



Finnish Education in a Nutshell Online Course – The Finnish Way: Rethinking Learning

Finnish Education in a Nutshell Online Course – The Finnish Way: Rethinking Learning, is a self-paced, expert-led learning experience that explores what makes the Finnish system internationally respected.

Created with experts from the Finnish National Agency for Education

The online course has been designed and delivered in cooperation with specialists from the Finnish National Agency for Education. Their first-hand expertise offers an authentic understanding of the values, structures, and practices that guide education in Finland — with a particular focus on primary and lower secondary (basic) education.

A modular, flexible learning experience

Each module offers a compact, easy-to-follow package with videos, visual explanations, and short reflection tasks designed to activate your thinking.

You can choose to complete a single module or gradually build a comprehensive overview of Finnish education — entirely on your schedule.

Module 1: Introduction to the Finnish Education System Online Course

The first module offers a clear and structured introduction to the Finnish education system. Through four thematic sections, the module explains how the system has evolved, how it is governed, how quality is ensured, and how learning pathways are organized from early childhood to higher education.

Benefits for participants

- **Develop a strong foundational understanding** of how the Finnish education system has evolved and how responsibilities are shared between national and local authorities.
- **Gain insight into quality assurance and evaluation**, including trust-based governance and continuous improvement practices.

- **See the full educational pathway** and understand how lifelong learning principles guide policy.
- **Reflect on your own context**, building a conceptual base for deeper learning and progression to later modules.

Structure, duration, and learning activities

- **Format:** Self-paced online module
- **Estimated duration:** 5 hours
- **Learning activities:** A compact, easy-to-follow package including videos, visual explanations, and short reflection tasks designed to activate your thinking.
- **Assessment or certification:** A printable certificate of completion is available upon finishing the module.

Key Themes Covered in Module 1

The module covers four key areas of the Finnish education system:

1. Introduction to the Finnish Education System

An overview of the system's history, core values, and the societal changes that have shaped its development.

2. Governance of the Education System

A description of the administrative structure and the roles of key actors such as the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Finnish National Agency for Education.

3. Quality Assurance and Evaluation

An introduction to how educational quality is monitored and developed, including evaluation practices, national actors, and key principles of quality assurance.

4. Structure of the Education System

An outline of the educational pathway from early childhood to higher education, the principles of lifelong learning, and the extension of compulsory education.

More themes coming soon

In addition to Module 1, the course also includes Module 2 — Educational Values and Curriculum Foundations in Finnish Education — which you can access via the link below.

Module 2: Educational Values and Curriculum Foundations in Finnish Education



Stay tuned! We are currently developing new course modules that will explore the following themes:

- Digitalization in education
- Inclusion and student support
- Vocational Education and Training (VET)
- Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) and pre-primary education
- Education, pedagogy, and the development of school culture in practice — featuring student stories and real-life examples at the school level
- Teacher education and professional development in Finland

More details will be shared in 2026! We look forward to continuing the learning journey with you!

