



The University 2025

TOGETHER, OPEN, RENEWING

The Finnish Universities' Vision for 2025



In 2025, Finland will be among the world's leading knowledge intensive, expertise based societies. Finland is a country that is renowned for its education, proficiency and innovation, based on the highest levels of know-how.



Thanks to the interactions between the research, education and innovation sectors, society and the business world, Finland has become a dynamic and prosperous society that attracts business and investment.



Education and research are highly valued. Talented students and the best researchers from around the world wish to get into Finnish universities.



Finland is the best place in the world to learn. Finnish research changes the world.

Universities Finland





The Universities' Mission

The universities provide impressive scientific knowledge, high-level expertise and in-depth education.

The Universities' Vision

The universities will be internationally recognised leaders into the future, social reformers and builders of success. The universities support sustainable growth and strengthen well-being through high quality research-based education and impressive academic and artistic activities.

1

Knowledge, expertise and education are based on internationally acknowledged high-quality research that is done through interactions with the global academic community and Finnish society.

Science is the cornerstone of the universities' activities. The research areas represented at each university are viewed against scientific criteria, internationally acknowledged to be of high quality and to have an extraordinary impact nationally. The education offered by the universities, and their interaction with society and the business world, is based on high-quality and academically impressive research.

Finland is a pioneer in open science. In Europe, Finland is acknowledged as a pioneer in, and a developer of, open science. Transparency increases the competitiveness of Finnish research communities as well as increasing the reliability and impact of research. It creates new opportunities for cooperation and interaction for researchers, public bodies, companies, policy makers and citizens. Worldwide wicked problems and the major issues in Finnish society are challenges that our researchers have excellent opportunities to solve, thanks to the culture of openness, as well as border-crossing cooperation between academic disciplines and the university community.

A research career is an attractive career option. Researchers in Finland are sought-after partners and the universities are attractive research environments also for researchers from abroad.

University research is systematically and comprehensively resourced. The universities' research resources correspond to the level of quality being pursued and the extent of the research that is aspired to. Resources are allocated to the best research units and groups as well as to emerging disciplines and promising researchers. The cooperation between the universities and research funding bodies is seamless and the division of responsibilities is clear. Funding is allocated according to transparent criteria, and competitive funding spurs on the universities' research activities. The burden of applying for and managing research funding has been reduced. Support services within the universities work well and the researchers have adequate time for undertaking research.

2

The universities provide high-quality, research-based education which meets the diverse knowledge and expertise needs of society and its individuals.

All universities have the opportunity to provide research based lower and higher university degrees (bachelor's and master's degrees), and scientific and artistic postgraduate degrees (doctoral degrees) in their own fields of strength. The variously orientated higher education degrees have their own strengths and duplications have been removed. It is possible to complete professionally orientated degrees at the polytechnics. Education that requires profound expertise and prepares people for academic work will be provided by the universities.

Transitions between education levels and sectors can be realised smoothly. The contents of the degrees are designed in such a way that a person with a lower university degree or a degree from a polytechnic can continue to complete a university master's degree in a flexible way. If they so wish, the students can move into the labour market and gain work experience between the bachelor's and master's degrees. Transitions from secondary education to higher education are smooth and can occur without delays.

The most important thing in education is the quality of its content and teaching. The universities offer new learning environments based on open learning principles, learning content independent of time and place, and individual learning pathways by creative use of the most recent technology. The universities produce society builders with good social and communication skills.

The graduates' skills and work qualifications are defined as a combination of both foreseeing the skills needed, and the study content chosen by the students. The skill demands of the labour market will be met by increasing the flexibility of degrees and study pathways and students' options. The importance of lifelong learning in the universities' education mission is growing. An increasing proportion of the population will fall within the sphere of higher education.

The universities take advantage of the strengths of their research and education in international education. The universities and other Finnish education export operators cooperate actively with each other in international education markets. The high quality of research and education, international recognition and easy accessibility enable success in education markets.

3

The universities are academically and socially active and influential.

Universities educate critical thinkers and experts who will change our country and the world. The quality and content of education and the knowledge it generates respond to the expectations and the needs of knowledge and expertise in the future. Universities and other actors in society will ensure that knowledge and expertise are transferred into practice. The universities' interaction with society and the business world is based on long-term partnerships and is an integrated part of their activities from undergraduate teaching to excellence in research. Universities are acknowledged in society as producers of reliable knowledge. Companies consider the universities to be valuable partners and their cooperation adds value for both parties. The universities are sensitive to changes in society and react to changing education and research needs in a flexible way, keeping the educational mission in mind at the same time.

Universities operate in close interaction with society. Mobility between universities, public bodies and the business world is encouraged and supported. Mobility is a natural part of the research career and promotes the transition of knowledge and expertise from the universities to the users and other beneficiaries. The skills and strengths generated by postgraduate education are widely understood and growing numbers of PhD graduates are employed in demanding expert tasks outside the universities. Distinguished professionals from outside the universities enrich research and education in the universities. The tasks created for them have become more widespread within the universities.

Finland is a model of research knowledge utilisation in policy-making. The highest international expertise and the latest research knowledge is utilised in a multi-faceted way in our society, with universities being the producers, processors and distributors of knowledge.

4

The universities, polytechnics and research institutes form high-quality attractive knowledge communities.

Universities, polytechnics and research institutes form functional communities – centres with profiles based on knowledge and expertise. The core of the communities is the internationally acknowledged high standard research and high quality research-based education generated by the universities. Knowledge and expertise are efficiently transferred into practice when knowledge providers, practitioners, users and beneficiaries act together.

The activities in the knowledge hubs formed by universities, polytechnics and research institutes are based on a long term national research and higher education policy that the communities execute on the basis of their own areas of strength. The knowledge hubs are characterised by openness, national and international interaction, and a multidisciplinary and multi-professional approach. The knowledge hubs have profiles of themselves as research or education emphasising, and they can be multidisciplinary or can concentrate on particular fields.

The strategy and profile of the knowledge hubs formed by universities, polytechnics and research institutes define the internal division of tasks. The main task of the universities is to promote free research and scholarly and artistic education as well as to provide higher education based on research. The

polytechnics act in the work life interface, providing work oriented training and practice-based work life related research, development and innovation (RDI) activities. Research institutes carry out the tasks defined for them.

Actors in the knowledge hub share common infrastructure supporting their activities that include a common teaching and research infrastructure and support services. The common operating environment is of better quality and is more cost-effective than it would be in separate operating environments. The focus of higher education quality evaluation will move from the current quality system audits to a system that will verify the quality and impact of the activities.

The knowledge hubs formed by universities, polytechnics and research institutes are allocated and defined in such a way that equity and accessibility are ensured. This is to ensure that there are enough research and education generating units in Finland to take care of the higher education and research needs in a balanced way throughout the country. The universities, polytechnics and research institutes may integrate, as appropriate, to the extent they find it useful to do so.

