Focus: Inclusive Education

Oulu, Tampere & Helsinki, Finland

**Length:** 12 Days
**Dates:** August 11-22, 2022
**Cost:** $TBD
Finland’s education system is regarded as one of the best in the world, and other nations are striving to emulate its structure of well-paid teachers, plenty of recess time, and less emphasis on homework and tests. The country's higher education system also sets an example, especially since Finland is one of the few nations left in the world where its own citizens receive higher education completely free. The Finnish education system consists of: Early childhood education and care, pre-primary, basic and general upper secondary education, vocational education and training and finally, higher education.

This program takes place in Helsinki, Finland’s capital, and Oulu, capital of North Ostrobothnia. During the program, students will gain knowledge about the Finnish Educational system with special focus on Inclusive Education techniques, the group will be given lectures by experts in the Educational sector and visit local schools, meeting students and their teachers. In addition to educational visits, students will also get to discover the Finnish way of life, past and present, with visits to the National Library of Finland and the Helsinki University Museum.

Interesting facts about Education in Finland:

- Elementary school students get 75 minutes of recess a day in Finland versus an average of 27 minutes in the US.
- To ensure that children with learning or behavioral disabilities that are struggling don't fall behind, schools hire teaching aids who undergo an extra year of education to supplement teacher's efforts.
- Children in Finland are not measured at all during the first six years of their education.
- Finnish language education begins on the first day of school. By age nine, students begin Swedish (Finland's second official language) and at 11, they start learning a third language, usually English. Many students take on a fourth language around the age of 13.
- Teachers are effectively given the same status as doctors and lawyers.
- Teachers only spend 4 hours a day in the classroom and take 2 hours a week for professional development.
Day 1 - Departure - Thursday, August 11
Depart Home for Oulu, Finland

Day 2 - Oulu - Friday, August 12
Arrive in Oulu, Finland
Airport Transfer
Orientation Walking Tour - The group will become oriented with their neighborhood, the public transportation systems, nearby pharmacies, markets, ATMs, etc.
Welcome Dinner - The group will be taken for an authentic dinner with a wide variety of menu options to cater all diets.

Day 3 - Oulu - Saturday, August 13
Breakfast & Day Briefing
Educational and Cultural Services Center - Lecture on Finland’s General and Inclusive Education system. (3 hours)
Lecture on basic education, early education, youth work, library services etc. Presentation and a tour of the community centre with modern learning environments

Day 4 - Oulu - Sunday, August 14
Breakfast & Day Briefing
Oulu Historical and Cultural Walking Tour - See all the sights and attractions in Oulu City Centre on a guided tour
Evening Inquiry Group Check-in (1 hour)

Day 5 - Oulu - Monday, August 15
Breakfast & Day Briefing
School Visit to Hiukkavaara Community - (3 hours)
Lunch Break
Travel to Tampere (approx. 5 h)
Evening Inquiry Group Check-in (1 hour)

Day 6 - Tampere - Tuesday, August 16
Breakfast & Day Briefing
Visit to Tampere University of Applied Science (TBC)
Lunch Break
Tampere Historical and Cultural Walking Tour - See all the sights and attractions in Tampere City Centre on a guided tour
Evening Inquiry Group Check-in (1 hour)
Day 7 - Helsinki - Wednesday, August 17
Breakfast & Day Briefing
Transfer by Train to Helsinki (approx. 2 hours)
Lunch Break
School Visit - To be determined
Evening Inquiry Group Check-in (1 hour)

Day 8 - Helsinki - Thursday, August 18
Breakfast & Day Briefing
Seminar with the Finnish Society for Disability Research
Lunch Break
Helsinki University Library Tour - The largest multidisciplinary university library in Finland
Evening Inquiry Group Check-in (1 hour)

Day 9 - Helsinki - Friday, August 19
Breakfast & Day Briefing
Meeting with teacher education students at Helsinki University
Lunch Break
Helsinki University Museum - The University of Helsinki is the oldest university in Finland and the hub of Finnish culture and learning. The exhibitions and collections tell the fascinating story of the University, from the founding of the Royal Academy of Turku in the year 1640 up to the present day.
Evening Inquiry Group Check-in (1 hour)

Day 10 - Helsinki - Saturday, August 20
Breakfast & Day Briefing
Helsinki Historical & Cultural Walking Tour - Uspenski Cathedral, National Library of Finland, Helsinki Harbour, Senate Square, Holy Trinity Church, Stora Enso Building, Sarastus Statue, Market Square, Presidential Palace, University of Helsinki, Governmental Palace, and more...
Lunch Break
Boat Excursion to the Suomenlinna Fortress - Suomenlinna is an 18th-century sea fortress and nature area with centuries-old artillery and defensive walls, spread across 6 linked islands. Walking trails cross parkland between popular sights like the King’s Gate drawbridge and Suomenlinna Museum, which recounts military and maritime history.
Farewell Dinner & Program Closing - The group will be taken for an authentic dinner with a wide variety of menu options to cater all diets.

Day 11 - Helsinki - Sunday, August 21
Breakfast & Day Briefing
Free day in Helsinki

Day 12 - Return - Monday, August 22
Breakfast & Day Briefing
Airport Transfer
Depart Helsinki, Finland for Home
Program Highlights

• Educational and Cultural Services Center
• School Visit to Hiukkavaara Community
• Visit to Tampere University of Applied Science
• School visit in Helsinki
• Seminar with the Finnish Society for Disability Research
• Helsinki University Library Tour
• Helsinki University Museum
• Meeting with teacher education students at Helsinki University
• Boat Excursion to the Suomenlinna Fortress

Program Includes

• Roundtrip Airfare
• 10 Nights of Accommodation
• All Ground Transportation
• Daily Continental Breakfast
• 2 Traditional Dinners
• Historical & Cultural Walking Tours
• Full-Time Guide & Assistance
• Travelers Insurance

To Apply See Explore Programs at: https://www.montclair.edu/study-abroad
Travel Arrangements Through Study Abroad Association