

## 6.2 Schools

Everyone living in Finland receives free basic education provided by the local authority.

### Basic Education, Grades 1–9

The Ministry of Education has accepted the grounds for the basic education curriculum. The municipal basic education curriculum for grades 1–9 is based on those grounds, and all schools in the Turku and Vaasa regions follow the curriculum.

Basic education is given in the schools of Turku in Finnish at 33 schools, in Swedish at 4 schools and in English at the Turku International School ([www.tis.utu.fi](http://www.tis.utu.fi)). In addition to the schools administrated by the City, the University of Turku Normal School and Steiner School also operate in Turku.

Vaasa City maintains 20 Finnish-speaking schools and 6 Swedish-speaking schools that provide basic education. There are also the Swedish-speaking state school Vasa Övningsskola and the private schools Vaasa Christian School and Vaasa Rudolf Steiner School.

Please check [www.turku.fi](http://www.turku.fi) > Education or [www.vaasa.fi](http://www.vaasa.fi) > Service Guide > Teaching and Education for more information.

### Upper Secondary Education

Upper secondary education is given in the schools of Turku in Finnish at 6 schools, in Swedish at Katedralskolan i Åbo and in English at the Turku International School ([www.tis.utu.fi](http://www.tis.utu.fi)). In the Turku International School, the courses are in English and the exam taken at the end of secondary education is the International Baccalaureate. In addition to the upper secondary schools administrated by the City, also the University of Turku Normal School and Steiner School operate in Turku.

In Vaasa upper secondary education is given in Finnish at Vaasan lyseon lukio and in Swedish at Vasa gymnasium. In addition to the upper secondary schools administrated by the City, also the Åbo Akademi University Vasa

Övningsskola (incl. IB-programme) and Steiner School operate in Vaasa.

### Turku International School

[www.tis.utu.fi](http://www.tis.utu.fi)

Turku International School was founded in 2003 and is primarily aimed for international children living either temporarily or permanently in Turku. Additionally, Finnish children returning home after several years abroad attend this school. Language competence tests are organised by the school for non-native English-speakers. The English language test is obligatory. The school offers grades 1–9 in basic education as well as upper secondary education based on the International Baccalaureat Diploma Programme. For more information and application, please contact the Head of School Mr. Vesa Valkila ([vesa.valkila@utu.fi](mailto:vesa.valkila@utu.fi)).

## 6.3 Social Benefits for Families

Families are supported in Finland through various forms of services and income transfers. The municipality of residence (*hemort/kotikunta*) gives access to municipal services, such as child day care and health care services.

Most social security benefits are provided by Kela/Fpa, the Social Insurance Institution of Finland. Eligibility for Finnish social security benefits is based on residence in Finland. If you intend to move to Finland permanently, you will normally be covered by the Finnish social security system and will qualify for Kela benefits as soon as you move to Finland. Coverage under the Finnish social security system is applied by filing the Kela form Y 77e. Students moving to Finland for the sole purpose of studying are considered to be resident in Finland temporarily. The exception to this are students moving from another Nordic country, who can gain social security coverage in Finland if they are recorded in the Finnish population register as being resident in Finland.