

Subject choices of students 2019

Subject choices of students in upper secondary level education in 2019

English is studied most in upper secondary level education

According to Statistics Finland, nearly all students attending upper secondary general education in autumn 2019 studied English as a foreign language. A majority of students in vocational education, 95 per cent, also studied English. Ninety-two per cent of students in upper secondary general education and 88 per cent of students in vocational education studied Swedish. Of students in upper secondary general education, 63 per cent studied two languages and 36 per cent studied three or more languages.

Number of languages studied by students in upper secondary general and vocational education in 2019

Number of foreign languages	Upper secondary general education	Share of students, %	Vocational education	Share of students, %
0	0	0,0	3 903	2,8
1	1 008	0,9	11 151	7,9
2	66 273	63,1	122 431	86,7
3	31 536	30,0	3 110	2,2
4	5 398	5,1	475	0,3
5	658	0,6	76	0,1
6	107	0,1	13	0,0
Students total	104 980	100 ,0	141 159	100,0

The share of students in vocational education studying two languages was 87 per cent. Three per cent of students in vocational education studied three or more languages.

Languages studied by students in upper secondary general and vocational education in 2019

Language studied	Upper secondary general education	Share of students, %	Vocational education	Share of students, %
English	104 638	99,7	134 128	95,0
Swedish	96 449	91,9	123 533	87,5
Finnish	6 464	6,2	6 302	4,5
French	9 270	8,8	457	0,3
German	15 359	14,6	685	0,5
Russian	5 352	5,1	1 332	0,9
Spanish	13 577	12,9	1 012	0,7
Italian	867	0,8	33	0,0
Sami	21	0,0	0	0,0
Latin	674	0,6	5	0,0
Other	1 015	1,0	214	0,2
Students total	104 980	.	141 159	.

The order of the five most commonly studied languages in upper secondary general education has remained the same from 2014 to 2019 (see Appendix tables). The languages most commonly studied are English, Swedish, German, Spanish and French. In 2014, two languages were usually studied in upper secondary general education, and this was also the situation in 2019. The share of those studying three or more languages has decreased by around five percentage points compared to 2014.

Since 2014, the most commonly studied languages in vocational education have been English and Swedish. Two languages are also typically studied in vocational education.

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Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Number of languages studied by students in upper secondary general education in 2014 to 2019

Number of foreign languages	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %
1	1 135	1,1	977	0,9	1 459	1,4	1 195	1,1	1 435	1,4	1 008	0,9
2	60 431	57,9	61 986	59,2	62 538	60,2	62 607	60,2	62 954	60,6	66 273	63,1
3	34 646	33,2	34 411	32,8	32 885	31,7	33 491	32,2	32 651	31,4	31 536	30,0
4	7 042	6,7	6 473	6,2	6 148	5,9	5 862	5,6	5 934	5,7	5 398	5,1
5	1 006	1,0	802	0,8	707	0,7	692	0,7	732	0,7	658	0,6
6	189	0,2	136	0,1	100	0,1	138	0,1	114	0,1	107	0,1
Students total	104 449	100,0	104 785	100,0	103 837	100,0	103 985	100,0	103 820	100,0	104 980	100,0

Appendix table 2. Number of languages studied by students in vocational education in 2014 to 2019

Number of foreign languages	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %
0	3 859	3,1	4 716	3,9	2 405	2,1	2 695	2,4	7 264	5,6	3 903	2,8
1	8 796	7,0	15 211	12,6	9 461	8,1	8 134	7,3	5 506	4,3	11 151	7,9
2	105 506	84,1	96 274	79,7	97 782	83,7	94 602	84,9	111 872	86,7	122 431	86,7
3	5 895	4,7	3 514	2,9	5 209	4,5	4 696	4,2	3 830	3,0	3 110	2,2
4	1 080	0,9	737	0,6	1 107	0,9	1 053	0,9	480	0,4	475	0,3
5	294	0,2	190	0,2	802	0,7	289	0,3	50	0,0	76	0,1
6	17	0,0	182	0,2	42	0,0	16	0,0	4	0,0	13	0,0
Students total	125 447	100,0	120 824	100,0	116 808	100,0	111 485	100,0	129 006	100,0	141 159	100,0

Appendix table 3. Languages studied by students in upper secondary general education in 2014 to 2019

Language studied	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %
English	104 314	99,9	104 693	99,9	103 751	99,9	103 731	99,8	103 442	99,6	104 638	99,7
Swedish	95 868	91,8	96 537	92,1	94 994	91,5	95 476	91,8	95 046	91,5	96 449	91,9
Finnish	6 701	6,4	6 493	6,2	6 578	6,3	6 598	6,3	6 703	6,5	6 464	6,2
French	11 253	10,8	10 774	10,3	10 229	9,9	10 130	9,7	9 792	9,4	9 270	8,8
German	17 440	16,7	17 007	16,2	16 351	15,7	16 924	16,3	16 239	15,6	15 359	14,6
Russian	7 913	7,6	7 664	7,3	6 819	6,6	5 962	5,7	5 535	5,3	5 352	5,1
Spanish	13 838	13,2	13 309	12,7	12 913	12,4	13 499	13,0	14 113	13,6	13 577	12,9
Italian	1 309	1,3	1 178	1,1	1 055	1,0	997	1,0	867	0,8	867	0,8
Sami	27	0,0	24	0,0	40	0,0	31	0,0	32	0,0	21	0,0
Latin	755	0,7	614	0,6	596	0,6	554	0,5	631	0,6	674	0,6
Other	849	0,8	607	0,6	591	0,6	716	0,7	976	0,9	1 015	1,0
Students total	104 449	.	104 785	.	103 837	.	103 985	.	103 820	.	104 980	.

Appendix table 4. Languages studied by students in vocational education in 2014 to 2019

Language studied	Year		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %	Students	Share of students, %
English	119 833	95,5	111 722	92,5	111 672	95,6	107 134	96,1	120 814	93,6	134 128	95,0
Swedish	108 614	86,6	99 069	82,0	102 109	87,4	97 245	87,2	111 491	86,4	123 533	87,5
Finnish	4 909	3,9	4 767	3,9	7 865	6,7	5 949	5,3	5 983	4,6	6 302	4,5
French	1 904	1,5	1 589	1,3	1 796	1,5	1 534	1,4	778	0,6	457	0,3
German	2 077	1,7	1 201	1,0	1 594	1,4	1 357	1,2	717	0,6	685	0,5
Russian	3 342	2,7	2 616	2,2	2 212	1,9	2 035	1,8	1 524	1,2	1 332	0,9
Spanish	1 968	1,6	1 721	1,4	1 526	1,3	1 429	1,3	1 314	1,0	1 012	0,7
Italian	110	0,1	84	0,1	67	0,1	44	0,0	29	0,0	33	0,0
Sami	140	0,1	2	0,0	109	0,1	148	0,1	3	0,0	0	0,0
Latin	19	0,0	12	0,0	13	0,0	6	0,0	4	0,0	5	0,0
Other	469	0,4	508	0,4	379	0,3	298	0,3	277	0,2	214	0,2
Students total	125 447	.	120 824	.	116 808	.	111 485	.	129 006	.	141 159	.

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