

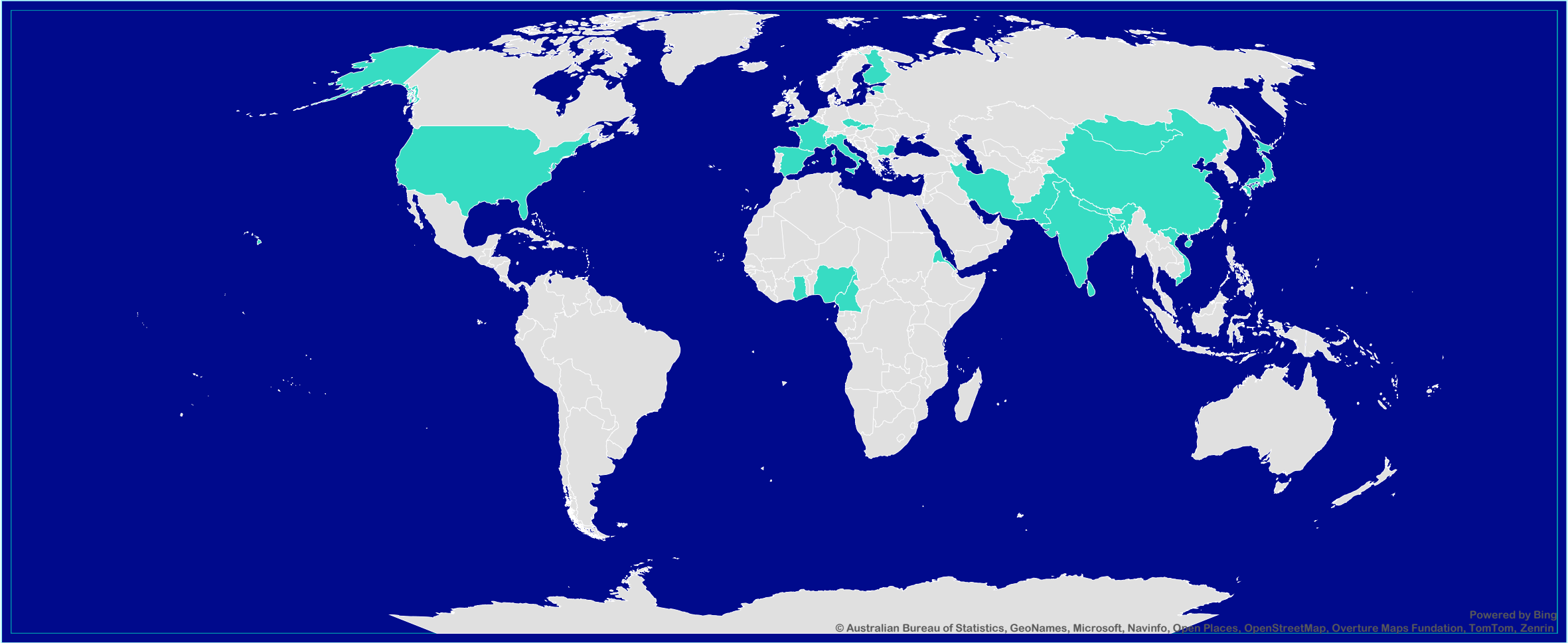
An aerial photograph of Vaasa, Finland, showing a mix of modern and historic architecture, green spaces, and a waterfront. The city is densely packed with buildings, mostly in shades of red and white, with some modern glass-fronted structures. A large body of water is visible in the foreground on the left. The word 'VAASA' is overlaid in large, stylized letters, with the top row in white and the bottom row in teal.

V A S A
V A S A

Warmly welcome to Vaasa
a vibrant student city

SUSANNA SLOTTE-KOCK
External Relations Officer

Attendees from 24 countries today



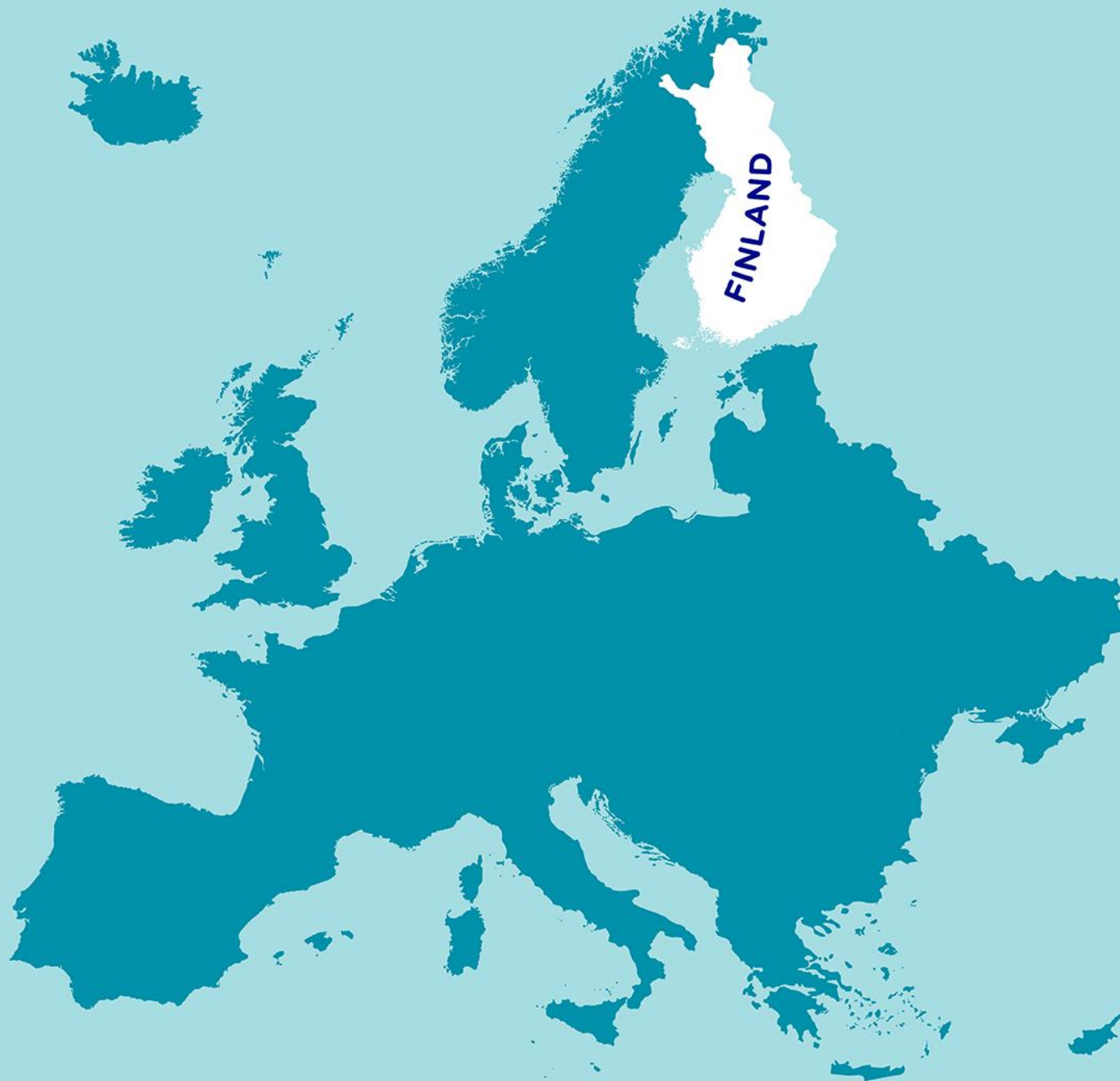


Facts about Finland

Facts about Vaasa

Living in Vaasa

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V ^ ^ S ^ .
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Facts about Finland

Finland is the happiest country in the world!¹

Vaasa strives to become the happiest city in Finland



The SAFEST, FREEST, and most STABLE country in the world^{2&3}

Low risk for natural disasters⁴

Finland has the CLEANEST AIR⁵ and is one of the MOST SUSTAINABLE countries in the world⁶

We have ONE OF THE BEST EDUCATION SYSTEMS in the world⁷

Home to 5.6 million inhabitants BUT over 3.3 million SAUNAS⁸

HIGH living standard¹⁰

#2 regarding GENDER EQUALITY¹¹

#2 place to become a mother¹¹

¹ UN World Happiness Report, 2025

² Global Peace Index, 2023

³ Fragile States Index, 2023

⁴ INFORM Risk Index 2024

⁵ Finland tops WHO air quality statistics, 2018

⁶ Environmental Performance Index, 2022

⁷ Legatum Prosperity Index, 2023

⁸ Finland.fi

¹⁰ Quality of Life in European Cities, 2020

¹¹ Gender Equality Index, 2023



BUT COST OF LIVING WILL PROBABLY BE HIGHER THAN YOU ARE USED TO

In Finland the average monthly costs for one person is: 900-1000€

Rent: (including water)

One room in a shared apartment: 300-450€

Studioapartment: 450-650€

Private market: 2 room + kitchen: 550-750€

Internetconnection and phone: 30-60€

Bus card 47€

Food expenses 200-300€

Electricity (according to use) 30€

Insurance (home) 15€

Also costs for the following needs to be taken into account: furniture and necessities, clothing, hobbies, other living costs BUT ALSO tuition fee, student health care, health insurance, Finnish ID card, student equipment etc



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Finland is a great place to work and live

1. Work life balance in order

Regular working hours (8 h/workday) leaves plenty of time for family, friends, hobbies and a fulfilling career

2. Wellbeing and safety in place

High living standards, large safety net regarding social protection ie health care, unemployment benefits, low crime rate, safe surroundings

3. Nature close with four distinct seasons

You will experience four seasons winter, spring, summer and fall

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The Finnish society is a well-oiled machinery

**BUT THE FINNS themselves
might be a hard nut to crack**

**We do not necessarily look you in the eyes when we
speak to you**

**Most of us hate small talk and do not want to greet
strangers (especially not in an elevator). Silence is
golden!**

**We are shy and do not want to show how well we
i.e. speak foreign languages.**

**Please be brave and start a discussion regarding the
weather or our quirky sports, then you can get us going!**

Invite us for a cup of coffee, that is a national obsession!

We are not unpolite, we are just Finns!

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Why Finland?

Statements from our students:



Everything in Finland is beautiful, except for the weather

In Finland anything is possible!

Clean air and a safe country. You can even drink the tapwater!

Many speak at least four languages and almost everyone speaks English

Nice mentorship programs for students

Finding a job at home is about belonging to the correct political party, having the right religion and being as far up the hierarchy as possible.

Finding a job in Finland is all about having the right education and work experience



Facts about Vaasa

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Vaasa in figures

12



70 361 /
115 685

inhabitants



15 000

university students

128

different nationalities



6

universities



103

different languages
spoken



2

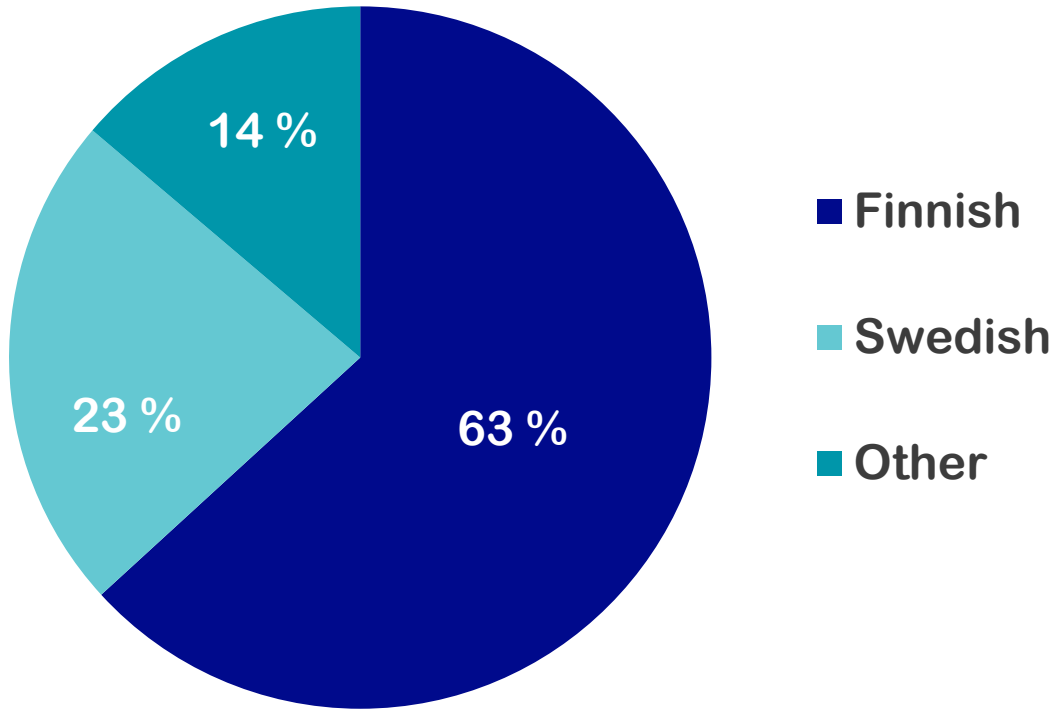
vocational institutes



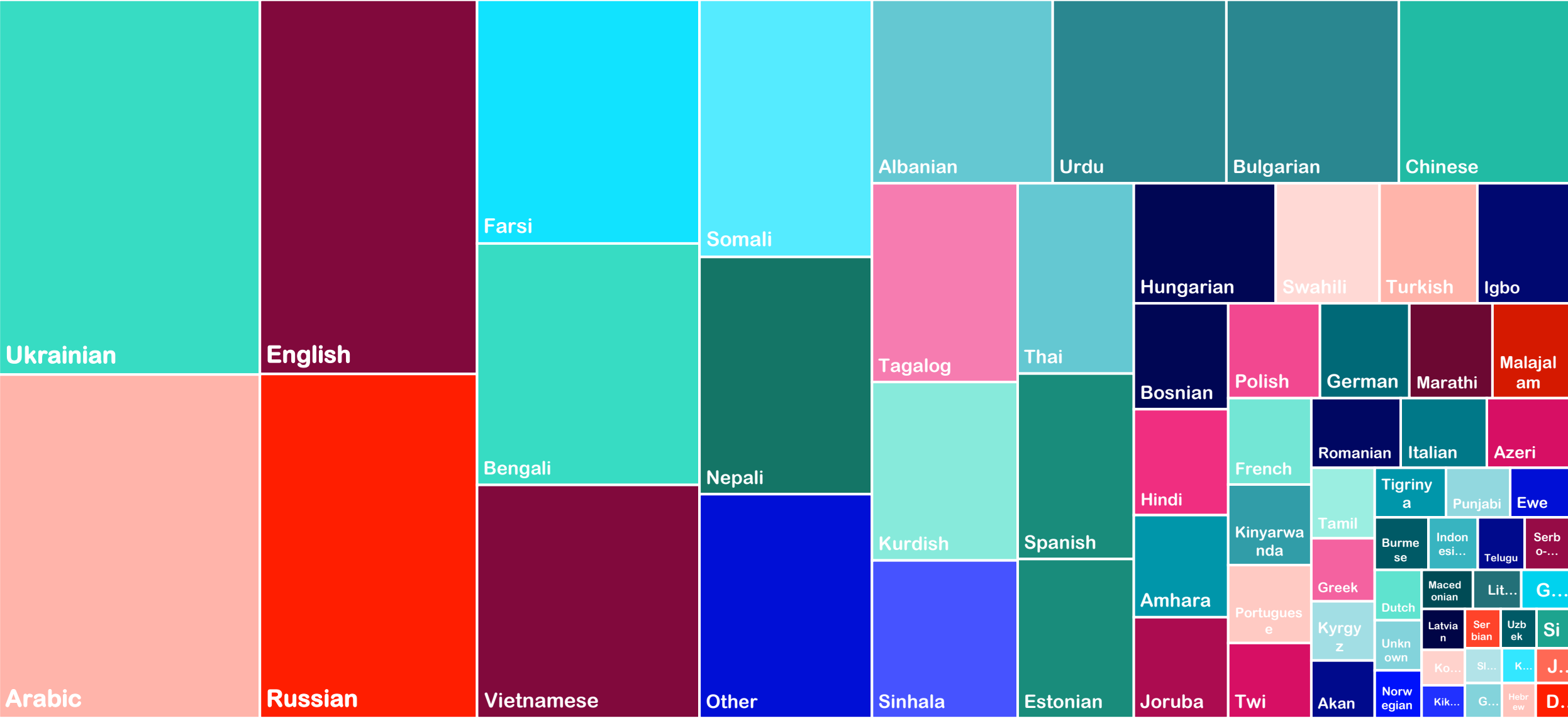
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Languages spoken in Vaasa



Foreign languages in Vaasa 2024

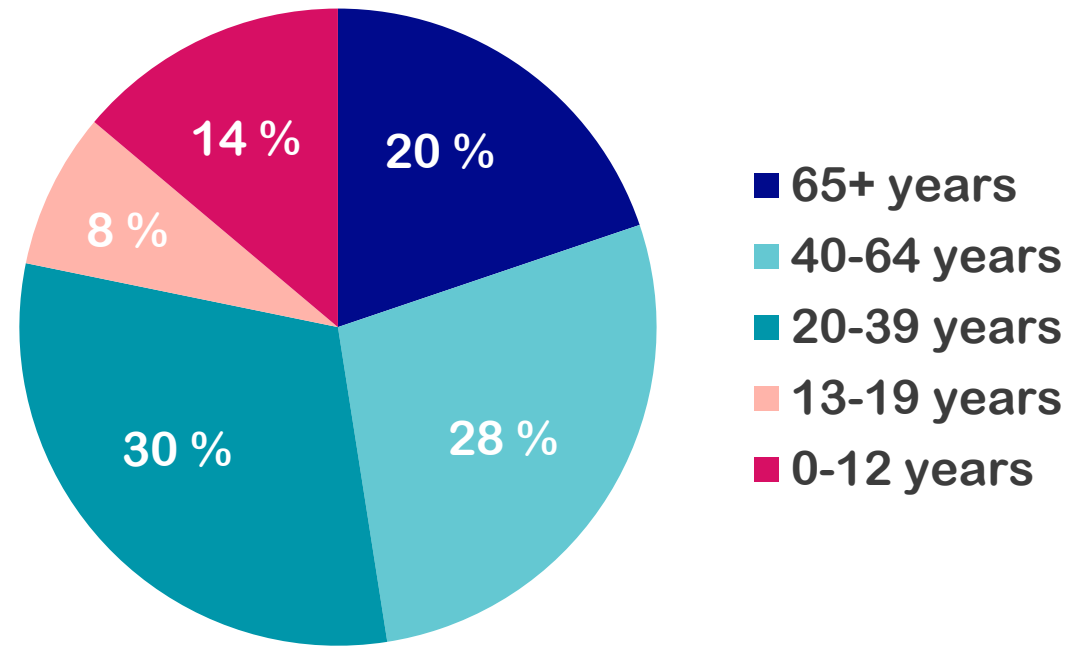




Young population

”The most common citizen in Vaasa is a 21 year old ”

Vaasa by age group





**Vaasa the best place to
study, work and live**

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In Finland we have a periodic system:

**Full time studies between
September – April/May**

**Best time to work
June – August**

**If on a student visa, only 30h/week
of work is allowed counted on a
yearly basis**

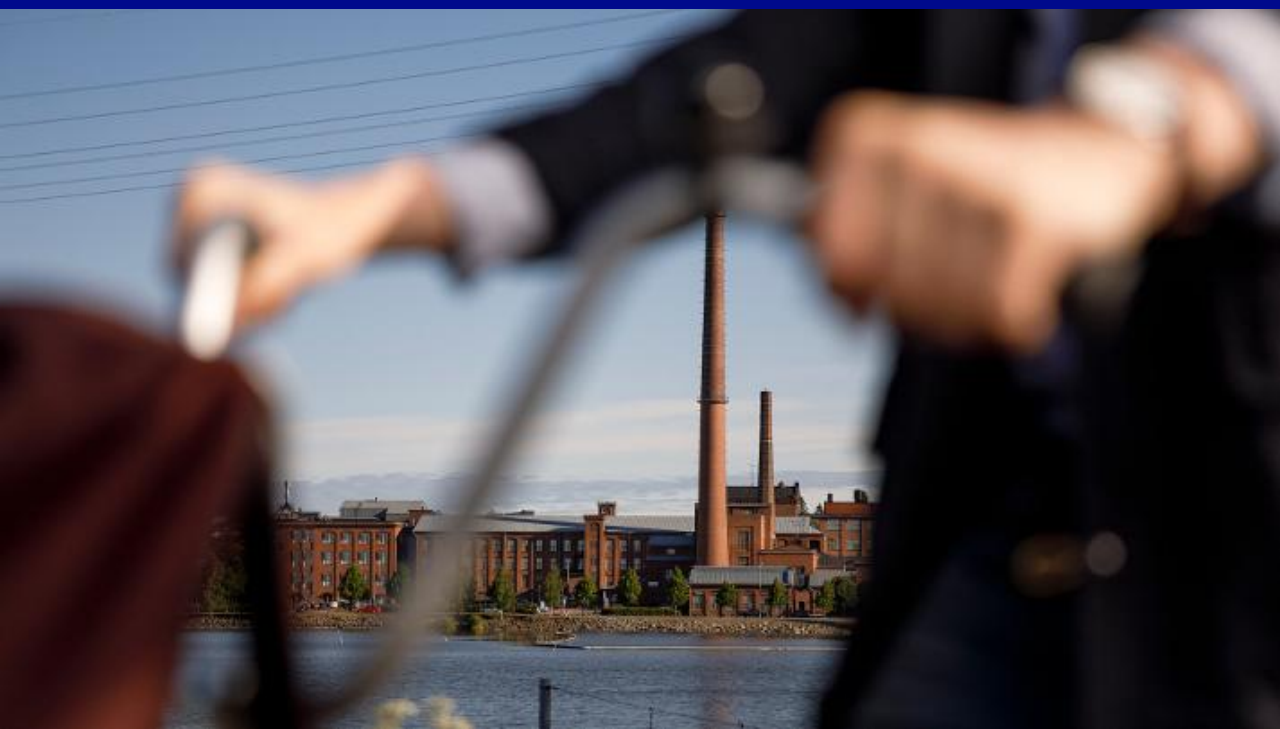
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VAASA

Building for the future

Vaasa is a diverse university city with the highest ratio of university students per capita in Finland.

Every 5th person in Vaasa is a student!



Education is a key strength

4 universities

2 universities of applied science

2 vocational institutes

Every 3rd person holds a university degree

More than 15 000 university students

22 000 students in total



Vaasan yliopisto
UNIVERSITY OF VAASA



VAASAN AMMATTIKORKEAKOULU
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES



UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



Happy Student City Website

On this website, we have gathered most of what you need to know about Vaasa as a student city.

Studies, jobs, living and student life in Vaasa are some of the topics covered here.

[Vaasa - a happy student city](#)

Check out the events in the region from:

[Events in the Vaasa region](#)

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Why Vaasa? Statements from students in Vaasa

Vaasa is very welcoming and has lots of activities for us students

Vaasa has short distances, so I can walk anywhere, which is good for my health and economy

Vaasa is a safe suitable sized city

It is easy to manage on your own here! High living standards, many free libraries.

International students need three types of support networks

- from home and from people from the same homecountry
- from other international students
- the local community

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Libraries for everyone free of charge

21



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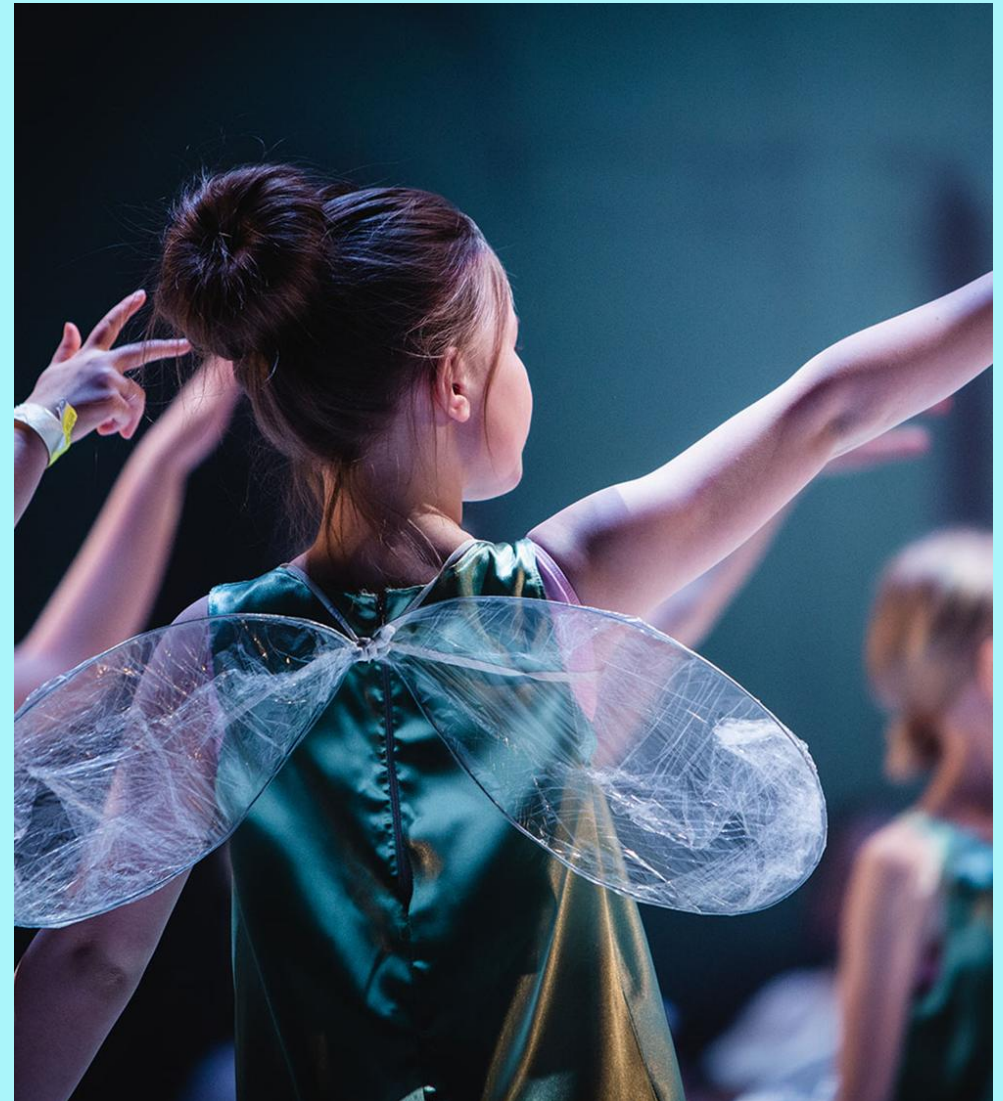


Vaasa is a city of culture
and sports



We have dozens of cultural experiences within one kilometre from the market square.

Vaasa is one of Finland's top cities when it comes to promoting culture.











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