
Language Information for Students with Swedish or Finnish as Prior Language of Instruction

Please note this if your prior education is from an educational institution in Finland.

What is meant by prior language of instruction?

A person is considered to have received his or her prior education in the language, Finnish or Swedish, listed as their mother tongue in the school leaving certificate, according to the Basic Education Act (628/1998) or the Secondary School Act (629/1998) or equivalent studies, if he or she in the school leaving certificate has an approved grade mother tongue (481/2003, § 20).

The bachelor's degree certificate issued by a UAS/University states the prior language of instruction and the language of the maturity test and the language in which the student has completed a language test or completed language studies which shows the ability in speech and writing to use the second national language (481/2003, § 19).

Why is it important that the maturity test is written in the prior language of instruction?

If you write the maturity test with pass grade in your prior language of instruction (Swedish or Finnish), you show excellent ability to use the language in speech and writing. Check that your prior language of instruction is properly specified in the study register. The UAS/University's obligation is to provide the prior language of instruction and the language of the maturity test on the Degree Certificate.

Why is it important to show knowledge of the second national language?

Students can within their studies prove knowledge of the second national language, Finnish or Swedish, in accordance with the Act on the Knowledge of Languages Required of Personnel in Public Bodies (481/2003, § 16-17). Contact your language teacher for instructions on which course you can complete for this purpose. The oral and written ability are assessed separately (grades 1, 2 and 3 show satisfactory knowledge and grades 4 and 5 show good knowledge) and the language teacher enters the grades in the study register. On the Degree Certificate the UAS/University has the obligation to declare your oral and written ability to use the second national language.