Turku – a traditional and modern city of schools!
turku.fi/education
Early childhood education is all about interaction

The City of Turku has roughly 50 day-care units that may consist of several separate day-care centres or a nursery school, for example. We have operations in over 90 branches.

The City of Turku Department of Early Childhood Education offers part-time and full-time day-care activities, evening and 24-hour day-care services, preschool education as well as supplementary day-care either in connection with day-care centres or schools. Family day care is organised in the carer’s own home or in the homes of the children. There are also many private day-care units in Turku, where families may acquire day-care with support from the city.

Open early childhood education covers nearly 30 playgrounds all over the city. Playschools and family clubs, sometimes organised in cooperation with parishes or the third sector, are also part of open early childhood education. Some playschools are even organised outside.

Early childhood education also organises language immersion courses and pre-schooling in Swedish, as well as English language activities and pre-schooling. Additionally, our tasks include supporting children in cultural minorities in growing as a member of their own culture and the Finnish society.

Early childhood education services include various forms of support designed for individual children available in their day-care centre or in special regional groups. Special needs teachers support children, the staff and families by consulting and participating in everyday activities in day-care centres.

Many projects promoting children’s sports and activities focused on children’s everyday athletics incorporate early childhood education. Turku also offers language showers and pre-schooling in English. Private day-care centres also offer day-care in French, English or Russian.

Early childhood education service coordination: 02 262 5610

www.turku.fi/en/daycare
Basic education refers to liberal arts education that lasts nine years, with some exceptions. Basic education is free-of-charge and its goal is to provide everyone with the same qualifications for further education. Basic education aims at supporting pupils’ growth and offering them knowledge and skills needed for life.

Pupils are entitled to education in accordance with the curriculum, student counselling, and sufficient support for learning and attending school. All pupils receive a meal free-of-charge each school day. Grades 1–6 are usually taught by class teachers who teach all or most of the subjects. Grades 7–9 are taught subject by subject, which means that subject teachers teach their respective subjects.

The City of Turku basic education consists of 32 Finnish-language schools and four Swedish-language schools. The Turku International School offers education in English. Over 70 mother tongues are spoken in the schools of Turku. Multicultural encounters are a daily occurrence.

All of the students are members of the student body. The tasks of the student body are to promote cooperation between the students, their opportunities to influence things and their participation as well as develop cooperation. Two pupils from each elementary school represent their school in the Turun Lasten Parlamentti, the children’s parliament in Turku. Secondary school students can voice their opinions in the Turun Nuorisovaltuusto, the youth council in Turku.

Have an engaging and active day at school!
The City of Turku is officially bilingual in accordance with the Finnish Language Act (423/2003). The cultural life in Turku does indeed have long strong, bilingual roots: The oldest school in Finland, Kat-ekdralskolan i Åbo, was founded in 1276. One of the school’s principals in the 16th century was Mikael Agricola, often dubbed the father of literary Finnish. In addition to a high standard of pedagogy, Swedish-speaking day-care centres and schools focus on strengthening Finnish-Swedish culture.

The Swedish education in Turku offers children and young people a safe environment to grow and learn using their own mother tongue. The goal is to offer the children that choose Swedish-speaking education a path that is as continuous as possible from early childhood education to basic education and beyond. Children from neighbouring municipalities also attend the Swedish-speaking schools in Turku.

The Turku Vocational Institute offers education in Swedish in the fields of commerce and IT. The Swedish-speaking workers’ institute in Turku, Åbo svenska arbetarinstitut, or “Arbis” for short, offers various courses and leisure time activities.

Swedish-speaking day-care centres and schools are involved in the Nordic twin city system. Turku and its Nordic twin cities Bergen, Gothenburg and Århus have organised school trips for 9th grade students for 40 years. Students in secondary and vocational schools attend the annual Nordic Youth Conference. The twin cities also organise short teacher exchanges of a couple of days each year. The door to Nordic cooperation is also open to Finnish-speaking students and teachers.

Live and learn in Swedish

www.turku.fi/en/basic-education-in-swedish
Turku - The oldest school city in Finland

The oldest school in Finland, Katedralskolan i Åbo, was founded in 1276. Mikael Agricola, among others, was head of the school in the 16th century.

The first secondary school was founded in Turku at the beginning of the 17th century. It became the academy of Turku, Turun akatemia, in 1640.

The first municipal school in Turku, kансaலoulu, was founded in 1872 and the first secondary school, opпеikoulu, Turun Suomalainen Lyseo was founded in 1879.

The first day-care centre in Turku, Kansanlastentarha nro 1 (general day-care number 1), was opened in 1899.

The Finnish-speaking workers' institute in Turku started operating in the Christian temperance society building on Puutarhakatu in 1908.

The Aninkainen school building of the Turku Vocational Institute was commissioned in 1950 with the help of machinery and furniture donations from twin city Gothenburg, among others.

The goal of the Finnish government is to make the Finnish population the most skilled people in 2020.

The Education division in numbers

- 61 700 Children, pupils, students
- 3 600 Staff

- Early childhood education: 9 500
- Basic education: 12 800
- Education in Swedish: 4 400
- Upper secondary school education: 4 200
- Vocational training and apprenticeships: 6 000

Adult education: 24 800
Students in upper secondary schools in Turku achieve top marks in the national matriculation examinations year after year – thanks to a high standard of teaching and motivated students. The Swedish-speaking upper secondary school in Turku, Katedralskolan i Åbo, is the oldest upper secondary school in Finland, whose past principals include the father of literary Finnish, Mikael Agricola.

Nearly all of the upper secondary schools in Turku are specialised in something by appointment of the Ministry of Education and Culture. These fields are articulacy, ICT, sports, music and natural sciences. Additionally, a marine branch also operates in Turku. In addition to the normal curriculum, specialisation manifests in upper secondary schools as hours of improvisation, games design, hard physical training, grand music productions, laboratory courses organised at the University or field study on the Archipelago Sea.

Students can choose how they want to study in the upper secondary school, such as in English in the Turku International School or flexibly in the evenings. Students can select courses from all upper secondary schools in Turku. Compared to the national average, schools in Turku provide students with better pre-requisites for institutes of higher education.

Students may complete an upper secondary school diploma in various subjects in all of the upper secondary schools in Turku. In addition to Finnish, Swedish and English, students may choose to study German, French, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Latin, Chinese or Japanese. All upper secondary schools in Turku have international activities.
The Turku Vocational Institute successfully qualifies thousands of young people in various professions every year. Individual educational paths are ensured through personal study plans. Students may choose between the expert path, international path or supported learning path.

We also offer excellent training options for upper secondary school graduates. The double-certificate path, the athlete path and entrepreneurial education support the students’ needs and development.

The Turku Vocational Institute student exchange programme with international cooperation institutes and companies develops language skills and new kinds of skills for meeting different cultures. We have cooperation partners in Europe and as far away as China and Canada.

The pedagogic solutions for learning are versatile and functional, and they support learning as well as promote cooperation and networking. Professional skills are ensured through periods of workplace learning in companies as well as versatile contacts with working life. The company cooperation network of the Turku Vocational Institute is one of the most comprehensive in Finland. On average, students of the Turku Vocational Institute are more likely to be employed compared to the rest of the country. Vocational training provides students with qualifications to attend institutes of higher education.

Students receive counselling and guidance to support their choices throughout their education. The VALMA training, preparing for vocational training, is offered to those young people who have not been able to access their desired field, who have dropped out of school or are considering a change of field.

Competitions allow for competing in vocational skills on a national and international level. Students from the Turku Vocational Institute have brought back several medals from these competitions.

www.turkuai.fi/en
oppisopimus.turku.fi/en
Adult education at the Turku Vocational Institute is the most comprehensive in Southwest Finland. Training is organised in over ten fields. Basic, vocational and specialist vocational qualifications can be completed as competence-based degrees in actual working life production and service situations. Qualifying education has been designed to suit adult needs and situations in life.

We also offer preparatory instruction and guidance and training for immigrants, continuing education for teachers as well as workplace instructors. Approximately 6,000 adult students attend adult education annually.

Adult education works in close cooperation with business life in the area, other educational institutes and cooperation partners in terms of planning and implementing training.

The Finnish-speaking workers’ institute in Turku, Turun suomenkielinen työväenopisto, offers versatile courses taking customer-orientation, sustainable development, multiculturalism and well-being at work into consideration. The institute organises approximately 800 courses and lectures and seminars each year. The largest subject groups include languages, manual skills, arts, music, IT and various leisure time activities.

The institute also offers multicultural education consisting mainly of Finnish language courses of various levels as well as leisure time activities such as music and sports. We offer integration training for immigrant stay-at-home mothers. Training intended for immigrant youths, KOKO, is an established part of the institution’s activities. The course offering also caters to students who need special support.
The City of Turku
Education Division

Yliopistonkatu 27 a, PO Box 355
20100 Turku
tel. 02 330 000
sivistystoimiala@turku.fi
www.turku.fi/education

Publisher: City of Turku, Education Division
Layout: Anna Zhuchkova
Images: pixhill.com
Printed in: The Turku Vocational Institute printing services 2016