

LEARNING PROGRAMME

Lessons from Finland with School Visits

5-DAY COURSE

25 learning hours | Course programme

Lessons from Finland with School Visits – 5-Day Course

Introduction and Description

This 5-day course provides a condensed yet rigorous introduction to the Finnish education system through theoretical exploration, structured school visits, and guided pedagogical analysis. Participants examine key principles that underpin Finland's educational success, including equity-driven structures, trust-based professionalism, learner-centred pedagogy, restorative classroom management, and evidence-informed curriculum design. The programme integrates direct observation of Finnish schools with analytical tools that support critical interpretation of organisational practices, teaching approaches, and learning environments.

Participants develop a comparative understanding of how national educational cultures shape school life and identify elements of Finnish practice that can be meaningfully adapted to their own contexts. Through collaborative workshops, micro-teaching, reflective dialogue, and synthesis activities, they formulate actionable plans for pedagogical or organisational innovation. By the end of the course, participants will have a robust understanding of Finnish educational philosophy and practical strategies for translating its insights into context-appropriate improvements.

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 structural organisation, curricular framework, and policy foundations of the Finnish education system.
- Analyse learner-centred and inquiry-based pedagogical approaches observed in Finnish classrooms.
- Examine Finnish approaches to classroom management, teacher autonomy, and student support systems.
- Identify formative assessment principles used to promote motivation, autonomy, and learning progression.

Skills & Competences

- Conduct structured classroom and school observations using analytical frameworks.
- Interpret and evaluate Finnish educational practices and synthesize insights for practical transferability.
- Design context-sensitive pedagogical actions inspired by Finnish approaches.
- Engage in reflective and collaborative professional dialogue to support pedagogical development.

Attitudes

- Develop openness toward diverse international educational models.
- Demonstrate motivation to adapt evidence-informed practices to local conditions.

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: 400 €

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 (25 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	Assessment, Synthesis & Final Presentations
09.00 - 09.45	Formative Assessment in Finnish Schools
09.45 - 10.30	Preparation of individual or group action plans inspired by Finnish practices
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.