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Aalto University

Leading university in the happiest country in the world



Three fields, six schools

Aalto University is a community of bold thinkers where science and art meet technology and business. We are committed to identifying and solving grand societal challenges and building an innovative future. Aalto University has six schools with 12 000 students and 400 professors.

School of Arts, Design and Architecture is a Finnish and Nordic leader in higher education for design, fashion, games, media, architecture, film, art education and art. We produce world-class research in art education, design and design thinking, digital media and visual culture, urban planning, architecture and landscape architecture.

School of Business holds the Triple Crown status and is one of the leading business schools in Europe. The School of Business works for better business and a better society. The Aalto School of Business educates experts and leaders for the future and contributes to society through impactful research, long-term partnerships, and societal engagement.

School of Electrical Engineering is much more than electricity and smart

power grids, as we study many topics you might not initially associate with the electrical industry. We take part in solving the great challenges humanity is facing, such as climate change, the depletion of natural resources and an aging population.

School of Engineering strives for new knowledge and solutions to serve the goals of sustainable development related to industry and built environment. Our strengths are application-oriented system competence and a tradition of experimental research, as well as technical competence.

School of Chemical Engineering renews society by generating knowledge, educating experts and enhancing sustainable innovations for bio- and circular economy. We combine natural sciences with engineering and join forces

with the leading research organisations and companies in the world to develop new technologies that make an impact on our society.

School of Science aims to change the world for the better by creating new knowledge and combining core research areas in novel ways. Through our internationally-acclaimed high-level research, we aim to make a significant impact on society. Our research focuses on advanced energy solutions, condensed matter, quantum and materials physics; creation and transformation of technology-based business; data science and artificial intelligence; health technology and neuroscience.

See all programmes
aalto.fi/programmes



#8

in the world in Art & Design QS (2023)

1%

Ranked among the top 1% of business schools worldwide

#1

in Finland in Engineering & Technology QS (2023)

Business and Economics

Studying business prepares graduates for jobs where they can make an impact on business and society. Research and education in the field focuses on societally important areas, such as sustainable business, digital business models, and data-driven decision making. Business studies have a strong heritage stretching back to 1911 when the Helsinki School of Economics was established.

Science, Technology and Engineering

Studying science and technology opens doors for many different work paths. At Aalto, you can create solutions for sustainable development, advance people's wellbeing with technology, design more sustainable cities, environments and appliances, and much more. We have educated technology professionals for over 170 years.

Art and Design

As the world moves towards increasingly unpredictable times, creative skills and solutions are more necessary than ever. The expertise of designers and other creative professionals is especially suited to exploring the complex issues of our time. Aalto ARTS has been educating creative professionals for more than 150 years.

What makes Aalto unique?

Aalto University offers you much more than a degree.

The bachelor's and master's programmes at Aalto University provide a head start for a great career. In addition to world-leading education and research, Aalto University also provides its students with tools that help them start their professional life after studies, such as internships at top corporations, practical leadership and problem-solving skills, and career services.

Multidisciplinary: At Aalto University, flexible options provide the chance to mix elements from different programmes and fields of study. Great examples of the multidisciplinary master's programmes at Aalto are both IDBM (International Design Business Management) and Creative Sustainability. Design Factory gathers together many multidisciplinary and practical study possibilities. The ChemArts project invents new concepts by bringing together design, brand thinking and natural material science.

Aalto community: The people at Aalto are our greatest asset. During your studies you will make contacts and build networks that will be a source of joy and professional benefits long after you've graduated.

Internationality: Aalto University has a diverse international student and academic community. We have an extensive international partner network, and we cooperate with over 400 leading universities around the world. Our students get access to a wide range of international exchange and project opportunities.

Infrastructure: We provide an excellent working environment with top level infrastructure and strong industrial networks. Our research infrastructures concentrate on areas like neuroimaging, bioeconomy, nanoscience, quantum technologies and metallurgical materials to solve some of the most urgent sustainability challenges in the world. Our numerous world-class laboratories and workshops allow students to experiment with different materials, methods, and processes to combine learning, research, and artistic vision.

Start-up scene and entrepreneurship: There is a vibrant student-driven start-up scene at Aalto University. For example, Startup Sauna and Aalto Entrepreneur Society (Aaltoes), as well as Slush and Summer of Startups which have attracted international attention, all started at Aalto. Approximately 70-100 new companies are born at Aalto University each year. Right from the beginning of your studies, you can work on interesting, practical projects that involve real-life business cases and professionals.

Values and freedom: Our students have the freedom to choose courses from the three fields or focus on specialising in one area. Regardless of the field, everything we do, from researching to studying, is guided by fostering creativity, promoting an entrepreneurial mindset and shaping a more sustainable future. We actively integrate sustainability as well as equality, diversity and inclusion in our everyday operations.



International Aalto

The largest international academic community in Finland

Over

4000

international students

47%

of Aalto's academic
faculty is international

115+

different nationalities
as students

#47

in the ranking of the most
international universities in the
world (Times Higher Education)

Student life at Aalto University

The student overalls are a garment worn mainly at student parties. Overalls are usually worn by university students and students of universities of applied sciences.

Cloth badges are often collected on the overalls as souvenirs of different student events and other students met in these events, with whom badges have been exchanged.

The Aalto campus

The Aalto campus is located in Otaniemi, in the city of Espoo. Otaniemi is home to a lively community, and it could be even described as a small town with its excellent services from study hubs to restaurants and cafes, stores and sports facilities. The location is a perfect balance of vivid city life and nature: hop on a metro and travel to the heart of our capital, Helsinki, in less than 15 minutes, or head to the neighbouring nature reserve to catch some fresh air.

A strong student culture

Student unions and associations look after students' interests and organise free-time activities, like sports and cultural events. The Aalto University Student Union (AYY) gathers all of Aalto's students together. AYY offers its members student housing, events, advocacy services and the right to use the services of FSHS and UniSport. You are sure to find activities and events happening every day in one of the more than 200 associations and organizations operating within AYY's sphere of influence. More info: ayy.fi

Advocacy

The Aalto University Student Union AYY acts as an advocate of the students in matters of education and student life (well-being, health, subsistence, living and sports).

Student benefits and discounts

Housing, health care, public transportation, lunches, and gyms are in most cases subsidized and discounted for both domestic and international students by the state and service providers.

Student housing is available at reasonable rates for Aalto University students. Accommodation is available from the Helsinki region student housing association (HOAS) and Aalto University Student Union. Rents usually include utility charges and an internet connection, and housing units often have many shared services such as laundry, club room and sauna available.

The Finnish Student Health Service (FSHS)

offers high-quality general health, mental health, and dental health services to university students for a small annual membership fee.

UniSport is the sports center for university students available on the Otaniemi campus. There is a large array of sports and facilities to choose from, regardless of whether you enjoy individual or team sports. For the active sports enthusiast, the best workout mate is the UniSport training card, which is available to students at a discount.

Visit our campus from wherever you are – take a virtual campus tour!

virtualtour.aalto.fi



Education at all levels

Aalto University offers degree education at all levels allowing you to aim for your dream career in the industry or in academia.

Bachelor's

We offer nine bachelor's programmes taught in English: Chemical engineering, Computational Engineering, Computer Engineering, Digital Systems and Design, Quantum Technology, Data Science, Economics, International Business, and Design and Media. A Finnish university Bachelor's degree consists of 180 ECTS credits and takes 3 years complete. Students studying in a bachelor's programme at Aalto, have an automatic right to continue to a master's programme at Aalto.

Master's

We offer 90+ master's programmes across our six schools. International joint degree programmes are also available. A Finnish university Master's degree consists of 120 ECTS credits and takes 2 years to complete. Master's studies include a master's thesis research project.

PhD

Doctoral education is available in all our research fields. PhD studies consist of 240 ECTS credits. Completing your PhD in Finland takes approximately 4 years as a full-time student.



Rankings

Aalto University is highly ranked in international comparisons for quality of teaching and research, ensuring that your Aalto degree will be esteemed all over the world.

#8

in the world

QS World University Rankings
by subject in Art & Design

#1

in Finland

QS World University
Rankings (2024)

#54

in the world

Marine and Ocean Engineering.
Shanghai Ranking Global Ranking
of Academic Subjects (2023)

#17

in the world

Globally in Business Administration.
Shanghai Ranking of Academic
Subjects (2023)

Life in Finland

Finland scores high in international comparisons in quality of education, safety and quality of life. As a place to study and live, it's hard to beat!

Finland is a safe country where everyday life works, and nature is always close by. A balanced student life means that you can concentrate on your studies, as everyday life is well-organised and reliable. Finland is located in Northern Europe and is a great meeting point between east and west.

How is the weather? Will I freeze?

The summer in Finland is warm and bright. The days are at their longest in the second half of June, when the sun stays above the horizon for 19 hours. The evenings grow cool towards the end of September, and the days grow noticeably shorter as winter approaches.

The winter begins in either November or December depending on the year. The temperature fluctuates on either side of 0°C. The average temperature between December and February is around -4°C. The coldest time of the year is usually at the end of January, when the mercury can fall below -15°C and the ground is covered by snow. The sea usually freezes over in the heart of winter.

Spring arrives in the south of Finland usually sometime in April. The days quickly grow longer and warmer.



Helsinki and Espoo: 10 Reasons to live in the Finnish Capital

1. English is widely spoken alongside the national languages, Finnish and Swedish.
2. Public transport is fast, reliable, and environmentally friendly.
3. A great combination of natural peace and urban buzz.
4. Finland offers high quality and equal education.
5. A city where we trust each other: valuing trustworthiness and reliability is deeply ingrained in the Finnish mentality.
6. Beating with life around the year: festivals, art, culinary pleasures, sports events and four different seasons.
7. In a compact city everything is nearby.
8. Everyday living is smooth, and wellbeing is a priority.
9. Helsinki is a model city of sustainable development.
10. The Finnish capital region is exciting, creative and growing.

Finland facts

Official name:
Republic of Finland

Member of the
European Union

Official languages:
Finnish (92%), Swedish (5,5%)

Population: 5,4 million

GDP: \$186 billion
GDP per capita: \$35 000

Currency: Euro €

Time zone: GMT+2

Interested in applying?

Aalto University has one intake per year for bachelor's and master's programmes. Typically, application periods run from December to January for studies commencing in the following August.

Steps to apply:

Explore our programmes: Review Aalto's study options and identify the programmes that interest you.

Understand the requirements: Carefully read the admissions requirements on the Aalto website and start preparing your application well in advance.

Language test: If required, book and take a standardized language test.

Gather your documents: Determine if you need to submit additional documents such as standardized test results (SAT, ACT, GMAT, or GRE), official translations, references, or portfolios.

Submit your application: Apply online during the application period and ensure all application documents are submitted on time.

Read more: aalto.fi/studies



Tuition fees

Citizens of European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland do not pay tuition fees. Citizens of other countries must pay tuition fees for bachelor's and master's programmes taught in English. There are no tuition fees for PhD/doctoral programmes.

Aalto University offers a small number of scholarships in the form of tuition fee waivers to fee-paying students. Please note that the waivers are competitive.

Find out more about tuition fees and scholarships here: aalto.fi/en/admission-services/scholarships-and-tuition-fees



Interact with our students

If you are wondering what it is truly like to study at Aalto, our student ambassadors are happy to share their experiences with you. You can find them on various platforms virtually or meet them on campus tours and at events.

Chat with Aalto students and ask questions about what studying at Aalto is really like
aalto.fi/en/study-at-aalto/chat-with-aalto-students



Notes



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