

For completion by the school:				
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Degree requirements for proficiency in the national languages of Finland*

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st See next page for additional information and explanation of terms

Language requirements for degrees (section 6, Government Decree on University Degrees 794/2004; Degree Regulations)

Students must demonstrate, in studies included in education for a bachelor's or master's degree or otherwise, that they have attained:

- such proficiency in Finnish and Swedish as is required of civil servants in bilingual public agencies and organisations under Section 6(1) of the Act on the Knowledge of Languages Required of Personnel in Public Bodies (424/2003) and which is necessary for their field; and
- 2. such proficiency **in at least one foreign language** as is needed to follow developments in the field and to operate in an international environment.

Students who have been educated in a language other than Finnish or Swedish or have been educated abroad shall only be required to demonstrate, in studies included in education for a bachelor's or master's degree or otherwise, that they have attained only the language proficiency referred to in subsection 1(2).

A partial or full exemption from the language proficiency requirements set forth in subsection 1 may be granted by the school only for special reasons.

Students admitted to the school to pursue a bachelor's degree, who under subsection 2 have been exempted by the school from the requirements set forth in subsection 1(1), either completely or only with regard to the national language in which they are required to demonstrate satisfactory written and oral proficiency, shall complete the equivalent amount of studies in a language of their choice to meet the foreign language requirement of the bachelor's degree.

In practice:

- The completion of language proficiency requirements at Aalto occurs during the bachelor's degree stage. Students admitted directly to a master's programme who have not demonstrated language proficiency in their bachelor's stage must do so during their master's degree studies.
- Language proficiency must be demonstrated in three languages: Finnish, Swedish and at least one foreign language.
- The requirement for the national languages (Finnish and Swedish) depends on the student's language of education. (Note: it does not depend on the student's mother tongue or on their most proficient language.) 'Language of education' refers only to Finnish or Swedish.
 - The student's language of education is that national language of Finland in which they received a passing grade in *Finnish or Swedish as a mother tongue* as indicated on the final certificate from upper secondary or comprehensive school (interpretation of Ministry of Education and Culture, Reg. no. OKM/9/592/2013). The student's language of education may also be assigned according to the *Finnish or Swedish as a second language* test in the matriculation examination if the student passes the test with a grade of *magna cum laude* or higher.
 - The national language not selected by the above process as the language of education is then considered the student's second national language.
- 'Foreign language' refers to a language other than Finnish or Swedish.
- Proficiency in the language of education is demonstrated by writing a maturity essay.
- Proficiency in the second national language is demonstrated by passing the university's tests for Finnish or Swedish.
- Proficiency in a foreign language is demonstrated by passing the university's foreign language tests or courses.

Exemptions:

- A student may be exempted from demonstrating proficiency in the second national language for special reasons, e.g. having had minimal language studies (no more than 4 B1-level courses in upper secondary school), or being under the special regulations for those educated in the Åland Islands. The student must apply for this exemption.
- A student may be exempted from demonstrating proficiency in the language of education for special reasons, e.g. if the language is determined only by the final certificate of the comprehensive school or if the grade in the matriculation examination for the Finnish or Swedish as a second language, is lower than *magna cum laude approbatur*.
- If the language of education (Finnish or Swedish) is unassigned for a student, then the second national language will be unassigned also and the student will be unable to demonstrate proficiency in the manner referred to here. The student must therefore apply for a determination of their language proficiency requirements.
- As a rule, no student may be exempted from demonstrating proficiency in the foreign language category.
- Students whose language of education is unassigned and students who are completely or partly
 exempt from demonstrating proficiency in the national languages shall complete an equivalent
 amount of studies in the language they select.