units at least 20 cr
  - at least ⅔ of completed studies in each subject passed

- **Matriculation examination:**
  - can only be awarded once the upper secondary school graduation certificate is completed
  - passed exam in at least five subjects
    - one failed exam can be compensated with passing grades in other compulsory subjects included in the degree (compensation 10 points)

Matriculation Examination



Lähde: https://www.ylioppilastutkinto.fi/fi/tutkinnon-suorittaminen/tutkinnon-rakenne

Current Info on Matriculation Examination

- The entire examination is in Finnish and completed on a computer
- Exams included in the degree must be completed within three consecutive examination periods
  - If starting in the spring of year 2, the final examination period is in the spring of year 3
- Recommendation: start in the autumn of year 3, main focus in the spring of year 3, which also includes reading period
  - Revision courses are organized according to the school's exam recommendation either in autumn, spring, or both
  - Starting in the spring of year 2 is not recommended, as it is a maturity test
- Retaking and supplementing the degree
  - The number of retakes is not limited
  - The degree can also be supplemented later with exams in new subjects
- Free of charge policy
  - The first five exams in different subjects are free of charge, as well as retaking them if a failing grade is received
  - Retaking a passed exam, extra subjects, and supplementing the degree are subject to a fee
- Special arrangements
  - Extra time
  - Small group room (max. 8 candidates)
  - Room for resting
  - Contact special education teacher (Marianne Lehtola 24ab or Taru Alkio 24c-f)

Support for Learning

- Remedial teaching was added nationwide to study support in August 2025
- The purpose of support is to pass the syllabus
  - initiative can come from the teacher, student, or guardian of a minor student
- versatile teaching methods and differentiation in lessons
- group-based support is primary
  - remedial study modules (Swedish, mathematics)
  - weekly math and mother tongue cafe
- individual remedial teaching
  - for a student who has difficulty passing study modules
  - for a student who has temporarily fallen behind e.g. due to illness (not due to extra holidays or unauthorized absences)
- the student has the right to refuse the offered support

Current Topics in Year 2



Studying & Traditions

- Studying compulsory and elective study modules
- Studies intensify, supporting well-being in studies is emphasized
- Time management is key
- Wanhat Dance

Consideration of Further Studies Begins

- Exploring higher education and different post-secondary options

Matriculation Examination Approaches

- Matriculation exam plan becomes specified
- Registration for autumn 2027 exams in May

Modifying the Study Plan Still Possible

- For example, changing course levels in mathematics
- Study extension plans (3.5 and 4 years)

Options After Upper Secondary School

University

www.yliopistovalinnat.fi

University of Applied Sciences

www.ammattikorkeakouluun.fi

Open University / UAS

www.opin.fi

Vocational Education & Apprenticeship

Folk High Schools

www.kansanopistot.fi

Studies Abroad

Gap Year

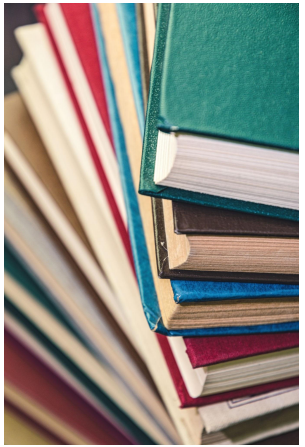
Next

- Admission criteria for Universities of Applied Sciences
- Admission criteria for Universities
- Open University pathway
- First-time applicant status
- Studies abroad



Admission Criteria for Universities of Applied Sciences

Eligibility: General upper secondary syllabus and/or Matriculation Examination



Certificate-based Admission

- Based on Matriculation Examination grades.
- Points are awarded for five subjects.
- The best possible combination is automatically calculated for the applicant.

UAS Entrance Examination

- A shared digital entrance exam that requires no advance reading material.

Other Admission Routes

- Pathway studies (e.g., via Open UAS)
- Aptitude test (social and health care, culture, building architecture, and sea captain training)

Certificate-Based Admission for Universities of Applied Sciences

In certificate-based admission, points are awarded for a maximum of five subjects.

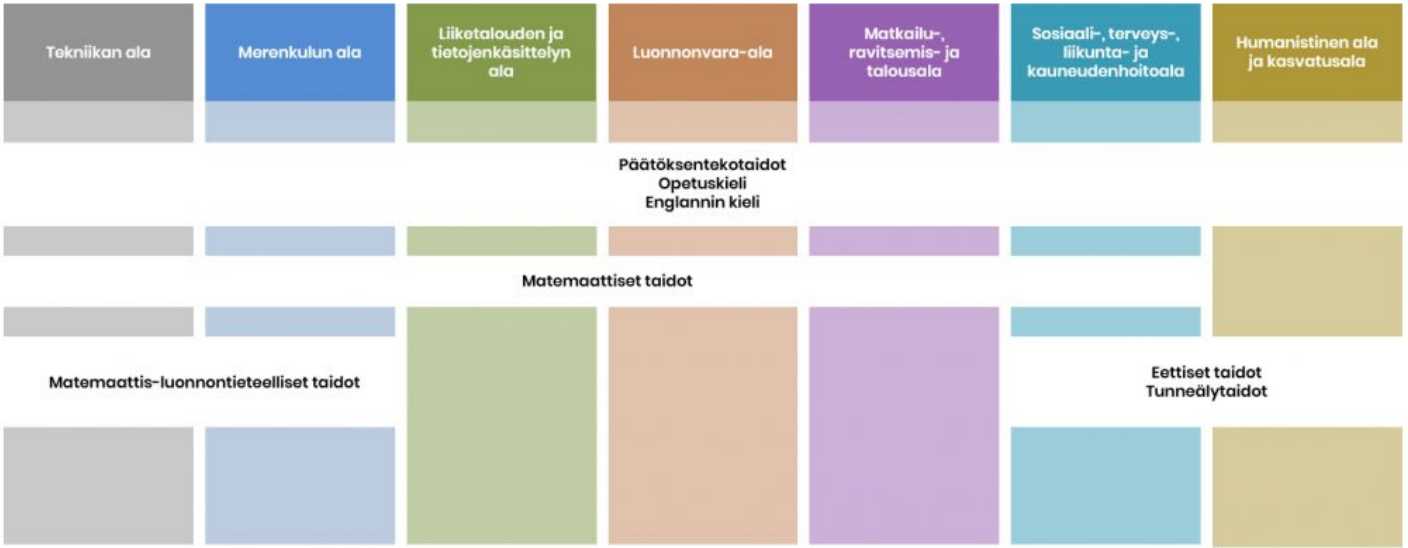
The scored subjects are:

- Mother tongue (Finnish, Swedish, Saami, Finnish as a second language, or Swedish as a second language)
- Mathematics
- Foreign language / second national language
- Two general subjects / foreign languages

Scoring table for Universities of Applied Sciences



University of Applied Science - Entrance exams



University Admission Criteria 1/2



Eligibility: Matriculation examination certificate and high school diploma

Certificate-Based Admission

- Based on grades in the matriculation examination certificate.
- Generally, 5–6 subjects are scored
- Generally 40–80% of study places are filled via certificate-based admission
- Universities decide how large a share of places is filled by certificate admission & whether it is used only for first-time applicants

Entrance Examinations

- **Nine national entrance exam groups**, measuring applicant suitability and ability to perform in studies.
- The exams are divided into **sections common to all and subject-specific sections.**

University Admission Criteria 2/2

Threshold conditions and direct admission

- Some fields have **threshold conditions**, e.g., a specific grade in mother tongue.
- Some study options also use **direct admission**, where a certain grade guarantees a study place directly.



Other admission routes (less common)

- Open University route: Studies at open university can lead to degree student status.
- Demonstration route
- Competitions, e.g., in natural science fields

Important to check the admission criteria for your field on Opintopolku!

University Entrance Examinations

- 9 national, digital entrance exams
- The same entrance exam can be used to apply to multiple universities and degree programmes
- Organized after certificate-based selection results are published, in late May / early June
- Measures knowledge and skills acquired in high school (generic capabilities and/or subject-specific knowledge) - does not require long preparation in advance
- Broad general knowledge and skills achieved in native language play a major role:
  - Adopting and applying scientific knowledge and concepts
  - Analytical and critical examination of materials
  - Source criticism and interpretation of phenomena

Entrance Exams by Field of Study

Exam A: Physics, chemistry, mathematical sciences, nanoscience, computer science, and engineering

Exam B: Biochemistry and molecular biosciences, biomedicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, medicine, and nutrition science

Exam C: Biology and environmental sciences, food sciences, geosciences, geography, agricultural science, and forest sciences

Exam D: Logopedics, psychology, health sciences, nursing science, sports coaching science, and biology of physical activity

Exam E: Educational sciences and physical education

Exam F: Business studies, economics, information systems science, and environmental and food economics

Exam G: Administrative science, law, social sciences, communication sciences, and social sciences of sport

Exam H: Philosophy, history, cultural studies, art studies, and theology

Exam I: Languages, linguistics, and literature

Structure of University Entrance Examinations

- The sections completed in the exam vary depending on the study options
- Applicants only complete the sections required for their chosen study options
- Study options requiring mastery of the high school syllabus in specific subjects
  - e.g. medicine: chemistry, physics, biology
- Advance material provided 2–3 days prior
  - e.g. law

Example: Entrance Exam G



Other Entrance Examinations

- Some fields of study have other types of entrance examinations instead of or in addition to written entrance exams.
- **Aptitude tests** usually include an interview, but they may also include written sections, among other things. Aptitude tests are used, for example, in teacher education study options.
- **Entrance exams for fields of art** at Aalto University, University of Lapland, University of the Arts Helsinki, and Tampere University differ from others. They are typically multi-stage and consist of various written and oral individual and group assignments.
- **Entrance exams for architecture**, on the other hand, include a drawing and design examination.

Preparing for Entrance Examinations in Upper Secondary School

- digital skills; Abitti exams
- text analysis in native language and subject studies
- bilingual instruction and English-language materials during study modules
- searching for information about entrance exams for chosen study options in guidance classes and individual counseling
    - exam structure and past entrance exams available on the yliopistovalinnat.fi website

Open Higher Education Pathway

- A separate application route to apply for degree studies at a university of applied sciences or university based on completed open higher education studies
- You can apply to up to six degree programs through the Open Pathway application
- Admission criteria vary by university and degree programme
- Open higher education offers a great opportunity to explore a field even through individual courses
- Study voucher provides the opportunity to complete 30 credits in open university or university of applied sciences for those who graduated between 1 Dec 2025–31 July 2028 and participated in the joint application

First-Time Applicant Status

- For applicants applying for their first higher education place
  - aimed at improving the position of first-time applicants
- **First-time applicant status remains until accepting a higher education place**
- A certain quota of study places is allocated to first-time applicants
  - remaining places are filled based on admission criteria in order of rank among all applicants
- In some fields of study, certificate-based selection is only for first-time applicants

Further Studies Abroad

- Full degree vs. completing part of degree abroad?
- Most popular destinations amongst KSYK students: Netherlands, Sweden, Ireland, and USA
- Requires independence and self-initiative from the student
- Timely to start at this stage, requires extensive advance preparation
    - Application deadlines vary
    - Admission criteria
        - language test
        - motivation letter
        - teacher / guidance counselor recommendation letter
        - certificates and transcripts
    - Exploring universities: Open Days on-site or virtually
- Funding studies (application and tuition fees)
- Career opportunities after studies; in Finland or abroad?
- Guidance counselors support throughout the application process

How can home support a young person's future planning?

Identify the young person's strengths together

Ask curiously, show interest, and inquire about how the young person is doing

Encourage openness to different pathways

Foster hope for the future

Support independent decision-making and independence: Help with information search and reflection, but let the young person make the final choices and complete applications themselves – it fosters taking responsibility for future studies.

Encourage contacting the guidance counselor at a low threshold

Warmly welcome to watch Wanhojen tanssit

Wanhat dance will take place in the sports hall of Kulosaari Secondary School (Lato) on Thursday 18.2.2027 in two sessions during the evening. Specific performance times for each student will be clarified closer to the date.

Warmly welcome!