

Why is it so difficult to co-operate?

Implementing information literacy
into the curriculum of HAMK

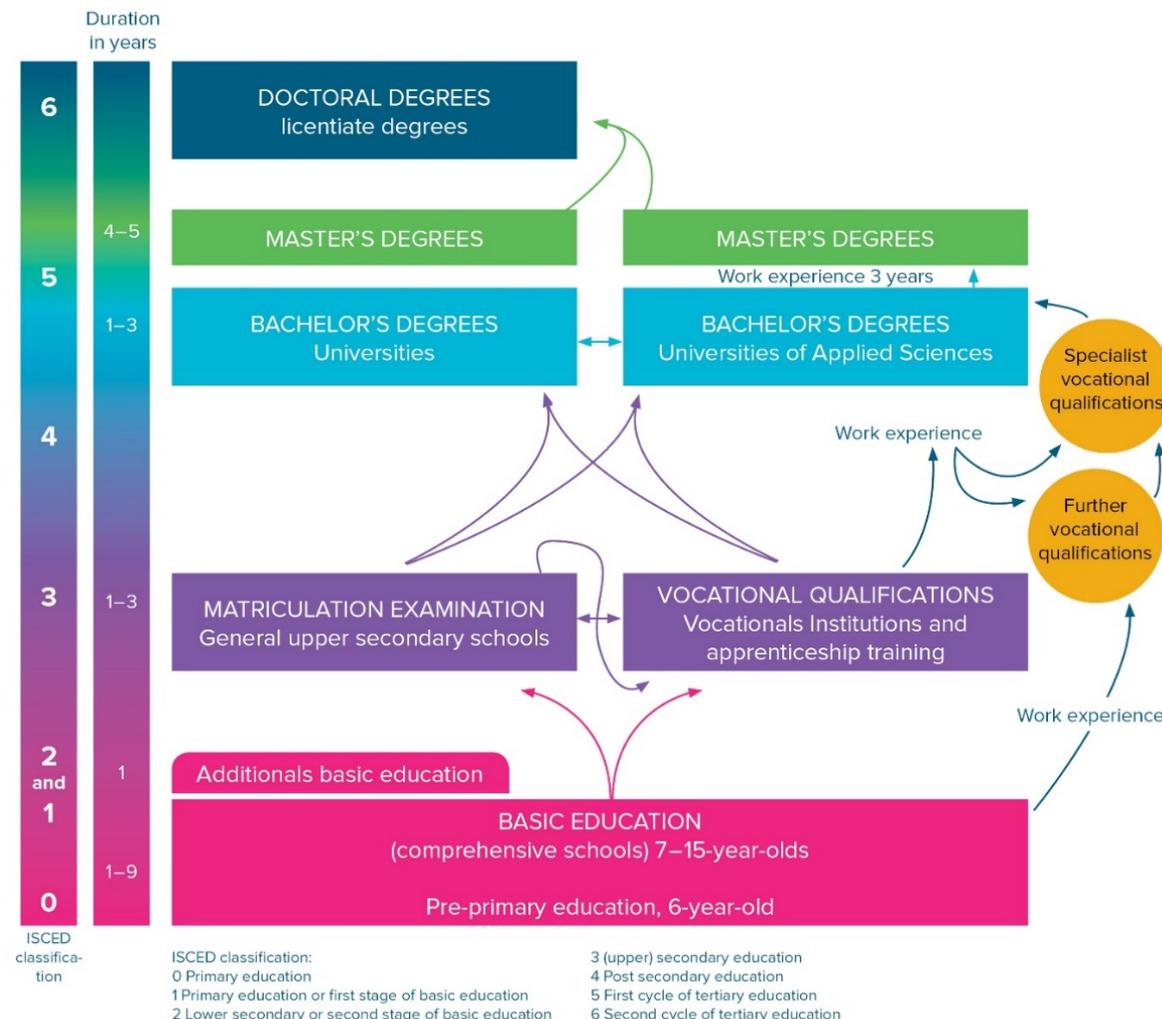
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The educational system in Finland

Finland's system of higher education is based on a dual model, where more academically oriented traditional universities (14) and more practically oriented universities of applied sciences (24) complement each other.

Both award legally equivalent academic Bachelor's and Master's degrees.



Häme University of Applied Sciences HAMK

Häme University of Applied Sciences HAMK consists of 17 individual learning institutions, which have been melted into one HAMK.

HAMK operates on seven campuses within a 100 kilometer radius in southern Finland. The individual campuses have long histories and strong traditions; e.g. Mustiala was founded in 1840 as Agricultural Institute.

HAMK has 600 staff members and 7000 students.

Each HAMK campus has its own library.



IL at HAMK

- Before:
IL education was unsystematic and inconsistent.
- Currently:
A development project started in December 2015, including following actions:
 - the education in IL is being systemized,
 - a summer course combining information literacy skills and essay writing is underway, and
 - a learning badge in IL for the staff is underway.
- In the future:
 - All HAMK students get equal education in IL, starting from fall 2016.
 - 75% of the staff gets a learning badge by the end of 2017.

Guidelines

IL CONTEXT

- Framework for information literacy for higher education (ACRL 2016)
- Recommendations for the higher education sector (EMPATIC 2012)
- National recommendations for information literacy in higher education (Council for Finnish University Libraries & The AMKIT Consortium 2013)

EDUCATIONAL CONTEXT

- Objectives for degrees in the universities of applied sciences (Ministry of Education and Culture)
- Objectives for degrees (HAMK)

Implementation (1)

- IL education for students

- Phase 1: all first-year students get familiar with HAMK library services either during a guided library visit or an independent course in Moodle learning environment.
- Phase 2: all second-year students learn the basics of information literacy skills. This entity will be guided by an information specialist, a communication teacher, and a subject teacher, and the assignments will be tightly integrated with the subject.
- Phase 3: students about to start their thesis get guidance in information skills.

Implementation (2)

- summer course

- Pilot project: a summer course combining information literacy and essay writing, optional for all students

Implementation (3)

- Learning badges for staff

- Badges were taken in use at HAMK as a tool for HRD in 2016, badges for students will be introduced later
- Mozilla Open Badge Factory
- Library's own meta badge will be taken in use in autumn 2016
- Meta badge consists of eight sub badges, which include following topics:
 - Effective use of library services and databases, source criticism, open access and predator publishers, open science, source referencing, self-reflection

Challenges

- Change resistance (big changes both nationally and at HAMK: funding, collaborative teaching, new education models etc.)
- Status: information specialists are not a valid part of the teaching process (Saunders 2012; Lahtinen 2014.)
- Co-operation between autonomous professionals (Mäki 2012.)
- Coordination (autonomy of the schools, responsibility issues)
- Justification (certain practically oriented fields don't see the relevance)

Possibilities

- The staff is oriented to change in general
- The new module structure
 - easier to integrate new content into the curriculum
 - a chance to create new open-minded entities
- Collaborative teaching (subject teachers learn from information specialists and vice versa)

Conclusions

- No concrete results at this point, as we are only starting.
- Module structure has already given encouraging examples.
- In the beginning it is important to find key people to start the co-operation with.
- After that the big challenge is to get systematization and continuity.
- We will be happy to update you with concrete results of how we succeeded.

Thank you!

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