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# **Webinar on tuition fee and scholarship changes**

## **Effect on Aalto's current students**

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# Agenda

- Tuition fees in Finland
- Overview of the changes
- Background for the changes
- Effect on Aalto students
  - Tuition fees
  - Scholarships
  - International joint degree programmes
  - Tuition fee exemptions
- Support channels

**A!**



# A few things about the webinar

- If you have questions, wait until the end of the webinar to ask them using the Q&A function on Zoom
  - Some of your questions will be answered in the presentation!
- If you have sent a message to [tuitionfees@aalto.fi](mailto:tuitionfees@aalto.fi)
  - There have been a lot of messages – we are replying to every one of them as fast as we can, so don't worry!
  - If you sent copies of your exempting residence permit before 1 December 2024, the sent date is the one that counts, not the date when you receive the reply



# Tuition fees in Finland

## Tuition fees are required by the Finnish law

- Less flexibility on university's tuition fee regulations
- No possibility to negotiate on tuition fees in individual cases

## Tuition fees are mandatory for students, who:

- are citizens coming outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland area
- study in a bachelor's or master's programme taught in a language other than Finnish or Swedish.

## No tuition fees in doctoral programmes

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# Overview of the changes

## **Aalto President's decision on tuition fee policies**

- New tuition fee levels and scholarship programme for study rights starting on or after 1 August 2025
- Current students not affected (study right beginning on or before 1 August 2024)
  - Your tuition fee level remains the same as it was at the beginning of your study right
  - Scholarship possibilities and eligibility criteria remain the same, also for bachelor's who continue to Aalto master's programme within the same 3+2 study right
  - NB! If you apply for a new study right through admissions, the new tuition fee and scholarship policies will affect you (study right starting on or after 1 August 2025)

## **Universities Act confirmed by the Finnish Government**

- Changes to e.g. tuition fee exemptions, introduction of application fees
- New law entered into force 1 December 2024, concerns all students (when applicable)

## **Aliens Act – not yet confirmed**

- Affecting e.g. permanent residence permits, 3/6 month rule



# Background for the changes

## Different on-going processes affecting tuition fees and scholarships in the upcoming years.

- Finnish Government is introducing amendments to the Universities Act and the Aliens Act.
  - Universities Act confirmed, new law valid from 1 December 2024
  - Aliens Act: proposals not yet confirmed
- Key changes in the amendments affect international students, e.g.
  - Tuition fees
  - Scholarships
  - Residence permits



# Effect on Aalto students

# Tuition fees

**With the amendments on the Universities Act, tuition fees would have to cover the costs of completing a degree.**

- If you are a current student (study right started on or before 1 August 2024), there will be no changes in your tuition fees
  - Tuition fee level remains the same as it was at the start of your studies at Aalto
  - This also applies to students whose study right begins on 1 August 2024, and who have enrolled as non-attending or neglected their enrolment during the first year
- Continuing from a bachelor's programme to a master's programme
  - If you continue within the same study right (3+2), which was granted on 1 August 2024 or before, you will maintain the tuition fee levels that were valid at the start of your study right (for the master's programme)
- Changes in tuition fee levels affect those whose study right begins 1 August 2025 or after (NB! applying for a new study right)



# Scholarships

**Due to the amendments to the Universities Act, Aalto's scholarship programme will also be updated.**

- There are no changes to your scholarship, if you are a current student whose study right has started on or before 1 August 2024
  - You maintain your current scholarship and the eligibility criteria stays the same
  - You can apply to scholarships that were available at the start of your study right
- Continuing from a bachelor's programme to a master's programme
  - If you continue within the same study right (3+2), which was granted on 1 August 2024 or before, you will maintain the eligibility to apply for the scholarships that were available at the start of your study right → e.g. scholarships to Aalto bachelor's graduates continuing to Aalto's master's programmes (within the same study right)
- New scholarship programme for those whose study right begins 1 August 2025 or after (NB! applying for a new study right)

# International joint degree programmes

**Programmes using the partner universities' own tuition fees and scholarships will be impacted more directly than those with joint programme fees and scholarships schemes.**

- If you are a current student in a programme which uses the universities' local tuition fees and scholarships (e.g. Nordic Master programmes, EMC)
  - There will be no changes to your scholarship at Aalto University, if your study right has started on or before 1 August 2024.
  - You maintain your current scholarship (the eligibility criteria stays the same), and you will be able to apply to scholarships that were available to you at the start of your study right.

**If you are in a programme with programme fees, these changes don't affect your fees or your possible scholarship (e.g. Erasmus Mundus, EIT).**

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# Tuition fee exemptions

## **Certain residence permit types issued for residence in Finland exempt from tuition fees**

- Scholarships granted as tuition fee waivers  $\neq$  tuition fee exemptions based on residence permit type

## **The amended Universities Act will affect residence permits in Finland**

- New law entered into force on 1 December 2024; it will immediately affect residence permit types with which it is possible to have the tuition fee exempted
- These changes concern all tuition-fee students, i.e. also those who are currently studying at Aalto University (study rights started on or before 1 August 2024)
- According to the new law, the possible tuition fee exemption is based on residence permit type and residence permit history in Finland

## **Please note that Aalto's guidelines remain the same, regarding e.g.**

- Residence permit validity periods and instructions on when the copy of the residence permit card must be sent in order for the exemption to be valid for the academic year / term

# Exempting residence permits from 1 December 2024 onwards

**Tuition fees do *not* concern those non-EU/non-EEA/Switzerland students who have:**

- a permanent residence permit card in Finland, type P permit
- an EU residence permit for third-country citizens with long-term residence permit card in Finland (type P-EU permit)
- an EU family member's residence card in Finland. You must hold the residence permit yourself, i.e. being a family member of a person who has a residence permit in an EU country does not grant you a tuition fee exemption.
- an EU blue card in Finland
- a Brexit residence permit card
- a residence permit based on temporary protection in Finland, as referred to in the Aliens Act. The permit has to be valid at the beginning of the study right, and the permit cannot have later been revoked.
- an Erasmus Mundus scholarship and who are studying in the Erasmus Mundus programme funded by the European Union.

**A continuous residence permit (type A) may exempt you from paying tuition fees if it is granted on grounds other than studying. However, you *are required* to pay tuition fees in the following cases:**

- If your first residence permit in Finland was granted for the purpose of studying, you must pay tuition fees, even if you later obtained a continuous residence permit (type A) on other grounds.
- If you have a continuous residence permit (type A) based on family ties in Finland, and your family member originally came to Finland on a residence permit granted for studying, you are also required to pay tuition fees.
- If your continuous residence permit (type A) is granted for studying, you are required to pay tuition fees.

**NB!** If your continuous residence permit (type A) is based on family ties in Finland, and your family member is a Finnish citizen, you will be exempted from tuition fees.

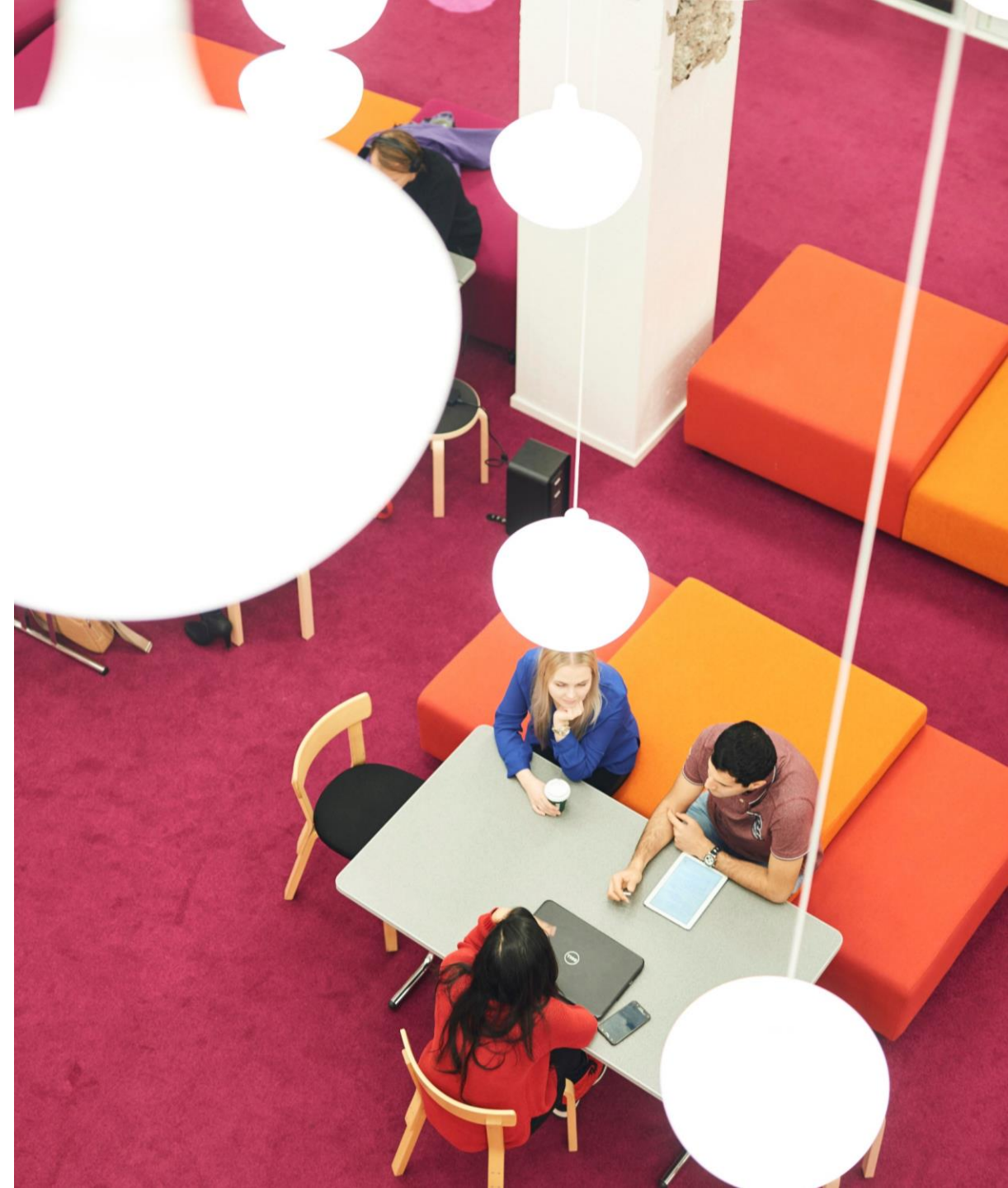


# Currently exempted students

**If you have been exempted from paying tuition fees before the new law entered into force (on 1 December 2024), and the exemption period has been marked in your details in Sisu:**

- You will continue to be exempted from tuition fees during the validity period of your current exempting residence permit, as marked in Sisu.
- When your current residence permit expires
  - The tuition fee exemption continues until the end of your current exemption period, as marked in Sisu (tied to the validity of your exempting residence permit card)
  - When renewing your permit, if your residence permit type or the grounds for your permit remain the same, you will continue to be exempted. If the type or the grounds for your permit change, let us know so we can check the situation!

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# Support channels

## Student Guide: Tuition fees and scholarships

- Tuition fees
- Scholarships
- External scholarships
- Exemptions from tuition fees
- Frequently asked questions
- Proposed changes in tuition fees and scholarships

<https://www.aalto.fi/en/international-students/tuition-fees-and-scholarships>

Tuition fee specialists at [tuitionfees@aalto.fi](mailto:tuitionfees@aalto.fi)

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# Summary: impact of the changes on Aalto students

- The changes do not affect your tuition fees or scholarships
- If you have a residence permit based on studies, you don't have to send copies of it to us
  - The change in tuition fee exemptions only concerns you if your residence permit type changes and you want check whether the new residence permit type exempts
- If you are already exempted based on your residence permit type, there won't be any immediate impact
  - The tuition fee exemption continues until the end of your current exemption period, as marked in Sisu (tied to the validity of your exempting residence permit card)
  - When renewing your permit, if your residence permit type or the grounds for your permit remain the same, you will continue to be exempted. If the type or the grounds for your permit change, let us know so we can check the situation!

**A!**



# Thank you!

Questions can be asked using the Q&A function on Zoom.

How did we do? Please leave us feedback, it only takes a minute!

<https://link.webropol.com/s/tuitionfees122024>



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If you have any further questions, you can always reach our tuition fee specialists at [tuitionfees@aalto.fi](mailto:tuitionfees@aalto.fi)

We are there for you!



**A!**

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Kiitos  
**aalto.fi**