

UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ:  
THE SCOPE AND STRUCTURE OF STUDIES  
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BASIC DEGREES

The most common name used to refer to the holder of the Finnish basic degree today is the **Candidate** (in Finnish **kandidaatti**). In many fields of study, the title of **maisteri** can additionally be awarded to a 'kandidaatti' with no further study required. The Finnish basic degrees correspond to the Anglo-American Master's degree, French maîtrise and German Magister, and are usually referred to as the Master's degree whenever international comparability is desirable. The older lower degree, corresponding to the Bachelor's degree, no longer exists. The average time to complete the 'kandidaatti' -degree ranges from five to seven years depending on the degree programme, and the studies culminate in the writing of the Master's thesis.

DEGREE PROGRAMMES

The basic degrees are taken in **degree programmes**, which are multidisciplinary and objective-oriented entities of studies combining scientific knowledge, theory and practice in the fields concerned. Many of the degree programmes have two or more alternatives or lines, in which some of the studies are differentiated according to the alternate scientific or professional fields available. For example, in the humanities and natural sciences most of the degree programmes have an alternative for prospective subject teachers in addition to alternatives which are less definitely professional or scientifically more differentiated.

CREDIT UNITS

The extent of the degree programmes and - accordingly - the basic degrees is given in **credit units** ( or **study week** in direct translation, in Finnish **opintoviikko**). One credit unit refers to an input of approximately 40 hours of work required of the student for the attainment of set objectives, and it can include lecture hours, exercises, seminars and examinations as well as compulsory reading. The most usual and also the minimum extent of a degree programme is 160 credit units, while 180 credit units are required of the students of for example psychology and music and of the students aspiring to become subject teachers.

## GENERAL STUDIES, SUBJECT STUDIES AND ADVANCED STUDIES

Studies are classified - with respect to their contents and their position in the curriculum - into three different types: **general studies**, **subject studies** and **advanced studies**. The classification reflects the level and general aim of the studies. The extent of general studies is usually at least 15 credit units, the extent of subject studies about one half of the total, and the advanced studies normally take at least a quarter of the total. The purpose of general studies is to give students an overall picture of the disciplines which form the basis of the degree programme, to give them multi-disciplinary theoretical and methodological guidance and to familiarize them with the basic principles of scientific thought and research. General studies include also language studies. All Finnish students are required to learn the second domestic language - Swedish or Finnish - and either one or two foreign languages.

In the subject studies students concentrate on the acquisition of the basic skills required to fulfil the aims of the degree programme and they learn the concepts, theories, methods, results and problems of the chosen disciplines. The advanced studies concentrate on some central, scientifically relevant problem within the degree programme. A large part of the advanced studies is taken up by research work and the writing of the Master's thesis.

## GRADING

The grades used in examinations are:

excellent (2,5 3- or 3), in Finnish *erinomaiset tiedot*  
good (2- 2 or 2+), in Finnish *hyvät tiedot*  
satisfactory or pass (1 1+ or 1,5), in Finnish *tydyttävät t.*  
fail (less than 1), in Finnish *hylätty*

The grades used in evaluating the Master's thesis are:

laudatur	}	excellent
eximia cum laude approbatur		
magna cum laude approbatur	}	good
cum laude approbatur		
non sine laude approbatur		
lubenter approbatur	}	satisfactory
approbatur		