

LEARNING PROGRAMME

Lessons from Finland with School Visits

10-DAY COURSE

50 learning hours | Course programme

Lessons from Finland with School Visits – 10-Day Course

Introduction and Description

This course provides a comprehensive and research-informed exploration of the Finnish education system through a balanced combination of theoretical study, structured school observations, and applied pedagogical workshops. Participants investigate the core principles underpinning Finland's internationally recognised success, including equity-driven policy design, learner-centred methodology, formative assessment culture, teacher autonomy, and a holistic approach to student wellbeing. School visits offer authentic insight into how these principles manifest in everyday practice, allowing participants to analyse organisational structures, classroom environments, teaching methods, and assessment strategies directly on site.

Through guided reflection, comparative analysis, and collaborative project work, participants critically examine the transferability of Finnish pedagogical models to diverse European educational contexts. The course supports educators in developing informed, context-sensitive strategies for innovation and improvement within their own institutions. By the end of the programme, participants will have formed a nuanced understanding of Finnish educational philosophy and designed actionable plans to integrate selected practices in meaningful and sustainable ways.

Methodology and Assessment

The course employs an integrated methodology combining expert input, case studies, structured school visits, collaborative workshops, outdoor experiential learning, and guided reflection. Participants engage in observation, dialogue with Finnish practitioners, micro-teaching tasks, and project-based learning. Emphasis is placed on linking theory with real-life practice and supporting participants in contextualising Finnish approaches within their own educational settings.

Assessment is continuous and formative, based on active participation, reflective journals, observation templates, group activities, and a final presentation of an implementation plan. Feedback focuses on pedagogical insight, reflective depth, and the practical applicability of proposed innovations.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

Knowledge & Understanding

- Understand the organisational, curricular, and policy foundations of the Finnish education system and the principles guiding its success.
- Analyse learner-centred, inquiry-based, and outdoor pedagogical approaches as practiced in Finnish schools.
- Examine formative assessment tools and strategies used to promote autonomy, motivation, and individual progression.
- Compare Finnish educational structures with participants' national systems through evidence-informed reflection.

Skills & Competences

- Observe, interpret, and evaluate authentic classroom and school practices using structured tools and analytical frameworks.
- Design pedagogical interventions inspired by Finnish approaches, adapting them to local needs, resources, and cultural contexts.
- Develop action plans for school-level or classroom-level innovation grounded in insights from school visits and theoretical study.
- Engage in collaborative problem-solving and reflective dialogue to deepen pedagogical understanding and support professional growth.

Attitudes

- Cultivate an open, reflective, and inquiry-oriented mindset toward educational innovation.

- Demonstrate readiness to explore alternative pedagogical models and adapt them responsibly and contextually.

Preparation

After registration participants will receive pre-course questionnaire which will be used by the trainer to learn about participants' teaching backgrounds and to assess their exact needs. Before the beginning of the course a basic reading list will be suggested to participants to prepare for the training. Participants will also be asked to prepare a presentation about themselves, their professional context and their culture. The presentation will be presented on the first day of the course to facilitate networking opportunities. Participants will receive information about the country they are going to visit in order to prepare them for their cultural experience.

Follow up

After the course participants will be asked to share what they have learned with the rest of the staff in their schools. Further books and articles to deepen the topic and contacts with some other practitioners all over Europe and in the world will be suggested by the trainer. The methods shared and explored and the bibliography given will allow the participants to complete and improve their educational path.

Certificate

Certificate complies with the guidelines of the Erasmus+ programme and includes the topic, number of didactic hours, dates and location of the course. We can list the record of learning outcomes on the Europass Mobility Document on request of participants. In case a participant requires a specific format of certificate we can accommodate that if

requested at least one week before the start of the course. It is necessary to attend at least 80% of the hours in order to receive the certificate.

Accommodation

We do not directly offer accommodation and subsistence and participants are responsible for organizing it by themselves.

Paperwork

We also provide all the support with paperwork you might need for your Erasmus+ project documentation such as mobility agreement and registration letter.

Fee: 800 €

Cancelation policy

We have a flexible cancellation policy in force at the moment and you can cancel your registration up to 30 days before the course and receive a full refund. In case you don't cancel the registration more than 30 days before you will not receive any refunds, but you will be able to choose to attend any other confirmed course session later (within 6 months) without any additional costs. In case you are not able to travel, your school can send someone else to take instead of you and you can change the details of the participant any time before the start of the course at no additional cost.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME (50 didactic hours - 5*45min per day) Monday to Friday	
Day 1	Welcome, Orientation & Warm-Up
09.00 - 09.45	Introductions & Icebreakers
09.45 - 10.30	Course Overview & Learning Agreement

10.30 - 11.15	Intercultural sharing: participants' school systems
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Intro lecture: “Why Finland?” – values, equity, teacher autonomy
12.15 - 13.00	Individual differences within cultures
Day 2	Finnish Education System + School Visit 1
09.00 - 09.45	Introduction to Finnish basic education structure
09.45 - 10.30	Teacher education, inclusion and support systems
10.30 - 11.15	School Visit 1 – Organisation of Education (part 1)
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	School Visit 1 – Organisation of Education (part 2)
12.15 - 13.00	Debrief: guided reflection using an observation template
Day 3	Preparing for Classroom Observation + School Visit 2
09.00 - 09.45	Key concepts: classroom management, restorative practices, routines
09.45 - 10.30	Pre-visit briefing: observation focus, question prompts, safety and etiquette
10.30 - 11.15	School Visit 2 – Classroom Management (part 1)
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	School Visit 2 – Classroom Management (part 2)
12.15 - 13.00	Structured post-visit discussion + short reflective writing
Day 4	Teaching Methods & Curriculum
09.00 - 09.45	Phenomenon-based learning, project-based learning, inquiry models
09.45 - 10.30	Cooperative learning structures and student autonomy
10.30 - 11.15	Analysis of short case studies from Finnish classrooms
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Micro-workshop: designing a small activity using Finnish-inspired methods.
12.15 - 13.00	Peer micro-teaching

Day 5	Student-Centred Pedagogies
09.00 - 09.45	The role of learner choice, voice, and agency in Finnish schools
09.45 - 10.30	Demonstration: learning stations, choice boards, self-regulation tools
10.30 - 11.15	Hands-on creation of student-centred tasks
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Micro-teaching sessions; peer observation with simplified rubrics
12.15 - 13.00	Feedback & reflection circle
Day 6	Pre-visit Briefing + School Visit 3
09.00 - 09.45	Theory: how Finnish schools implement multidisciplinary curriculum
09.45 - 10.30	Pre-visit task: identifying teaching methods to observe (sentence scaffolds)
10.30 - 11.15	School Visit 3 – Teaching Methods & Curriculum Implementation (part 1)
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	School Visit 3 – Teaching Methods & Curriculum Implementation (part 2)
12.15 - 13.00	Debrief and thematic comparison with Visit 1 & 2
Day 7	Assessment in Finland + School Visit 4
09.00 - 09.45	Introduction to Finnish assessment culture: formative feedback, self-assessment
09.45 - 10.30	Tools used by Finnish teachers: portfolios, rubrics, learning diaries
10.30 - 11.15	School Visit 4 – Assessment Tools and Strategies (part 1)
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	School Visit 4 – Assessment Tools and Strategies (part 2)
12.15 - 13.00	Reflection and creation of a formative assessment tool
Day 8	Outdoor Learning Field Project
09.00 - 09.45	Theoretical introduction: nature pedagogy, experiential learning, safety routines
09.45 - 10.30	Planning the project

10.30 - 11.15	Outdoor Learning Field Project (part 1)
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Outdoor Learning Field Project (part 2)
12.15 - 13.00	Documenting the experience using photo captions and learning stories
Day 9	Individual Support & Implementation Planning
09.00 - 09.45	One-to-one consultations; reviewing key learning from visits
09.45 - 10.30	Writing workshop: drafting an implementation plan (guided templates)
10.30 - 11.15	Coaching on adapting Finnish approaches to local contexts
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Developing micro-projects for participants' schools
12.15 - 13.00	Peer review and structured feedback
Day 10	Presentations, Evaluation & Closing
09.00 - 09.45	Preparing the final presentations and individual support (part 1)
09.45 - 10.30	Preparing the final presentations and individual support (part 2)
10.30 - 11.15	Final presentations and feedback
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Evaluation & Reflection
12.15 - 13.00	Validation of learning outcomes and certification

*This is only a tentative timetable. The exact hours or the course might differ and will be announced for each session 2 weeks before the start. However, there will always be a total of 5 didactic hours per day and all will be in line with the Erasmus+ quality standards. The trainer might slightly modify the content in response to the needs of the group.

**Cultural and social programmes will be organized in addition to the academic programme. The exact cultural and social programme depends on the location, season, weather, etc.