7-day Course in FINLAND

Study Visit to Schools in Finland

Helsinki (Finland)

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This structured course is designed for **teachers, head teachers, principals and other school staff** who would like to learn about the Finnish education system within the context of Finnish culture. Although the pedagogic encounters with schools are focused on **Primary**, **Secondary** and **Vocational** levels, other educational sectors may also benefit from the general approach of this course.

Language of communication: **English**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our **7-Day Course** is for those who want to learn about Finnish education and culture through a combination of pedagogic encounters with schools, seminars, field projects "Contexts4Content", and workshops.

English Matters will select educational institutions related to Primary, Secondary and Vocational levels. Participants will learn about educational organization and management of learning and will have the opportunity to share their experience and ideas with colleagues from a variety of schools around the world.

The course offers several **key activities**:

1. Pedagogic encounters with schools to learn about educational organization and management of learning.
2. Seminars and workshops to explore specific aspects of the education system and culture of Finland.
3. Professional and cultural discussion resulting in a concluding presentation of learning.
4. Field projects "Contexts4Content" to explore places of natural, historical, and cultural significance, as a basis for the development of teaching materials to assist their students in meeting their learning goals and be aware of the socio-cultural richness of Europe.

Objectives:

- Become familiar with relevant aspects of the Finnish education system.
- Learn about examples of teaching practices in schools in Finland.
- Participate in seminars and workshops related to educational and cultural aspects of Finnish society.
- Participate in field projects "Contexts4Content" to places of natural, historical, and cultural significance, to support the development of teaching resources.

This **7-Day Course in Finland** will allow you to experience the authenticity of the country and its people from the very moment you step foot in the airport.

Allowing yourself to spend enriching days in full contact with Finnish society and culture and combining this with pedagogic encounters with schools with schools, will bring you an in-depth understanding of the Finnish education system.

The way in which students are educated can be a window to a deeper vision of society. This can also lead to reflection on why a society educates its people in a certain way and may encourage you to see your own education system from a refreshed perspective.

This combination of elements will help build a holistic vision of education and culture in Finland from several enriching perspectives.

A NOTE ON THE FINNISH EDUCATION SYSTEM

The **Finnish education system** is regarded as one of the best in the world, especially after its good results in the Pisa Reports (triennial OECD international evaluation) during past years. Other nations all over the world are attempting to emulate Finnish structure of highly respected teachers and its focus on equity.

The success of the Finnish education system is based on family, school and socio-cultural resources that work in unison in a culture of responsibility, discipline, and effort. Families feel themselves the first responsible agents for the education of their children. The *Oodi* library in Helsinki, for example, is an excellent meeting point for many families at weekends to "*meet friends, create art, read and relax*".

LOCATION OF THE COURSE: Helsinki (FINLAND)

Finland is one of the Nordic countries located on the very border of East and West Europe. The geographical location of Finland, its history, and its social ethics, have shaped a working and egalitarian society, committed to the future of its young citizens through education.

Helsinki is the largest city in Finland, and more than a million inhabitants live there. Helsinki is also a fast connection point between east and west. The sea plays an important role in the city since the Helsinki archipelago is made up of more than 300 islands, including the island fortress of Suomenlinna. Also, Tallinn (Estonia) and Stockholm (Sweden) can easily be reached from Helsinki via the Baltic Sea.

DURATION OF THE COURSE

7-day course: **40 hours, a Sunday to Saturday course.**

CERTIFICATION AWARDED

A Certificate will be awarded and will include the name of the participant, description of the course and its learning outcomes, dates and course hours.

DATES

7-day Course in Finland

Location: **Helsinki (Finland)**
Language of communication: **English**
Duration (days): **7 training days in Finland**

Dates in 2026	Dates in 2027
04-10 October Helsinki · 7 training days	18 - 24 April Helsinki · 7 training days
	03 – 09 October Helsinki · 7 training days

Note: Dates may be subject to amendment according to school calendar year of the country visited. This change, if necessary, will be informed to participants before the course confirmation.

Programme of the 7-day course:

The table below shows the display of our **7-day Course**:

Study Visit to Schools in Finland Helsinki (Finland)
7-day Course in Finland (from Sunday to Saturday)
Sunday Registration. Fundamentals: principles, structure, framework Tools for reflection on learning & Professional Development Field learning "Contexts4Content" approach International Dimension Framework for pedagogic encounters with schools. **Monday** Education System in Finland. Field Learning Project: *Images of Finnish Society* **Tuesday** Educational Visit to School I: Educational organization & management of learning. Feedback on the educational visit to school. **Wednesday** Educational Visit to School II: Educational organization & management of learning. Field Learning Project: *Porvoo* **Thursday** Educational Visit to School III: Educational organization & management of learning. Feedback on Educational Visit to School. **Friday** **Itinerary A** Programmes to support education. Field Learning Project: *Suomenlinna* **Itinerary B (optional, not included in course fee)** Field Learning Project: *Tallinn, Estonia- Culture and Heritage* **Saturday** Presentation of participants' learning portfolios Final reflection on learning acquired Reflection about Dissemination Strategies Evaluation of the programme

NOTE: This programme may be subject to amendment. Such amendment, if necessary, would be kept to a minimum, consistent with the quality and balance of the programme.

THE IRISH AMERICAN EDUCATOR INITIATIVE

Culture. Connection. Professional Learning.

The **Irish American Educator Initiative** gives teachers from across the United States the opportunity to learn beyond the classroom, gain meaningful experiences and fresh inspiration, and return home with new perspectives to share with their students. Based in Ireland, our courses connect American educators with Irish history, heritage, literature, art, and culture through engaging learning experiences inspired by Irish writers, artists, educators, and cultural representatives.

Whether you have Irish roots or simply want to discover a new culture, our programmes provide fresh ideas, meaningful connections, and practical inspiration for the classroom. Explore Ireland, deepen your professional knowledge, and bring new stories and perspectives back to your students.

As part of the initiative, teachers also have opportunities to take part in study visits to Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway, Estonia, Portugal, and Spain. These visits allow participants to see teachers at work, visit schools, meet local educators, and explore different approaches to teaching and learning.

By sharing ideas across cultures, American teachers can discover fresh perspectives and practical inspiration to bring back to their own classrooms.