

Student admissions at universities of applied sciences: questions and answers

1 How have the universities of applied sciences decided to carry out student admissions in the spring of 2020?

Universities of applied sciences will carry out student admissions as previously announced: by selection based on school certificate and entrance exams.

The entrance examination for the second joint application system for universities of applied sciences will be arranged as a remote exam due to the current emergency conditions. The reason for this decision is to avoid endangering the health of applicants and staff and their family members.

2 What does the exam require of the applicant?

The applicant must have a working computer with Internet connection. The exam software supports up-to-date versions of the following browsers:

- Chrome
- Edge
- Firefox
- Internet Explorer 11
- Safari

Other modern browsers may work, as well.

You must have JavaScript and cookies enabled in your browser.

The software has been thoroughly tested with the following operating systems:

- Windows 10
- macOS 10.14
- Ubuntu Linux 18.04 LTS

Before the entrance examination, check the information on the ammattikorkeakouluun.fi website (in Finnish or Swedish).

3 Why was the entrance examination not postponed?

It is impossible to predict when the epidemic will end, and the situation may vary in different parts of the country. Therefore, it is impossible to also predict what would be a safe time for arranging the postponed entrance examination.

Postponing the exam would have affected the schedule of student admissions and thus the beginning of the autumn term. This would have made it harder for new students to move to their place of study and find apartments and possibly affected their student financial aid in early autumn.

4 Why are universities of applied sciences not carrying out student selection based on school certificate

Universities of applied sciences consider it important that applicants have also other routes to the degree programme besides selection based on school certificate.

Universities of applied sciences select approximately half of the students by selection based on school certificate. Depending on the study programme, 20–80 % of the available student places will be filled by selection based on school certificate

The number of applicants whose certificates cannot be scored in the same way as certificates for matriculation examination or vocational upper secondary qualifications completed after 1 August 2015 is 33,000. This group includes persons with an older vocational upper secondary qualification, a secondary level qualification, a further vocational qualification, a specialist vocational qualification, a degree completed abroad or a completed upper secondary school syllabus without a matriculation examination.

Extending the selection based on school certificate would not have ensured equal treatment of applicants.

5 Why was the decision to change entrance exams made only now? Why was the remote online exam not announced before the end of the joint application process?

Information available on coronavirus and the epidemic is constantly increasing and changing.

Universities of applied sciences have been cooperating on the matter with universities, the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Finnish National Agency for Education. During the preparation process, the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare has been providing information on the epidemic. The decision on exam arrangements has been made as soon as it has been possible to do so.

6 Is the solution now equal and legal for all applicants?

The decision to carry out entrance exams remotely gives all applicants the opportunity to try to get a student place. Issues of equality and legality are examined very carefully at all stages of the decision making process.

7 What should an applicant do now?

The changes do not require any action from the applicants at this stage.

By 30 April, applicants will be informed of the date of the entrance examination and the prerequisites for participating in it.

The changes are communicated on Studyinfo, the Ammattikorkeakouluun.fi website and the website of the universities of applied sciences. In addition, applicants are asked to follow the email address given in Studyinfo.