



SUBJECT TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME (STEP)



TEACHING QUALIFICATIONS



TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS IN FINLAND

To be a qualified subject teacher in Finland, a person must have completed

- a higher University degree (a Master's degree)
- 60 ECTS of teachers' pedagogical studies
- At least 60 ECTS of subject studies:
 - In basic education (grades 1-9): 60 ECTS in the 1st teaching subject
 - In upper secondary education: 120 ECTS in the 1st teaching subject (and 60 ECTS in the 2nd or 3rd teaching subjects)
- Language requirements: in comprehensive school, teachers must possess excellent competence of the teaching language (usually Finnish or Swedish). In upper secondary school the requirement is to master the teaching language (determined by employer). Private international schools have their own language requirements.



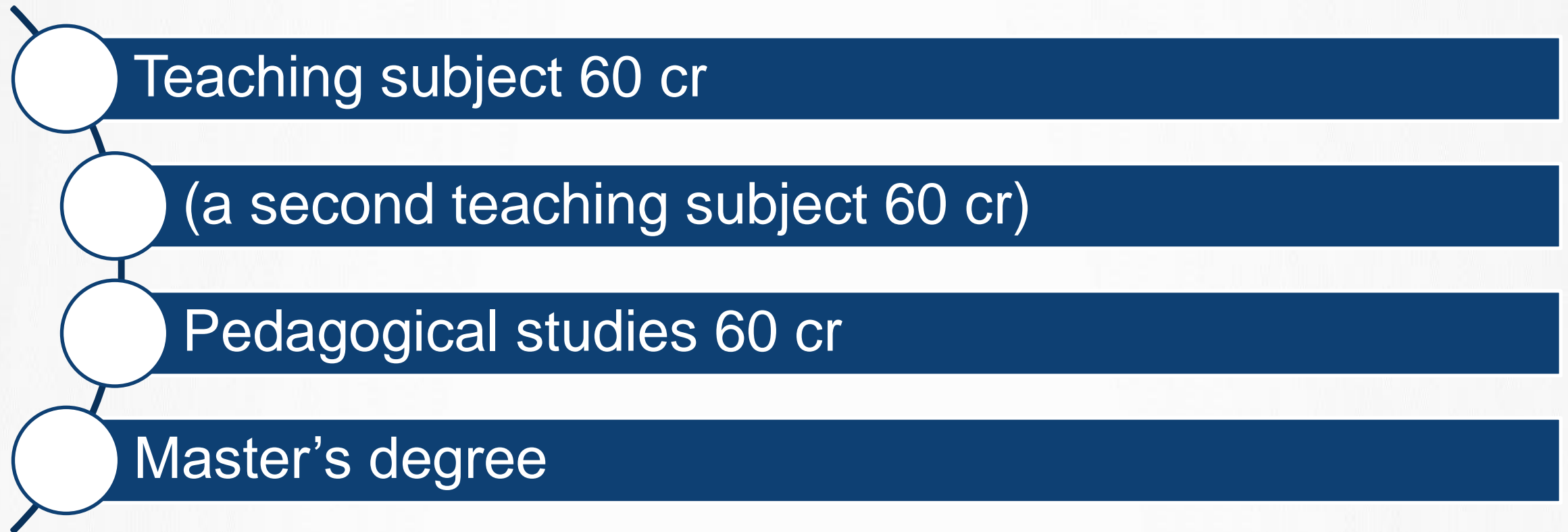
TEACHING QUALIFICATIONS

- You must have **at least 60 cr** (basic and intermediate studies) in a teaching subject → **competency to teach in comprehensive schools**
- **120 cr** (basic, intermediate and advanced studies) in the first teaching subject → **competency to teach also in upper secondary schools**
- Note: If you have 120 cr from your first teaching subject, 60 cr is enough for your second (or third etc.) teaching subject also for upper secondary schools



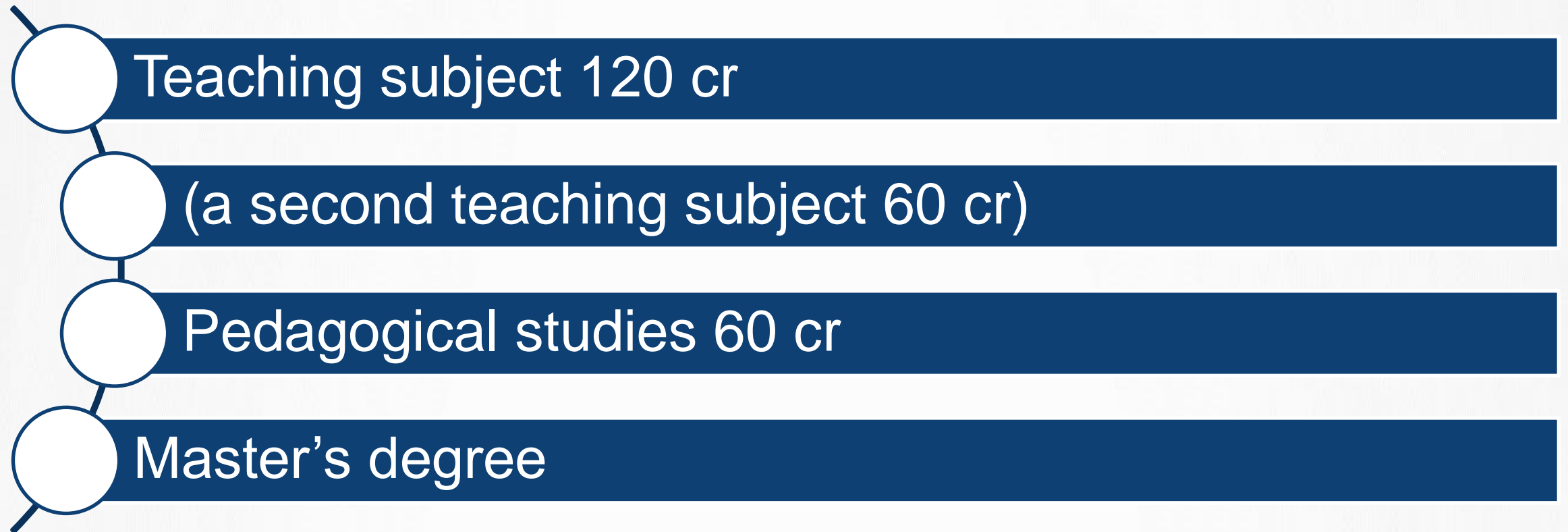


QUALIFICATION TO TEACH IN COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS (GRADES 1-9)





QUALIFICATION TO TEACH IN UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOLS



A photograph of a grand, multi-story classical building with a yellow facade and white columns. The building features a prominent portico with six tall columns on the left side. The windows are arched and decorated with ornate moldings. The building is situated on a street with a red car and bicycles visible in the foreground. The sky is clear and blue.

UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI THE CITY CENTRE CAMPUS

05/03/2024



FACULTY OF EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES - THE CITY CENTRE CAMPUS





SUBJECT TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN ENGLISH (STEP)

- The Subject Teacher Education Programme in English (**STEP**) is a 60 cr programme for students who want qualify as subject teachers in Finland.
- The programme includes 15 cr of studies in education, 25 cr of studies in subject didactics (=how to teach your own teaching subject) and 20 cr of teaching practices.
- The STEP programme offers pedagogical studies for the following subjects:
 - English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, and Swedish (Arts track)
 - Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics (Science track)



APPLYING FOR PEDAGOGICAL STUDIES

- There are no tuition fees in STEP programme.
- The studies are available for both degree students and non-degree students.
- **Degree students at the University of Helsinki** apply for STEP during their bachelor level but complete studies during their Master's.
 - It is not possible to apply for the pedagogical studies during the Master level studies.
 - Degree students' study right for STEP is valid as long as the study right for their Master's degree is valid.
- **Non-degree students'** study right is automatically valid for two years. And it is possible to apply for an extension for one more year.

A photograph of two young men sitting at a green metal table, engaged in a study session. The man on the left, wearing an orange t-shirt and glasses, is looking at a laptop. The man on the right, wearing a grey t-shirt, is gesturing with his hand while holding a pen, appearing to explain something. An open book lies on the table between them. The background shows a brick wall and a dark doorway.

STRUCTURE OF STUDIES



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Basic Studies 25 cr:

- Psychology of Learning and Development 5 cr
- Subject Didactics I: Curriculum and Teaching 10 cr
- Basic Practice 10 cr

Intermediate Studies 35 cr:

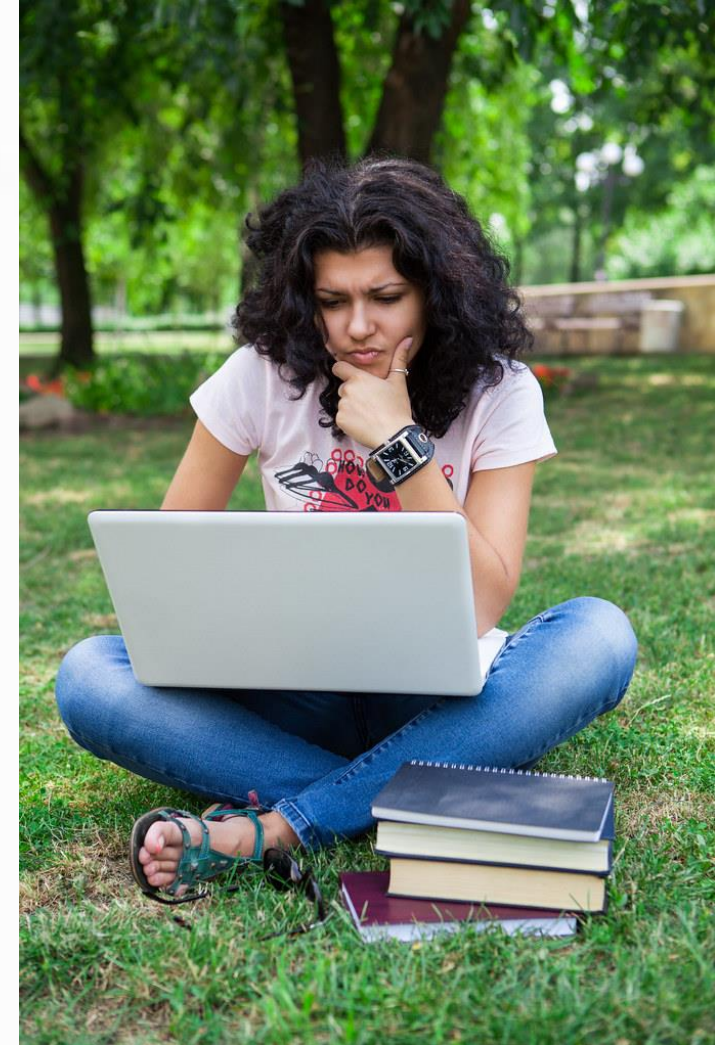
- Social, Cultural and Philosophical Foundations of Education 5 cr
- Support for Learning and Well-being 5 cr
- Subject Didactics II: Assessment and Development 5 cr
- Advanced Practice 10 cr
- Teacher as a Researcher Seminar 10 cr

Teaching Period	Subject Teacher Education Programme in English (60 cr)
1st teaching period (31.8.-20.10.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PED0061 Didactics 2 cr • PED311 Basic Practice: Getting Acquainted With School (1 cr) • PED002 Introduction to Educational Psychology 5cr • PED0032 Subject Didactics I: Curriculum and Teaching 10 cr • PED0066 Teacher as a Researcher 0,5/8 cr (<i>please note that this course continues in all four teaching periods</i>) • Total of 18,5 cr
2nd teaching period (23.10.-15.12.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PED311 Basic Practice, includes Guided Teaching Practice (8 cr) and Reflection (1 cr) • PED004 Support for Learning and Well-being 5 cr • PED0066 Teacher as a Researcher 0,5/8 cr • Total of 14,5 cr
3rd teaching period (15.1.-3.3.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PED001 Social, Cultural and Philosophical Foundations of Education 5 cr • PED007STEP Subject Didactics II: Assessment and Development 5 cr • PED0066 Teacher as a Researcher 3/8 cr • Total of 13 cr
4th teaching period (4.3.-31.5.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PED321 Advanced Practice 10 cr, includes: Guided Teaching Practice (9 cr) and Reflection (1 cr) • PED0066 Teacher as a Researcher 4/8 cr • Total of 14 cr



STUDY SCHEDULE

- **The whole STEP programme (60 ECTS) can be completed in one academic year. However, it is also possible to complete the courses over two years' time.**
- Officially, the programme lasts from 29 August 2024 until 31 May 2025. There is no teaching between 14.12.2024-5.1.2025..
- Classes can be scheduled between 8 am and 6 pm.
- Attendance is mandatory in all group work sessions.
- Teaching practices require a lot of time and schedules for them are done on the terms of the field schools.





DECISION FROM THE FINNISH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR EDUCATION

- Based on the decision on recognition of a qualification from the Finnish National Agency for Education (Opetushallitus in Finnish), you are required to complete either all or some of the courses in the STEP programme. However, you are welcome to participate in all of the courses provided in the STEP programme (60 cr), no matter what your decision states.
- Please note that after completing the required complimentary studies, you usually need to apply for a final decision from the [Finnish National Agency for Education](#).
- **If you have a decision from the Finnish National Agency for Education, and you receive an offer to study at STEP, please inform the Siltavuori Student Services at siltavuori-student@helsinki.fi as soon as you accept your place in the programme.**





TEACHING PRACTICES

- Pedagogical studies include **two teaching practices**
- Teaching practices take place in periods II and IV.
- Teaching practices are carried out in schools in the Greater Helsinki area where the language of instruction is English (so called field schools).
- **All students have their own supervisor teacher.**





TEACHING PRACTICES

- During the practices, students familiarize themselves with the school community, **observe** lessons, and **plan and teach** their own lessons.
- Students also participate in group guidance and **reflection** sessions.
- Students complete their practices in one subject, but they can be qualified to teach other subjects if they have (or later acquire) an equivalency certificate for the subjects.





THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Application period: 29.2.-14.3.2024**
- If you have received a decision on the recognition of a degree or studies from the Finnish National Agency for Education, please contact Siltavuori Study Services (siltavuori-student@helsinki.fi) as soon as you have a study right to STEP studies.
- The STEP programme (60 cr) cannot be completed remotely.





MORE INFORMATION

- General information about [STEP Programme](#) (incl. language proficiency)
- [Applying for STEP Programme](#)
- Application process: [Studyinfo.fi](#)
- Questions:
 - Application process: hakijapalvelut@helsinki.fi
 - Pedagogical studies, teaching practices: siltavuori-student@helsinki.fi





ANY QUESTIONS?