

3.10. Master of Education, International Programme (in English)

A Degree Programme Preparing for International Educational Tasks and Providing the Qualifications for the Post of Primary School Teacher

The programme examines the Finnish educational system in European and global context responding to the challenges posed by increasing internationalisation and multiculturalism. The training provides the qualifications for the post of primary teacher. The main language of instruction is English. However, non-Finnish speakers may occasionally have to do some independent work instead of lectures given in Finnish.

General introduction to the programme

The M. Ed. programme is a 5-year degree programme leading first to a 3-year Bachelor's degree and then a further 2 years to the Master's degree. The programme aims at preparing students for international educational tasks and provides the students with teacher's qualifications. The extensive flexibility of the programme allows for specialization in a variety of educational tasks. Teaching multicultural classes in different countries, project leader and coordinator duties, international consultant work, educational policy and administration, and taking part in multidisciplinary research projects are some examples of such tasks. As in any teacher education, the programme includes studies in educational sciences and various school subjects including teaching practice periods, some of which can be done abroad. In order to direct students towards international perspectives many special courses are offered:

- Orientation towards international education
- International communication and negotiation skills (ICONS)
- Educational policy and leadership
- Educational systems in the Nordic countries, in Russia and the Baltic states, and in Europe
- Global education (peace and conflict research, equity and human rights, environment)
- Educational philosophy and ethics
- Comparative education
- Development and education

The programme includes studies abroad for at least one term. The language of instruction being largely English, the programme is also suitable for students from other countries provided their English skills are good enough.

Period of Application and Selection Process

Finnish universities are using a joint online application system in 2009. All applications to the Master of Education, International Programme shall be submitted by filling in an application at www.yliopistohaku.fi or www.universitetsansokan.fi.

If you do not have the opportunity to submit an electronic application this spring, you may order a printed application form during the application period (February 2 to April 30, 9am to 15pm) from the National Board of Education, tel. 020 690 696 (+358-20-690696). The cost of a phone call from anywhere in Finland equals the local call or mobile call charge. When you are ordering the form, please indicate all the programmes (name of university and programme) that you are applying for as well as your mailing address. Application forms will not be sent upon requests by e-mail.

The universities' joint application period starts on February 2, 2009 and ends at 4.15 p.m. on April 30, 2009. If you submit your application on April 30, you must save your online form not later than 4.15 p.m. A printed application form sent by mail shall arrive in the National Board of Education at 4.15 p.m. on April 30, 2009 at the latest.

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Those who pass the Finnish matriculation examination in the spring of 2009 are also allowed to apply for the education. The results of the matriculation examination for such applicants will be obtained directly from the register of the Matriculation Board.

Those who receive an IB, EB or Reifeprüfung diploma in the summer of 2009 can also take part in the selection. Their applications will be considered in the quota of students to be invited on special grounds.

The selection process comprises two stages. Stage one is to select on the basis of the application documents the applicants who will be invited to the entrance examination. Stage two includes a literature examination and an interview in English, on the basis of which the final selection is carried out.

20 students will be selected to the programme. Not more than five of them can be citizens of a country other than Finland.

Ranking of Applications

In order to select the applicants for the entrance examination, a comparative index comprising the following two components is calculated for each applicant: 1) grades awarded for the matriculation examination and 2) the essay to be included with the application.

I. Matriculation Examination

Total score of the best four subjects in the Finnish matriculation examination test. If the applicant has taken exams in several subjects in the General Studies paper (reaali), only the highest score is taken into account. The various grades are scored as follows: a=2, b=3, c=4, m=5, e and l=6. If the applicant has improved his/her matriculation examination grades before the closing date for applications, these will be taken into account when calculating the scores.

A basic requirement is that the applicant shall have received at least the grade magna cum laude approbatur (advanced syllabus) or eximia cum laude approbatur (basic syllabus) in the English test in the Finnish matriculation examination or otherwise acquired a comparable practical knowledge of the language, for instance through studies abroad or through other activities.

Components 1 and 2 only apply to applicants who have taken the Finnish matriculation examination. Applicants with corresponding examinations from abroad must send a certified copy of the original certificate to the university. In the case of certificates in a language other than Finnish, Swedish, German or English, a translation in English must be included.

Scoring of EB, IB and Reifeprüfung diplomas

The International Baccalaureate, European Baccalaureate and Reifeprüfung diplomas are considered equal to the Finnish matriculation examination.

European Baccalaureate		International Baccalaureate	Reifeprüfung	Matriculation Examination
Mathematics	Other test specific to a subject		(for subjects in which a written test is taken)	
10.00-9.50	10.00-9.00	7 excellent	15-13 points	laudatur
9.45-8.50	8.95-8.00	6 very good	12-10 points	eximia cum laude approbatur
8.45-7.00	7.95-7.00	5 good	9-8 points	magna cum laude

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6.95-6.00	6.95-6.00	4 satisfactory	7 points	approbatur cum laude appro- batur
5.95-5.00	5.95-5.00	3 mediocre	6-5 points	lubenter approba- tur
4.95-4.00	4.95-4.00	2 poor	4 points	approbatur

2. Essay

Points are given from 0 to 5 for the essay to be sent to the university. It can be a free-form essay, but it needs to include the reasons why the applicant applies for the programme and an account of any special qualifications that may support his or her selection. S/he can also discuss his or her own experiences and views on international and multicultural issues, but also consider themes related to the topic on a more general level. The essay may be written in either English or Finnish.

Applicants without a Finnish Matriculation Examination

An applicant who has not completed the Finnish matriculation examination can be accepted as a student, if he or she has graduated from a polytechnic, a college or higher level vocational education institution or has completed a vocational qualification (requiring at least three years of study) or a lower university degree, or if he or she has received an education abroad that makes him/her eligible for university studies in the country in question.

Invitation to the Entrance Examination

Eighty (80) applicants are invited to the entrance examination; forty (40) applicants at most on the basis of the comparative index, and the rest on the special grounds presented in their essays. A special reason would be, for instance, a long-term stay or work in multicultural environments abroad and/or in Finland. The special reasons must be given in the essay included with the application. The reasons must, as far as possible, be substantiated with certificates or testimonials.

If two or more applicants score the same number of points, they will be ranked on the basis of the following criteria: 1. total points scored in the four matriculation examination subjects, 2. points scored for the essay.

A list of the persons invited to the entrance examinations will be put on the noticeboard of the Department of Educational Sciences and Teacher Education on **May 27, 2009** at the latest. Those invited will also be notified by mail.

An applicant is entitled to be given details of how the comparative index was calculated in his/her particular case. The department's office will respond to any inquiries on the results. Any appeals shall be delivered in writing to the Faculty Office within 14 days from the publication of the results.

Entrance Examination

The entrance examination will be held on **June 11-12, 2009**. The applicants must bring along an official identification to the entrance examination. The identification can be, for instance, a valid driving licence or passport.

The entrance examination comprises the following: 1) examination based on selected literature and 2) individual interview in English. The literature examination is held **June 11, 2009** and the interview **June 11-12, 2009**.

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For the examination based on selected literature, the applicants must read either of the following books:

Clayton, Jacklyn Blake: *One Classroom, Many Worlds. Teaching and Learning in the Cross-Cultural Classroom.* Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann. 2003.

Or:

Kaivola T. & Melén-Paaso M. (eds.) *Education for Global Responsibility – Finnish Perspectives.* Publications of the Ministry of Education 2007:31. Helsinki University Press.

ISBN 978-952-485-429-0 (pbk.)

ISBN 978-952-485-430-6 (PDF)

ISSN 1458-8110

The book can be ordered from the following addresses:

books@yopaino.helsinki.fi

www.yliopistopaino.helsinki.fi/en

Helsinki University Press

P.O.Box 4 (Vuorikatu 3)

FI-00014 University of Helsinki

Tel +358 9 7010 2363

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The publication is available on the Ministry of Education English web pages as a pdf version.

The purpose of the literature examination is to get an idea of the applicant's ability to analyse and structuralise the range of topics dealt with in the book.

The purpose of the individual interview in English is to establish the applicant's aptitude for educational work and international tasks in education. An effort is also made to establish the applicant's social skills and language skills in English. The time reserved for interviewing each applicant is about half an hour.

The final selection is made on the basis of the comparative index, which is made up of the following:

Examination based on selected literature	0-5
<u>Individual interview in English</u>	<u>0-10</u>
Total	0-15

If two or more applicants score the same number of points, their order shall be determined on the basis of the following criteria: 1. individual interview in English, 2. literature examination, and 3. points scored for the essay (sent to the university in stage one).

Publication of the results

The results of the selection will be published on the noticeboards of the Department of Educational Sciences and Teacher Education and the Student Affairs Office of the University of Oulu on **July 1, 2009**. The names of those admitted to the waiting list will also be published at the same time. Those accepted as students and those put on the waiting list will also be notified of the results in writing.

An applicant is entitled to be given details of how the comparative index was calculated in his/her particular case. The department's office will respond to any inquiries on the results. Any appeals shall be delivered in writing to the Faculty Office within 14 days from the publication of the results.