

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a black t-shirt, is sitting and reading an open book. She is looking down at the pages with concentration. In the background, another child in a red shirt is also reading, and bookshelves filled with books are visible, creating a library or classroom setting.

# Ministry of Education and Culture

– championing education and culture with  
knowledge, skills and feeling

# Ministry of Education and Culture

The mandate of the Ministry of Education and Culture covers early education and care, education, training and research; the arts, culture, sport and youth work; the archives system, the network of museums and the public library system; the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Orthodox Church and other religious communities; student financial aid as well as copyright matters.

The Ministry of Education and Culture is one of the twelve ministries that, together with the ministers heading them, form the Finnish Government. The Ministry of Education and Culture participates in the work of the Government by planning, outlining and implementing the Ministry's policies. Policies outlined by the Government guide the activities of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

The Ministry prepares matters based on these policy outlines.

## **We promise to**

- 1.** take responsibility for securing the foundations of education and culture in society;
- 2.** create the right conditions for fostering skills, employment, creativity and inclusiveness in society;
- 3.** strengthen the economy's capacity for renewal in order to enable wellbeing and sustainable growth;
- 4.** safeguard democracy and freedom of expression;
- 5.** reinforce gender equality, parity and mutual respect;
- 6.** create opportunities for a meaningful life for all;
- 7.** increase our international impact and commit to sustainable development.



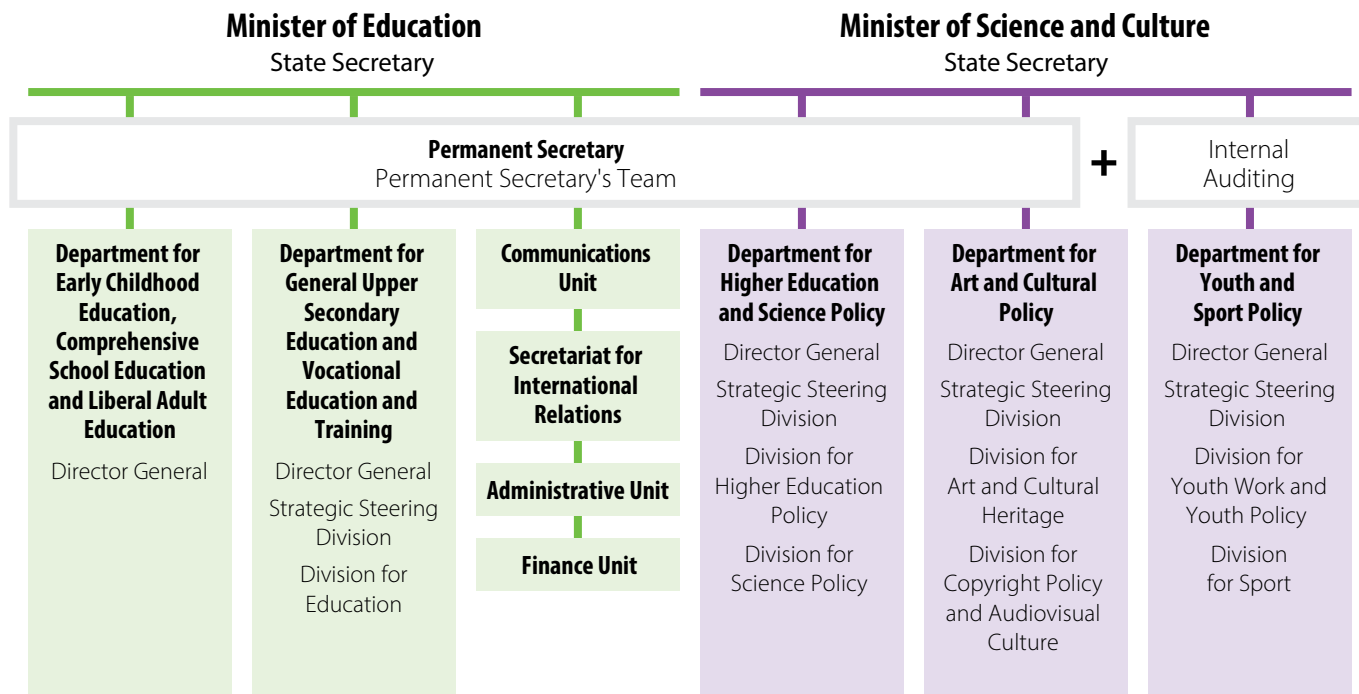


## Organisation

Two Ministers and one Permanent Secretary run the Ministry of Education and Culture. State Secretaries assist ministers in political steering and planning. In accordance with the division of responsibilities established by the Government, the Minister of Education is responsible for matters related to early childhood education and care, general education as well as vocational education and training.

The Minister of Science and Culture is responsible for issues related to the Department of Art and Culture Policy and the Department of Youth and Sport Policy, including student financial aid. The Minister of Science and Culture is also responsible for science policy, higher education policy and religious affairs.

The Permanent Secretary directs the activities of the Ministry of Education and Culture together with the Ministers. The duties of the Permanent Secretary include monitoring the preparation of matters at the Ministry and attending to the internal activities of the Ministry.







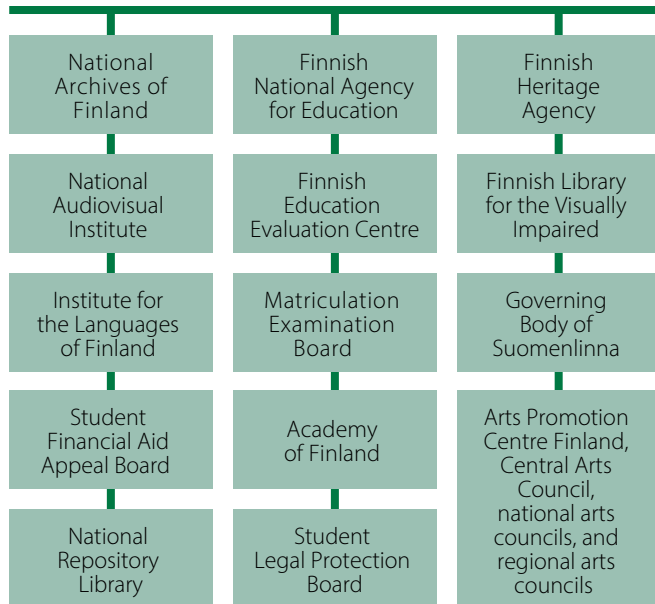
## **Administrative branch of the Ministry of Education and Culture**

The administrative branch of the Ministry of Education and Culture comprises 11 government agencies and two limited liability companies in addition to the Ministry itself. There are also various corporations, foundations and expert bodies within the Ministry's administrative branch.

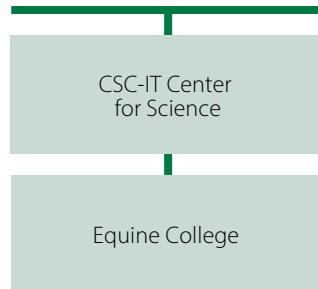
Matters related to education and science policy are dealt with by the Finnish National Agency for Education, the Matriculation Examination Board, the Student Financial Aid Appeal Board, the Academy of Finland, the National Archives of Finland, the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre, the Institute for the Languages of Finland, and the National Repository Library.

Issues related to cultural policy are handled by the National Board of Antiquities, the Governing Body of Suomenlinna, the National Audiovisual Institute, and the Finnish Library for the Visually Impaired, and the Arts Promotion Centre Finland.

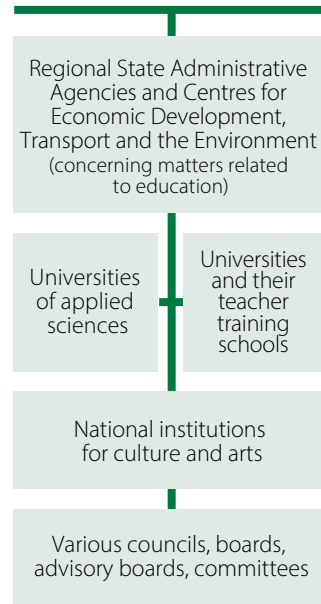
## Government agencies and public bodies



## Limited liability companies



## Other actors

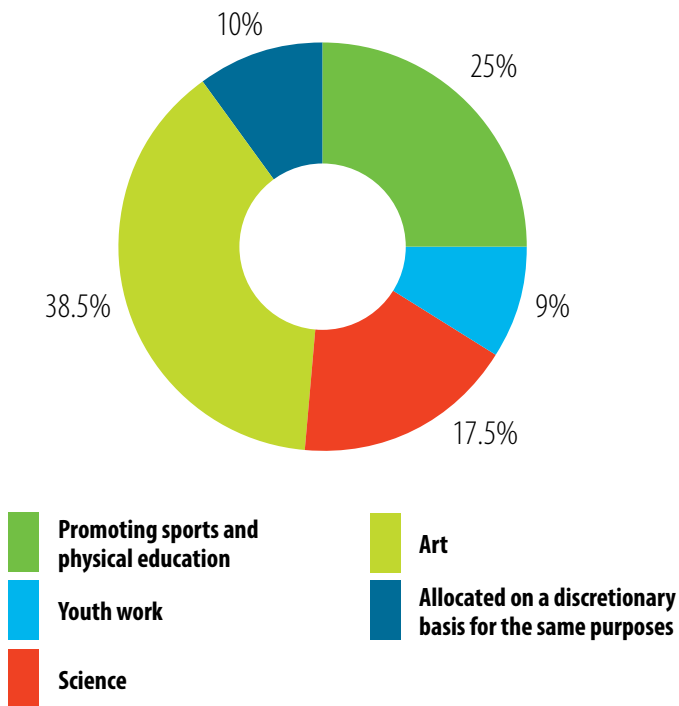


# Budget

In 2020, the Budget appropriations for the Ministry of Education and Culture amount to approximately EUR 6.8 billion.

One characteristic feature of the Ministry is the huge sum of government transfers and grants that it awards to agencies and bodies under its administrative branch. Most of the funds are statutory and generally intended for operations and construction projects, but the Ministry also awards discretionary government transfers from its share of proceeds from gambling activities. Under the Lotteries Act, these proceeds are used for promoting sports and physical education, science, art and youth work.

Of these funds, 25% are annually allocated for promoting sports and physical education, 9% for youth work, 17.5% for science, and 38.5% for art. The remaining 10% of funds are allocated on a discretionary basis for the same purposes.





## Programme of Prime Minister Sanna Marin's Government 2019

The Programme of Prime Minister Sanna Marin's Government "Inclusive and competent Finland – a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable society" was submitted to Parliament in the form of a Government statement on 10 December 2019.

*"In the words of the Government Programme: "Education and training provide the best safeguard against exclusion and lack of prospects. Having invested in education, research and innovation to foster economic growth, we paved the way for building a welfare state and for boosting productivity.*

*An equal society seeks to provide opportunities for every citizen to study to their full potential. By the same token, we hold learning and educational achievement in high regard. Education and culture are an important part of our value system and are considered a means of guaranteeing individual freedom.*

*A dynamic cultural life has intrinsic value and as such, it creates the foundation for a society where education and culture are highly regarded, strengthens democracy and reinforces the freedom of speech. Furthermore, the production and service sectors in the arts, culture and creative industries are not only labour-intensive areas but they are also continually growing."*



# International cooperation on many fronts

The Ministry of Education and Culture prepares policies and agreements within its remit for cooperation between international organisations, councils and other organisations as well as with individual countries.

Besides the European Union, other major international organisations that the Ministry cooperates with include the OECD, the Council of Europe and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

The Ministry actively promotes sustainable development goals in its activities and collaboration with United

Nations organisations. Our main partners among the United Nations organisations are the UN's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation UNESCO, whose Executive Board seat Finland will hold until the end of 2021, and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). The Ministry actively monitors development policy discussions within its administrative branch.

The Nordic Council of Ministers coordinates Nordic cooperation in matters related to education, research and culture. The Ministry also participates in cooperation in the Arctic Council, the Baltic Sea countries and regional councils in the Barents region.

A high level of competence, education and creativity are an essential part of

Finland's country image. Finland's solutions have created considerable interest worldwide and Finland cooperates extensively with many countries. Cooperation agreements and other documents for cooperation between Finland and other countries have also been contracted. Services in education, culture and winter sports are also actively promoted abroad.

The Finnish network of cultural and scientific institutes comprises 17 institutes. They promote Finnish culture, art and science in their respective target countries and advocate cultural exchange and cooperation as well as field-specific research and teaching in their respective fields. The institutes receive their core funding from the Ministry of Education and Culture.



## History

**1809:** The Ministry of Education and Culture is one of Finland's oldest ministries. Originally, in 1809, it was the Ecclesiastical Department under the Government Council of Finland, the year Finland became an autonomous Grand Duchy within the Russian empire.

**In 1917,** when Finland became an independent nation, the name was changed to the Department of Ecclesiastical and Educational Affairs.

**In 1918,** when the Senate became the Government and the Departments became ministries, it was renamed as the Ministry of Ecclesiastical and Educational Affairs.

**In 1922,** the ministry's name was shortened to Ministry of Education.

**2010:** On 1 May 2010, to commemorate two centuries of existence, the Ministry's name became the Ministry of Education and Culture.

# First-class education

Education policy provides the conditions for creating equity in education and early childhood education and care while also ensuring high quality.

The Ministry of Education and Culture directs, finances and monitors the following operations covered by public funds: early childhood education; pre-primary, primary and lower secondary education; school morning and afternoon activities for school children; general upper secondary education; vocational education and training; higher education in universities and universities of applied sciences; university education; and adult education.

**Early childhood education and care** is provided as centre-based early education activities, family-based

daycare activities, and open early childhood education and care activities.

**General education** comprises pre-primary, primary and lower secondary education, general upper secondary education, and other non-vocational studies, such as liberal adult education. It also includes morning and afternoon activities for schoolchildren and basic art education.

**Vocational education and training** (VET) is designed both for young people without upper secondary qualifications and for adults already in work life. Vocational qualifications can be completed in school-based VET

or as competence-based qualifications. VET is organised mainly in institutions or as apprenticeship training.

## **The higher education system**

consists of universities of applied sciences and universities. Finland has 13 universities and 23 universities of applied sciences. The mission of universities is to conduct scientific research and provide education based on it. Higher education in universities of applied sciences aims to cater for tasks requiring professional expertise.

Government agencies and public bodies under the administrative branch of the Ministry of Education and Culture, expert bodies appointed by the Ministry or the Government as well as cooperation organisations in the field of science carry out activities related to science.

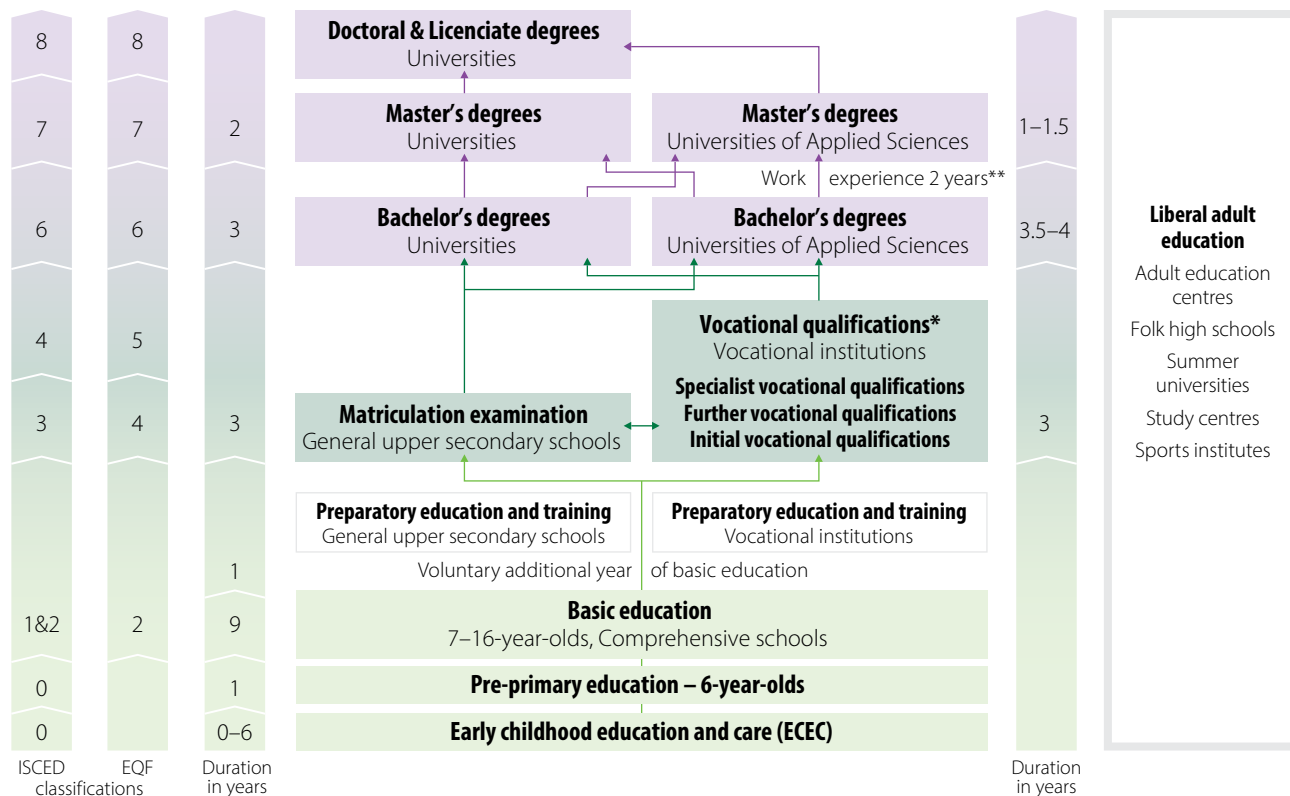






Picture: Sakari Pippo / Finland Promotion Board

# Education system in Finland



\* Also available as apprenticeship training or by training agreement.

\*\* 3 years of professional experience until 31 December 2019 and 2 years from 1 January 2020.



## Versatile research as a foundation for innovation

**Science policy** helps create national and international opportunities for individuals and organisations to conduct research. Universities conduct free research, pursue learning in the sciences and in the arts and, on this basis, provide the highest level of education in Finland. Universities spend about one third of their central government core funding on research.

The purpose of universities of applied sciences is to offer higher education leading to professional expertise that responds to the changing needs of the world of work. Universities of applied sciences pursue applied research and development that, in addition to supporting the education they provide, serve both labour market goals and regional development.

The majority of competitively tendered public research funding comes from the Academy of Finland, Business Finland and the European Union.





## Access for everyone to study

Student financial aid serves to secure a source of income for full-time students who need financial assistance.

Student financial aid consists of a study grant, a housing supplement and a state guarantee for a student loan. Student financial aid is granted by the Social Insurance Institution of Finland in collaboration with education providers.

In 2019, a total of 182,000 students in higher education institutions are estimated to have received study grants and altogether 134,000 students at other educational institutions. Housing supplements are granted to an estimated total of 12,000 students and school transport subsidies to 65,000 students.

# Cultural content and experiences

Art and cultural life in Finland are characterised by a strong national cultural identity and numerous cultural institutions, and people actively engage in cultural activities.

Finland is internationally known for its comprehensive network of libraries. Libraries are an important institution that encourages our citizens to maintain and develop their reading habits.

The cultural policy of the Ministry covers national cultural and art institutes; museums that are awarded government transfers and grants; as well as theatres and orchestras; cultural

activities and libraries; and organisations, associations and civic activities eligible for discretionary government transfers. Arts and culture receive financial support from both central and local government.

The Strategy for Cultural Policies drawn up by the Ministry of Education and Culture will run until 2025. It incorporates three main targets:

1. better conditions for artistic and other creative work, including more diverse ways to produce and distribute creative works;
2. greater inclusion and participation in arts and culture, so that differences between population groups in terms of participation are smaller;
3. a more robust and thriving cultural basis.



## Copyright protects creative work

Copyright promotes immaterial creative work by protecting literary and artistic works. The Ministry of Education and Culture facilitates the functioning of the copyright regime, which consists of economic and moral rights. Economic copyright protects the prospects of authors of works to earn a living, and moral copyright the honour of authors. Intellectual property rights, which are a solid foundation for business and gainful activities, encourage innovation and creation.

Finnish copyright legislation is based on copyright treaties and EU directives. Finland has also signed the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances (2012) and the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled (2013).

# Sport promotes health and wellbeing

The Ministry of Education and Culture is tasked with creating favourable conditions in central government for sport and physical activity.

The Ministry also coordinates and develops sport policy. The main objective in sport policy is to advocate sport and physical activity, improving the health and wellbeing of the population and supporting the growth and development of children and young people.

The Ministry creates favourable conditions for everyday exercise, recreational sports and physical activity

that promote health and wellbeing.

The goal is to encourage people of all ages to stay healthy by getting enough exercise. Promoting an active lifestyle is part of the health and wellbeing policy. By guiding the construction of sports facilities and providing financial support for it, the Ministry helps create good conditions for engaging in sport and physical activity.

The Ministry participates in various international organisations in sport-related cooperation between different countries, as well as in the preparation of sport-related matters in the European Union. Major international organisations that Finland cooperates with include the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).









# Life skills for young people

The Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for the overall development of youth work and youth policy.

Youth policy aims to improve the conditions in which young people live and grow up. By means of cross-sectoral cooperation, it also serves to enhance interaction between different generations. Youth work supports young people in their growth and path to independent life, and encourages them to participate in society.

Both the Government Programme and the National Youth Work and

Youth Policy Programme help guide the development of youth policy. The Programme aims to advocate young people's growth and foster their living conditions. The National Youth Work and Youth Policy Programme (VANUPO) is a statutory cross-sectoral programme adopted by the Finnish Government every four years.

In the Programme, the Government defines its youth policy objectives for

the government term. The programme also sets out the guidelines for supporting youth work and related activities, including the key criteria for eligibility for government transfers and grants by national youth work centres of expertise. The programme also establishes the national objectives for youth activities in the European and international context.



Ministry of  
Education  
and Culture

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