

## Guidelines and clarifications of the Faculty of Educational Sciences (1 August 2023–31 July 2026) regarding Rector’s Decision 3222/2021 on the recognition and validation of prior learning through credit transfer at the University of Helsinki

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These guidelines apply to

- 1) Students of the Bachelor’s Programme in Education
- 2) Students of the Master’s Programme in Education
- 3) Students of the Master’s Programme in Changing Education
- 4) Other students completing study modules provided by degree programmes at the Faculty of Educational Sciences

Decisions on the transfer of credits for studies other than those mentioned in these guidelines are made separately for each course.

Students need not apply for the transfer of credits for the compulsory common studies included in the bachelor’s or master’s programme in education if they have completed these studies in a study track other than their own.

These guidelines may be supplemented with recommendations for individual study tracks.

## 1. Guidelines for students in the bachelor's and master's programmes in education

### 1.1. Basic and intermediate studies in education

A basic studies module in education completed at a Finnish university substitutes as such for basic studies in education at the Faculty of Educational Sciences. An intermediate studies module in education completed at a Finnish university substitutes for intermediate studies in education as follows:

- In the Study Track for Class Teachers (specialist options in education and educational psychology in Finnish and in class teacher education in Swedish) and the Study Track for Early Childhood Education Teachers (in Finnish and Swedish), for the courses Qualitative Research Methods I, Quantitative Research Methods I, and Support for Learning and Wellbeing
- In the Study Track in General and Adult Education, for the courses Qualitative Research Methods I; Quantitative Research Methods I; Sociology of Education; Classics of Learning Research; Building Competencies in and for Work; and optional subject studies
- In the Swedish-language Study Track in General and Adult Education, for the courses Qualitative Research Methods I; Quantitative Research Methods I; Instructional Design and Assessment; Topical Issues in Educational Policymaking; Philosophy of Science and Educational Research Methodology; Adult Education and the Changing Features of Learning; and Social Justice in Education
- In the Finnish-language Study Track in General and Adult Education, optional subject studies in intermediate studies may include courses in education on at least the intermediate level that do not correspond in content to intermediate courses in the curriculum of the Bachelor's Programme in Education. Correspondingly, optional subject studies in advanced studies may include courses on at least the advanced level that do not correspond in content to courses in the curriculum of the Master's Programme in Education.

### 1.2. Basic and intermediate studies in educational psychology

A basic studies module in education completed at a Finnish university substitutes for the following courses included in basic studies in educational psychology at the Faculty of Educational Sciences: Orientation to Research Work in Education; Social, Cultural and Philosophical Foundations of Education; and Introduction to Educational Psychology.

An intermediate studies module completed at a Finnish university substitutes for the following courses included in intermediate studies in educational psychology: Qualitative Research Methods I; Quantitative Research Methods I; and Support for Learning and Wellbeing.

### 1.3. Basic and intermediate studies in special education

A basic studies module in special education completed at a Finnish university substitutes as such for basic studies in special education at the Faculty of Educational Sciences.

An intermediate studies module completed at a Finnish university substitutes for the following courses included in intermediate studies in special education: Challenges in Behaviour; Reading Skills and Reading Difficulties; Mathematical Learning Difficulties; Brain and Learning; Qualitative Research Methods I; and Quantitative Research Methods I.

#### 1.4. Basic and intermediate studies in home economics

A basic studies module in home economics completed at a Finnish university substitutes as such for basic studies in home economics at the Faculty of Educational Sciences.

An intermediate studies module in home economics completed at a Finnish university substitutes for the following courses: Qualitative Research Methods I; Quantitative Research Methods I; Family and Close Relations; Sustainable Housing 2: Housing Skills; and Food Preparation Skills 2.

#### 1.5. Basic and intermediate studies in craft science

A basic studies module in craft science or craft education completed at a Finnish university substitutes as such for basic studies in craft science at the Faculty of Educational Sciences.

An intermediate studies module in craft science completed at a Finnish university substitutes for the following courses: Qualitative Research Methods I; Dwelling and Interior Design; Electronics, Mechanics and Programming; Inventive Pattern and Clothing Design; and Quantitative Research Methods I: Experimental and Quantitative Research in Craft Studies.

#### 1.6. Multidisciplinary studies in subjects and cross-curricular themes taught in basic education, and studies in the professional skills required for work in early childhood and pre-primary education

Multidisciplinary studies in subjects and cross-curricular themes taught in basic education (Finnish acronym, POM) completed as part of equivalent training at the University of Helsinki or another Finnish university substitute for the same studies in the Bachelor's Programme in Education.

Studies in the professional skills required for work in early childhood and pre-primary education (Finnish acronym, AMMO) completed as part of equivalent training at the University of Helsinki or another Finnish university substitute for the same studies in the Bachelor's Programme in Education.

Courses included in POM or AMMO studies, completed as part of equivalent training at the University of Helsinki or another Finnish university and having equivalent learning outcomes and content, substitute for equivalent courses included in POM or AMMO studies at the University of Helsinki.

Subject-teacher qualifications completed at a Finnish university substitute for a course (or its component) included in POM studies and focusing on the relevant subject didactics. However, if the student's prior learning does not cover all the key learning outcomes of the course in question, the following courses must be supplemented as indicated by the course coordinator: Finnish Language and Literature Education; Religious and Worldview Education; and Craft Education.

Subject-teacher qualifications completed at a Finnish university substitute for a course included in AMMO studies in the subject in question and focused on the relevant subject pedagogy.

### 1.7. Supplementing study modules

Students who have completed the same course to be included in another study module in the same degree must complete in its stead a course with the same scope which is included in optional studies in the bachelor's or master's programme in education. The level of this supplementing course must be at least the same as that of the study module being supplemented.

### 1.8. Substituting with pedagogical studies for teachers

#### *In study tracks providing teacher qualifications*

Pedagogical studies for teachers included in the degree are recognised as such for students who have completed the pedagogical studies for teachers module (60 cr) in another study track at the University of Helsinki or at another Finnish university which has been organised as part of the education or study track providing teacher qualifications, and who are pursuing studies in the following study tracks of the Bachelor's Programme in Education: the Study Track for Class Teachers (specialist options in education and educational psychology in Finnish and in class teacher education in Swedish), the Study Track for Early Childhood Education Teachers (in Finnish and Swedish), the Study Track in Early Childhood Education (master's level), the Study Track in Special Education, the Study Track for Home Economics Teachers or the Study Track for Craft Teachers.

The pedagogical studies for teachers module (60 cr) completed at a university of applied sciences substitutes for the following courses included in pedagogical studies for teachers: Introduction to Educational Psychology; Social, Cultural and Philosophical Foundations of Education; Planning, Implementation and Assessment of Teaching I;<sup>1</sup> Support for Learning and Wellbeing; Curriculum Studies and Developing Educational Institutions; and in Swedish-language study tracks: Psychology of Learning and Development; Social, Cultural and Philosophical Foundations of Education; Didactics; Support for Learning and Wellbeing; and Curriculum Studies and Developing Educational Institutions.

Students in the Study Track in Special Education, the Study Track for Home Economics Teachers and the Study Track for Craft Teachers who have completed 25 credits of pedagogical studies for teachers at the University of Helsinki or another Finnish university as part of their bachelor's degree in education must include 35 credits of pedagogical studies for teachers in their master's degree in education to attain teacher qualifications (Decree No 986/1998).

Students in the Study Track in Early Childhood Education of the Master's Programme in Education with a pedagogical orientation and who have earlier completed a bachelor's degree in education in early childhood teacher education or kindergarten teacher education at a Finnish university must complete the following courses in pedagogical studies for teachers: Advanced Teaching Practice; Curriculum Studies and Developing Educational Institutions; and Teacher as a Researcher.

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<sup>1</sup> In the Study Track in Special Education, the course Finnish Language in the School – Special Educational View can be substituted.

A completed basic studies module in education substitutes for the following courses included in pedagogical studies for teachers: Introduction to Educational Psychology, and Social, Cultural and Philosophical Foundations of Education; in Swedish-language study tracks, it substitutes for the courses Social, Cultural and Philosophical Foundations of Education, and Support for Learning and Wellbeing. In addition, a completed advanced studies module in education substitutes for the courses Curriculum Studies and Developing Educational Institutions and Teacher as a Researcher and, in Swedish-language study tracks, for the Swedish-language courses with the same English titles as those above. The same applies to students in the Study Track in General and Adult Education who have yet to complete the advanced studies module in education.

#### *In the Study Track in General and Adult Education*

Students in the Study Track in General and Adult Education of the Bachelor's Programme in Education who have completed the pedagogical studies for teachers module (60 cr) at the University of Helsinki or another Finnish university which has been organised as part of the education or a study track providing teacher qualifications can have the completed studies recognised as basic studies in education.

Students in the Study Track in General and Adult Education of the Bachelor's Programme in Education who have completed the pedagogical studies for teachers module (60 cr) at a university of applied sciences can have the completed studies recognised to substitute for the courses Introduction to Educational Sciences; Education, Society and Culture – Introduction to Social Science Education Research; Introduction to Learning and Teaching; and Learning and Expertise in Working Life, Organisations and Networks. In the Swedish-language Study Track in General and Adult Education, credits are transferred for the following courses: Introduction to Educational Sciences; Psychology of Learning and Development; General and Adult Education from a Societal Perspective; and Social, Cultural and Philosophical Foundations of Education.

## **2. Substituting for pedagogical studies for teachers for students in degree programmes other than the bachelor's or master's programme in education**

Students who have completed the pedagogical studies for teachers module (60 cr) at the University of Helsinki or another Finnish university which has been organised as part of the education or a study track providing teacher qualifications can have the completed studies recognised as such as pedagogical studies for teachers.

Pedagogical studies for teachers completed at a university of applied sciences (60 cr) substitute for the following courses in pedagogical studies for teachers: Introduction to Educational Psychology; Social, Cultural and Philosophical Foundations of Education; Support for Learning and Wellbeing; and Teacher as a Researcher – Didactics. Additionally, the study module substitutes for the course Basic Practice (8 cr) in studies oriented towards adult education, and for courses in the second teaching subject (Subject Didactics I: Curriculum and Teaching, 5 cr, + Subject Didactics II, 2.5 cr) in studies oriented towards general upper secondary education. The courses substituted in Swedish-language studies oriented towards comprehensive and general upper secondary education are Psychology of Learning and Development; Social, Cultural and Philosophical Foundations of Education; Support for Learning and Wellbeing; and Subject Didactics. The courses substituted in Swedish-language studies oriented towards adult education are Social, Cultural and Philosophical Foundations of Education; Support for Learning and Wellbeing; and Basic Practice.

In pedagogical studies for teachers, a completed basic studies module in education substitutes for the courses Introduction to Educational Psychology and Social, Cultural and Philosophical Foundations of Education. In Swedish-language studies, a completed basic studies module substitutes for the courses Psychology of Learning and Development and Social, Cultural and Philosophical Foundations of Education. Additionally, a completed advanced studies module in education substitutes for the courses Subject Didactics II: Assessment and Development and Teacher as a Researcher – Seminar.

### 3. Practice periods

#### 3.1 Teaching practice

Teaching practice included in non-degree pedagogical studies for teachers or study modules provided by Faculty of Educational Sciences degree programmes cannot be substituted for by any other courses.

In study tracks leading to teacher qualifications and in subject teacher education, teaching practice can be substituted for supervised teaching practice completed as part of teacher education at another university if such practice corresponds in content, scope and duration to that provided by the University of Helsinki.

Prior learning acquired in other ways is taken into account in accordance with the principles below:

- 1) Work experience must consist of working as a coordinating teacher principally at a level of education complying with the student's own study track or their orientation in subject teacher education (early childhood education or pre-primary education, basic and general upper secondary education, special needs education, or adult education).
- 2) To count as work experience as a teacher, the employment must consist of periods of at least one month without interruptions, of which the most recent nine months must be from the past 10 years at the point of completing the degree or the non-degree pedagogical studies for teachers. Only full-time employment (16 weekly lessons per year) counts as work experience.
- 3) Credits can be transferred for previous work experience only towards one practice period included in studies.
- 4) Students who have worked as teachers for at least three academic years (27 months) can apply for the partial recognition of the course Teaching Practice I<sup>1</sup> (in the Study Track in Special Education, Advanced Teaching Practice).
- 5) For students who have worked as teachers for at least five school years (45 months), the course Teaching Practice I (in the Study Track in Special Education, Advanced Teaching Practice) is recognised in full. Students must prove their prior learning by writing an essay reflecting on their learning in accordance with separate instructions.

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<sup>1</sup> The curriculum elaborates on the title and completion of the course Teaching Practice I in the different study tracks and in subject teacher education.

- 6) Credits cannot be transferred for previous work experience towards the course Advanced Teaching Practice<sup>1</sup> (in the Study Track in Special Education, Teaching Practice I). If a student has not had the course Teaching Practice I recognised, it can be recognised if they have worked as a teacher for at least five school years (45 months).

### 3.2 Expert training

Expert training included in degrees cannot be substituted with courses other than expert training completed as part of equivalent education. Prior learning acquired in another manner is taken into account if the work experience corresponds to the field of study in terms of content and the student worked on a full-time basis for at least one year.

### 4. Recognition and validation of prior learning from over 10 years ago

Credits cannot be transferred for courses completed over 10 years ago.

Students who completed learning corresponding to a course or study module over 10 years ago can demonstrate their learning as follows:

Learning corresponding to a basic studies module completed over 10 years ago can be demonstrated by completing an intermediate studies module in the same subject.

Learning provided by a study module completed over 10 years ago, corresponding to a study module in the curriculum for 2023–2026 and not including a thesis, can be demonstrated by completing an assignment on the study module with a passing grade.

Learning provided by a study module completed over 10 years ago, corresponding to a study module in the curriculum for 2023–2026 and including a bachelor's or master's thesis or seminar work, can be demonstrated by writing a new thesis. This thesis must be written on an entirely new topic or rewritten to a significant degree.

Learning provided by a course completed over 10 years ago, corresponding to a course in the curriculum for 2023–2026 of the Bachelor's Programme in Education, the Master's Programme in Education or the Master's Programme in Changing Education, can be demonstrated by completing an assignment on the course with a passing grade.

Learning provided by a course completed over 10 years ago, which does not correspond to a course in the curriculum for 2023–2026 of the Bachelor's Programme in Education, the Master's Programme in Education or the Master's Programme in Changing Education, can be demonstrated by completing the course(s) *Studia Paedagogica* 1–6.

Learning provided by a period of teaching practice completed over 10 years ago can be demonstrated by completing the relevant course again, as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> The curriculum elaborates on the title and completion of the course Advanced Teaching Practice in the different study tracks and in subject teacher education.

- 1) If the student has at least three years of work experience from the teaching sector after completing their teaching practice, they must complete the practice period again in the form of an essay.
- 2) If the student has under three years of work experience or no work experience, they must complete a shortened period of teaching practice, as separately agreed with the relevant course coordinator.

Learning provided by expert training completed over 10 years ago can be demonstrated by completing the relevant course again in the form of an essay.