

Kuulumisia-projekt

Teachers training programme for migrant teachers
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The Finnish word *Kuulumisia* is a plural form that may be understood in two ways, depending on the context. In everyday conversation it often means 'news' or 'greetings' whereas in the present context this word may be understood as the generic plural of the singular word *kuuluminen* 'a sense of belonging' or 'integration'.

Teachers qualification in Finland

To be a qualified teacher in Finland one has to have

- Masters degree university diploma
- Pedagogical degree (60 ECTS)
- Degree in the subject one is teaching (at minimum 60 ECTS)
 - For classroom teachers (luokanopettaja), the "subject" is multidisciplinary studies (monialaiset opinnot)
- Finnish language skills in YKI 6 level
- If studied abroad, one has to ask a recognition and assessment of prior learning (rinnastuspäätös) for the Board of Education (Opetushallitus)
 - > Usually at least 15 ECTS of pedagogy is required

Kuulumisia-project

- Founded 2009, ongoing
- Funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture, Specima-funding
- Until today, about 150 students from 38 countries of origin
- The language of the course is Finnish
- Seminars twice a month, Friday afternoon (15-20) and Saturday (9-16)
- Most of the work done independently in Learnig2-environment in the internet
- Training period in students' home town

Pedagogical and multidisciplinary studies

- Kuulumisia offers both Pedagogical studies (one year, 60 ECTS) and Multidisciplinary studies (two years, 60 ECTS)
- Also complementary studies, 15 ECTS in pedagogy
- All studies include a training period in an ordinary Finnish school (not in the University teachers' training school), organized in the home town of the student.

Important features

- Training period is seen very important in order to understand Finnish educational thinking and practices. It also helps students to connect with local schools, which, in the best case, leads to job opportunities.
- School legislation classes for necessary information about teacher's duties and responsibilities.
- Flexibility and experience in student counseling.
- Support of the peer group – new friends, lots of good spirit, shared experiences, shared knowledge.

Some questions

- How to get a qualification in a language that is not taught in Finnish universities? E.g. many mother tongues of migrant pupils.
- How to make teachers' lounges more multicultural – all the teachers are middle class white women?
- Is it important for (migrant) pupils to have all kinds of role models? To find someone also they can relate to?
- Need for teachers who can help migrant pupils to have "identity negotiations".
- Is the requirement of YKI 6 in Finnish language reasonable? Is the very high level of language the only thing that matters in the end?
- Funding?

<http://www.uta.fi/edu/kuulumisia/index.html>

