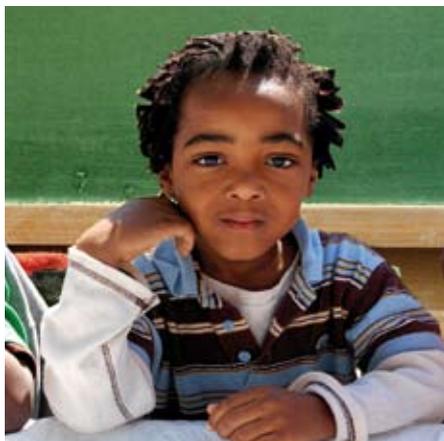


turku  åbo



Welcome
to School!



Turun kaupungin opetustoimi
Åbo stads undervisningsväsen



Turku – a city with a healthy, *supportive learning environment*

Turku has a reputation as a centre of culture and competence that is recognised both nationally and internationally. The oldest city in Finland, Turku has in its time pioneered many developments, and it still has a special position as Finland's gateway to the West. As in the past, innovation and multicultural interaction will continue to play an increasingly important role in our city's success in the future. As a bilingual city, Turku offers education and culture in two languages, Finnish and Swedish, but teaching is offered in many other languages, too. For example, teaching at the Turku International School is in English.



*A strong team
that makes
things happen!*



Basic education

An excellent and safe environment for growth

The education system in Turku offers children and youngsters a safe learning environment, which allows everyone to learn according to their abilities. We are dedicated to providing high-quality education, and equally important, to promoting the well-being of all learners. We offer our learners diverse cultural and recreational experiences as part of an active school day.

With a model based on the division of the city into cooperational areas ensures better opportunities for developing a coherent system of basic education giving all learners access to the teaching that meets their needs.

Our school facilities are also versatile, from the mediaeval Cathedral School founded in the 13th century to a 21st century school on one of the islands which are an important growth area in Turku. The facilities offer a stimulating learning environment that encourages active, experiential learning and hobbies. Joint use of the facilities with youth, cultural and social welfare activities further enhances the learning environment and makes it more coherent. In addition, morning and afternoon activities play an important role in the daily routine of young school children.

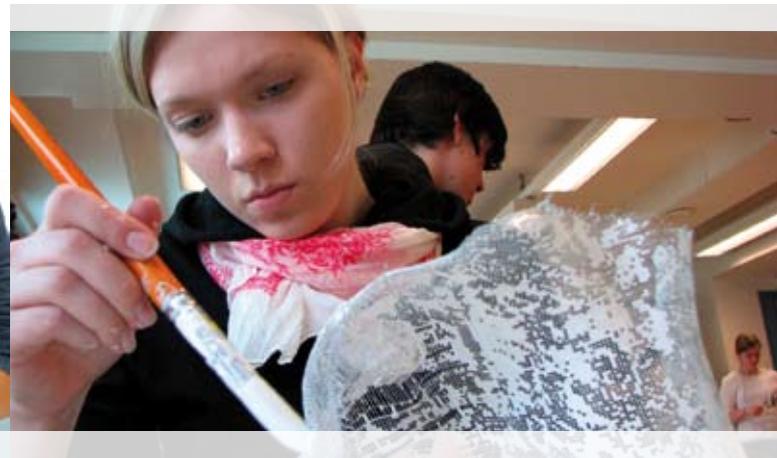
Support for the learner in basic education

Our aim is to identify as early as possible the ob-

stacles and difficulties related to learning and schooling. Pupil and student welfare implemented in cooperation with the parents is therefore the concern of the whole staff and school community.

Our comprehensive support system extends from minor assistance to very challenging support measures. This service is available at local schools, in special-needs classes in the region and in schools with centralised services (special needs schools).

In flexible basic education (JOPO) classes pupils can learn in a more active environment. These classes focus particularly on developing life skills and motivation to learn.



Coherent learning path

Basic education is to an increasing degree given in comprehensive schools. These offer a natural and coherent learning environment for the first nine years of education.

The regional system of early and basic education ensures cooperation between daycare centres and schools. This helps to ensure that the child's learning path is as consistent as possible through day care and basic education to upper secondary education. The child or youngster receives special guidance at transition phases in their schooling.

We work in close cooperation with the Turku Vocational Institute, which offers basic and further vocational education for young people and adults.

A stimulating learning environment

The school provides the learner with the basic skills required by the curriculum. One aim of our educational work is to support the development of healthy self-confidence in the learner. High-quality basic education builds a strong foundation for a variety of further education opportunities.

The "Cultural Path" programme is unique in Finland. It gives students the opportunity to learn about the many cultural sites and events our city has to offer.

We also provide

- specialised classes (music, arts, sport, maths)
- language classes (English, French, German), language immersion class (Swedish) and Finnish-Russian class
- virtual learning environments
- wide-ranging regional cooperation for developing basic education



Upper secondary education

A good way to further education

Turku is an important regional centre of education. The upper secondary schools offer a wide range of courses and we achieve good results in national exams. Almost 30% of the students at City of Turku upper secondary schools come from other municipalities in the Turku region.

Versatile teaching

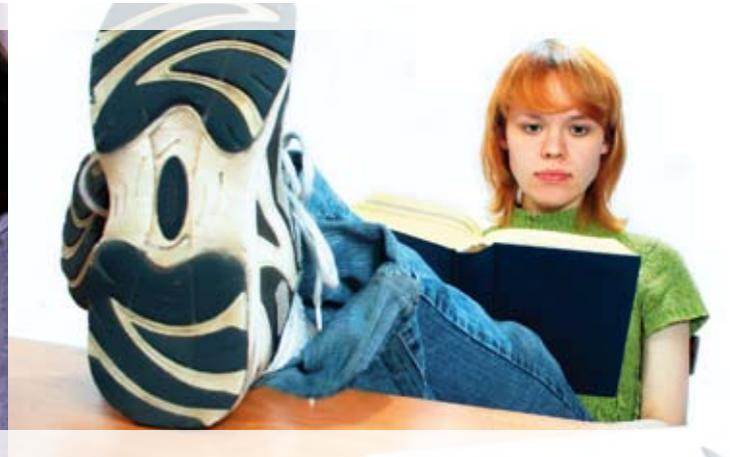
Turku is integrating the upper secondary schools into larger units, which creates new possibilities for goal-oriented development of course choices and teaching.

Some of our upper secondary schools have special focuses that are of interest for the whole country. These are Aurajoen lukio (sports), Juhana Herttuan lukio (arts and media), Puolalanmäen lukio (music) and Turun Suomalaisen Yhteiskoulun lukio (natural sciences).

The Turku upper secondary schools also specialise in subjects that are of regional importance, for example Kupittaaan lukio has a Computer Science and Media stream and at Turun Suomalaisen Yhteiskoulun lukio students can take maritime studies. Turun Normaalikoulun lukio has an IB class.

Study in Swedish or English

Our upper secondary schools have many international activities. In Finland's oldest school, nowadays called Katedralskolan i Åbo (Cathedral School in Turku) the language of study is Swedish. In the Turku International School, the courses are in English and the exam taken at the end of secondary education is the International Baccalaureate.



Adult education

On the road to life long learning

Turun Ilta lukio is a school providing upper secondary education for adults. It encourages life long learning and allows adults to complete their basic or secondary education and take the matriculation exam qualifying them for higher education. Turun Ilta lukio is one of the biggest upper secondary adult education schools in Finland, offering very flexible opportunities for study. In addition to contact teaching, some options include distance teaching, virtual teaching or combinations of these. Students can also study a single subject and attend upper secondary courses at summer school. Vocational studies can also be taken parallel to upper secondary studies, and students can graduate with a double qualification.

The hundred-year-old institutes of liberal adult education in Turku, the Finnish- and Swedish-language Workers' Institutes, Turun suomenkielinen työväenopisto and Åbo Svenska Arbetarinstitut, offer diverse opportunities for study and hobbies. In the new joint premises a wide variety of courses of short or long duration are offered, for example in the fields of performing arts, languages and handicrafts. Open University degrees and language exams can also be taken at the Workers' Institutes.



We make international relations a priority



Internationalism *and multiculturalism*

Forms of activity in global education

We teach students multicultural skills as an essential part of the normal school day. As well as offering teaching in several foreign languages, we develop international cultural skills through international development projects, twin school and twin town activities, study trips and camp schools, student exchanges, trips to perform or take part in competitions, sponsorship activities and virtual learning activities.

A student who moves to Turku and does not speak Finnish is given preparatory teaching in Finnish language and study skills. Once the students go to the local school they are taught Finn-

ish as a second language and possibly also study their own language. If necessary other support can be provided, for example, teaching in the student's mother tongue.

Our staff may take part in expert exchanges, international further education courses, international networking and in the development of the school working culture. We also offer multicultural teaching services to other municipalities.

We have long traditions of development in the Baltic Sea region and cooperation with the Nordic countries, Russia and Estonia.

Competitive *higher education*

The new Turku University is an internationally competitive, multidisciplinary university, which has a number of top-level research units. Åbo Akademi University, the Swedish-language university offers a wide range of disciplines.

The Turku University of Applied Sciences owned by the City of Turku is one of the most prestigious institutions of its kind in Finland. Also based in Turku are the HUMAK University of Applied Sciences specialising in the humanities, the Diaconia University of Applied Sciences and the Swedish-language Yrkeshögskolan Sydväst (Novia University of Applied Sciences).



TURKU – a Vital Centre of Education

turku  åbo



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