

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. Financially supported by the City of Vaasa, the initiative called Vaasa International Talents is a bridge between international degree students and the employers in the region.



What, where and when?

In practice, this initiative will be run as a programme during the autumn term 2023 and spring term 2024, in Vaasa. 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.

The programme will financially partly cover the internship salary of a student who finds an internship place. In addition, you will get excellent possibilities to network with fellow programme participants across degree programmes and higher education institutions.

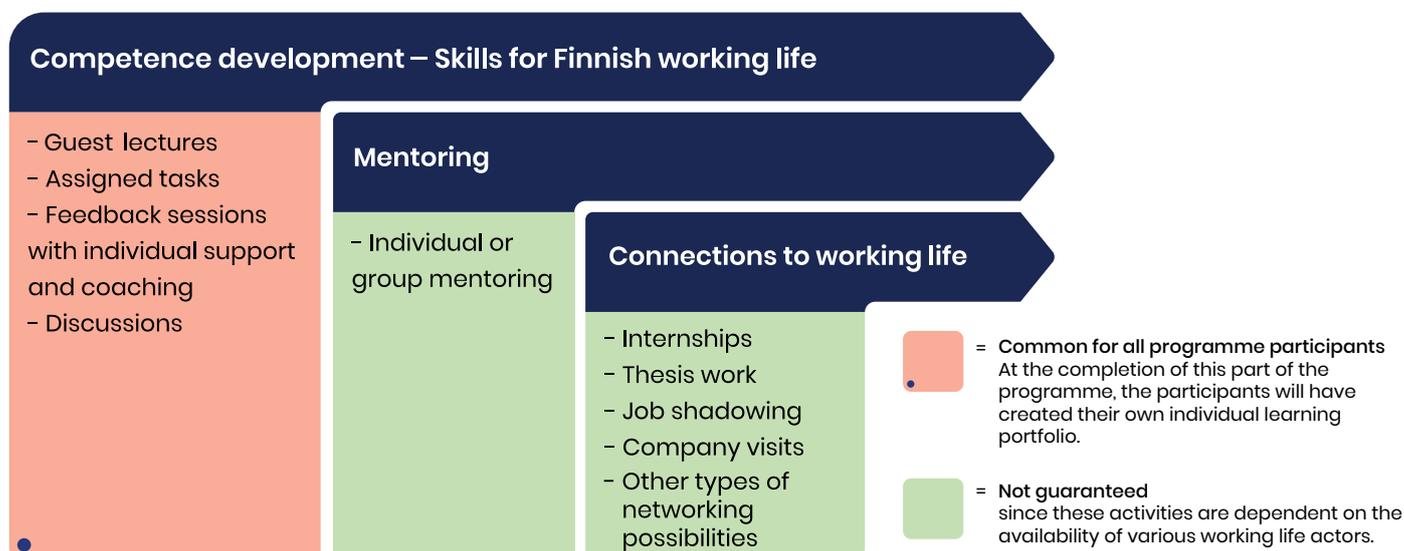
The success of the programme from your personal perspective will largely depend on your active participation, initiative and contribution.

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 – Skills for Finnish working life
- 2 Mentoring
- 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 The Competence development – Skills for Finnish working life 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 2023. It will include

- guest lectures on different topics
- individual coaching
- feedback on your job application materials
- simulation of a job interview
- group discussions
- assigned tasks which will support your personal and professional development

Time investment needed?

The estimated required time investment in the lectures and individual coaching 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. With a few exceptions, all sessions will be held on site on Thursdays 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.

Additional possible tools offered for your competence development:

2 Individual or group mentoring

- This will be offered based on the indicated needs of the selected programme participants. Since the availability of mentors is a prerequisite, we cannot guarantee that all students' wishes can be met. However, by actively participating in the programme, you will get the tools and support to help you find your own mentors.

3 Connections to working life

The following activities will vary from participant to participant,

- internships and partial funding for these
- thesis work
- 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. Amongst other things, if you manage to find yourself an internship position which fulfills certain criteria, the programme will financially partly support your internship salary.

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 student in one of the following programmes
- as an international Bachelor student you have completed at least your first year of studies in one of the following programmes
- you have graduated from any of the following programmes since September 2022



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 University of Applied Sciences

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



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 11th September 2023 at 08:00 hrs.

The application period **closes** on Sunday 8th October 2023 at 23:59 hrs.

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

SEPTEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

OCTOBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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: "Thinking of your career plans and dreams for the future, what would be the most interesting and/or important thing for you to get insights into when it comes to the Finnish working life?" (Keep it on a general level, without e.g. mentioning any specific company)



- 2 Fill in the application form 

- 3 Attach a link to your CV (from LinkedIn, OneDrive, Google Drive or the like) to the application form.

- 4 Attach a link to your video presentation in format .mov or .mp4 (from LinkedIn, OneDrive, Google Drive or the like) to the application form.

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
- attend the “Competence development - Skills for Finnish working life” 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.
- 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 in the programme.
- 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.

Session dates:

(With a few exceptions, all sessions will be held on site on Thursdays after office hours.)

2023: 25.10., 2.11., 9.11., 16.11., 23.11., 30.11., 4.12., 14.12.

2024: 11.1., 18.1.

Questions?



Please visit our website

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