

Are you an international degree student at one of the higher education institutions in Vaasa?

Are you interested in getting a foot in the door of Finnish working life, but would appreciate some tools to enable that?

This might be for you!

Vaasa International Talents

programme for international degree students

Background

Five higher education institutions in Vaasa

- University of Vaasa
- VAMK University of Applied Sciences
- Novia University of Applied Sciences
- Åbo Akademi University
- Hanken School of Economics

want to make it easier for international degree students to integrate into the Finnish job market. The Vaasa International Talents programme is a bridge between international degree students and the employers in the region.

What, where and when?

The program runs from October 2025 to March 2026 in Vaasa. At the end of Module 1, which spans from October to December, you will need to submit your learning journal for review. This submission is required to secure your seat in Module 2, running from January to beginning of March.

You need to apply to the programme. Since the programme activities are planned take to place on site in Vaasa, you need to be physically present in order to be able to participate.

The aim is to provide all programme participants with various possibilities to develop their Finnish working life skills and to connect with regional companies and other actors. You will get excellent possibilities to network with fellow programme participants, cross degree programmes and higher education institutions.

The success of the programme from your personal perspective will largely depend on your active participation, initiative and contribution.

All programme participants who have completed the programme will at the end of the programme receive a certificate of participation.

The programme consists of three focus areas:

- 1 Competence development
- 2 Coaching
- 3 Connections to working life

Please note that the programme is not part of your individual study plan and will therefore not automatically give you any credit points. The possibility to earn credit points from programme participation will be entirely a matter between you and your degree programme.

1

Competence development – Skills for Finnish working life

This part of the programme consists of two modules. It equips the participants with must-know facts about Finnish and local working life and its expectations on job applicants and employees. This part kicks off end of October 2025. It will include:

- guest lectures on different topics
- personal journeys
- group discussions
- assigned tasks which will support your personal and professional development

2

Coaching

One-on-one and group coaching sessions tailored to your professional development. These include:

- Personalized feedback on your job application materials
- Career advice aligned with your interests and ambitions
- Job interview simulation to help you prepare and build confidence
- Group discussions with company representatives to explore opportunities and gain industry insights

3

Connections to working life

The following activities will vary from participant to participant:

- job shadowing
- company visits
- other types of networking possibilities

We cannot guarantee that you will get any of these possibilities through the programme, since they will be dependent on the needs and availability of the working life actors. What we can guarantee, however, is that by actively participating in the programme, you will be able to find your own connections to working life actors.

Time investment needed:

The estimated required time investment in the lectures and individual coaching is **roughly 35 hours**. In addition, you will need to reserve time between the sessions for keeping a journal of your learning and for work on your job application materials and other related assigned tasks. With a few exceptions, all sessions will be held on site on Wednesdays after office hours. Please see further down the dates for the planned sessions. At the end of Module 1, you will need to hand in your learning journal for review in order to secure a seat on Module 2.

Programme schedule:

Please note the following dates for our programme sessions, which will be held on-site on Wednesdays after office hours (17:00 -20:00). Please ensure your availability for these sessions when applying.

2025:

- October 22
- October 29
- November 5
- November 12
- November 19
- November 26
- December 3

2026:

- January 21
- January 28
- February 4
- February 11 or 12

Additionally, there will be a mandatory session organized by Talent Coastline and other events and opportunities. The coaching sessions are planned for November and February. The dates for these will be communicated to all programme participants in due course.

For whom?

You are eligible to apply if:

- you hold a valid residence permit in Finland or have a Finnish citizenship
- you are an international Master or Bachelor student in one of the English speaking programmes listed below **or** you are an international Master or Bachelor student studying your programme in Finnish or Swedish
- you have completed at least your first year of studies in Bachelor level
- you have graduated from any of the following programmes since September 2024



University of Vaasa

- Master's Degree Programme in Finance
- Master's Programme in Industrial Management
- Master's Degree Programme in International Business
- Master's Programme in Industrial System Analytics
- Master's Programme in Smart Energy
- Master's Programme in Strategic Business Development
- Master's Programme in Sustainable and Autonomous Systems
- Master's Programme in Strategic Project Management



VAMK University of Applied Sciences

- International Business, Bachelor of Business Administration
- Information Technology, Bachelor of Engineering
- Project Management, Master of Engineering or Master of Business Administration
- International Business Management, Master of Business Administration
- Cloud-Based Software Engineering, Master of Engineering
- Energy Technology, Bachelor of Engineering



NOVIA Novia University of Applied Sciences

- Bachelor of Health Care, Nursing
- Bachelor of Beauty and Cosmetics, Beauty Care
- Bachelor of Engineering, Information Technology
- Bachelor of Engineering, Energy Technology
- Bachelor of Health Care, Biomedical Laboratory Science
- Master of Business Administration, Digital Business and Management
- Master of Engineering, Automation Technology
- Master of Engineering, Industrial Management and Engineering
- Master of Engineering, Intelligent Systems
- Master of Health Care/Master of Social Services, Health Care and Social Services



Åbo Akademi University

- Master's Degree Programme in Peace, Mediation and Conflict Research
- Master's Degree Programme in Teaching and Learning
- Master's Degree Programme in Advanced Practice Nursing
- Master's Degree Programme in Information Technology



Hanken School of Economics

- Master's Degree Programme in Marketing and Management

When and how to apply?

The programme is **open** for application from Monday 8th September 2025 at 08:00 hrs.

The application period **closes** on Sunday 5th October 2025 at 23:59 hrs.

Please only apply if you are really prepared to be present, to invest the time and energy needed to complete the programme!

To apply to the programme, please do the following:

1

Create a video of max. 2 minutes' length where you:

- Start by introducing yourself briefly in Finnish or Swedish by telling who you are and what you are studying and in which higher education institution.
- Thereafter continue elaborating in English on the following:
 - What kind of challenges would you love to solve or work on in your future career? Why?
 - What do you expect of Vaasa International Talents programme?

2

Click on your university's name to access the application form.

[University of Vaasa](#)

[VAMK University of Applied Sciences](#)

[Novia University of Applied Sciences](#)

[Åbo Akademi University](#)

[Hanken School of Economics](#)

3

Attach a link to your CV

(from LinkedIn, OneDrive, Google Drive, Youtube or the like) to the application form. Make sure the document is in PDF format and name the file as follows: Name_Surname_CV. For example: John_Smith_CV.

4

Attach a link to your video presentation

(from LinkedIn, OneDrive, Google Drive, Youtube or the like) to the application form. Make sure the file is in .mov or .mp4 format and name the file as follows: Name_Surname_Video. For example: John_Smith_Video.

Please be extra careful with ensuring that the links to your CV and video presentation are accessible in your application, as well as throughout the programme. An application which includes non-accessible links will be considered as incomplete.

Selection

30 students will be selected to the programme.

Seats will be reserved for students **from each higher education institution**.

As for **Bachelor students**, priority will be given to students on **2nd year and onwards**.

The programme reserves the right to select the participants.

The **final selections** will be made **by mid-October**. All applicants to the programme will be informed once the selections have been completed.

Please note that **incomplete applications will be discarded**.

What we expect from you?

We expect the selected participants to

- be physically present in Vaasa
- be on time for each session, coaching session and event
- attend the “Competence development” sessions
- attend the coaching sessions
- keep a learning journal throughout the programme. At the end of the programme this journal will include your personal reflections and insights related to what you learn during the lectures, discussions, coaching sessions, etc.
- at the end of Module 1 you will need to hand in your learning journal for review, in order to secure a seat on Module 2.
- complete other related tasks, such as work on job application materials.
- actively contribute to learning from each other by sharing questions, insights, lessons learned and best practices etc. with the other participating students, companies and other working life actors.
- actively network with the other students and stakeholders during the programme.

Questions?

Please visit our website:

www.vaasainternationaltalents.fi

You can reach us at:

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You can also contact:



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