



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO  
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET  
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

# Finnish Teacher Education

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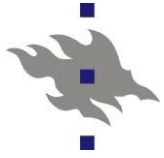
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Class teacher, subject teacher

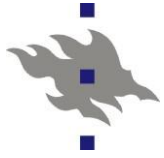
University of Helsinki,

Faculty of Educational Sciences



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FINLAND**

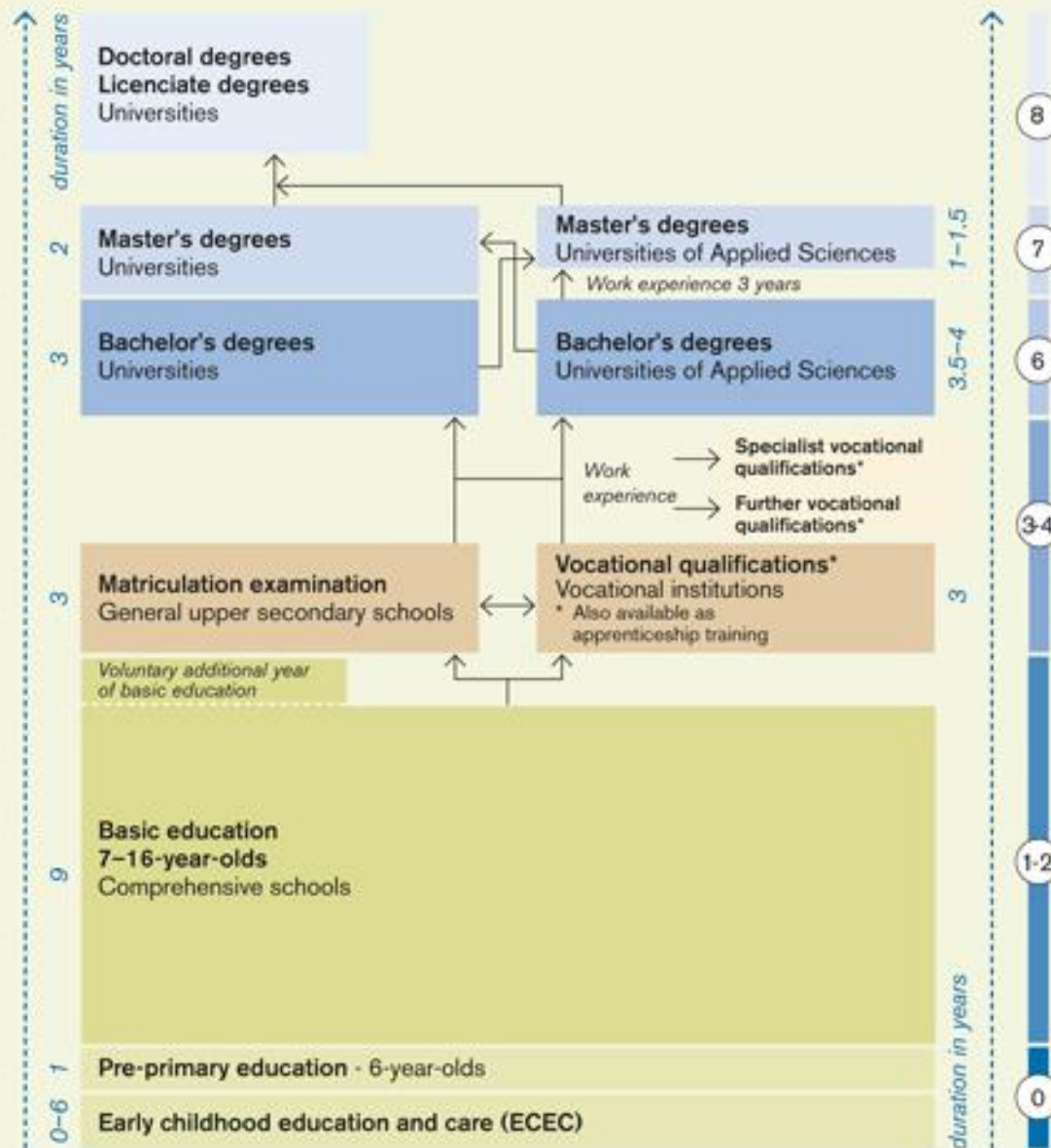
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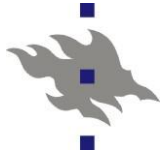


# **FINNISH EDUCATION SYSTEM FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION**



## Education system in Finland





## Main cornerstones of the Finnish education policy

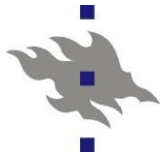
The following themes can be found in policy documents and educational publications

### **A. Common, consistent and long-term policy**

- basic models for teacher education and compulsory education are 40 years old
- support to the development of broad (full) literacy

### **B. Educational equality**

- compulsory education free of charge to all, including books, meals, transport and health care
- well-organized special education
- In practice, no streaming, no selection, no magnet schools with a special curriculum to draw students from wider areas



## Main cornerstones of the Finnish education policy

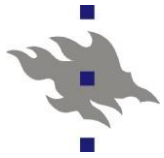
### **C. Devolution of decision power to the local level**

- a headmaster is a pedagogical director
- local authorities (together with the teachers) plan local curriculum, organise general assessment and use this data for evaluating the schools and for allocation of resources

### **D. The culture of trust (national level –district – school – families)**

- no inspectors, no national exams, only sample-based monitoring...
- no private tutoring or gram schools

(e.g., Halinen, 2008; Jakku-Sihvonen & Niemi, 2006; Laukkanen, 2008)



## Teachers in Finnish comprehensive school

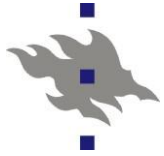
### A primary school teacher

- n teaches at grades 1 to 6 (ages 7 to 13)
- n Is qualified to teach typically all 13 school subjects at primary school level

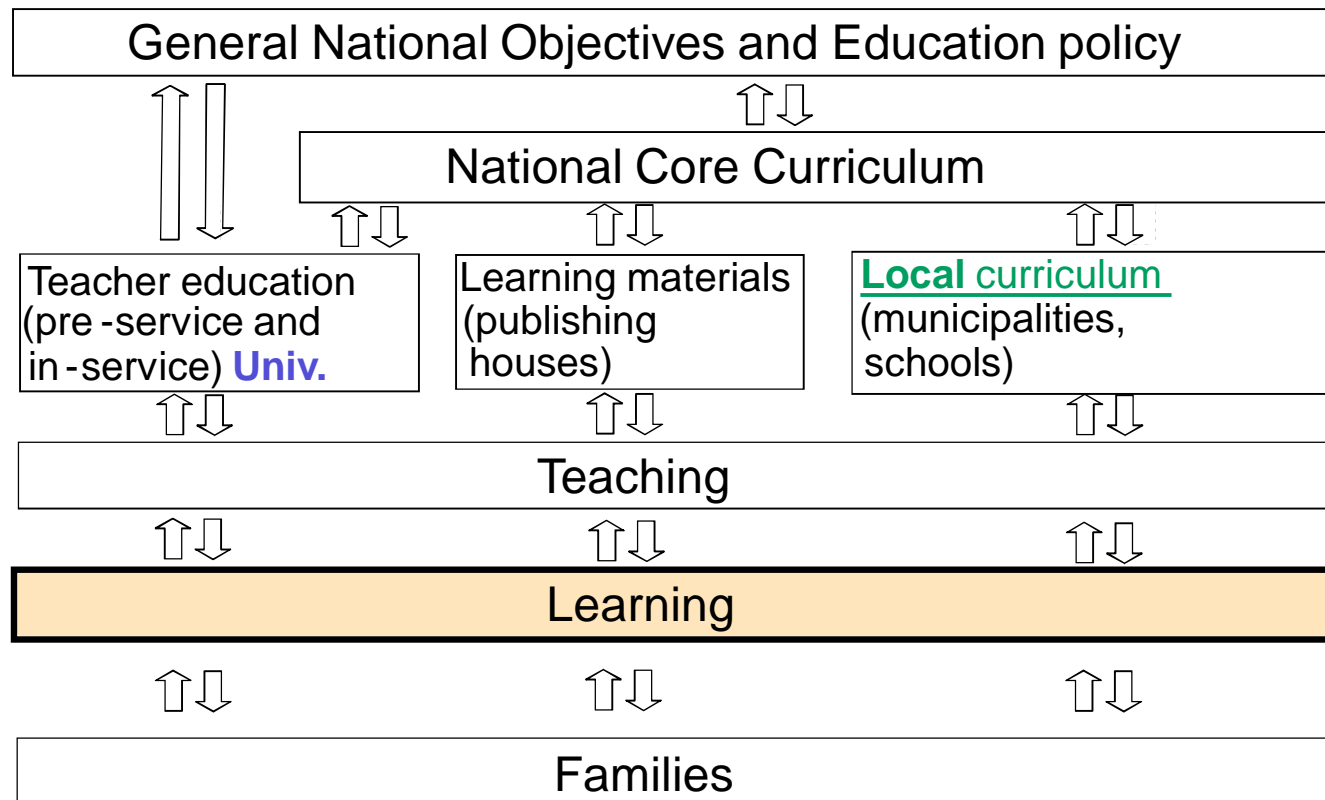
### A secondary school teacher

- n typically teaches at grades 7 to 12 (ages 13 to 19)
- n is qualified for teaching positions in all kinds of schools in his or her major or minor subject
- n teaches typically one major and one minor subjects (e.g. math and physics)

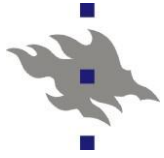
*According to PISA school questionnaire data, almost all teachers at the participating schools were qualified teachers.*



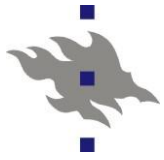
# Structure of Finnish Education







# TEACHER EDUCATION IN FINLAND

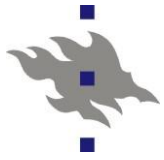


# Teacher education at the university level

## n In Finland

- n The training of subject teachers has been conducted at the university level since the early 19th century .
- n The training of class teachers (primary) was transferred over to be carried out by universities in the early 1970s.
- n The training of kindergarten teachers in universities began in 1995.

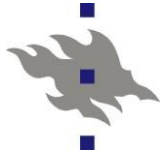




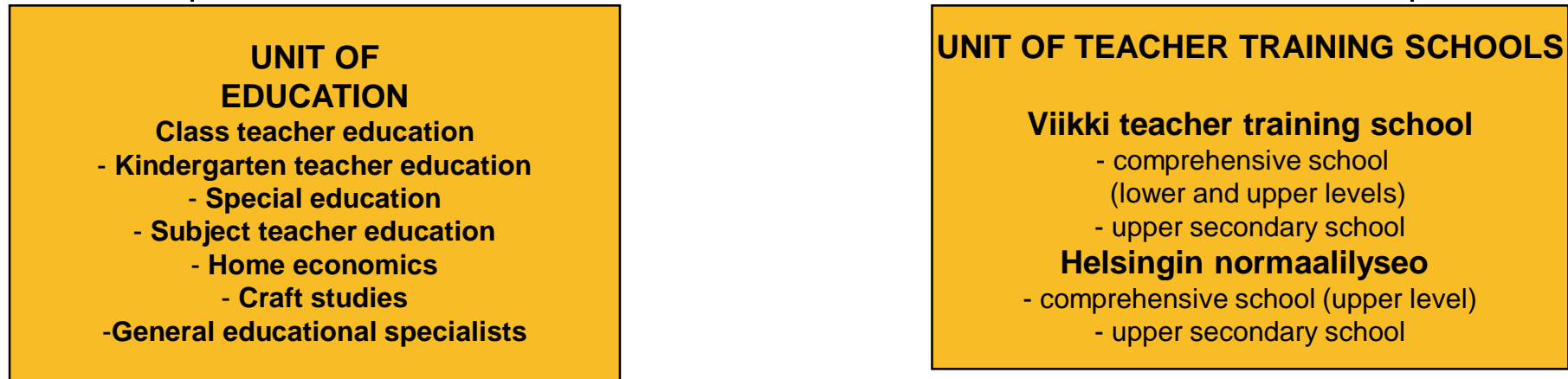
## Finnish Teacher education video

n <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-szMTeJAeLU&index=2&list=PLEE385BC5A0125995>

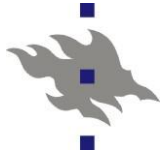




## FACULTY OF EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES

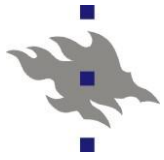


(This organizational structure began in 2017)



## Four key determinants in Finnish research-based teacher education

- n Study programme is structured according to the systemic educational structure
- n All teaching is based on research
  - n Teacher educators hold PhD's
  - n Teacher educators are required to research
  - n Their teaching is based on their or others' research
- n Activities are organized so as to give students the opportunity to practise argumentation, decision making and justification when inquiring into and solving pedagogical problems.
- n Students learn formal research skills during their studies when they move up to the M.A. thesis level.



## University degrees

- n University of Helsinki introduced the new degree system in 2005 in line with the Bologna process.
- n Students first study for the lower Bachelor's degree (180 study points) and then for the higher Master's degree (120 study points).
- n The scope of studies is determined in ECTS credits.
- n 1 study point = 27 hours of work = 1 ECTS credit
- n One year of full-time study is equivalent to 60 study points (ECTS credits).
- n 1.8.2017: One BA program (~500 students), contains different paths to professions
- n 1.8.2018: One MA program (~ 390 students)

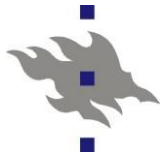


## Degree programmes and degrees

- n Degree programme in class teacher education (also in Swedish)
  - Master of Education
  - Major: education or educational psychology
- n Degree programme in special education
  - Master of Education
  - Major: Special education
- n Degree programme in kindergarten teacher education (also in Swedish)
  - Bachelor of Education
  - Master's Degree Programme in Early Childhood Education
  - Major: education (early childhood education)
- n Degree programme in home economics education
  - Master of Education
  - Major: education or home economics science
- n Degree programme in craft sciences education
  - Master of Education
  - Major: education or craft science

All Master's graduates are eligible for postgraduate studies

- Licentiate of Education
- Doctor of Education



## Primary and secondary (subject) school teachers

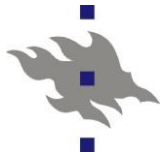
### Primary school teacher

- n 5 year program (3 BA + 2 MA)
- n Majoring in education
- n Minorin in school subjects  
(Finnish, math, biology, geography  
etc)
- n Minorin also in one or two other  
subjects
- n E.g. class teacher minorin in  
Finnish and music
- n Are eligle for doctoral studies!

### Secondary (subject) school teacher

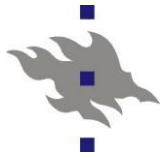
- n 5 year program (3 BA + 2 MA)
- n Majorin in one subject
- n Minorin in one or two other  
subjects
- n Minorin in education (= teacher's  
pedagogical studies)
- n E.g. Math major, chemistry +  
physic minor
- n Are eligle for doctoral studies!



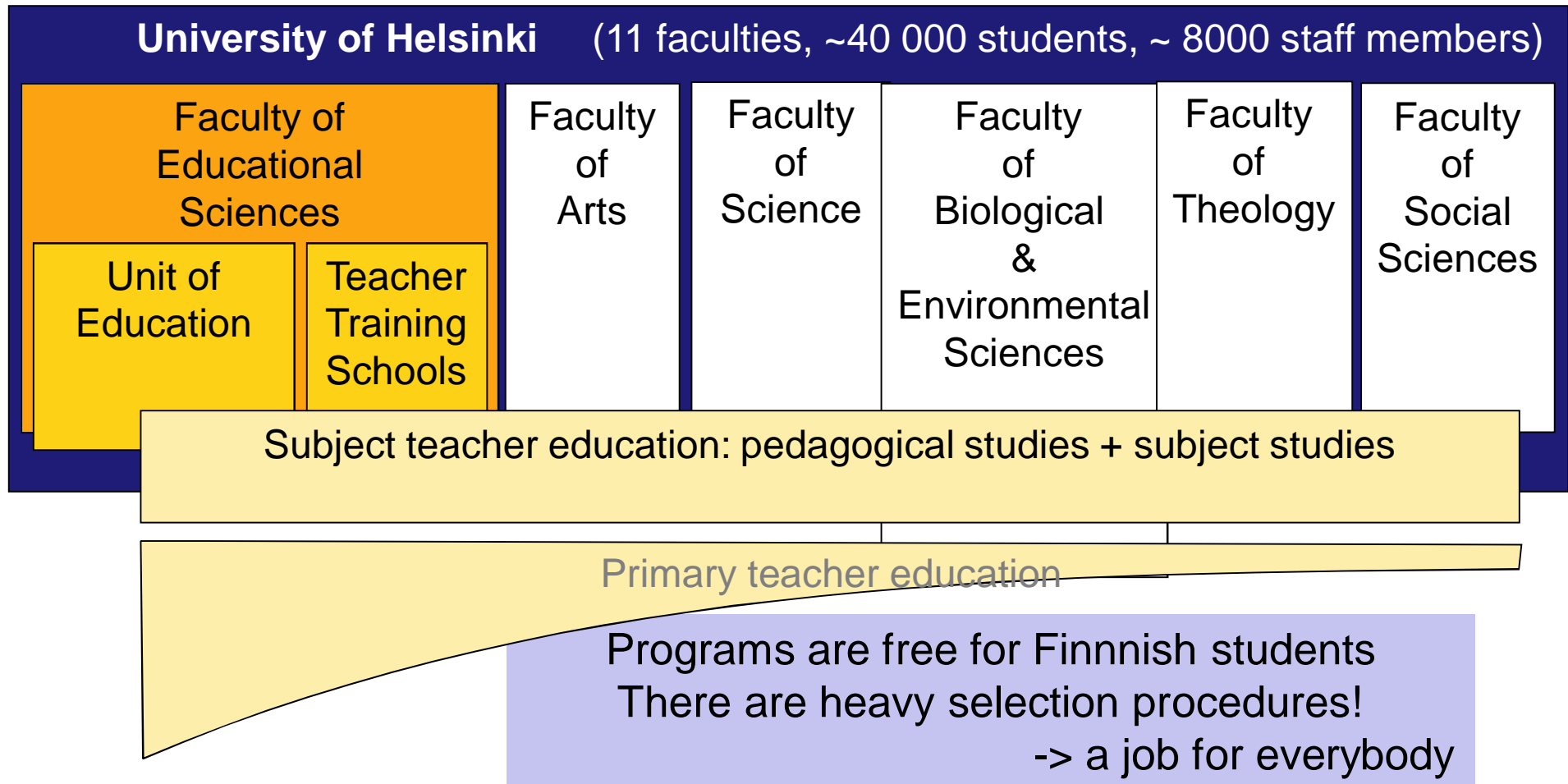


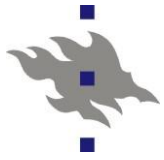
## Teachers' pedagogical studies – Subject teacher education

- n Subject teachers teach pupils in upper comprehensive school (grades 7 to 9) and students in upper secondary schools.
- n Subject teachers complete a Masters' degree at a university faculty
- n The education consists of studies in two subjects and pedagogical studies.
- n The pedagogical studies (60 study points/ECTS) are taken at the Department of Teacher Education.
- n Usually conducted within one academic year.
- n Approximately 500 students yearly.



## Teacher education at the University of Helsinki





# Student admission for teacher education programmes

n The admission criteria:

n **Stage 1: (does not apply to subject teacher program)**

- Written examination (VAKAVA-examination)

n **Stage 2:**

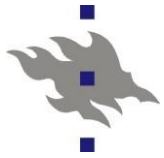
- Aptitude tests
- Interviews

Stage 2 is more diverse and the procedures rise from the needs of the different degree programmes



## Student admission (2016), University of Helsinki

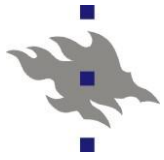
<b>Degree programme</b>	<b>Applicants</b>	<b>Participated in Entrance Exam</b>	<b>Places</b>	<b>%</b>
Class teacher education	1770	1075	120	<b>11</b>
Crafts teacher education	193	97	32	<b>33</b>
Home economics teacher education	307	157	33	<b>21</b>
Kindergarten teacher education	1014	595	120	<b>20</b>
Special teacher education	790	467	20	<b>4</b>
Subject teacher education	789	525	444	<b>85</b>



## Becoming a teacher video

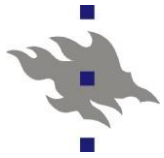
n <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTg29LGp9fE&index=1&list=PLEE385BC5A0125995>



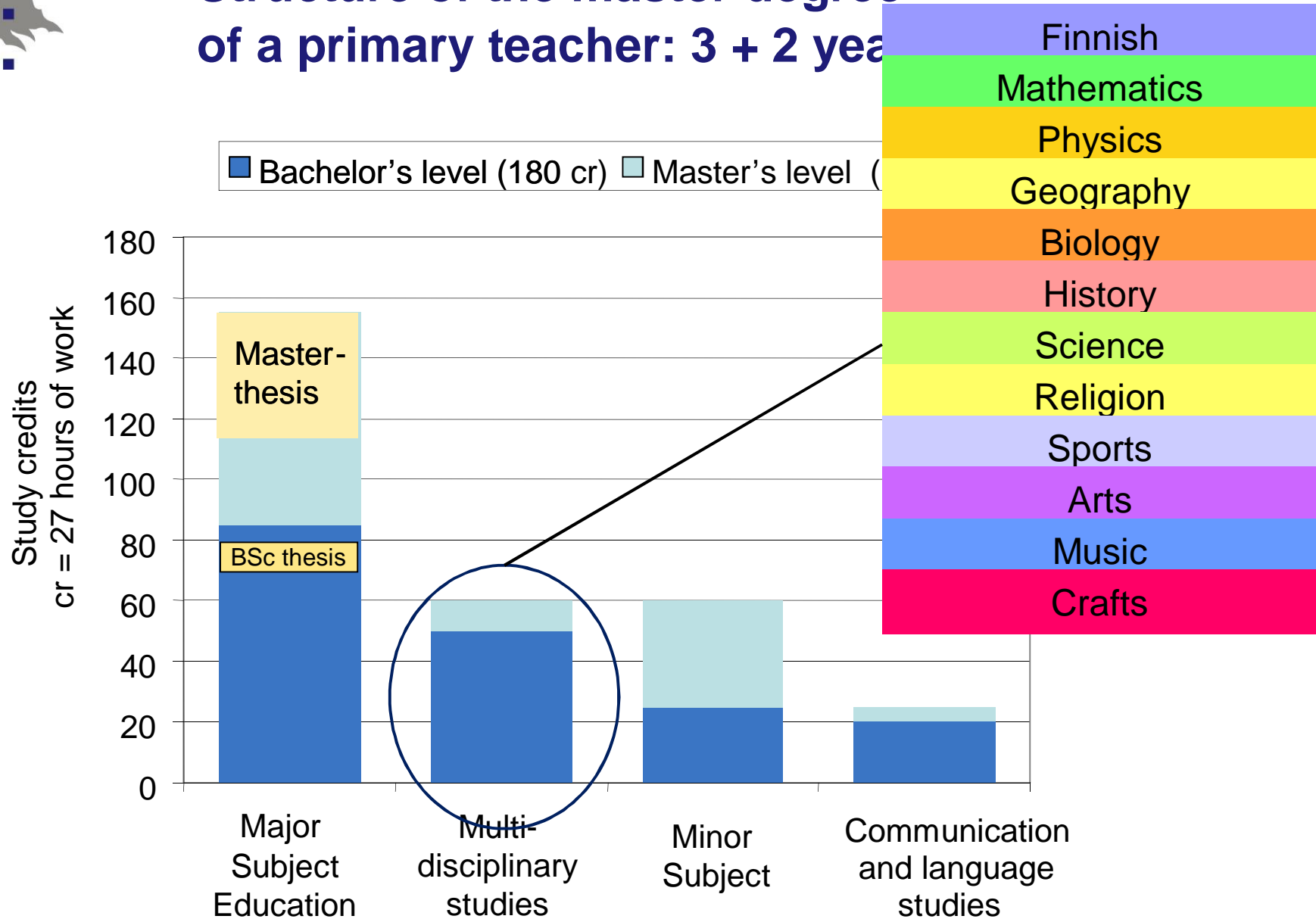


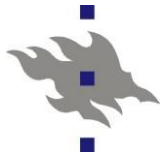
## Class (primary) teacher education

- n Class teachers complete a Master of Education degree (5 years, 300 study points/ECTS)
- n The degree comprises
  - n Communication and language studies
  - n Studies in education (140 study points/ECTS)
    - Teaching practice (20 study points/ECTS)
    - Master thesis (40 study points/ECTS)
  - n Supportive studies:
    - Multidisciplinary studies in the subjects taught in comprehensive schools (60 study points/ECTS)
    - Studies in an optional subject (60 study points/ECTS) for example to obtain subject teacher qualification in one subject



# Structure of the master degree of a primary teacher: 3 + 2 years





## Craft (teacher) education

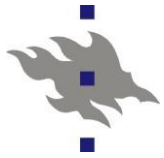
### Teacher -track

- n Communication, language studies and orientation
- n **Main subject studies in educational sciences** (155 study points/ ECTS)
- n Minor studies in crafts
- n Optional studies

### Crafts science -track

- n Communication, language studies and orientation
- n **Main subject studies in craft sciences** (150 study points/ ECTS)
- n Pedagogical studies (60 study points/ ECTS)
- n Minor studies and optional studies





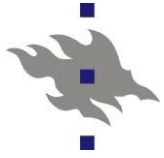
## Home economics (teacher) education

### Teacher -track

- n Communication, language studies and orientation
- n **Main subject studies in educational sciences** (155 study points/ ECTS)
- n Minor studies in home economics
- n Optional studies

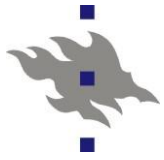
### Crafts science -track

- n Communication, language studies and orientation
- n **Main subject studies in home economics** (155 study points/ ECTS)
- n Pedagogical studies (60 study points/ ECTS)
- n Minor studies and optional studies



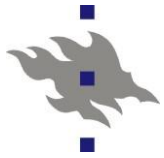
## Kindergarten teacher education

- n The competence of kindergarten teacher can be obtained by passing a Bachelor's Degree. Studies at the master's level prepare for leadership, administrative and research tasks in the field of early childhood education.
  
- n Bachelor's Degree comprises:
  - n Communication and language studies
  - n Studies in education
  - n Supportive studies (=minor subject) / optional studies



## Special education

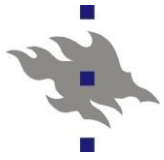
- n Special education teachers or special education class teachers pass a Master's Degree which comprises
  - n Communication and language studies
  - n Main subject studies in special education
  - n Minor subject studies
  - n Pedagogical studies for teachers (60 study points/ECTS)
  - n Multidisciplinary study module (60 study points/ECTS)
  
- n Another possibility to obtain the qualification of special education class teacher is to first pass a higher academic degree in class teacher programme, followed by separate special education teacher studies.



## Tribute to diversity video

↪ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZ2mS5vkszg&index=4&list=PLEE385BC5A0125995>

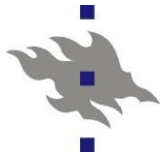




## Subject teacher education

- n Subject teachers take a Master Degree in their respective faculty with a subject of instruction as their major.
- n Pedagogical studies for teachers:
  - n Pedagogical, didactical and psychological studies as well as studies in social, historical and philosophical basis of education
  - n Teaching practice (20 study points/ECTS)
  - n Pedagogical thesis

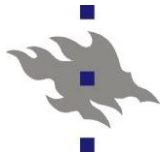




## University Training Schools

- n Organising teaching of “ordinary” school pupils
- n Mentoring student teachers
- n Educational research
- n Organizing in-service education in cooperation with other instances
- n In Helsinki two university training schools:
  - n Normaalilyseo grades 7-9 + upper secondary
  - n Viikki normaalikoulu grades K+1-12





## Key features of the teaching practice

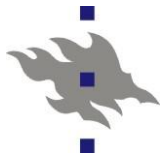
Theoretical aspects are integrated with practice during the studies at all stages. The aims of the teaching practice are

- n to mature as a pedagogically thinking teachers,
- n to grow into the profession,
- n to become aware of their practical theories and views on educational matters.

In teaching practice, there are four participants whose interaction with each other plays an important role

- n a student teacher him/herself
- n peer student teachers
- n supervisor from the university (university lecturer)
- n supervisor at the school where teaching practice takes place





## Teaching Practice in Class teacher education

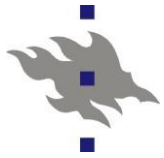
### Old Curriculum:

- n Orienting practice
  - n 3 weeks, 3 ECTS
  - n Mother tongue + drama
- n Multidisciplinary practice
  - n 6 weeks, 9 ECTS
  - n All other subjects
- n Master's practice
  - n 5 weeks, 8 ECTS
  - n All subjects
  - n Teacher's work as a whole

### Renewed Curriculum:

- n Multidisciplinary practice
  - n 6-7weeks ?, 10 ECTS
  - n Mother tongue & Math
  - n 3-4 others subjects
  - n An interdisciplinary entity
- n Master's practice
  - n 6-7weeks ?, 10 ECTS
  - n All subjects
  - n Teacher's work as a whole

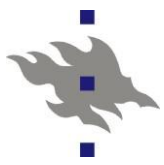




## Teaching Practice video

n <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDCm1fIPKH8&list=PLEE385BC5A0125995&index=3>





## Courses in English offered for teacher students

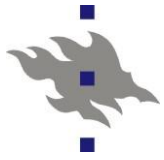
**STEP** – Subject Teacher Education Programme in English (60 ECTS credits)

Gives official qualifications for teaching in basic and upper secondary education in Finland

**Finnish Education and Pedagogical Studies** - Minor subject (minimum of 25 ECTS credits)

Basic, Intermediate and Advanced courses from all programmes of study in the Department of Teacher Education offered mainly for exchange students





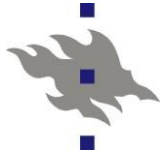
## **In-service teacher education**

Internationally, Finnish school system is not heavily engaged with in-service teacher education and professional development of teachers is dependent on individual needs and willigness.

- n 3 days per year (according to contracts)
  - n School/municipality organizes
  - n Topics vary

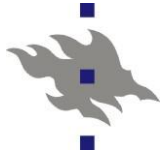
Further education is optional

- n National Board of Education
- n Teacher's Union
- n Independent institutions
- n Universities
- n Doctoral studies -> Doctor's degree



## Research in the Faculty of Education

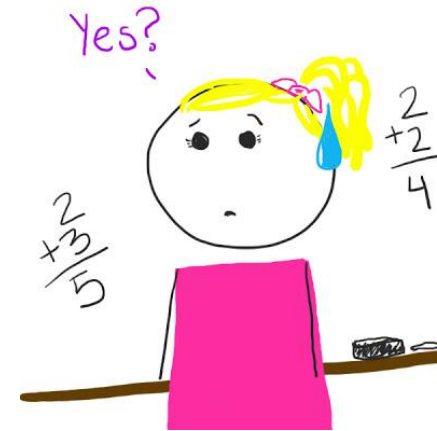
- n Teachers and researchers as well as postgraduate and undergraduate students take part in research, experimental activities and on developmental work conducted at the Faculty.
- n Research-based teaching has been developed for a long time in teacher education. In addition to our own teaching, the research has also focused on subject departments' teaching as well as cross-faculty teaching. We teach what we research and we research what we teach!
- n The main objective guiding the research is the aim for interaction between different disciplines and subjects.
- n The research centres of the Faculty co-operate closely with researchers from other departments of the University of Helsinki as well as other national and international universities and research centres

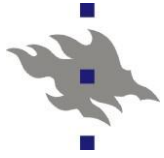


## Teaching Is a Profession in Finland

n It is

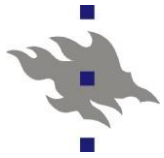
- n Respected
- n Valued
- n Appreciated
- n Trusted





**QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?**

Thank you!



## Smartphones video

n <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwNhd4q--RQ&list=PLEE385BC5A0125995&index=5>

