

Pathway between VET and Higher Education, Finland

Introduction:

Lack of integration between formal education and vocational/skilling courses tends to decrease the aspirational value of VET programs, thereby hampering the expected increase in enrolments.

To address this concern, Higher education in Finland is provided by universities and universities of applied sciences. The universities offer mostly theoretical and scientific courses while the universities of applied sciences (UAS) offer practical skill-based course that involve more training, work focused pedagogy. Also, both universities can offer courses or programs in the same stream. Say for example in Finance, the UAS focus will be on day to day operational finance, finance for sales & marketing etc., while the universities will have thrust on corporate finance, investment banking, trading etc.

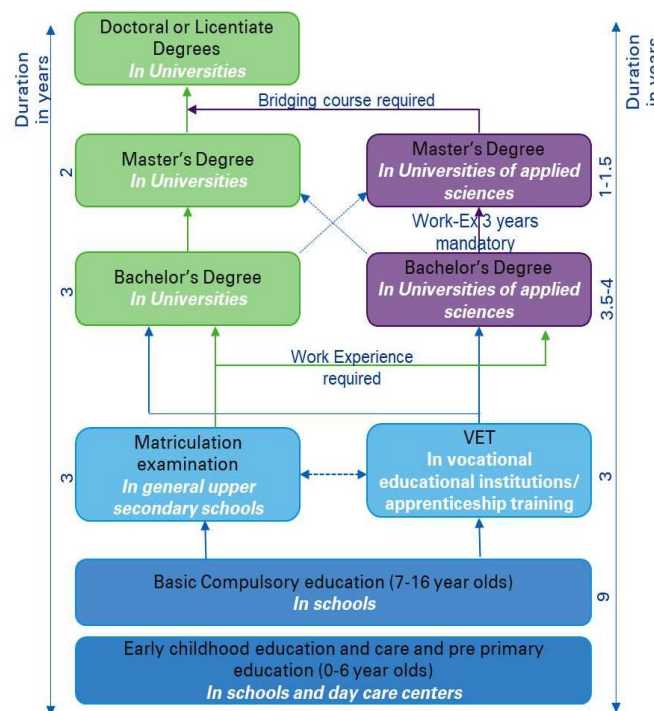
Intervention:

The education system in Finland offers flexibility between students from both the general education stream and vocational stream but with few pre-requisites.

- To move from a general upper secondary school to UAS bachelor's degree a work experience requirement is mandated depending on the course.

The master's degree can be applied at UAS only after a minimum of 3 years of work experience (for bachelor's degree holders of both university and UAS).

- A bridging course has to be completed to move from UAS to university only in case of doctoral degrees like Ph.D.



Impact/Learnings:

Government of India can build a similar or a customised pathway between Vocational Education and higher education programmes to enable students to move between the two streams based on their

aspirations and capabilities.

Source: Finnish National Agency of Education