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TEACHER TRAINING SCHOOLS

All Finnish teachers are educated in universities and study for the higher university degree. There are 11 universities which give teacher education. One special feature of Finnish teacher education is the teacher training schools (13) attached to universities. Training schools are ordinary schools providing basic and upper secondary education. The pupils come from the municipality where the school is located. There is no special selection of pupils.

Teaching practice is guided by both the practice school teachers and by the subject didactics working in teacher education units and subject departments. In quantitative terms, the practice period is a part of teacher's obligatory pedagogical studies (60 ECTS) and represents one fifth of the pedagogical studies. In addition, teacher trainees practise teaching in municipal schools.

Due to their nature as parts of the universities, the teacher training schools are forerunners in implementing, developing and testing new educational methods, technology and curricula. They also provide in-service training for the teachers of the municipal schools. Besides guiding teacher trainees and teaching pupils, the training school staff also carry out research relating to teacher education. Co-operation both at national and international level is of high importance for the teacher training schools.