

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

Application for Round 7 - Autumn Programme

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 programme is organised twice per academic year and runs alongside participants' studies. There are two programme periods:

- Autumn Programme: from September to December 2026
- Spring Programme: from January to May 2027

This application is for the Autumn programme that runs from September 2026 to December 2026 in Vaasa. At the end of programme, you will need to submit your learning journal for review. This submission is required to secure the programme certificate.

You need to apply to the programme. Since the programme activities are planned to take 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.

The programme consists of three focus areas:

- 1 Competence development
- 2 Guidance
- 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 focuses on building essential knowledge and skills needed in Finnish working life. Participants take part in sessions that will include:

- Guest lectures on relevant working life topics
- Insights into Finnish workplace culture and expectations
- Practical guidance on job search and recruitment processes
- Personal journeys shared by professionals and alumni
- Group discussions and reflection

The aim is to provide realistic insights, practical tools and increased confidence when approaching Finnish employers.

2

Guidance

Vaasa International Talents programme supports participants' individual professional development. Participants take part in:

- Small-group discussions
- Job interview simulations

With a focus on identifying and sharing about personal strengths and career goals, job search strategies and challenges, professional communication and networking skills.

This approach ensures that each participant can reflect on their own situation.

3

Connections to working life

A key part of the programme is creating opportunities for participants to connect with fellow students in all higher education institutions, alumni of the programme and working life actors in the region.

These connections may include:

- Company visits and employer presentations
- Job shadowing Day
- Informal discussions
- Guest sessions with professionals and alumni
- Events

These activities provide participants with real-world perspectives and help build meaningful connections. The programme cannot guarantee that all participants will get any of these possibilities through the programme, since they will be dependent on the needs and availability of the working life actors and organizations. What we can guarantee, however, is that by actively participating in the programme, participants will be able to find own connections to working life actors.

Time investment needed:

The estimated required time investment in the lectures and programme is roughly **25 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.

Programme schedule:

The programme starts with a kick-off event. The core activities take place during the following months, combining sessions, guidance activities and other events. Sessions are scheduled to fit alongside studies, and activities are spread throughout the programme period.

Autumn programme

Programme sessions are typically scheduled on **Wednesdays from 17:00 to 20:00**. Please ensure your availability for these sessions before applying:

- 16th September
- 23rd September
- 30th September
- 7th October
- 21st October
- 28th October
- 4th or 5th November

(Note: there might be some changes in the schedule, participants will be informed in time).

Additionally, a mandatory webinar session organized by Talent Coastline and a group discussion session will be included in the programme. The exact dates for these sessions will be confirmed later.

Participants may also have the opportunity to take part in voluntary company visits and/or job shadowing experiences, depending on availability.

Number of spots, eligibility and selection

30 students are selected for the Autumn programme .

The eligibility criteria:

- You are international Bachelor's or Master's degree students (or recently graduated)
- Study or have studied (graduated since September 2025) at one of the participating institutions
- Hold a valid residence permit in Finland or have Finnish citizenship
- Have completed at least the first year of Bachelor-level studies

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

The programme reserves the right to select the participants.

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

What we expect from you?

Vaasa International Talents is a voluntary programme, but it requires **active participation and commitment**.

Participants are expected to:

- Attend and be on time in programme sessions and activities
- Be physically present in Vaasa during the programme period and sessions
- Engage in discussions, reflection and assigned activities
- Keep a learning journal throughout the programme that will be submitted at the end of the programme.

The programme is free of charge, but participants are expected to make time and effort to get the most out of the experience.

Programme rules

- All scheduled sessions are mandatory and active engagement is expected.
- If two sessions are missed without informing in advance or without a valid reason, you may be asked to leave the programme.
- If you are unable to attend a session (e.g. due to illness or other reasons), you must inform the programme coordination in advance.
- Participants must arrive on time, at least 5 minutes before the session starts, so the session can start on time.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered in the selection process.
- Participants must to act professionally and respectfully in all programme activities and interactions.

Applying for the Autumn programme

The autumn programme **opens** for application from Saturday 22nd of August 2026 at 08:00 hrs.

The application period **closes** on Sunday 6th September 2026 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. 1 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?

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.

Questions?

Please visit our website:

www.vaasainternationaltalents.fi

You can reach us at:

info@vaasainternationaltalents.fi



You can also contact:



Malin Wälitalo-Palo, Career Services Specialist

malin.walitalo-palo@uwasa.fi



Tuija Tammi, Head of International Affairs

tuija.tammi@vamk.fi



Aina Rodríguez Angelet, International Activities Coordinator

aina.rodriguezangelet@novia.fi



Anita Sundman, Coordinator

anita.sundman@abo.fi



Emilia Änäs, Career Planning Coordinator

emilia.anas@hanken.fi