

# International Summer School students get acquainted with Finland

The International Summer School of the University of Turku has brought 18 students from all over the world to study in Turku for August. The students, from a variety of countries such as the United States, Australia, India and Japan, will acquaint themselves with the Finnish history and culture as well as study the basics of the Finnish language.



## Attracted by work opportunities and popular culture

Some of the participants are attending the courses in order to familiarise themselves with Finland before they begin their studies or work at the university, while others are participating simply out of interest. One student has Finnish lineage, another wants to see how the world-famous welfare state works in practice.

- I love Marimekko and iskelmä music, confesses **Yukiko Uehara** from Japan as her reasons for coming to Finland.

**Georgios Moukakis**, on the other hand, has decided to participate in the course on more serious grounds. He says that many young people in Greece do not believe in a future in their home country, preferring to look for work or a study place abroad.

- I wanted to study someplace where everything is well organised and the system works, Moukakis explains his decision to come to Finland.

Prior to the course, he has studied Finnish in Athens for a couple of months. Like many other course participants, Moukakis believes that interacting with native speakers is the best way to learn the language. That is why he decided to participate in the summer course.

## How to google in Finnish

To spice up the traditional grammar lessons, the students learn to inflect internet-age loan verbs and listen to music samples from children's songs to indie electro. Although the students of the Summer School have only studied Finnish for two weeks, their teacher **Ilmari Ivaska** uses Finnish as the main language of teaching.

In addition to studying, the participants will get a glimpse of the real soul of Finland and Turku by participating in free-time activities such as going to the sauna, playing Finnish baseball, going riverboat-hopping and visiting attractions from s/s Ukkopekka to the old Kakola prison.



**Ken Wilson** and **Nancy Commins** review Finnish grammar at Mercatori. Commins is looking forward to teaching at the Department of Education. Wilson, her husband, sees this as a great opportunity to compare the Finnish and American education systems.

Read the article in Finnish [here](#).

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