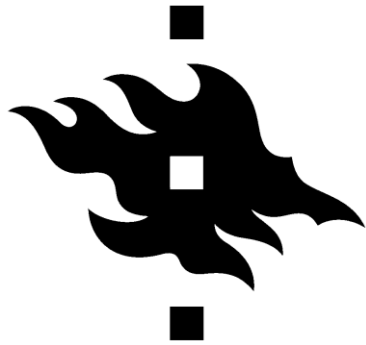




(Translation from Finnish)
Rector's Decision
HY/10212/00.00.06.00/2025

13 June 2025

Guidelines for degrees and studies at the University of Helsinki

Rector's Decision HY/10212/00.00.06.00/2025

13 June 2025

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The guidelines for degrees and studies at the University of Helsinki are based on the following statutes and regulations and their subsequent amendments:

- Universities Act (558/2009)
- Government Decree on Universities (770/2009)
- Government Decree on University Degrees (794/2004; hereinafter 'Decree on degrees')
- Ministry of Education and Culture Decree on the Specification of Educational Responsibilities (1451/2014; hereinafter 'Decree on educational responsibilities')
- Act on the Knowledge of Languages Required of Personnel in Public Bodies (424/2003; hereinafter 'Act on language proficiency')
- Regulations on Degrees and the Protection of Students' Rights at the University of Helsinki

As concerns teacher education, these guidelines also draw on the following statutes and their subsequent amendments:

- Teaching Qualifications Decree (986/1998)
- Basic Education Act (628/1998)
- Government Decree on the National Objectives for Education Referred to in the Basic Education Act and in the Distribution of Lesson Hours (422/2012; hereinafter 'Decree on the distribution of lesson hours in basic education')
- Act on General Upper Secondary Education (714/2018)
- Government Decree on General Upper Secondary Education (810/2018; hereinafter 'Decree on general upper secondary education')

In addition to the above-listed statutes and regulations, the completion of degrees and studies is governed by decisions made by the rector, vice-rectors and sector directors at the University of Helsinki as well as by regulations and instructions based on these decisions.

These guidelines apply to the degrees and studies completed by degree students in bachelor's, master's and doctoral programmes. The guidelines are to be followed in open university education and non-degree studies, unless otherwise stipulated in this decision.

Where applicable, these guidelines are also be applied to the studies and degrees of other students at the University. Professional specialisation education and education leading to specialist qualifications in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine as well as other equivalent education comply with the decisions made by the faculties responsible for the relevant education. However, sections 12 (Registration at the University) and 13 (Degree certificates and other certificates) apply to the above programmes as well.

Section 7a of the Universities Act applies to students completing studies under a right to study granted for education arranged through collaboration between higher education institutions.

These provisions do not apply to commissioned education in accordance with section 9 of the Universities Act.

A separate rector's decision has been issued on the degrees and studies completed in joint degree programmes.

1 Fields of education, degrees and the structure of education

The fields of education at the University of Helsinki and the degrees it awards are provided for in the Appendix to the Decree on degrees and the Appendix to the Decree on educational responsibilities.



Education leading to degrees is provided under degree programmes. A degree programme constitutes an educational framework in one or several disciplines that share a sufficiently consistent academic or educational foundation. A degree programme encompasses discipline-specific and optional studies. Degree programmes may contain different study tracks. The rector decides on degree programmes, the available degrees and the faculties coordinating the degree programmes.

Besides degrees, the University offers professional specialisation education, non-degree studies as well as continuing and open university education.

2 Student admissions

Degree students are admitted to degree programmes. The rector decides on the general guidelines for student admissions. The faculty council decides on the admissions criteria of degree programmes coordinated by the faculty.

The curriculum of a degree programme must determine whether it will be possible for degree students to transfer from one study track to another within the programme and what the regulations are that concern such transfers. However, it will not be possible for students to transfer from one study track to another after the thesis required for their degree has been assessed and approved.

The following restrictions apply to concurrent rights to complete studies leading to a degree at the University of Helsinki:

- Students can hold only one right to complete studies leading to the same first-cycle (bachelor's) degree title (e.g., Bachelor of Arts).
- Students can hold only one right to study in one degree programme.
- Students can hold only one right to complete a second-cycle (master's) degree in either the Master's Programme in Psychology or the Master's Programme in Organisational Psychology.
- In the field of medicine, students can hold only one right to complete one or more degree in either medicine or dentistry, with the exception of postgraduate research degrees.

Should students wish to obtain another right to study in the categories mentioned above, they must either graduate or waive their previous right to study before they can receive a second one.

3 Non-degree studies

The dean may grant the right to pursue non-degree studies to persons who do not hold the right to pursue studies leading to a degree at the University of Helsinki. Applicants who hold a right to complete a degree at the University of Helsinki can be admitted to teacher education studies and studies providing teacher qualifications completed as non-degree studies.

The right to complete non-degree studies can be granted for the purpose of supplementing a previously completed degree, including the studies in a degree to be completed elsewhere or upgrading professional qualifications. The right to pursue non-degree studies at the Language Centre will be granted by the director of the Language Centre.

The right to complete non-degree studies will be granted for full courses or modules. It can be granted only for studies which are not offered as open university education.



Applications for the right to pursue non-degree studies are received once or twice a year, and the right is granted for two years. At a student's request, the validity period of this right can be extended by a year, if the student presents compelling reasons.

The faculties decide on admission criteria in greater detail. A sector director at University Services decides on the annual application periods and application procedures. However, the Faculty of Educational Sciences decides on application periods, application procedures and principles for extending the time for completing teacher education studies and studies providing teacher qualifications completed as non-degree studies for which the Faculty is responsible.

4 Scope of studies and degrees

The scope of studies is expressed in credits. The number of credits obtainable from courses will be determined by the required workload so that the 1,600 hours required for the completion of studies in one academic year corresponds to 60 credits (cr).

The Decree on degrees provides for the scope of first- and second-cycle degrees. The scope of a first-cycle degree is 180 credits. The scope of a second-cycle degree is 120 credits, with the exception of the Master of Arts (Psychology) degree (150 cr), the Licentiate of Dentistry degree (150 cr), the Licentiate of Veterinary Medicine degree (180 cr) and the Licentiate of Medicine degree (180 cr).

Students whose right to study became valid on or before 1 August 2024 have the right to complete, in accordance with the one-stage structure, the Licentiate of Medicine degree until 31 July 2032 or the Licentiate of Dentistry degree until 31 December 2031. In such cases, the scope of studies required for the Licentiate of Medicine degree is 360 credits and, for the Licentiate in Dentistry degree, 330 credits. These degree programmes do not offer a first-cycle degree.

5 Curricula

Degree programmes, study modules and courses have a curriculum. Curricula define learning outcomes as well as methods of assessment and completion, and describe the skills and expert identity of graduates from the degree programmes. They also provide information on equivalent courses from the previous curriculum.

Curricula include information on the titles and scope of study modules and courses. As a rule, the scope of each course is 5 cr.

Curricula are designed in accordance with University-wide principles and guidelines. The degree programme steering group prepares the curriculum and presents it to the faculty council of the coordinating faculty for approval. The curriculum will be approved for a period of four academic years at a time.

Curriculum leading to a first-cycle (bachelor's) degree

All students pursuing a first-cycle degree belong to a bachelor's programme or an equivalent programme. A bachelor's programme will provide the core competence and skills required for one or several master's programmes as well as for specialist duties in the profession.

The languages of a bachelor's programme are either the national languages of Finland (Finnish and Swedish), English or Swedish. A bachelor's programme cannot include study tracks in



different languages. Depending on the languages of the bachelor's programme, the language of degrees is Finnish, Swedish or English.

Bachelor's programmes may offer the opportunity to complete a bilingual degree (Finnish and Swedish, or Swedish and Finnish). The curriculum must clearly indicate this possibility and the procedures students must take in order to complete a bilingual degree.

In a bachelor's programme curriculum, the minimum scope of basic studies is 25 credits and the minimum scope of basic and intermediate studies in total is 60 credits. Intermediate studies include a thesis (6 cr) and a maturity test. Besides compulsory studies, the curriculum includes optional studies offered by the degree programme or by other degree programmes.

In the Bachelor's Programme in Medicine and Dentistry and the Bachelor's Programme in Veterinary Medicine, the curriculum includes a thesis seminar with the scope of 1 credit. In other bachelor's programmes, the scope of the thesis seminar is 2, 3 or 4 credits. A seminar has learning outcomes and its duration is no more than one term or two consecutive teaching periods.

In addition, the curriculum must include the following:

- 1) A career module and professional skills training modules, minimum 10 cr
 - A career module, minimum 5 cr
 - Professional skills training, minimum 5 cr
- 2) Language and communication skills, minimum 10 cr
 - First language written and oral communication, 3 cr
 - Written and oral communication in the second national language of Finland, 3 cr
 - Written and oral communication in a foreign language, 4 cr
- 3) Basic skills in ICT and knowledge management, minimum 3 cr

To complete the required studies and degree, students must draw up a study plan. Students receive guidance for planning their studies.

Degrees also include the University's student feedback survey and the Finnish Bachelor's Graduate Survey.

Bachelor's programmes may offer courses or modules to students from other degree programmes and higher education institutions. In such cases, the scope of study modules in the curriculum is at least 15 cr.

Provisions on the maximum number of credits that students can include in the study modules based on the curricula of their degree programme or other degree programmes are laid down in section 11 (Completion of studies).

Curriculum leading to a second-cycle (master's) degree

All students pursuing a second-cycle degree belong to a master's programme or an equivalent programme. Master's programmes provide specialised or multidisciplinary competence for pursuing a career that demands in-depth expertise, or provide an appropriate basis for pursuing doctoral education.

The languages of a master's programme are either the national languages of Finland (Finnish and Swedish), English or Swedish. A master's programme can also be multilingual. A master's programme cannot include study tracks in different languages. Depending on the languages of the master's programme, the language of degrees is Finnish, Swedish or English. The language(s) of degrees in a master's programme will be decided when the programme is established.



Master's programmes may offer the opportunity to complete a bilingual degree (Finnish and Swedish, or Swedish and Finnish). The curriculum must clearly indicate this possibility and the procedures students must take in order to complete a bilingual degree.

In a master's programme curriculum, the minimum scope of advanced studies is 60 credits. The advanced studies encompass a thesis, the scope of which is 30 credits, and a maturity test. The scope of theses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine is 20 credits.

If the scope of the thesis is 30 credits, the curriculum includes a 5-credit thesis seminar. The scope of the seminar can also be 10 credits.

A master's programme curriculum also includes other studies offered by the student's degree programme or other degree programmes to meet the minimum scope of the degree.

To complete the required studies and degree, students must draw up a study plan. Students receive guidance for planning their studies.

Degrees also include career orientation and expert identity studies and career planning as well as the University's student feedback survey.

Master's programmes may offer courses or modules to students from other degree programmes and higher education institutions. In such cases, the scope of study modules in the curriculum is at least 15 cr.

Provisions on the maximum number of credits that students can include in the study modules based on the curricula of their degree programme or other degree programmes are laid down in section 11 (Completion of studies).

Curriculum leading to a third-cycle (doctoral) degree

All doctoral researchers pursuing a third-cycle degree belong to a doctoral programme. Such programmes provide in-depth competence for research work and other highly demanding specialist roles.

The language of degrees is Finnish, Swedish or English.

A doctoral degree can be completed in four years of full-time study, or a longer period for part-time students.

A doctoral degree includes a doctoral thesis, the associated research and 30 credits of doctoral studies. In addition to field-specific studies, the degree includes a study module in general transferable skills, promoting doctoral graduates' identity as researchers and experts and enhancing their employability. The required studies cover research ethics, and all doctoral degrees include international academic activities. Doctoral studies may be completed as regular credits or through components integrated into research or other activities, which are recorded as completed studies.

To complete the required studies and degree, doctoral researchers must draw up a study plan. They receive guidance for planning their studies, and degrees include career planning. In addition, doctoral education encompasses the self-assessment of studies, supervision and learning, the provision of feedback, and progress monitoring.



6 Teacher education

The Decree on degrees provides for teacher education. The University offers the following studies providing teaching qualifications:

- 1) Studies providing professional competence for positions in early education and pre-primary education
- 2) Multidisciplinary studies in the subjects and cross-curricular themes taught in basic education
- 3) Studies providing professional competence for special-needs education
- 4) Studies in education required of teachers
- 5) Studies in the school subject to be taught by students completing subject teacher education

The school subjects to be taught in basic education are stipulated in the Basic Education Act and the Decree on the distribution of lesson hours in basic education, and the school subjects to be taught in general upper secondary education are stipulated in the Act on General Upper Secondary Education and the Decree on general upper secondary education.

Universities must offer studies in the school subjects confirmed in the Decree on the distribution of lesson hours in basic education and the Decree on general upper secondary education in those fields and fields of education in which they have been assigned an educational responsibility under the Decree on degrees or the Decree on educational responsibilities.

Those University of Helsinki degree programmes which provide subject teacher qualifications have integrated the studies in the school subjects to be taught (min. 60 cr or min. 120 cr) into their bachelor's and master's programme curricula. The curricula of bachelor's programmes include a minimum of 60 credits worth of studies in the school subject to be taught. The 120-credit studies in the school subjects to be taught are distributed between the bachelor's and master's programme curricula.

The curricula of bachelor's programmes must offer at least a basic and intermediate studies module (min. 60 cr) to students from other degree programmes.

The studies in education required of teachers (min. 60 cr) are included in their entirety in the curricula of master's programmes. However, in the curricula of the degree programmes in education and psychology, the studies in education required of teachers (min. 60 cr) can be distributed between the bachelor's and master's programme curricula.

Those master's programmes which provide subject teacher qualifications must indicate in their curricula whether the degree includes studies in one or two of the subjects to be taught.

7 Teaching programme

The implementation of degree programme curricula is defined in teaching programmes.

A teaching programme lists the teaching period, method of teaching and completion, and the teacher of each course offered in the teaching programme. A timetable including the dates, times and places of teaching supplements the teaching programme.

Teaching programmes are designed in accordance with University-wide principles and guidelines.

Degree programme steering groups decide, for one or more academic years at a time, on teaching programmes that encompass both degree studies and open university education. Degree programme directors decide on any amendments to teaching programmes. Minor



amendments, such as changes to teaching schedules during a teaching period, do not require separate decisions.

The director of the Language Centre decides on its teaching programme.

8 Language studies (first language, second national language, foreign language)

The communication and language skills required by section 6 of the Decree on degrees must be demonstrated for a first-cycle degree. The first-cycle degree includes a total minimum of 10 credits of compulsory language studies. Language studies can be integrated with other studies, in which case their content must be described and the scope assessed separately for each course.

Provisions on the maturity test, which is required for the degree, are laid down in section 10.

The language studies stipulated in the Decree on degrees are included in the scope of a degree. If a student has not demonstrated the language proficiency determined in the Decree on degrees for the first-cycle degree, they must demonstrate this proficiency for the second-cycle degree.

If a degree programme wishes to include other language and communication studies in its curriculum, it must arrange these as independent courses that can also be integrated with other studies. Such studies will be described, assessed in scope and entered into student records separately.

For special reasons, the director of the Language Centre may exempt a student from the second national language requirement or the foreign language requirement either partially or in full. This decision must be indicated on the student's degree certificate.

Language proficiency to be demonstrated in a bachelor's programme

- 1) Students who have completed their basic or secondary education in Finnish or Swedish must complete the language studies determined in section 5 (Curricula).
 - 1.1) Unless otherwise indicated in the degree programme curriculum, the completion of studies in the second national language stipulated by the Decree on degrees is not required of students who have
 - Been exempted from the second national language requirement in the Finnish matriculation examination, or
 - Not completed the second national language requirement for the International Baccalaureate, the European Baccalaureate, the Reifeprüfung or the Deutsche Internationale Abitur, or
 - Not completed the Finnish matriculation examination, the International Baccalaureate, the European Baccalaureate, the Reifeprüfung or the Deutsche Internationale Abitur.Instead, such students must complete an equivalent amount of studies in Finnish or Swedish according to their own proficiency level.

Students who have completed their basic or general upper secondary education, or other upper secondary education in an educational institution on the Åland Islands may, upon application, be exempted from demonstrating proficiency in Finnish as the second national language.
 - 1.2) If necessary, the degree programme curriculum may define which language the foreign language requirement refers to.
- 2) Students who have completed their basic or secondary education in a language other than Finnish or Swedish or have been educated abroad must complete language studies as follows:



- 2.1) Instead of the first language studies and studies in the second national language (section 5 Curricula) stipulated by the Decree on degrees, students must complete an equivalent amount (3+3 cr) of studies in Finnish and Swedish according to their own proficiency level. Degree programmes may also decide in their curricula on a higher proficiency level for Finnish and Swedish. However, an English-language bachelor's programme can specify in its curriculum that students can complete six credits of studies in either language, Finnish or Swedish.
- 2.2) In addition, students must complete four credits in a language that is foreign to them (CEFR proficiency level: English B2–C1, other languages B1). If necessary, the degree programme curriculum may define which language the foreign language requirement refers to. In the curricula of English-language bachelor's programmes, compulsory studies in a foreign language can be restricted to four credits of studies in English, in which case the degree programme can define the proficiency level in English as either B2 or C1. A decision on credit transfer for studies in a foreign language can be made in the degree programme curriculum.

Students who do not complete studies in the second national language as specified in section 5 (Curricula) cannot have the proficiency in the second national language, as referred to in Act No 424/2003, included in their university degree.

Language proficiency to be demonstrated in a master's programme

- 1) Students who have completed their basic or secondary education in Finnish or Swedish, but have not demonstrated their language proficiency for their first-cycle degree as stipulated in the Decree on degrees, must demonstrate their language proficiency for their second-cycle degree as follows:
 - 1.1) First language: Maturity test completed in the language of basic or secondary education (0 cr)
 - 1.2) Second national language: Studies (3 cr) as specified in section 5 (Curricula). Unless otherwise indicated in the degree programme curriculum, the completion of studies in the second national language stipulated by the Decree on degrees is not required of students who have
 - Been exempted from the second national language requirement in the Finnish matriculation examination, or
 - Not completed the second national language requirement for the International Baccalaureate, the European Baccalaureate, the Reifeprüfung or the Deutsche Internationale Abitur, or
 - Not completed the Finnish matriculation examination, the International Baccalaureate, the European Baccalaureate, the Reifeprüfung or the Deutsche Internationale Abitur.Instead, such students must complete an equivalent amount of studies in Finnish or Swedish according to their own proficiency level.

Students who have completed their basic or general upper secondary education, or other upper secondary education in an educational institution on the Åland Islands may, upon application, be exempted from demonstrating proficiency in Finnish as the second national language.
- 1.2) Foreign language: Studies (4 cr) as specified in section 5 (Curricula).

Students in English-language master's programmes or students pursuing their degree in English in a multilingual master's programme are not required to complete studies in a foreign language, as they demonstrate their foreign-language proficiency with an English-language degree completed in the master's programme.
- 2) Students who have completed their basic or secondary education in a language other than Finnish or Swedish or have been educated abroad are exempted from the language proficiency demonstration requirement.



9 Theses

Thesis for a first-cycle (bachelor's) degree

The intermediate studies of a bachelor's programme curriculum include a written thesis of six credits in scope.

The thesis must demonstrate the student's academic thinking skills and communication and the ability to discuss field-specific problems.

Students may complete the thesis independently or by participating in groupwork or an extensive research project, in which case the students' independent contribution must be clearly demonstrable and easily assessed. Students must write the thesis independently, and, as a rule, in their first language (Finnish or Swedish). In an English-language bachelor's programme, the thesis is written in English. The thesis can be completed as pairwork by two students only if such an option is indicated in the degree programme curriculum. In such cases, the independent contribution of both students must be clearly demonstrable. Co-authored theses are assessed as independent works submitted by both students separately, and the same examiner assesses them separately.

The thesis must be written in academic language.

The thesis must include an abstract written in the language of the thesis. In addition, students who have completed their basic or secondary education in Finnish or Swedish must write an abstract in the language of their basic or secondary education if the abstract also serves as a maturity test.

The degree programme curricula contain more detailed guidelines and instructions for the writing of theses.

The thesis is assessed on a scale of 0 to 5.

The thesis is made available to the public immediately after it has been assessed and approved. A thesis submitted for assessment must not include any confidential information. Any such information must be included in the background material, which is not appended to the assessed thesis. The abstract is also made available to the public.

Thesis for a second-cycle (master's) degree

The advanced studies of a master's programme curriculum include a written thesis of 30 credits in scope. The scope of written theses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine is 20 credits.

Students should be able to complete a 30-credit thesis during approximately one term of full-time study, including the collection and processing of the research material and the writing of the thesis.

The thesis must demonstrate the student's academic thinking skills, familiarity with the topic of the thesis, mastery of research methods and proficiency in academic writing.

Students may complete the thesis independently or by participating in groupwork or an extensive research project, in which case the students' independent contribution must be clearly demonstrable and easily assessed. Each student must write the thesis independently. The thesis can be completed as pairwork only if such an option is indicated in the degree programme curriculum. In such cases, the independent contribution of both students must be clearly demonstrable. Co-authored theses are assessed as independent works submitted by both students separately, and the same examiner assesses them separately.



Before embarking on the thesis project, or in its initial stages at the latest, students must draw up a thesis plan. The plan will be discussed and approved in the manner specified in the degree programme curriculum. The thesis plan must indicate the supervisor(s) of the thesis.

Provisions on the language of the thesis are laid down in section 11 (Completion of studies).

The thesis must be written in academic language.

The thesis must include an abstract written in the language of the thesis. In addition, students who have completed their basic or secondary education in Finnish or Swedish must write an abstract in the language of their basic or secondary education if the abstract also serves as a maturity test with which the student demonstrates their proficiency in Finnish or Swedish.

The degree programme curricula contain more detailed guidelines and instructions for the writing and assessment of theses.

The thesis is assessed on a scale of 0 to 5. The assessment is conducted in Finnish, Swedish or English.

The thesis is made available to the public immediately after it has been assessed and approved. A thesis submitted for assessment must not include any confidential information. Any such information must be included in the background material, which is not appended to the assessed thesis. The abstract is also made available to the public.

10 Maturity test

The maturity test is an independent study attainment which, however, does not yield credits and is graded on a pass–fail basis. A teacher in the relevant degree programme, for example the thesis supervisor, approves the maturity test, provided that they are proficient in the language in which the test is written.

Maturity test for a first-cycle (bachelor's) degree

The maturity test for a first-cycle degree is a written work completed in Finnish or Swedish that demonstrates the student's familiarity with the topic of the thesis and their proficiency in Finnish or Swedish. Students who have completed their basic or secondary education in Finnish or Swedish write the maturity test in the language of their education. Basic or secondary education and the maturity test together provide the 'excellent ability' in this language referred to in section 6, subsection 1 of the Act on language proficiency. The maturity test is undertaken after the completion of first-language studies or equivalent studies.

Students who have completed their basic or secondary education in a language other than Finnish or Swedish or have been educated abroad must complete their maturity test in Finnish, Swedish, English or in the language in which they wrote their bachelor's thesis.

While the maturity test is completed as an Examinarium examination, it can be decided in degree programme curricula that the maturity test is an academic text related to the topic of the thesis, such as the thesis abstract.

Maturity test for a second-cycle (master's) degree

The maturity test for a second-cycle degree is an academic text related to the topic of the master's thesis, for example, the thesis abstract or another written assignment defined in the



degree programme curriculum that demonstrates the student's familiarity with the topic of the thesis.

The language of the maturity test required for a second-cycle degree is determined as follows:

- 1) Students who have demonstrated their language proficiency as stipulated in the Decree on degrees by passing a maturity test for their first-cycle degree need not demonstrate their language proficiency for the second-cycle degree. Such students may write their maturity test in Finnish, Swedish, English or in the language in which they wrote their master's thesis.
- 2) Students who have completed their basic or secondary education in Finnish or Swedish but have not demonstrated their language proficiency as stipulated in the Decree on degrees by passing a maturity test for their first-cycle degree must do so by writing a maturity test in the language of their basic or secondary education (Finnish or Swedish) for their second-cycle degree. This also applies to students pursuing their degrees in English in English-language and multilingual master's programmes.
- 3) Students who have completed their basic or secondary education in a language other than Finnish or Swedish or have been educated abroad may write their maturity test in Finnish, Swedish, English or in the language in which they wrote their master's thesis.
- 4) Students other than those specified in item 2 above who are pursuing their degrees in English in English-language or multilingual master's programmes must write their maturity test in English.

11 Completion of studies

Language policies related to the completion of studies and degrees

Language of study:

The language of study refers to the language in which the student completes the credit in question. The language of study may be different from the language of instruction. Only one language is recorded in the student information system for each course completed by the student. If a course consists of several components completed in different languages, the language of study for the course is the language in which the component with the greatest workload was completed. If the components completed in different languages have an equal workload, the teacher assessing the completed course decides which language is recorded as the language of study.

The language principles for examinations are included in a separate rector's decision.

The doctoral thesis must be written in academic standard language, regardless of whether it is written in Finnish, Swedish, English or another language.

In degree programmes, the language of instruction and the language of study are usually the same. A degree programme offered in the national languages of Finland (Finnish and Swedish) may include courses in which teaching is provided in English and in which students can complete the studies in Finnish, Swedish or English. In language subjects, the language of instruction and study may be a language other than Finnish, Swedish or English.

In English-language degree programmes, the language of instruction and study is English. Sufficient English-language guidance and supervision must also be available. In English-



language degree programmes, students must complete at least 75% of the studies included in their degree, including the thesis, in English.

In Swedish-language degree programmes, students must complete at least 75% of the studies included in their degree, including the thesis, in Swedish.

In multilingual degree programmes, the language of study is Finnish, Swedish or English. Students completing an English-language degree must complete at least 75% of the studies included in their degree, including the thesis, in English. Sufficient English-language guidance and supervision must be available. The University also offers teaching in Finnish and Swedish for students pursuing their studies in the national languages of Finland. At the minimum, seminar and thesis supervision must be available in Finnish or Swedish.

Students who intend to complete a bilingual degree (Finnish and Swedish, or Swedish and Finnish) must complete at least a third of the degree in each degree language so that the language of instruction and the language of study are primarily the same. In such cases, the student may have 15 credits taken into consideration for the language of their master's thesis (10 credits in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine). In addition, the degree requirements include a C1 level proficiency test (CEFR) in the language which is not the primary language of the degree. If students have completed the language test for their bilingual first-cycle degree, they need not take it for their second-cycle degree.

Language of the degree in bachelor's programmes

In an English-language bachelor's programme, the language of the degree is English.

When a student completes a bilingual degree in a bachelor's programme, the languages of the degree are Finnish and Swedish or Swedish and Finnish.

In a Swedish-language bachelor's programme or option available for application, the language of the degree is Swedish. In other cases, the language of the degree is Finnish or Swedish, depending on the language in which the student has completed more studies included in the degree.

Language of the degree in master's programmes

When a student completes a bilingual degree in a master's programme, the languages of the degree are Finnish and Swedish or Swedish and Finnish.

If a student continues to study in a master's programme offered in the national languages of Finland (Finnish and Swedish), the language of the degree is recorded as 'Finnish or Swedish'. If a student graduates from a master's programme offered in Finnish and Swedish, the language of the degree is recorded as Finnish or Swedish, depending on the language in which the student has completed more studies included in the degree.

Those admitted to a master's programme offered in Finnish and Swedish through an admissions procedure demonstrate their proficiency in the language of the degree at the application stage.

In a multilingual master's programme, the language of the degree is Finnish, Swedish or English. If a student continues to study in a multilingual master's programme, the language of the degree is recorded as 'Finnish or Swedish' or 'English', depending on the language of the student's bachelor's degree at the University of Helsinki. Upon graduation, the language of the degree is Finnish or Swedish, depending on the language in which the student has completed more studies included in the degree. In a multilingual master's programme, the language of the degree for students who have completed a bachelor's degree in Finnish or Swedish can be English if they demonstrated their proficiency in English when they continued their studies in that programme.



after completing a bachelor's programme. The methods of demonstrating proficiency in English are defined in the rector's decision on general guidelines for admission to first- and second-cycle degree education at the University of Helsinki. Students completing an English-language degree in a multilingual master's programme must complete at least 75% of the studies included in their degree, including the thesis, in English.

Section 10 of the Universities Act provides for the liability for tuition fees for students completing a degree whose language is not Finnish or Swedish. At the University of Helsinki, this liability commences from the beginning of the term following the change of degree language. Students completing an English-language degree in a multilingual master's programme who wish to change their degree language to Finnish or Swedish must demonstrate their language proficiency in accordance with the rector's decision on the general guidelines for student admissions. The liability for tuition fees ceases to apply from the term following the change.

Those admitted to a multilingual master's programme through an admissions procedure demonstrate their proficiency in the language of the degree at the application stage.

In an English-language master's programme, the language of the degree is English. In a Swedish-language master's programme, the language of the degree is Swedish.

Language of the degree in doctoral programmes

The language of the degree for a graduate from a doctoral programme is Finnish, Swedish or English, depending on the language of the graduate's doctoral thesis and its public examination. If the language of the doctoral thesis is not Finnish, Swedish or English, the language of the degree is the language in which the applicant demonstrated proficiency upon admission to the doctoral programme.

Language of degree certificates in bachelor's, master's and doctoral programmes

The language of the degree certificate is stipulated in the Regulations on Degrees and the Protection of Students' Rights at the University of Helsinki and in a separate rector's decision.

Attending teaching

Students must actively attend teaching sessions. The degree programme curriculum may determine that attending teaching is compulsory if it is pedagogically justified or necessitated by the teaching arrangements. Compulsory attendance can apply to a course or its component. When deciding on compulsory attendance, the amount of teaching students are required to attend must also be defined in the curriculum. The teacher may require students to make up for non-attendance by completing assignments to be agreed upon separately. Such assignments must be of a workload equal to what the student would have completed by attending the teaching session.

Study-related assignments

Students must observe the deadlines for study-related assignments, and the teacher must announce these deadlines at the beginning of the course at the latest. The deadline for submitting assignments must be reasonable for both students' ability to complete the studies and teachers' work schedules. Teachers are not obliged to accept assignments that students submit after the deadline; instead, the students can be required to take the course again. Teachers must provide instructions for the submission of assignments.

Completion of courses

If no other deadline has been given, students must complete all the components of a course within one year of completing the first component. It can be determined in the degree programme



curriculum that students can complete missing components within a longer period if the next opportunity to complete the component is not offered sooner. Integrated courses that span several academic years can deviate from the 12-month rule. In such cases, the course must be completed as determined in the curriculum.

Raising the grades of completed credits

Students can attempt to raise the grade of completed studies approved on a scale of 0 to 5 or using the grades good, satisfactory and fail no more than twice. They can attempt to raise the grade of an examination related to a lecture course twice if two resit opportunities are associated with it. If an examination related to a lecture course only has one resit opportunity, students have one opportunity to attempt to raise the grade. If students wish to raise the grade of written studies, such as a written project, essay or learning journal, a significant part of it must be rewritten or it must be written on an entirely new topic.

The opportunity to raise a grade does not apply to recognised prior courses or approved bachelor's, master's or doctoral theses.

Students studying in a degree programme cannot register again for a course they have completed if they have used the opportunities available to raise the grade, unless the completed studies have expired and cannot, therefore, be included in a degree. Students who have passed a course can register for the same course if it is organised as open university education.

A recorded module grade or completion date or an issued degree certificate will not be amended because of a raised grade.

Studies to be compiled into modules

Students may incorporate into modules only the number of credits specified in the degree programme curriculum as the scope of the module, plus a maximum of five credits.

The scope of a module is the sum of the scope of the studies included in the module.

Once registered as a module, it cannot be broken up, unless the registration was erroneous.

Overall grading of a module

The overall grade of a module is determined on the basis of all courses included in it so that each such course is weighted in accordance with the number of credits earned from it. If a module includes sub-modules, the overall grade is calculated based on the grades of the courses included in all sub-modules. When determining the module grade, only those completed studies that have been assessed on a scale of 0 to 5 will be taken into account. Overall module grades will be calculated as follows:

	lowest average	highest average
5 (excellent)	4.50	5.00
4 (very good)	3.50	4.49
3 (good)	2.50	3.49
2 (satisfactory)	1.50	2.49
1 (passable)	1.00	1.49

If more than half of the completed credits for a module have been assessed on a scale other than 0 to 5, the module will be graded on a pass–fail basis.



The grade for the bachelor's thesis will be taken into account when determining the overall grade for intermediate studies. The grade for the master's thesis will be taken into account when determining the overall grade for advanced studies.

If the thesis has been graded on a scale other than 0–5, the thesis grade will not count towards the module grade.

Expiry of studies

Study modules completed on a date more than 10 years prior as well as courses not belonging to any study module cannot be incorporated into degrees. The validity period of a course begins on the date of completion, and courses completed more than 10 years before that date cannot be incorporated into modules. The validity period of a module begins on the date of completion of the last course or examination incorporated into the module.

The following exceptions apply to the provisions on the expiry of completed studies:

- 1) Studies in the first language, the second national language and a foreign language required for degrees do not expire.
- 2) Assessed and approved bachelor's, master's, licentiate and doctoral theses do not expire.
- 3) Completed intermediate studies following the completion of basic studies interrupt the expiry of basic studies. In such cases, the basic studies expire at the same time as the intermediate studies. In addition, basic studies in special education expire at the same time as the studies for special needs teachers (at least 60 cr).
- 4) The studies required for a doctoral degree must have been completed less than 10 years from the date on which the preliminary examination of the doctoral thesis commences. If the preliminary examination statements do not recommend that permission be granted to defend the doctoral thesis, the preliminary examination procedure is cancelled and must be recommenced. When the preliminary examination procedure recommences, the studies required for a doctoral degree must have been completed less than 10 years from the starting date of the procedure.

Courses completed more than 10 years prior cannot be included in non-degree study modules completed at the University of Helsinki or in related module certificates.

Courses and modules are valid until the end of the term in which the expiry date falls.

Degree programme curricula can also define shorter expiry periods than 10 years.

Expired studies must be completed again in full to be included in a degree. Ways of demonstrating skills provided by expired studies other than completing them again are set out in the degree programme curriculum.

In the single-cycle degree structure in medicine and dentistry, granting the title of Bachelor of Medicine or Bachelor of Dentistry or compiling into a module the studies completed in the first two years of study interrupts the expiry of the modules and other studies completed in accordance with the curriculum prior to that. In addition, compulsory language studies (10 cr) do not expire if they were completed no more than 10 years prior to the date of granting the bachelor's title.

Students who received their right to study in or before 2015 and who transferred or were transferred to the Degree Programme in Medicine had the right, until 31 July 2023, to include in their Licentiate of Medicine degree first language studies, studies in the second national language of Finland and foreign language studies completed more than 10 years prior. Students who received their right to study in or before 2015 and who transferred or were transferred to the Degree Programme in Dentistry had the right, until 31 December 2022, to include in their



Licentiate of Dentistry degree first language studies, studies in the second national language of Finland and foreign language studies completed more than 10 years prior. If the duration of a student's studies is extended due to an absence referred to in section 41 of the Universities Act, the above deadlines for completing the degree can be extended in a corresponding manner.

12 Registration at the University

Registration for the academic year by degree students

Students admitted to the University to complete a degree must accept the offered student place within the deadline determined by the Ministry of Education and Culture for the national joint admissions procedure and by University Services for other admissions. If an admitted student fails to accept the offered student place within the determined deadline, they will lose their student place. Such students can seek readmission only through the student admissions procedure.

Students who have accepted the offered student place must also register at the University. Students may register for non-attendance for the first year of studies only on the grounds defined in section 39 of the Universities Act.

Each academic year, degree students must register for attendance or non-attendance in conjunction with all their rights to study at the University. For each of the above rights, they can choose whether to register for attendance or non-attendance. Students who do not intend to pursue studies during the academic year must register for non-attendance. Registration is for the full academic year.

A sector director at University Services decides on the University's registration periods.

A student who intends to pursue studies during the academic year must register for attendance. Additionally, students pursuing studies for a fixed period of time at another educational institute in Finland or abroad must register for attendance for their right to study at the University of Helsinki. In addition, students must be registered for attendance for the term which contains the graduation date for their degree associated with the right to study.

Students pursuing a doctoral degree must belong to a doctoral programme to be able to register for the academic year. If this information is missing from student records, their registration cannot be accepted until their faculty has confirmed their doctoral programme.

Changing or cancelling a registration

A degree student who has registered for non-attendance may change this status any time during the academic year. Students who have registered for attendance who are not in their first year may change their status to non-attendance during the registration period.

If a graduate has registered for the term following their graduation for the right to study related to their completed degree, the registration will be cancelled, and they will be notified of this in writing. The same applies to students who have waived their right to study but have registered for the term following their waiver.

Failure to register for the academic year

As specified by the Universities Act, degree students who fail to register for the academic year will forfeit their right to study. If such students wish to regain their right to study, they must apply for readmission into the faculty. The application can be submitted without participating in the student admissions procedure. Such students must pay an application processing fee specific to the right to study as provided for by a Government decree. When collecting such fees, the right to complete studies leading to a first- and second-cycle degree is considered a single right to study.



The application for readmission must be addressed to the faculty where the student held the right to pursue a degree. If the student held several rights to study at the same time, they must submit the application(s) to the faculties in which they wish to continue studying in the future. Should a faculty reject the student's application, its decision must include instructions on how to appeal.

Students must register for the academic year within the same academic year in which they are readmitted. If registration for the next academic year has already commenced, students can register for the next academic year during the registration period for that academic year. The readmission decision will be revoked for students who fail to register for the academic year either by the end of the academic year or the end of the registration period for the academic year. In such cases, they must reapply for readmission and pay the application processing fee.

If students, after having failed to register for the academic year, register for attendance or non-attendance during the same academic year, they can be readmitted without a separate application after having paid a processing fee.

Students' whose duration of study in accordance with the Universities Act has ended and who apply for an extension need not separately apply for readmission. In such cases, students pay the processing fee for the extension application, but need not pay the re-enrolment fee.

Students in international joint degree programmes

Provisions concerning students in international joint degree programmes and their registration for the academic year during their studies at universities other than the University of Helsinki will be agreed upon separately in agreements on joint degrees.

Other rights to study

Students holding the right to pursue non-degree studies must register for attendance for the academic years following their first year of study if their right to study is subject to the requirement of registration for the academic year. In the student information system, this requirement must be determined by type of education.

13 Degree certificates and other certificates

As provided by the Decree on degrees, the University issues certificates to students on the completion of first- and second-cycle degrees and postgraduate (third-cycle) research degrees. The University also issues certificates to students for completed professional specialisation education and for the completed qualification as a specialist in medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine. In addition, upon request, the University issues certificates of completed studies while students are still studying as well as certificates for completed studies not incorporated into a degree.

The University issues certificates to students on the completion of non-degree studies as well as teacher education studies and studies providing teacher qualifications completed as non-degree studies. The University may, upon request, issue a certificate indicating that the student has demonstrated knowledge and skills acquired in a manner other than the studies determined in the statutory qualification requirements but which are equivalent to the skills and knowledge provided by completed studies in teacher education.

The degree certificate will only indicate the number of completed credits that are stipulated as the scope of the degree in the Decree on degrees plus an additional 10% of completed credits. When calculating the total number of completed credits, students may include in their degrees, besides



the above-mentioned additional 10% of completed credits, studies up to the nearest 5 credits in scope.

The scope of studies indicated in the degree certificates of students graduating from the Master's Programme in Psychology may exceed the stipulated 10% if the students incorporate studies in education required of teachers in their degrees.

The scope of studies indicated in the degree certificates of students who were granted the right to study before 1 August 2017 and who have transferred to complete their degree in accordance with the curricula for their degree programmes may exceed the stipulated 10%. Students who were granted the right to pursue a bachelor's degree, a bachelor's and a master's degree, or only a master's degree before 1 August 2017 include all students entered in the student information system as having obtained their right to study before 1 August 2017. This also applies to students admitted through a transfer application procedure who were originally granted the right to study before 1 August 2017.

However, the scope of studies indicated in the degree certificates of students who were granted the right to study before 1 August 2017 and who have transferred to complete their degree in accordance with the curricula for their degree programmes is regulated by previous faculty decisions. If the faculty which granted the student the right to study has, through standing orders or other equivalent decisions, set limitations to the maximum scope of degrees, these limitations will still be applied after the student's transfer to the new degree system.

Students who were granted the right to study before 1 August 2017 and who have transferred to complete their degree in accordance with the curricula for their degree programmes cannot be granted an extension to the duration of their studies to complete credits not required for the minimum scope of their degree. In addition, students who have transferred to a degree programme cannot incorporate in their degrees modules completed more than 10 years prior or courses not belonging to any modules, taking into account the exceptions listed in section 11 (Completion of studies).

Studies are indicated on the degree certificate so that the scope of the studies based on the doctoral programme curriculum can be exceeded by a maximum of 10%, up to five credits in scope. However, the doctoral certificate of a previous licentiate graduate can indicate all studies completed for the licentiate degree as well as their supplementation, if any.

14 Curriculum periods

The duration of a curriculum period is four academic years.

Students can complete studies in accordance with the curriculum that is valid when their right to study takes effect. When the curriculum period changes, students are entitled to transfer to complete their studies in accordance with the new curriculum. The faculty council can set a deadline after which students must transfer to complete their studies in accordance with a more recent curriculum.

If a student transfers to study in accordance with a more recent curriculum, decisions on the student's study plans, such as the recognition of credits and personal completion methods, will continue to apply, provided that the courses and modules remain the same.



15 Entry into force

These guidelines for degrees and studies will enter into force on 1 August 2025, superseding the rector's decision of 21 June 2021 (HY/3220/00.00.06.00/2021), including its subsequent amendments, on guidelines for degrees and studies at the University of Helsinki. Also superseded are the rector's decision of 27 April 2016 (45/2016) on language guidelines in the University's master's programmes and the decision of the director of development of 8 February 2019 (HY/162/00.00.06.02/2019) on changing the language of the degree in multilingual master's programmes.

The provisions pertaining to the thesis seminar included in the curricula of degree programmes leading to a first- or second-cycle degree will enter into force as of 1 August 2026.

Those who received the right to complete a doctoral degree before 1 August 2024 can continue to complete studies with a scope of 40 credits in accordance with the previous provisions and register them as completed modules until 31 July 2026. After this, all doctoral researchers will complete doctoral degrees with a scope of 30 credits.

Rector

Sari Lindblom

Specialist

Mervi Pyyhtiä

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