



KUVATAIDEAKATEMIA  
FINNISH ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS - HELSINKI  
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## BACKGROUND AND STATISTICS

The Finnish Academy of Fine Arts provides the highest university-level theoretical and practical training in Finland in fine arts. It seeks to promote research in the fine arts and to act as a member of the international community of academic education in arts.

The purpose of the Academy is to provide broad professional artistic training whilst taking into account new developments in contemporary art.

The Academy was founded in 1848 by a private foundation. From the beginning of year 1993 the status of the Academy has been raised to university level. During the academic year 2009-2010 the number of students is about 250. There are 15 full-time teachers, all practising artists of repute, and about 50 teachers and lecturers working on hourly basis. In addition the Academy invites tens of visiting lecturers and welcomes annually several foreign artists from all over the world to meet students. The Academy has over 50 co-operation agreement with foreign universities. These agreements can include student and teacher exchange.

## FIELDS OF STUDY AND DEGREE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

The studies leading to the Bachelor's and Master's degrees are organised in degree programmes. These programmes focus on specific disciplines of fine arts requiring artistic talent and expertise and seek to develop the arts further. The Academy offers degree programmes in sculpture, painting, printmaking and time and space arts. Completing the Bachelor in Fine Arts BFA-degree takes 3,5 years (210 credit units). After the BFA degree, Master in Fine Arts -degree can be reached in 2 years (120 credit units). The admission for both degrees is arranged only once a year, during the spring 2010. Postgraduate studies leading to a Doctorate in Fine Arts have been available at the Academy since 1997.

## DEPARTMENTS

Department of Painting: Drawing, Painting, Life studio.

Department of Sculpture : Sculpture, (Life studio etc.) Ceramics, Metal- Stone-, and Woodworks, Concrete, Plastics, Foundry,

Land art, Environmental art and other site specific projects

Department of Printmaking: Etching, Stone- and Offset lithography, Silk-screen and Block printing together with related photographic processes.

Department of Time and Space Art: Program of fine art media including audiovisual arts: photography, moving image and sitespecific arts.

Department of General Studies arranges teaching in supporting theoretical studies that are open to all students and also courses and workshops in different audiovisual techniques.

## **NON-DEGREE AND EXCHANGE STUDIES**

There is not any special non-degree or exchange programs or in advance fixed courses in English but all students - degree, exchange, non-degree - are attending same workshops, courses and lectures.

Besides the official co-operation and student exchange agreements between art universities (ERASMUS, NORDPLUS, bilateral), The Academy can accept for a term or for one academic year foreign art students from other art universities if the applicant fulfills the artistic requirements.

The applicant must have an ability to speak and understand English, Swedish or Finnish. The language of all programs is Finnish but departments provide several courses also in English. So far the Academy has not demanded any TOEFL or other English tests.

Strong artistic talent is always demanded and all exchange or non-degree program applicants have to prove it by presenting a visual portfolio. Heads of Departments accept or reject their non-degree and exchange students. The form of the visual portfolio is free (catalogues, colour prints, photos, cd:s or dvd:s etc.).

The dead lines for applications are end of October (for the spring term only) and end of April (autumn term and the whole academic year).

The Academy gets about 70 non-degree and exchange applications yearly of which about 10 - 15 students are accepted.

## **ENROLMENT AND FEES**

Exchange and other visiting students enroll after their arrival. There are no tuition fees for degree studies. Students on exchange programs such as ERASMUS and NORDPLUS, FIRST, or bilateral exchange programs are not required to pay for tuition either. Students moving outside the above mentioned programs i.e free-movers, and other non-degree students, are required to pay a study fee which has varied between 800 and 1000 euros per a semester, depending on department. ATT! There will be a considerable augmentation in fees in near future.

Also material costs are required from non-degree students.

Living costs of a single student in Helsinki area are about 800-1000 euros a month. It is highly recommended that international students arrange adequate funding for the entire study period before leaving home country. Students cannot count on financing studies in Finland by working. Nor has the Finnish Academy of the Fine Arts any scholarship system for international applicants.

Exchange and foreign degree students are also entitled to join the Finnish student union SYL. All major student discounts and student health care are linked with the membership of a student union.

Contact person Riitta Salmi, email: [riitta.salmi@kuva.fi](mailto:riitta.salmi@kuva.fi)

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For further information about Finland (student housing, grants, social security etc.) is as near as the closest computer - via the Internet.

Please see Discover Finland on the web at <http://www.studyinfinland.fi/>

Whether you are planning to do studies, practical training, or a youth exchange in Finland, this site gives you all the information that you need to get started. If you just want to find out more about Finland, Discover Finland also has links that can lead you to a multitude of other sources of information, from tourist information to information about Finnish government, culture and the Finnish way of life. The site is maintained by CIMO – Centre for International Mobility

Welcome to Discover Finland!