



6 June 2025

Tuition fees and related scholarships at the University of Helsinki

Rector's Decision HY/9455/00.00.06.00/2025
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By virtue of section 10 of the Universities Act, universities must charge tuition fees for bachelor's or master's programmes taught in a language other than Finnish or Swedish. Subsection 2 of section 10 of the Act determines the groups of students from whom tuition fees are not charged.

An amendment to the Universities Act (22 November 2024/658) stipulates that the income from university tuition fees charged for study rights granted on 1 August 2026 and after must cover the costs of organising the education of students liable to pay tuition fees. These costs include scholarships and other grants awarded to students by the university, but exclude scholarships and grants originating from donations and grants from outside the university.

According to the guidelines of the Ministry of Education and Culture (10 October 2024), the costs of organising education include those incurred by students both directly and indirectly, such as those associated with support services, facilities and equipment. The full coverage of tuition fees is assessed at institution level and calculated based on a three-year moving average to even out annual variation. For example, if international joint degree programmes have agreed on a tuition fee below the full costs or if an external funder has set a cap on a programme-specific tuition fee which falls short of the full costs, the higher education institution must subsidise the fee using fees charged from students in other degree programmes.

1. Tuition fee categories

At the University of Helsinki, tuition fees amount to either €13,000, €15,000 or €18,000. The rector decides on tuition fees in conjunction with the establishment of degree programmes. Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis.

Individual students' tuition fees remain fixed throughout their studies.

A separate rector's decision provides for practices related to tuition fees.

Separate rector's decisions provide for international joint degree programmes and their tuition fees.



2. Scholarships for students liable to pay tuition fees

A key objective of the scholarships available at the University of Helsinki is to support international student recruitment and to encourage students in their studies.

The scholarships are awarded based on student applications, with the exception of the dean's award for tuition fee-liable students.

2.1 Tuition fee waivers (100% or 50%) for master's programme students

New students in master's programmes can be granted a scholarship in the form of a 100 or 50 per cent waiver of their tuition fee.

The number of such scholarships is determined on the basis of student numbers as follows:

Number of tuition fee-liable students admitted to a master's programme	Maximum number of 100% waivers	Maximum number of 50% waivers
0–2	0	0
3–5	0	1
6–8	0	2
9–11	0	3
12–14	1	0
15–17	1	1
18–20	1	2
21–23	1	3
24–26	2	0

If there are fewer than three admitted new students who are liable to pay a tuition fee, no scholarships can be granted. If there are fewer than 12 such students, the scholarships can be granted only in the form of 50% tuition fee waivers. Per each group of 12 such students, one 100% tuition fee waiver can be granted.

Alternatively, per each 100% waiver, master's programmes can propose **four** recipients of a 50% tuition fee waiver. This is warranted by the fact that the 50% waiver is accepted by less than a third of the students offered such a waiver, while the 100% waiver is accepted by about half of such students.

If a master's programme proposes only 50% waivers of tuition fees, the number of scholarships is determined on the basis of student numbers as follows:

Number of tuition fee-liable students admitted to a master's programme	Maximum number of 100% waivers	Maximum number of 50% waivers
0–2	0	0
3–5	0	1
6–8	0	2
9–11	0	3
12–14	0	4
15–17	0	5
18–20	0	6
21–23	0	7
24–26	0	8

Per each group of three admitted students liable to pay a tuition fee, one 50% tuition fee waiver can be granted.



Applicants to master's programmes must apply for the scholarship in connection with the admissions procedure and submit to the University the required documents for the processing of their application and granting of the scholarship.

The scholarships are awarded based on the applicants' prior academic performance and their motivation letters, in addition to which consideration is given to the grounds given in the scholarship applications. Any letters of recommendation and information on other scholarships and grants submitted by the applicants will also be considered. The selection of scholarship recipients is based on an overall evaluation.

The master's programme steering group submits a proposal on the admitted students to be granted scholarships, and the vice-rector for academic affairs decides on the recipients.

Information on the awarded scholarships is relayed to the recipients when they are informed of their admission. The scholarship can be paid only if the applicant accepts the offered place and verifies their application eligibility, each by its respective deadline. Otherwise, the scholarship will be cancelled. Reserve lists are not used in awarding scholarships, nor can scholarships be transferred to another student.

Scholarships can be paid only after the recipient has signed the scholarship agreement.

Students may not postpone the start of their studies and keep the scholarship awarded except in situations referred to in section 39 of the Universities Act. A scholarship can be postponed for a term or an academic year in force majeure situations defined in a separate vice-rector's decision.

The scholarships last for two years. Their continuation for the second year requires that the student has completed no less than 55 credits during the first year of study, unless the delay was caused by the University, the student's state of health or another similar reason. The progress of studies is verified from the student information system Sisu, and when necessary, the student will have an opportunity to justify the delay in their studies.

A scholarship recipient may register for non-attendance for no more than two terms from the second year of study forward and postpone their scholarship accordingly.

2.2 Scholarships for students continuing from an English-language bachelor's programme to an available master's programme

Graduates from English-language bachelor's programmes at the University of Helsinki continuing to master's programmes available to them can be granted a scholarship in the form of a 100% tuition fee waiver provided that they have completed their bachelor's degree within the target duration. In addition, it is required that a weighted grade average of no less than 3.8 on a scale of 0 to 5 for the studies included in their bachelor's degree can be verified in the student information system Sisu.

Similarly, bachelor's graduates can be granted a scholarship in the form of a 50% tuition fee waiver provided that they have completed their degree within the target duration and a weighted grade average of 3.4–3.7 on a scale of 0 to 5 for the studies included in their bachelor's degree can be verified in Sisu.

Section 40 of the Universities Act provides for the target duration of degrees.



A requirement for granting the scholarship is that the applicant has submitted a graduation request for a bachelor's degree.

The scholarships last for two years. Their continuation for the second year requires that the student has completed no less than 55 credits during the first year of study, unless the delay was caused by the University, the student's state of health or another similar reason. The progress of studies is verified from the student information system Sisu, and when necessary, the student will have an opportunity to justify the delay in their studies.

A scholarship recipient may register for non-attendance during their master's studies, postponing their scholarship accordingly, for no more than two terms.

2.3 Dean's award for fees-liable students in bachelor's and master's programmes

A dean's award (€1,000) can be granted to students liable to pay a tuition fee during their second and third year of study in a bachelor's programme and to second-year master's students based on their academic performance during their first and second year of study.

Each master's programme has one of these awards, while each bachelor's programme has one for second-year and one for third-year students. Students who have been granted a tuition fee waiver are also eligible for a dean's award.

This scholarship lasts for one year, and cannot be divided between multiple students.

Dean's awards for the second year of study are based on academic performance during the first year of study. In the selection of the recipient, consideration is given to the number of completed credits as defined in the programme curriculum and grades. Dean's awards for the third year of study in bachelor's programmes are based on academic performance in the first and second years of study. In the selection of the recipient, consideration is given to the number of completed credits as defined in the bachelor's programme curriculum and grades.

A requirement for the payment of the scholarship is that the student has registered for attendance in connection with the relevant right to study.

Reserve lists are not used in awarding scholarships, nor can scholarships be transferred to another student.

The degree programme steering group submits a proposal on the award recipients, after which the dean of the faculty coordinating the relevant programme decides on the recipients.

2.4 Scholarship for the development of Finnish and Swedish language skills for bachelor's or master's students

Scholarships (€800) to encourage the development of Finnish and Swedish language skills can be granted to second- or third-year bachelor's students and second-year master's students who have completed at least five credits of Finnish language studies or five credits of Swedish language studies at the University of Helsinki in the previous academic year. The scholarship can also be paid to bachelor's graduates who will continue in a University of Helsinki master's programme as students liable to pay a tuition fee.

When calculating the required number of credits, transferred credits for prior learning or studies completed at other higher education institutions are not taken into consideration.



Students who have been granted a tuition fee waiver are also eligible for this scholarship.

The scholarship lasts for one year.

A requirement for the payment of the scholarship is that the student has registered for attendance in connection with the relevant right to study.

2.5 Common principles for scholarships

According to section 84 of the Universities Act, no appeals may be lodged against university decisions pertaining to scholarships or grants.

If a student's liability to pay a tuition fee is removed during their studies, they will also lose the scholarship.

Should a student be found guilty of cheating in their studies or other misconduct in their studies, they may lose their scholarship. Likewise, they may lose their scholarship if they are found guilty of a crime or have submitted incorrect information when applying for the scholarship. When deciding on the cancellation of a scholarship, the director of development will also make a decision on the possible scholarship recovery procedure.

3. Distribution of income from tuition fees within the University

When awarded scholarships are deducted from tuition fees income, the result equals the net income from tuition fees. Of this net income, 60% will be allocated through the University's shared expenses to the faculties coordinating the relevant degree programmes and 40% to student services such as library and IT services as well as academic and other administration.

As part of regular annual planning, degree programme directors submit to the dean a pedagogically justified plan on how the programme's share of tuition fees paid by the programme's fee-paying students is used for the development and implementation of teaching and promotion of student wellbeing. Once the dean and vice-dean for academic affairs have approved the plan, the dean will allocate to the programme the resources necessary for its implementation. These funds will constitute a part of the programme's overall budget, ensuring that the programme benefits from the accumulated tuition fees. Joint degree programmes between several faculties will negotiate the budget among the partner faculties.

4. Entry into force

This decision will enter into force on 1 August 2026 and apply to study rights beginning on and after 1 August 2026.

This decision supersedes the rector's decision on the principles of the introduction of tuition fees (9/2016, 29 January 2016) and the rector's decision on the University of Helsinki grant system for tuition fees (HY/11027/00.00.06.00/2022, 22 November 2022) with its subsequent amendments.



However, the above rector's decisions and their provisions will continue be applied to students liable to pay a tuition fee who received their right to study before 1 August 2026.

The provisions on the distribution of income from tuition fees will be applied to all tuition fees from the beginning of the academic year 2025–2026.

Rector

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The Finnish-language document has been digitally signed in the records and document management system of the University of Helsinki.