



Haapavesi upper secondary school



Description of our school

Haapavesi General Upper Secondary school has 151 students and 17 teachers. We give instruction in general subjects, and usually after three years of studying our students can take the national matriculation examination, which enables them to go on their studies at polytechnic or university.

Our school is located in a small town of about 7400 inhabitants in the rural area in northern Finland.

We provide distant learning lessons in upper secondary school subjects to adults and students in our neighbouring rural towns, as well as preliminary courses to students preparing themselves for matriculation examination.





The local vocational school and Haapavesi Institute cooperate with us and their students can study certain courses at our school and take the matriculation examination too.

We emphasise information technology in our curriculum and after passing a required number of courses in IT, the students are accepted to study at the university of Oulu without having to take any entrance exam.

Cooperation also includes chemistry and our students can make field trips to the university and work in their laboratory.



General upper secondary education



The post-compulsory upper secondary level comprises general and vocational education. Both forms usually take three years and give eligibility for higher education. About 55% of school-leavers opt for the general upper secondary school.

The upper secondary school is based on courses with no specified year-classes and ends in a matriculation examination. It does not qualify for any occupation. After the upper secondary school, students continue in universities, polytechnics or vocational institutions.

The admission requirement for general upper secondary education is a school-leaving certificate from basic education. Students apply to general and vocational education in a joint application system. If the number of applicants exceeds the intake, the selection is based on students' school reports. The drop-out rate is low.

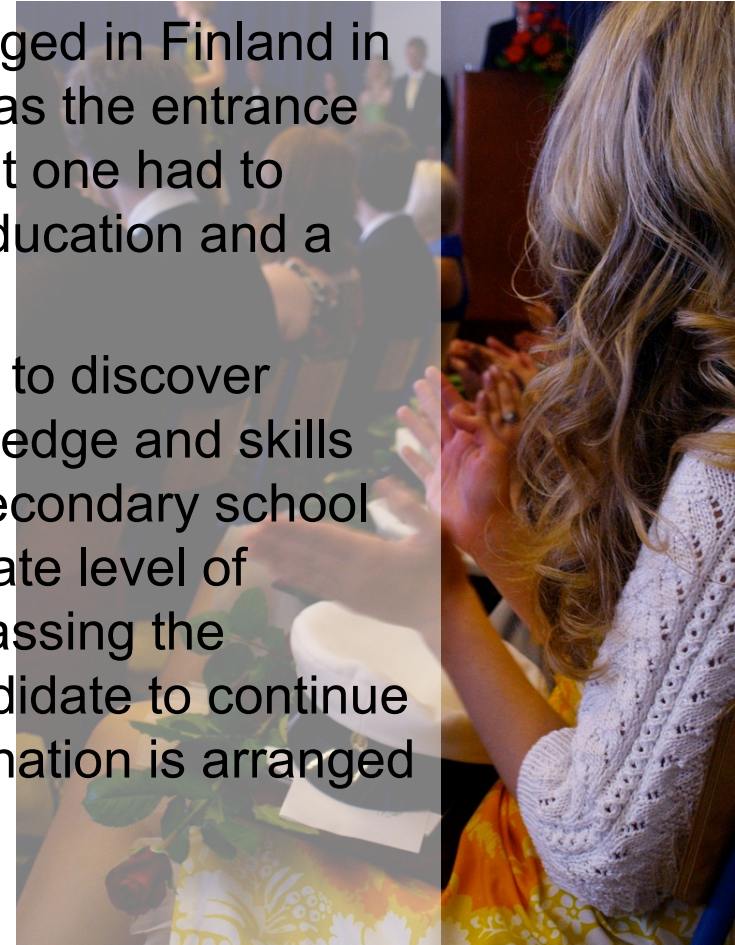
Some upper secondary schools specialise in a certain subject, such as sports, art or music. Other schools may offer special sport and art lines. Some upper secondary schools prepare for and end in an international examination.



The Finnish Matriculation Examination

The Matriculation Examination was first arranged in Finland in 1852. In the beginning, the examination was the entrance examination to Helsinki University, and in it one had to show sufficient evidence of an all-round education and a knowledge of Latin.

Nowadays, the purpose of the examination is to discover whether pupils have assimilated the knowledge and skills required by the curriculum for the upper secondary school and whether they have reached an adequate level of maturity in line with that school's goals. Passing the Matriculation Examination entitles the candidate to continue his or her studies at university. The examination is arranged in upper secondary schools.





THE TESTS

The compulsory and optional tests

The examination consists of at least four tests; one of them, the test in the candidate's mother tongue, is compulsory for all candidates. The candidate then chooses three other compulsory tests from among the following four tests: the test in the second national language, a foreign language test, the mathematics test, and one test in the general studies battery of tests (sciences and humanities). As part of his or her examination, the candidate may additionally include one or more optional tests.





Few sentences about your city

Haapavesi is a municipality of Finland.

It is located in the province of Oulu and is part of the Northern Ostrobothnia region. The town has a population of 7,390 and covers an area of 1,086.27 square kilometres of which 36.57 km² is water. The population density is 7.04 inhabitants per square kilometre.

The municipality is unilingually Finnish.

The town is most known of the Haapavesi Folk Music Festiva which gathers fantastic folkmusicians together from all over the world. Haapavesi is also known for its great skiers and even better moonshine.

Haapavesi has got a mediocre roundabout in the centre of the village.

At Haapavesi, there is a 327 metres tall guyed TV mast, which belongs to Finland's tallest man-made structures.





Our country



Finland was historically a part of Sweden and from 1809 an autonomous Grand Duchy within the Russian Empire. Finland's declaration of independence from Russia in 1917 was followed by a civil war, wars against the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany, and a period of official neutrality during the Cold War. Finland joined the United Nations in 1955, the OECD in 1969, the European Union in 1995, and the eurozone since its beginning. Finland has been ranked the second most stable country in the world, in a survey based on social, economic, political and military indicators.

Finland was a relative latecomer to industrialization, remaining a largely agrarian country until the 1950s. Thereafter, economic development was rapid, and the country reached the world's top income levels in the 1970s. Between 1970 and 1990, Finland built an extensive welfare state. In the aftermath of the country's severe depression in the early 1990s, successive governments have changed the Finnish economic system through some privatisation, deregulation and tax cuts.

Finland is well placed in many international comparisons of national performance such as the share of high-technology manufacturing and health care. The country is ranked 1st in the 2009 Legatum Prosperity rating, which is based on economical performance and quality of life.