



Welcome to study languages at the University of Helsinki Language Centre!

The world of work requires experts with good language skills. At the Language Centre you can attain good and varied language proficiency in a flexible manner. In addition to studies in a foreign language and Swedish or Finnish as the second national language, as well as studies in Swedish or Finnish as a native language studies included in your degree, it is worthwhile to take advantage of what else the Language Centre has to offer.

It is recommended that you plan your language studies early on in your studies. Learning a totally new language should be started immediately during your first year, so that you will have time to attain a level of proficiency that supports your studies, the world of work and internationalisation.

Communication and language studies included in a bachelor's degree

All degrees include a certain amount of [compulsory communication and language studies](#).

These studies are completed as part of a first-cycle, or bachelor's, degree and their minimum scope is 10 cr:

1. Studies in the second national language (Swedish/Finnish), 3 cr
2. Studies in one foreign language, 4 cr (starting skill level in English: CEFR B2, in other languages: CEFR B1)
3. Communication skills in the native language (Finnish/Swedish), at minimum 3 cr.

The [language of your secondary education](#) affects the completion of your studies. Some degree programmes may also include studies in a second foreign language.

The aim of language studies is to provide you with a sufficient communications and language proficiency for positions in your field as well as international activities and cooperation. Studies can be completed with a course or exemption examination. Courses in English, Swedish and native language are organised on each campus. Courses in other languages are organised in the City Centre Campus. The recommended timing

of compulsory language studies varies according to degree programme. Courses are available as contact teaching, distance teaching, blended teaching, online teaching, and independent project.

NB! If you are completing a Master's degree only, the language of your secondary education is Finnish or Swedish and you have completed your Bachelor's degree abroad, you must [demonstrate your language proficiency as part of your Master's degree](#).

How do I register?

Registration for Language Centre courses or examination is done online via [Sisu](#). Read more about [language education at the Language Centre](#) and check also [the language courses suitable for non-Finnish speakers](#).

Registration periods for the language courses and examinations:

1st period: 14.–27.8.2023

2nd period: 2.–22.10.2023

3rd period: 11.12.2023–7.1.2024

4th period: 12.2–3.3.2024

Intensive period: 8.–28.4.2024. Photo: Nina Dannert



Do not worry, if you have no time to register for a course in the first teaching period, since new courses begin in all periods. If you cannot attend a course for which you have registered, please remember to cancel your registration so that as many students as possible can attend the course.



Recognition of prior learning

You may have studies completed in another Finnish or foreign higher education institution or other educational establishment counted towards your degree and substitute studies in the degree syllabus with other studies of the same level. More information on recognition of language studies is available on the [Instructions for Students website](#).

The Language Centre offers plenty more

In addition to language studies included in the degree, you can start studying an entirely new language (e.g., Arabic, Japanese, Portuguese) or deepen your existing language proficiency. In all, the [Language Centre provides teaching in over ten languages](#). Additionally, it is possible to complete [a study module](#) in Chinese, English, Italian, Japanese, French, German, Spanish, Swedish, German or Russian language which can be included in your degree (please always check the applicability from your degree programme). In addition, the Language Centre offers also a study module in Finnish as a native language and a multilingual study module.

Language anxieties and diverse learning

Learning difficulties or anxieties may interfere with language studies. If your [previous experiences worry you or raise questions](#) in your mind, feel free to discuss them with our English-language tutor Fergal Bradley or Swedish-language tutor Carola Rewell-Heikkinen who specialise in supervising special learners.

Teacher tutor provides advice

[Teacher tutors](#) will provide you with answers to your possible questions related to language studies. Teacher tutors are Language Centre teachers and they also provide supervision for studying certain courses independently. You may also [study languages online independently](#).

Course assistants support you in language learning

International students support you in learning a language in Language Centre courses. They work as [Language Centre course assistants](#), i.e., provide peer support and help, for example, in pronunciation, discussions and group work. Course assistants are available for almost all teaching languages of the Language Centre, and they usually are native speakers of the language. The Course Assistant Programme provides students with an opportunity to internationalise together and to get to know each other.

Language Centre also offers [ALICE courses \(Academic Language and Intercultural Exchange\)](#).

The basic idea of these courses is to provide two language learners who speak different native languages the opportunity to learn about each other's language and culture in an interactive way.

Big [multilingual workshops](#) are also organised at the Language Centre, where students meet each other and can practise languages in a relaxed atmosphere, discussing different topics. A couple of workshops will be organised every academic year.

More information

You can learn more about registration, recognition of prior learning, teacher tutor activities and other issues related to language studies as well as other Language Centre activities by asking from [Student Services](#) and reading the Instructions for Students. You can also come and chat with the Language Centre's student advisors.

Welcome to the Language Centre!

See also: [Language Centre's summer orientation!](#)