

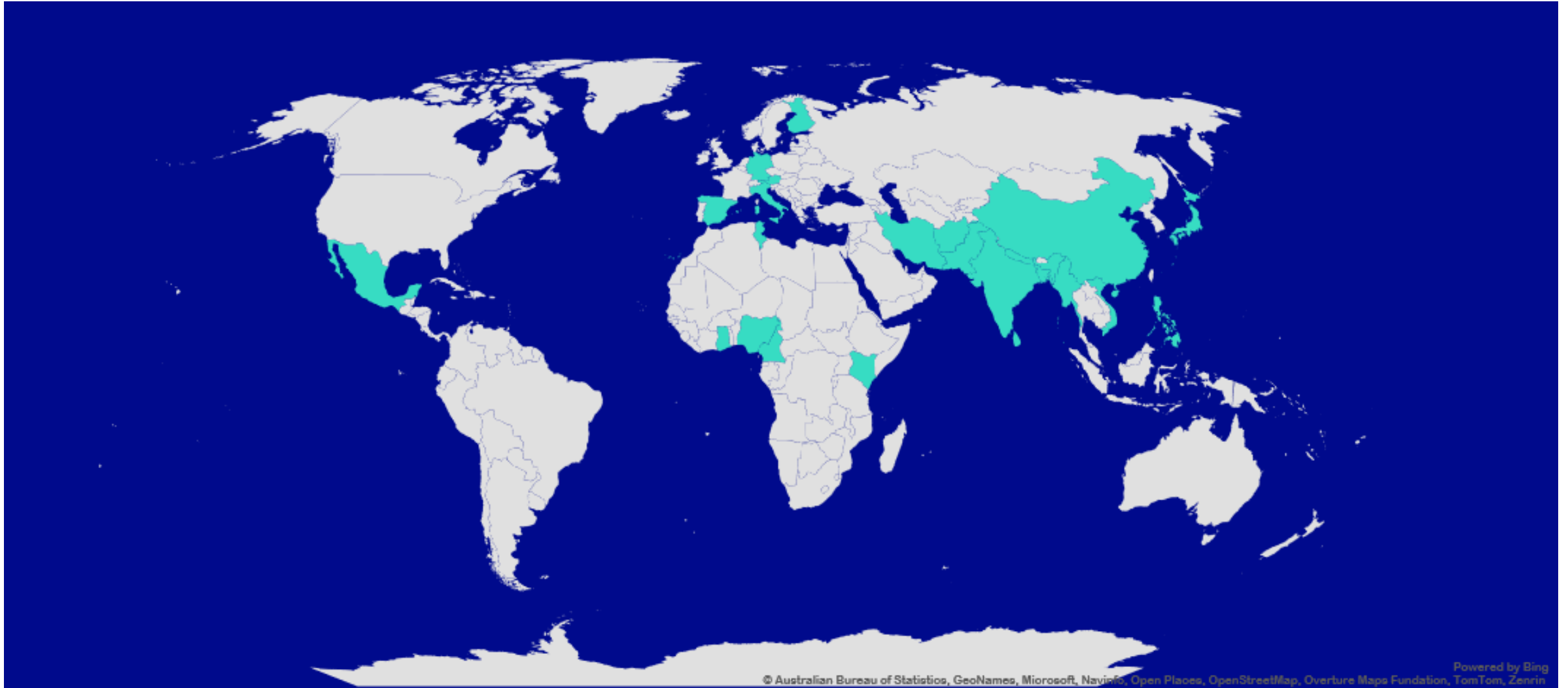


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Warmly welcome to Vaasa  
a vibrant student city

SUSANNA SLOTTE-KOCK  
External Relations Officer

# Attendees from 23 countries today



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**Facts about Finland**

**Facts about Vaasa**

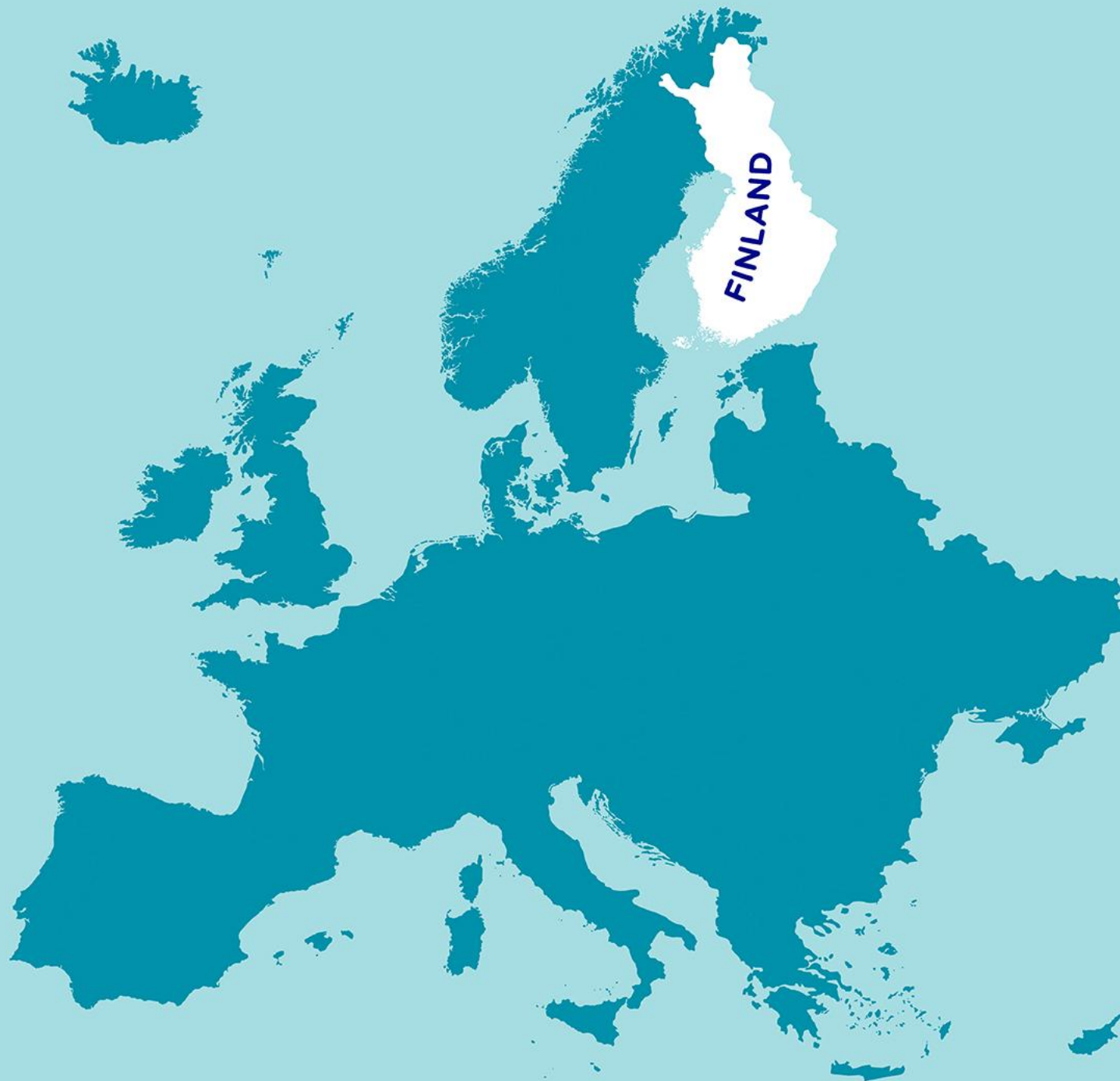
**Living in Vaasa**

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WELCOME to  
**FINLAND!**

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# Facts about Finland

Finland is the happiest country in the world!<sup>1</sup>

Vaasa strives to become the happiest city in Finland

The SAFEST, FREEST, and most STABLE country in the world<sup>2&3</sup>

Low risk for natural disasters<sup>4</sup>

Finland has the CLEANEST AIR<sup>5</sup> and is one of the MOST SUSTAINABLE countries in the world<sup>6</sup>

We have ONE OF THE BEST EDUCATION SYSTEMS in the world<sup>7</sup>

Home to 5.6 million inhabitants BUT over 3.3 million SAUNAS<sup>8</sup>

HIGH living standard<sup>9</sup>

#2 regarding GENDER EQUALITY<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> World Happiness Report, 2026

<sup>2</sup> Global Peace Index, 2023

<sup>3</sup> Fragile States Index, 2023

<sup>4</sup> INFORM Risk Index 2024

<sup>5</sup> Finland tops WHO air quality statistics, 2018

<sup>6</sup> Environmental Performance Index, 2022

<sup>7</sup> Legatum Prosperity Index, 2023

<sup>8</sup> Finland.fi

<sup>9</sup> Quality of Life in European Cities, 2020

<sup>10</sup> Gender Equality Index, 2023

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

**In Vaasa, the average monthly costs for one person is: 800-1300€**

**Rent: (including water)**

**One room in a shared apartment: 300-450€**

**Studio apartment: 450-650€**

**Private market (more expensive):**

**2 room + kitchen: 600€ - Much more**

**Internet connection and phone: 30-60€**

**Bus card (student) 50€**

**Food expenses 250-450€**

**Electricity (according to use) 30€**

**Insurance (home) 15-20€**

**Also costs for the following needs to be taken into account: furniture and necessities, clothing, hobbies, other living costs BUT ALSO tuition fees, student health care, health insurance, Finnish ID card, study 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 i.e. 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**

- 1. We do not necessarily look you in the eyes when we speak to you**
- 2. Most of us hate small talk and do not want to greet strangers (especially not in an elevator). Silence is golden!**
- 3. On buses, we like our personal space – an empty seat next to you is a small luxury. And if possible, we keep phone calls quiet**

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4. Finns have a strong trust in authorities and public systems. We trust our policeforce and have a high trust in fellow citizens. We are also happy to pay our taxes.

5. Finns are very honest and upfront but sometimes also shy. If something is agreed upon it will also hold.

6. People in Finland are usually open about their financial situation. It is perfectly okay to say “no” if something is not within your budget.

7. Finns are very punctual. So do not come late for an appointment, rather come 5 minutes ahead of time!

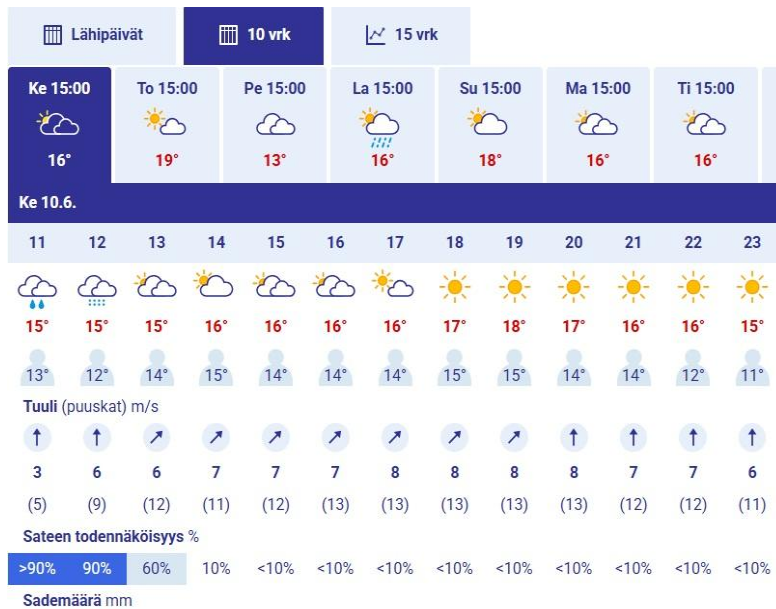
**We are not unpolite, we are just Finns!**

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## Weather & Clothing:

Finland has 4 seasons. Hence, it is important to dress according to season. The temperature can vary between +25 to -25 degrees.

It is common practice to check the weather forecast before heading out in the morning.



Finnish  
meteorological  
institute

# Why Finland?

Statements from our students:



In Finland  
anything is  
possible!

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

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



**WELCOME to Vaasa!**

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# VAASA IN NUMBERS

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103

different  
mother  
tongues



128

different nationalities

71 209

/ 116 357

citizens



6

higher  
education  
institutions

2

vocational  
institutes



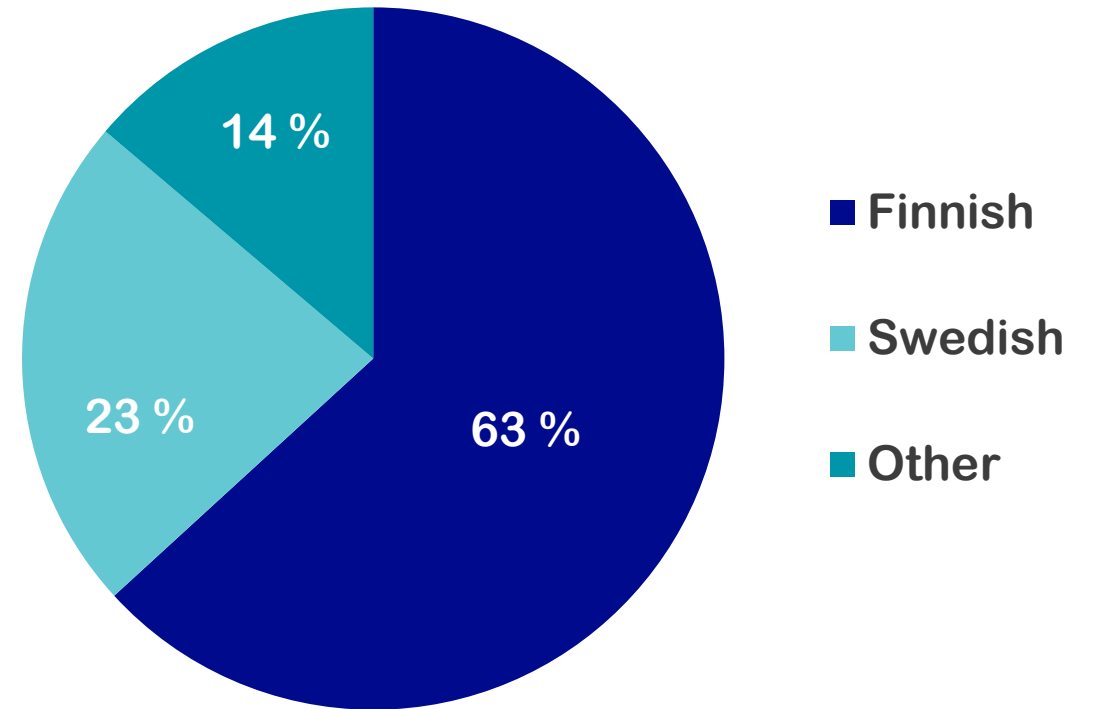
16 000/

23 000

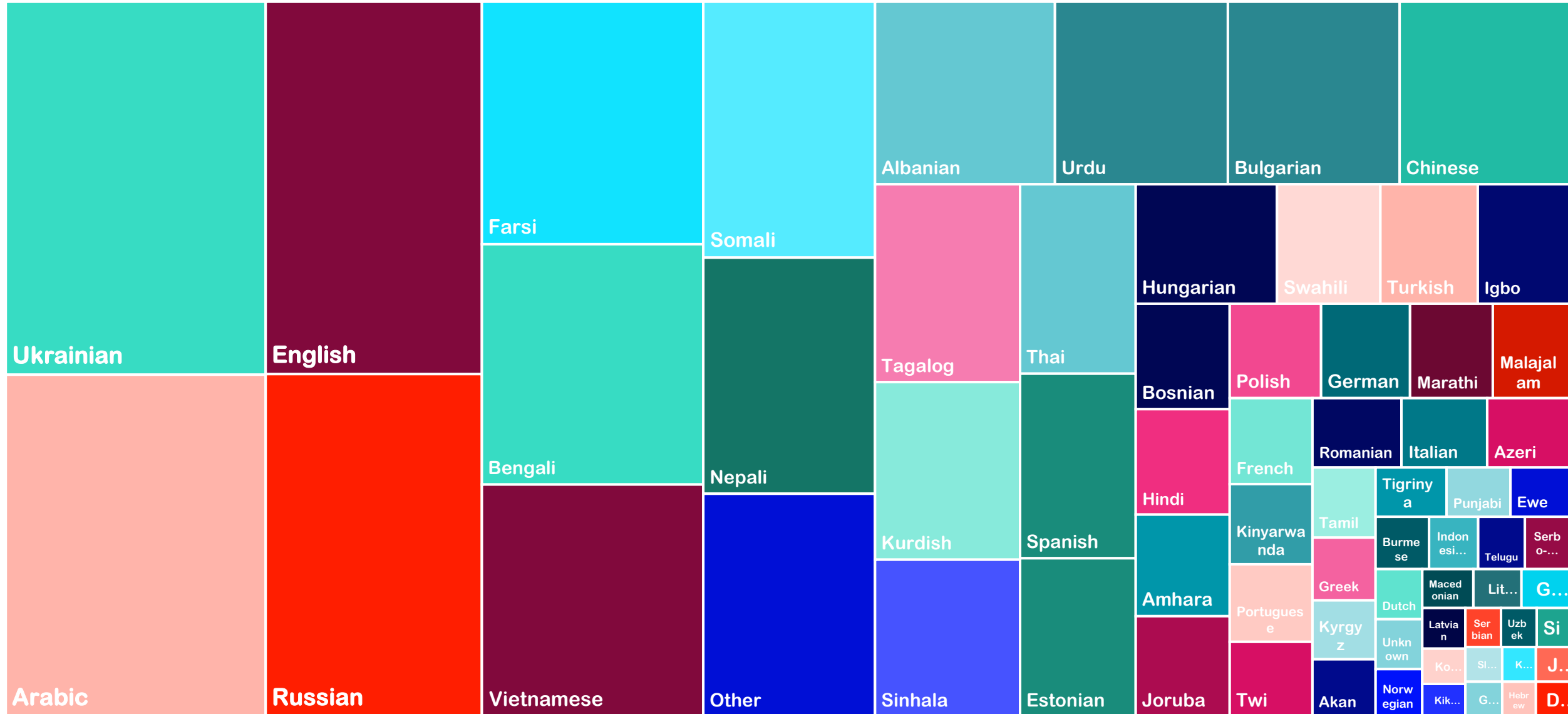
students



## Languages spoken in Vaasa



# Foreign languages in Vaasa 2024

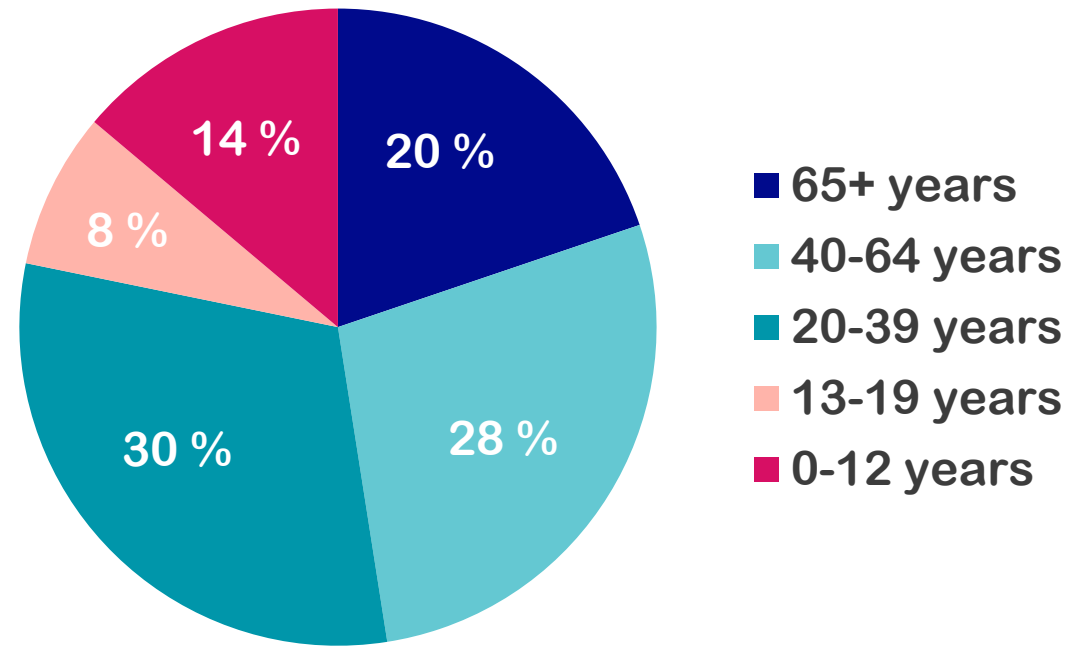




## Young population

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

Vaasa by age group





**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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# You need to have enough funds to live in Finland.

A student needs to have at least **800 euros** / month at their disposal. This is a bare minimum. You cannot rely on finding a job.

For a family of 4 (2 adults and 2 children) the income threshold for the residence permits are **€2250** and this is a bare-minimum.

This covers the absolute essentials like food, utilities and rent, but leaves little to no room for unexpected expenses, a car, new clothing or dining out. Winter clothes can be quite expensive.

You might need to rely to some extent on flea markets, which we have in Vaasa.

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> person holds a university degree

More than 16 000 university students

23 000 students in total



Vaasan yliopisto  
UNIVERSITY OF VAASA



VAASAN AMMATTIKORKEAKOULU  
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES



UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES





# A YOUTHFUL UNIVERSITY CITY

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# 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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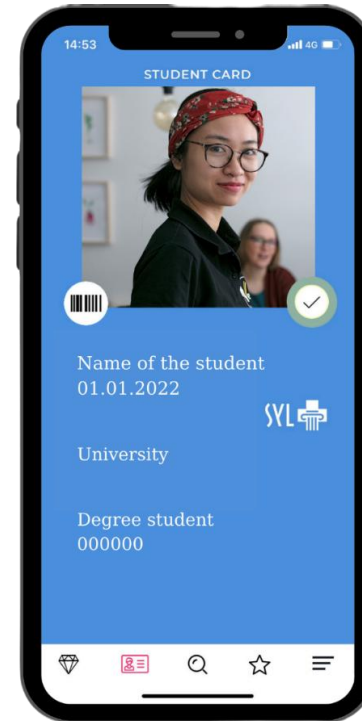
# Grocery shopping

Smaller stores in various parts of the city, larger supermarkets outside the city center



# Student discounts

Once you get your student ID card, remember to show it when you go shopping! You can get a 10% discount from many shops in Vaasa. It never hurts to ask.



# Libraries for everyone free of charge



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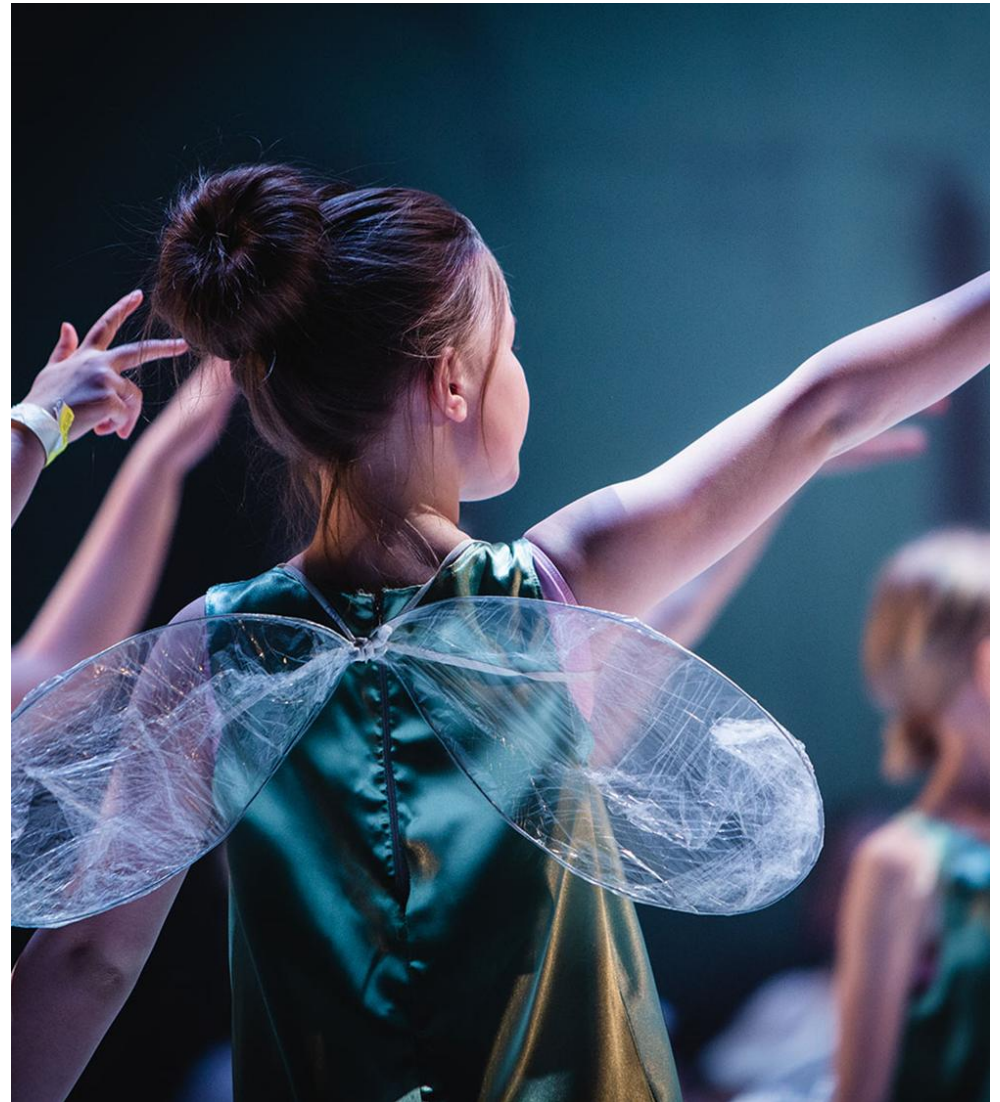


Vaasa is a city of culture  
and sports



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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