

TAMK Language and Communication Studies

Language Info Session, autumn 2026

At a University of Applied Sciences, You Learn Professional Language

- Professional terminology
- Work-related cases and situations
- Authentic professional documents
- Oral and written communication with clients and colleagues

→ Probably very different from your earlier language studies!



Language Teaching Is Based on the Government Decree

The student is required to demonstrate that you have attained through studies included in your university of applied sciences degree or otherwise:

such proficiency in **Finnish and Swedish** as is by law (6.6.2003/424) required of state officials functioning in a position requiring a higher education in a bilingual office and that is necessary for practising the profession and for professional development

and (16.6.2004/497)

such degree programme based oral and written proficiency in **one or two foreign languages** as is necessary for practising the profession and for professional development.

→ **Every degree programme has mandatory Finnish, Swedish and English courses at TAMK.**



Language Studies in Your Degree Programme

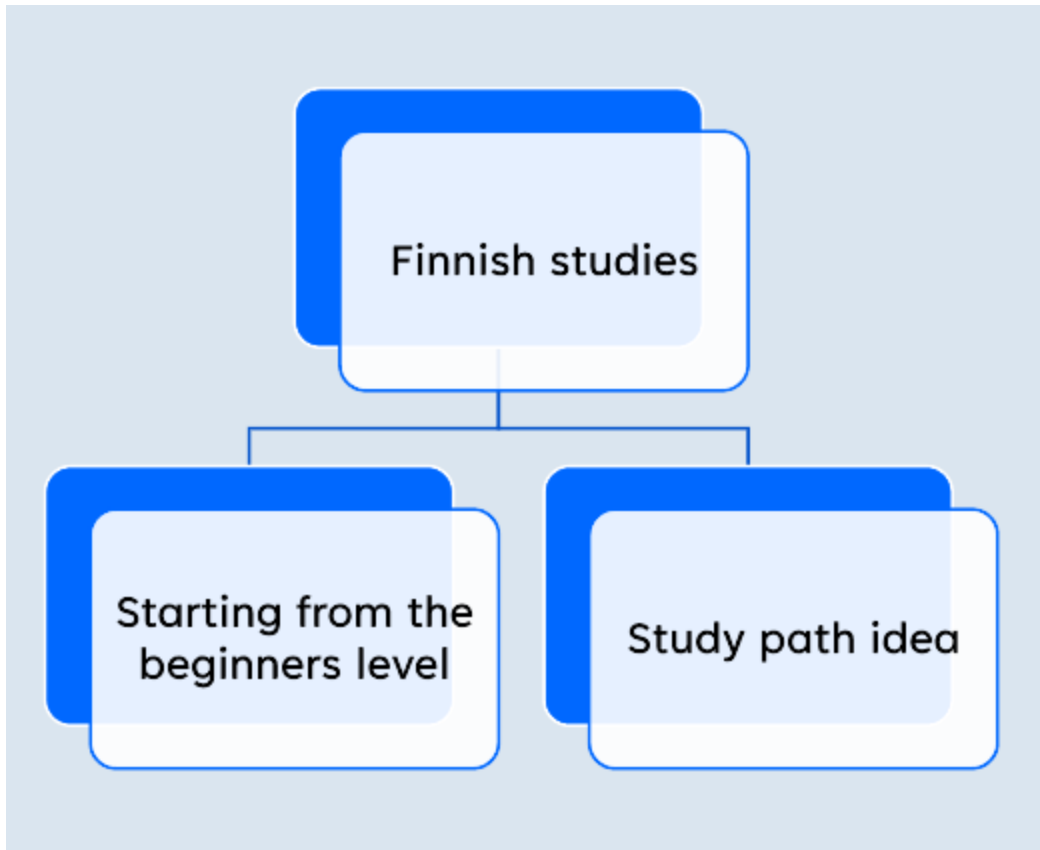


Language Studies in Your Degree Programme

- All degree programmes in TAMK have mandatory English, Swedish, and Finnish courses
- You can find more information about these courses in TAMK Study Guide: <https://tamk-study-guide.tuni.fi/?lang=en>



Language Studies When Your Mother Tongue Is Other Than Finnish or Swedish



In TAMK you will start studying Finnish from your own level (CEFR).

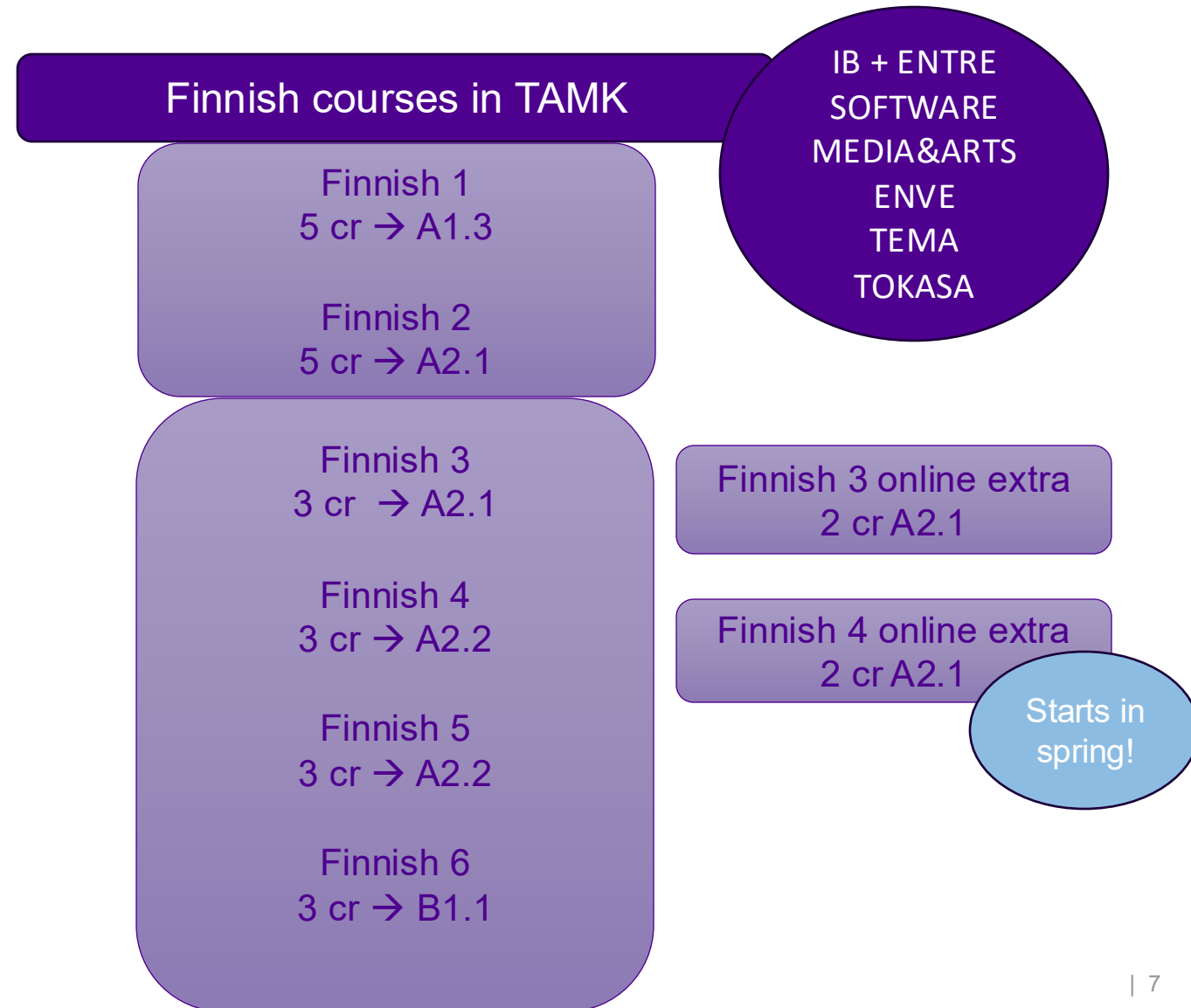
Finnish language studies in TAMK



Language Studies in Your Degree Programme

No previous Finnish studies → start from course Finnish 1

Previous Finnish studies → choose a suitable course!



Schedule

Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
Autumn	Spring	Autumn	Spring	Autumn	Spring
Finnish 1	Finnish 2	Finnish 3	Finnish 4	Finnish 5	Finnish 6

In three years, you are supposed to reach level B1.1, but it requires a lot of independent work in addition.

Introduction to Finnish language 1 cr

- About to begin your journey into the world of the Finnish language? Great! In this course, you will discover some of the key features of Finnish and learn a few essential phrases so that you can start using the language right from the beginning.
- The course is completed entirely independently. You can start working on the course right away.
- More info here:



Advanced Courses in TAMK

- TAMK offers several Finnish courses on B-level as elective studies.

- Suomen kielen keskustelukurssi, 1 ECTS, level B1
- Suomen kielen tekstin ymmärtäminen, 2 ECTS, level B1
- Suomen kielen kirjoittaminen, 2 ECTS, level B1

- Other options for Finnish studies:
 - [Cross-institutional studies in TUNI](#)
 - [Finnishcourses.fi](https://www.finnishcourses.fi)

Language Scholarship for Fee-paying Students (non-EU/EEA citizens)

- Language skills must progress year-by-year for students to be granted a scholarship waiver
- Language tests are arranged every spring

Academic award **25 %**

60 cr / academic year

Academic award **50 %**

60 cr / academic year

+

Finnish language test
(first year A2.1)

Skill Levels and Tests

YEAR	REQUIRED SKILL LEVEL
YEAR 1 spring	A2.1
YEAR 2 spring	A2.2
YEAR 3 spring	B1.1

YEAR	TEST
YEAR 1 students	TAMK A2-level test in Spring
YEAR 2 students	YKI Basic, level 2
YEAR 3 students	Yki Intermediate, level 3

More
information
about the
tests from
the teachers
in Finnish
courses!

Language Studies in Your Degree Programme

Study path: starting from your own level

EXAMPLE 1.

You have studied a little Finnish before, level A1.3



Start from the course **Finnish for foreigners 2**

EXAMPLE 2.

You have level A2.2



Start from the course **Finnish for foreigners 5**

EXAMPLE 3.

- You have level B1 or higher.
- You have done YKI-test

Test Your Finnish Language Level

There are some online tests that might help you to figure out your level in Finnish. They won't give you the right course as a result, but can offer some ideas. In addition, please read the skill level descriptions!

Skill level descriptions

- [Kielibuusti](#) (tests, materials, information about learning Finnish)
- [Sanatesti](#) (word test)
- [YKI-test information page](#)
- [YKI-treenit](#) (training for different levels, not a test but a good tool to evaluate your skills)
- [University of Helsinki – Finnish language tests](#)
- [A and B level tests with Quizlet cards](#)

Finnish as a Second Language Guidance

- TAMK offers Finnish as a Second Language (S2) **guidance**.
- Please don't hesitate to contact ella.hakala@tuni.fi, if you have any questions about your language path in TAMK.
- [Book a time!](#)



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Elective Language Studies



You Can Continue Studying a Language or Start Learning a New One!

- **TAMK elective language studies:** <https://www.tuni.fi/studentsguide/handbook/tamk/4653/4704?page=3126#elective> (e.g. Finnish, English, French, German, Russian)
- **Other universities' language studies:** <http://pakki.tamk.fi> (you can search for cross studies from other Finnish universities directly in Pakki)
- **KiVANET courses:** <https://sites.uwasa.fi/kivanet/en/courses/> (e.g. Arabic, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, French, German, Russian, Estonian, Hungarian, Sign languages and multilingual UniTandem – enroll through cross studies in Pakki)
- **Opin.fi:** <https://opin.fi/en> (universities' open study offer)
- **Tampere Summer University:** <https://tampereenkesayliopisto.fi/en/course-programme/language-courses/> (a broad selection of languages, course fees)

In many of these courses, the language of instruction is Finnish.

Elective Finnish Courses

- Coming up at TAMK in autumn 2026
 - Finnish 1 - 6
- TAMK also offers several Finnish courses as **elective studies**:
 - Suomen kielen keskustelukurssi, 1 ECTS
 - Suomen kielen kirjoittaminen, 2 ECTS
 - Suomen kielen tekstin ymmärtäminen 2 ECTS
- TAMK also offers Finnish as a Second Language (S2) **guidance**. You can get support (for example more time in an exam). Please contact:
 - Social and health care: Tiina Miikkulainen
 - Other fields and TOKASA students: Ella Hakala



Credit Transfer and Exemption



You Can Apply for Credit Transfer if

- ... you have already **completed language studies at another Finnish or foreign higher education institution or university within the past 10 years.** The credit transfer is done **regardless of the professional field** of the language studies. If the studies are part of a finished degree, it **will not become outdated.**
- ... you have **competence related to course contents acquired elsewhere,** which you will demonstrate under the RVPL (Recognition and Validation of Prior Learning) system
- Your degree programme contains mandatory English studies. Please note that these courses also focus on professional and academic English use. If you wish to apply for accreditation for the course, you will need to demonstrate competences in **specifically professional and academic English.** Being a fluent/native speaker of English is not sufficient grounds for accreditation.
- You must submit the credit transfer application **before the beginning of the course** using the accreditation page in Pakki.
- **In principle, Finnish language studies included in an international degree programme curriculum are not credited.**
- More information about credit transfer:
<https://opiskelijanopas.tuni.fi/en/tamk/planning-studies-and-study-guidance/credit-transfer-studies-and-competence/credit-transfer-studies>



Credit Transfer for Formal Learning

- **Substitution** (a diploma required)
 - Studies of the same field which have been completed elsewhere and which correspond to the contents at TAMK are accepted as part of your studies.
- **Inclusion** (a diploma required)
 - Studies which have been completed elsewhere are added to your studies (usually free-choice studies)



Recognition and Validation of Prior Learning (RVPL)

- The student demonstrates competence acquired elsewhere (no diploma required).
- Competence may be demonstrated for instance by portfolio, learning diary, project work, exam, expert lecture, etc.
- You must submit the RVPL application to the teacher of the course concerned **before the beginning of the course** using the accreditation page in Pakki.
- More information about credit transfer: <https://www.tuni.fi/studentsguide/handbook/tamk/4653/4704?page=3126#credit>



Studying Swedish is Mandatory in Finland

- However, you can apply for **exemption from Swedish** or another language if
 - ... you have **never studied it**.
 - ... you have **dyslexia that severely affects your language studies**.
- Even if you had dyslexia that severely affects your studies, it is strongly recommended to try to complete your language studies and leave applying for exemption as a last resort.
- If you are exempted, you have to choose **some other language or introduction course** instead of Swedish.
- It is strongly recommended to apply for exemption **at the beginning of your studies**.
- More information about applying for exemption:
<https://www.tuni.fi/studentsguide/handbook/tamk/4653/4704?page=3126#exemption>



Internationalisation



Internationalisation

- Going for a study exchange or practical training abroad is an excellent opportunity to develop your language and international skillset! Every student has a **possibility to get max 12 months of support for studying and/or practical training abroad**.
- Language courses **can be substituted** by courses completed abroad. Substitutions are always agreed upon using the Learning Agreement done before the exchange.
- Language evaluation needed for exchange needs to be requested well in advance. If you have completed a B2-level English course at TAMK or if you are studying in English at TAMK, you can obtain the language certificate directly from the International Office. If neither of these applies to you, please contact Anne Kopperoinen (anne.kopperoinen@tuni.fi) to arrange an interview.
- You can also apply for a **150€ worth of support for studying the language** of your exchange target country before heading abroad (not English or Swedish).
- More information: <https://www.tuni.fi/studentguide/handbook/tamk?page=3126#international>

INTERNATIONALISATION MODULE

- A **voluntary, thematic study module** which includes courses with international objectives.
- A **separate mention in the degree certificate**, useful in e.g. getting a job
- Can include study exchanges, practical training abroad, intensive courses completed abroad, language studies (not mandatory for degree programme), cross-cultural communication studies, courses taught in a foreign language, international tutoring, etc.
- Minimum extent **20 ECTS credits**
- More information about the internationalisation module: <https://www.tuni.fi/studentguide/handbook/tamk?page=3207>



Become a Buddy for an International Student

- Every year, a large group of international exchange and degree students from various countries arrives at TAMK
- The buddy activity organized by TAMK Parvi offers the opportunity to get acquainted with a new culture and create an international friendship
- Through the buddy activity, international students get the chance to learn more about the lives and thoughts of Finnish students, as well as the opportunity to learn and use the Finnish language in different situations.
- Anyone can join the buddy activity. However, please be prepared to commit to the activity for at least a semester. TAMK offers buddies the opportunity for weekly meetings in TAMK's Parvi space. Each meeting includes a supervisor, and there is a theme for each occasion that facilitates natural conversation.
- If you became interested, fill in the [form](#). More information: laura.sairanen@tuni.fi



Support for Learning



Individual Study Arrangements

- If you have been diagnosed with **a learning difficulty, illness, disability or dyslexia that severely affects your studies**, you may need individual study arrangements. Please don't hesitate to contact the special needs teacher Marianna Leikomaa (marianna.leikomaa@tuni.fi) or your student counsellor, if you have any questions about individual study arrangements.
- If your **native language is not Finnish**, but you suspect dyslexia or other learning difficulties, **get in touch with Marianna Leikomaa**. You can also seek an external tester who has expertise in diagnosing dyslexia in your native language.
- More information:
 - <https://www.tuni.fi/studentguide/handbook/tamk/4653/4704?page=3126#support>
 - <https://www.tuni.fi/en/students-guide/handbook/tamk/support-studying-and-well-being/accessibility-and-individual-study-arrangements/accessibility-and-individual-study-arrangements-student>



TAMK Parvi and Sparris workshops

Parvi

- Support services, peer support and connecting with others!
- More information from [TAMK Parvi and partners' services](#) page.

Sparris workshops

- You can develop your studying skills by participating in Sparris workshops. The topics of these workshops include a variety of skills essential for studying.

Boosts

- Come to study together with others.



Contact Information



Let's Be in Touch!

- **Language and communication studies in Student's Guide:**
<https://www.tuni.fi/studentsguide/handbook/tamk/4653/4704?page=3126>
- **Language and Communication blog:** <http://blogs.tuni.fi/langcom>

RESPONSIBLE TEACHERS

Swedish: Sari Hanska

English: Anne Kopperoinen

Finnish language and communication: Ella Hakala



Teachers Responsible for Assessing Demonstrations for Prior Competence

Swedish:

Engineering: Katri Kallinen

Business and media: Sari Hanska

English:

Health care: Minna Metsäportti

Engineering, music, media: Petri Tuohimäki

Social services, business: Anne Kopperoinen

