

A short application guide for general upper secondary school studies

All general upper secondary schools in Finland offer the same basic subjects, and thus, any upper secondary school is an equally safe choice and should be chosen based on your own interests. Some general upper secondary schools offer different special dual career lanes and emphases, so it is advisable to take your time and be open-minded about all the possibilities before choosing.

Spring joint application at www.opintopolku.fi

Applications to upper secondary school are made through the joint application process. The electronic system used is www.opintopolku.fi.

Upper secondary schools operated by the city of Tampere

- Pyyntikin lukio upper secondary school (new name starting from August 1, 2025, previously Hatanpään lukio upper secondary school)
- Sammon keskuslukio upper secondary school
- Tammerkosken lukio upper secondary school
- Tampereen klassillinen lukio upper secondary school
- Tampereen lyseon lukio upper secondary school
- Tampere teknillinen lukio upper secondary school
- Tampereen aikuislukio upper secondary school for adults (not included in the joint application process)

Private upper secondary schools in Tampere

- Kalevan lukio upper secondary school
- Tampere Arts-Oriented upper secondary school
- Svenska samskolan upper secondary school
- Tampere steiner upper secondary school
- Tampere University, Teacher training upper secondary school

Other upper secondary schools in the Tampere region

- Akaan lukio upper secondary school
- F. E. Sillanpään lukio upper secondary school
- Ikaalisten lukio upper secondary school
- Kangasalan lukio upper secondary school
- Karkun Evangelisen Opiston lukio upper secondary school
- Lempäälän lukio upper secondary school

- Nokian lukio upper secondary school
- Oriveden lukio upper secondary school
- Parkanon lukio upper secondary school
- Pirkkalan lukio upper secondary school
- Pirkanmaan aikuislukio upper secondary school for adults (not included in the joint application process)
- Pälkäneen lukio upper secondary school
- Ruoveden lukio upper secondary school
- Valkeakosken lukio upper secondary school at Tietotie
- Vammalan lukio upper secondary school
- Virtain lukio upper secondary school
- Ylöjärven lukio upper secondary school

Special national tasks and weighted curricula

National specialized task granted by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture

- Hatanpään lukio upper secondary school, Music and Musical Theatre
- Sammon keskuslukio upper secondary school, Sports
- Tammerkosken lukio upper secondary school, Visual Arts and Design
- Tampereen lyseon lukio upper secondary school, IB
- Tampereen klassillinen lukio upper secondary school, Natural Sciences
- Tampereen yhteiskoulun lukio upper secondary school, Performing Arts
- Tampereen steiner upper secondary school, Steiner pedagogy
- Ylöjärven lukio upper secondary school, Entrepreneurship

Curriculum emphases of education providers

- Kalevan lukio upper secondary school, Music
- Sammon keskuslukio upper secondary school, Media and Skateboarding
- Tampereen lyseon lukio upper secondary school, Social Science
- Tampereen teknillinen lukio upper secondary school, Mathematics and Technology
- Tampereen yliopiston normaalikoulun lukio upper secondary school, Economics and Business, Circus Arts
- Vammalan lukio upper secondary school, Sports (volleyball, chess and other sports)
- Svenska samskolan i Tammerfors upper secondary school

The order of application preferences matters

It is important that the order of the options has been carefully considered in the application. Your first option will automatically be realized if your grade point average (GPA) and application points are enough for the upper secondary school of your first choice. Note that you can only change the order of preference within the application period. If you are not selected for the first option, the application preferences 2–7 will automatically be considered in the Opintopolku (in English Studyinfo) system.

Admission and placement of students in upper secondary schools

Applicants are at an equal position in the Opintopolku application process, regardless of their municipality of residence.

The so-called GPA limit for each upper secondary school is determined based on the number of applicants and the comprehensive school leaving certificate. In addition, different general upper secondary school lines of study may have their own GPA limits. The GPA of the basic education final certificate is calculated for the following subjects:

- Mother tongue and literature
- A1-, A2-, B1- and B2-language
- Mathematics
- biology
- geography
- physics
- chemistry
- health education
- religion/ethics
- history
- civics

When applying for special programs, the selection criteria may also include:

- weighting of specific subjects in the GPA
- entrance exams
- advance assignments
- opinions

The Opintopolku application system provides preliminary information on the students admitted to different general upper secondary schools. The selection is based on the application preferences indicated on the application form as well as the grade point average (GPA) of the subjects in the final certificate / the total score according to the admission criteria.

Notification of admission, acceptance of student place and enrolment in general upper secondary school

You will receive information about the general upper secondary school selection in your email directly from Opintopolku. Many general upper secondary schools send credentials and instructions for enrollment in the upper secondary school directly to the selected students. The Finnish National Agency for Education will send a guidance letter to the applicants who have not been offered a student place.

Accept the place in Opintopolku and enroll in the general upper secondary school where you have been accepted to. Follow the enrolment instructions you received from the upper secondary school. Please follow your email during the summer.

Contact the school if you are unable to enroll at the time indicated by the school.

Report cancellation

If you cancel a reserved upper secondary school place, you must immediately notify the school.

Were you left without a study place?

If you were left without a study place, you can later be admitted to an upper secondary school for which the average of your certificate is sufficient if there are free places. Vacant places will be filled by applicants from the waiting list of the joint application process or from applicants who do not have a place in upper secondary school. If student places become available during the summer, new students can be admitted in August by decision of the principal.

Applying to upper secondary school at other times

Contact the principal of the upper secondary school directly when applying to an upper secondary school other than through Opintopolku joint application process.

Students moving from abroad

Compulsory education completed abroad makes you eligible to apply to upper secondary school. For more information, please contact the Development Manager of Upper Secondary Education, Ms. Tuija Leppäharju (tuija.leppaharju@tampere.fi). If your native language is other than Finnish or Swedish and you do not have a comprehensive school leaving certificate issued in Finland, you can apply to general upper secondary school through a discretionary application. The City of Tampere also organizes preparatory education for upper secondary school for students whose Finnish language skills are not sufficient for upper secondary school studies. For more information on preparatory education, please contact: Application service TreduNavi. [Hakupalvelu TreduNavi – Tredu – Tampereen seudun ammattiopisto](#)

Preparatory education for upper secondary qualification – TUVA

During the preparatory TUVA education, you can specify your plans for further studies, improve your grades in basic education or study preparatory courses for upper secondary school, strengthen your Finnish language skills in a variety of ways, and complete upper secondary school or vocational education and training courses. A personal study plan is drawn up for each student based on the student's capabilities and goals.

As a rule, the duration of TUVA education is one year, but students can transfer to upper secondary school or vocational studies once they have attained the necessary skills, and a study place is available. TUVA education has groups and paths for both comprehensive school graduates and adults who need to strengthen their basic skills. Preparatory education for upper secondary school studies and upper secondary school studies are offered at Tredu's units and in the TUVA group of Pyylikki Upper Secondary School. The preparatory study program of the TUVA group at Pyylikki Upper Secondary School emphasizes S2 teaching and preparation for upper secondary school studies. TUVA's language proficiency requirement is A2.1, and the applicant's language skills will be tested if necessary.

You can apply for TUVA education during the joint application process in Opintopolku or in the continuous application process flexibly throughout the year.

For more information about the training, please contact:

Pyynikin lukio upper secondary school

Coordinator

Heidi Heikkilä

tel. 050 337 1845

heidi.heikkila@tampere.fi

Tredu

TreduNavi Admission Services

tredu.haku@tampere.fi

Tel. +358 40 170 5649

Finnish as a second language and literature studies

Finnish as a Second Language and Literature (S2) is intended for students whose native language is not Finnish, Swedish or Sami. In the matriculation examination, you can take the Finnish as a second language and literature test.

The scope of compulsory studies is 12 credits. In all upper secondary schools in the region, S2 studies are possible with various arrangements and support measures.

Studies completed elsewhere and their credit transfer

Studies completed elsewhere are checked separately for each student.

Special education and learning support

Students can receive special education and learning support in general upper secondary school. Subject teachers also provide remedial teaching if necessary. Pedagogical support at general upper secondary schools is provided by teachers, special education teachers, group instructors and guidance counsellors, as well as principals. In upper secondary school, every student studies according to the same curriculum, so it is not possible to individualize subjects.

The special education teacher meets students in need of support either one-on-one or in a small group. If the student has special arrangement needs, the special education teacher will record them in Wilma with the student's permission for the teachers to be informed. If necessary, the special education teacher will take care of the statements and special arrangements related to the matriculation examination together with the student. (www.ylioppilastutkinto.fi)

Student welfare in general upper secondary schools is the responsibility of a public health nurse, a school social worker and a psychologist, who can provide support related to studying and well-being.

Student benefits

Students can receive various benefits granted by Kela. More information is available on Kela's website at www.kela.fi.

Links to websites:

General upper secondary education website in Finnish at <https://www.tampere.fi/koulutus/lukiokoulutus>

General upper secondary education website in English at <https://www.tampere.fi/en/education/general-upper-secondary-education>