

School of Science: Kickstart your studies

11 August 2026



Aalto-yliopisto
Aalto-universitetet
Aalto University



Kickstart your studies: Introduction, Study Plan, and Course Registration

Practicalities

- Aalto IT account needed for creating your study plan and signing up for courses.
- If your admission is conditional, wait until the condition is cleared. Signing up for courses is possible after you have activated your IT account.
- In any problems with activation, please contact servicedesk@aalto.fi

Agenda

- Orientation: Important dates
- Introduction to School of Science
- Student Guide
- Planning your studies
- Programme-specific breakout rooms

**Recording and slides are published on the
Student Guide.**

Questions? Use the Q&A function!

A!



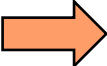
Principles for a safer space:

- ✓ Remember to be respectful of others.
- ✓ Have an open mind and respect diversity.
- ✓ If something is not right – speak up!

All students at Aalto University are treated equally in terms of services and the university's academic regulations.

Orientation schedule

July-August: Pre-orientation (online, independent)



11 August: Planning your studies (online, recorded)

Orientation week: Mon 24 August – Fri 28 August

Sessions on studies, academic guidelines, getting to know the staff & your peers, wellbeing, networking, student community, etc.

*Important sessions on your studies & academic guidelines: **Mon 24 August & Tue 25 August***
→ be sure to attend!

*For **non-EU/EEA** students: Information about tuition fees & scholarships (Wed 26 Aug)*

*For **international** students: Arrival practicalities (Wed 26 Aug)*

1. Aalto & School of Science Introduction

Aalto University

School of Science **SCI**

School of Electrical Engineering **ELEC**

School of Chemical Engineering **CHEM**

School of Engineering **ENG**

School of Business **BIZ**

School of Arts, Design and Architecture **ARTS**

14 466

Degree students in master's and bachelor's programme in 2024

5 215

Personnel of which 437 professors in 2024

212K sqm

University facility usage in 2024

Source: Annual
board report and
financial
statements 2024

School of Science SCI

KPI's 2024

4732

Degree students of which 911
doctoral students

517

Master of Science degrees
(not incl. ELEC)

394

Bachelor of Science degrees

79

Doctor of Science degrees

114

Professors
(tenure track & artistic)

~45M€

External funding

School of Science Departments

Applied
Physics

Computer
Science

Industrial
Engineering and
Management

Mathematics
and Systems
Analysis

Neuroscience
and Biomedical
Engineering

SCI Master's Programmes

Computer, Communication and Information Sciences (CCIS)

5 SCI majors:

- Computer Science (CS)
- Game Design and Development (Game)
- Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)
- Machine Learning, Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (Macadamia)
- Software Engineering (SE)

+ Tracks!

Engineering Physics

2 majors:

- Materials Physics and Quantum Technology
- Advanced Energy Technologies

Industrial Engineering and Management (IEM)

5 majors:

- Operations Management
- Organisation Development and Leadership
- Product and Innovation Management
- Strategy
- Technology Entrepreneurship

Information Networks (INF)

2 majors:

- Human-Centred Service Design and Engineering (HuDE)
- Strategic Organizing, Technology, and Society (SOrTS)

Life Science Technologies (LIFE)

4 SCI majors:

- Bioinformatics and Digital Health
 - Biomedical Engineering
 - Complex Systems
 - Human Neuroscience and Technology
- 1 ELEC major
- Biosensing and Bioelectronics

Mathematics and Operations Research (Math&OR)

3 majors:

- Mathematics
- Applied Mathematics
- Systems and Operations Research

Master's Programme in International Design Business Management

Master's Programme in International Design Business Management (IDBM):

- Jointly organized by all the Schools of Aalto University: School of Arts, Design and Architecture, School of Business, School of Chemical Engineering, School of Electrical Engineering, School of Engineering and School of Science.
- Coordinated by the School of Business.

IDBM students: You will draft your study plan and sign up for courses **tomorrow** (Wednesday 12 August at 16.00-16.45)!

SCI International Joint Master's Programmes (Double-degree)

Master's Programme in ICT
Innovation (EIT Digital
Master School)

2 SCI majors:

- Data Science
- Human-Computer
Interaction and Design

2 ELEC majors

Master's Programme in
Cybersecurity and
Assurance

1 major

2. Student Guide



Content

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[Content Owner](#)

[Page Info](#)

[Translate](#)



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[EN](#)

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[Log out](#)

[Close menu](#)



Student Guide



For personnel



My profile

Tools and services +

Admissions and studies +

Research and art +

Schools and departments +

Collaboration +

News and events +

About us +

Näytös/Näyttely25 now bigger than ever!

At the end of May, the international fashion and textile world will turn its attention to Aalto University's visionary students.

→ [Read more about the event](#)

→ [Take a peek into the wardrobe of the future](#)

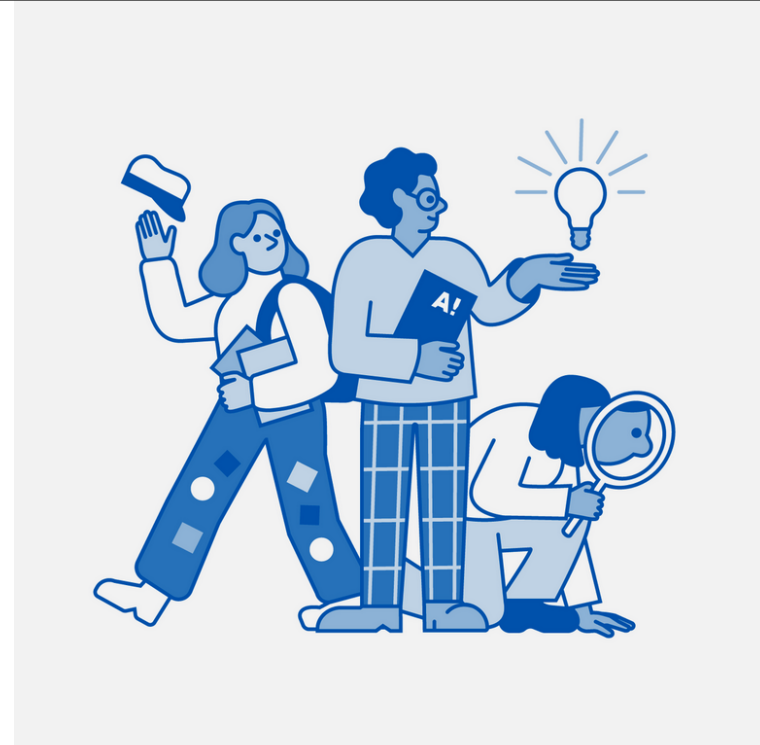


- Student Guide
- Programmes
- Minors
- Courses [🔗](#)
- Other studies
- Language and communication studies +
- Academic calendar
- Support for studying +
- New students +

Student Guide

Welcome to the Student Guide! Here you can find information on your programme, instructions on studying at Aalto University and much more!

- [New students](#)
- [Programmes](#)
- [Support for studying](#)
- [Site index for the Student Guide](#)



You can visit the Student Guide also via the shortlink student.aalto.fi x

- Student Guide
- Programmes**
- Minors
- Courses [↗](#)
- Other studies
- Language and communication studies +
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- Support for studying +
- New students +

Programmes

Filters – Showing 100 programmes [Expand all filters](#) +

Level of programme	+
School	+
Curriculum	+

Search programmes

compu

Showing 100 programmes

Master's Programme in Security and Cloud Computing (SECCLO)

Master's Programme in Computer, Communication and Information Sciences

Master's Programme in Management and International Business

[🔍](#) **Level of programme:** [🏠](#) **School:** [📅](#) **Curriculum:**



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Student Guide

Programmes

Master's Programme in
Computer,
Communication and
Information Sciences

[Starting your studies](#)

[Curriculum 2024–2026](#)

[Curriculum 2022–2024](#)

[Previous curricula](#)

[Recommended timetable](#)

[Planning your studies](#)

[Other studies](#)

[Thesis](#)

[Graduation](#)

[Applications](#)

[Contact](#)

Minors

[Courses](#) 📄

[Student Guide](#) / [Programmes](#) / Master's Programme in Computer, Communication and Information Sciences

Master's Programme in Computer, Communication and Information Sciences

This site contains the student study guide for the Master's Programme in Computer, Communication and Information Sciences. Here you will find the programme curriculum as well as detailed guidelines for planning your studies. All the materials and instructions are for all the majors of the programme. If you are interested in applying to the programme, follow the links at the bottom of the site to the application page.

Master's Programme in Computer, Communication and Information Sciences (CCIS) merges all the ICT related education in Aalto University under 10 majors. Programme is jointly organized by the [School of Science](#) (SCI) and the [School of Electrical Engineering](#) (ELEC), and coordinated by the School of Science.

The programme majors are the following:

- Acoustics and Audio Technology (ELEC, SCI)
- Communications Engineering (ELEC)
- Computer Science (SCI)
- Game Design and Development (SCI, ARTS)
- Human-Computer Interaction (ELEC, SCI)

3. Planning your studies

Planning your studies

- Planning your studies is key in ensuring smooth progress in your studies.
- There are certain frames and conditions for the degree, but within these limits, you have plenty of choices and a possibility to consider your personal interests and career goals.
- Familiarise yourself with the curriculum and degree structure of your programme.
- **The goal for today is to ensure that you have drafted your study plan for the first period and signed up for the courses on your first period.**
 - You will have to sign up for your second period courses later on independently!
 - Aalto IT account must be activated! In any problems: servicedesk@aalto.fi

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Academic year 2026–2027

The academic year is divided into **two terms** and **five periods**.

Aim is to complete 30 ECTS per term.

Terms	Teaching / evaluation period	Time	Week #
Autumn term 1.8.–31.12.	First evaluation period + orientation week	24–30 Aug 2026	35
	Period I + evaluation week	31 August–18 Oct 2026 <i>No teaching or examinations 1 Sep after 12 (Opening ceremony).</i>	36–42
	Period II + evaluation week	19 Oct–6 Dec 2026	43–49
	Second evaluation period	7–13 Dec 2025	50
Spring term 1.1.–31.7.	Period III + evaluation week	11 Jan – 28 Feb 2027	2–8
	Period IV + evaluation week	1 March–25 Apr 2027 <i>No teaching or examinations 25–31 March 2027 (spring holiday).</i>	9–16
	Period V Multimodal period in which diverse forms of teaching are implemented (e.g., intensive learning, project course, summer schools).	26 Apr–13 Jun 2027	17–23

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3.1 Planning your studies – Extent and general structure of your degree

Extent of your degree: 120 ECTS

- **Extent of your MSc degree:**
 - **Min. 120 ECTS**
 - **As close to 120 ECTS as possible.**
- **Completing extra courses:**
 - **No limitations.**
 - **Extra courses not included in your degree.**
 - **When you graduate, your degree will include only the courses that are on your study plan.**

Master's degree 120 ECTS

Excluding double-degree programmes

Major studies

Extent and structure of major studies varies between programmes and majors.
Always see your curriculum for detailed information!

Thesis

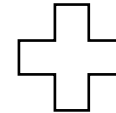
- 30 ECTS

Elective studies

Extent varies between programmes and majors

- Language studies*
- Exchange studies
- Optional minor studies
- Elective courses

*Language studies 3 ECTS are mandatory for students who have completed their BSc outside of Finland



Minor studies

Mandatory in some programmes/majors!

- Extent varies

3.2 Planning your studies – Elective studies

Elective studies

- The scope of the elective studies depends on the scope of the major and minor studies.
- Examples for elective studies:
 - Studies supporting your major
 - Studies supporting your minor
 - Courses from the School of Science
 - Courses offered by other Aalto schools
 - Elective minor

MOOC's and other courses aimed at wider audiences may not be accepted into your degree! Always check with your programme's staff. As a rule, self-study online courses aimed at the general public are not suitable as part of elective studies.

Other studies (elective studies)

- Language studies: Aalto offers a wide variety of language studies – they are recommended!
- Studies in other Finnish universities.
- Summer studies at Aalto (excluding Summer schools).
- International studies:
 - Exchange studies
 - International internships
 - International university networks (e.g. Unite)

NB! Always check the suitability of your planned elective studies with your programme staff.

Exchange studies

- You can apply for exchange when you have been enrolled as attending for *one term*.
- Exchange takes place during the *second year of studies*.
- Instructions, destinations and criteria:
<https://www.aalto.fi/en/other-studies/exchange-studies>
- School of Science contact: **outgoing-sci@aalto.fi**
- NB! If you are a tuition-fee student, take extra care in planning your studies and start planning your exchange as soon as possible.



Practical training (SCI.trai, SCI.itra)

- 1-10 ECTS available from work experience related to your field of study.
- Not mandatory, but highly recommended.
- Students acquire the internship or job independently.
- The credits can be given only for the work that is done during the Master's degree studies.
- Practical training will be part of your elective studies module.

Note! Engineering Physics students can complete PHYS-E0442 Company Internship instead of SCI.trai. More information at the programme-specific session.

3.2 Planning your studies – Compulsory language studies & Studying Finnish

Compulsory language studies 1/4

Students who have completed their BSc degree **outside** of Finland:

- According to the degree regulations, MSc degree must include 3 credits of foreign language studies (incl. written (w) and oral (o) skills).
- English courses recommended.
- Instead of English (or other higher-level language course), you can also take a ***beginner's level*** Finnish or Swedish course(s) worth 3 ECTS.

Compulsory language studies 2/4

Students who have completed their BSc degree **outside** of Finland:

- Language Centre <https://www.aalto.fi/en/language-and-communication-studies/language-and-communication-studies-in-the-degree>
- Courses marked with (o) and/or (w) are ok, both (o) and (w) are required in the degree.
- Compulsory language studies are included in the *elective studies* of your degree.

Compulsory language studies 3/4

Students who have completed their BSc degree in Finland:

- Compulsory language studies are completed already in your Bachelor's degree.



No compulsory language studies in your MSc degree.

Compulsory language studies 4/4

Secondary education in Finland but BSc **outside** of Finland:

Finnish students: If you have completed your secondary education in Finland and your language of education is Finnish or Swedish, but your BSc degree is completed outside of Finland, you need to complete:

- Oral and written communication proficiency in your language of education.
 - Second national language of Finland, 2 ECTS
 - Foreign language, 3 ECTS
-
- Instructions emailed to you!

Compulsory language studies summary

- **Case 1:** A student who has completed a bachelor's degree **outside** of Finland: foreign language* course required (3 ECTS) in the master's degree. (*Can be beginner-level Finnish or Swedish).
- **Case 2:** A student who has completed a bachelor's degree **in** Finland: the language requirements are fulfilled in the bachelor's degree.
- **Case 3:** A student whose language of education is Finnish or Swedish and has a bachelor's degree from abroad: must prove the language skills in the master's degree.

Studying Finnish

- **Although Aalto operates in three languages and English is widely spoken in Finland, it is recommended to learn some Finnish – even basic knowledge helps in integration, finding employment, making friends, etc.**
- Aalto offers multiple Finnish courses in levels A1 – B1.
- In many degree programmes, Finnish courses can be included in the elective studies.
- Finnish/Swedish studies open a path to permanent residence
- More information about Aalto's Finnish courses
- Different options for learning Finnish
- FAQ

3.3 Planning your studies – Credit transfer

Credit transfer

- If you have completed or are completing higher education studies outside Aalto University, you might be able to count these towards your degree.
- Always check with your programme's planning officer or coordinator if a course you plan to take can be transferred to your degree **before you register for it**.
- General criteria:
 - Sufficient level.
 - Relevant in terms of the degree requirements and curriculum.
 - No overlap.
 - Studies that are part of the degree with which you applied to Aalto *cannot be transferred*.
- Transferred credits must be included in your degree!
 - Once you have received the transferred credits, you cannot omit or replace them.

4. Personal study plan: Creating your plan & signing up for courses

Personal study plan HOPS

Henkilökohtainen opintosuunnitelma

- Helps you achieve your goal within the intended timeframe.
- Agreement between the student and the university of the courses that count towards the degree.
- Degree certificate is generated based on HOPS, meaning; your degree = courses on your study plan.
- Can be modified; remember to keep your study plan up-to-date!
- **Study plan and course sign up are linked!**
- Completed in **Sisu**.

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Basic information about course sign-up

- **Course registration and making a study plan work together.** In order to be able to register, the course must be in your primary study plan.
- Once you have drafted your study plan, click the code of the course to open the course info sheet (**don't use the course search for signing up**) and register, choose the teaching groups that suit you (if there are several ones).
- If the number of participants is limited, your registration status is not confirmed until the registration period ends.
- If the number of participants is not limited, Sisu confirms your registration immediately.

Registration periods

- At Aalto, you register for the courses of each teaching period separately.
- If the number of students is limited, the registration period usually ends 7 days before the teaching period begins.
- If the number of students is not limited, the registration period usually ends 7 days after the teaching period has begun.
- Typically, the course exam (KT) is included in course registration. If not, you need to register separately. The registration period ends 7 days before the exam.
- On Sisu, check the Completion methods -> Teaching -> Groups and teaching times.
- **On some courses, the sign-up period ends already on Monday 24 August (especially IEM, INF, and language courses)**

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Demonstration: Drafting a study plan and signing up for courses

5. Next steps & Programme-specific break-out rooms

After this session

- Draft your study plan in Sisu and sign up for your first courses.
- Orientation week: **Mon 24 August – Fri 28 August**
- First courses start on **Monday 31 August**
- More info on your programme's page > Starting your studies

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Session slides and recording

- Slides and recording published on your Programme's Student Guide → Starting your studies.
- You will receive an email as soon as they are available.

What now?

- ➔ **Choose your breakout room according to your Master's Programme.**
- ➔ **If you are unsure of your Master's Programme, ask – we'll help!**

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Kiitos
aalto.fi