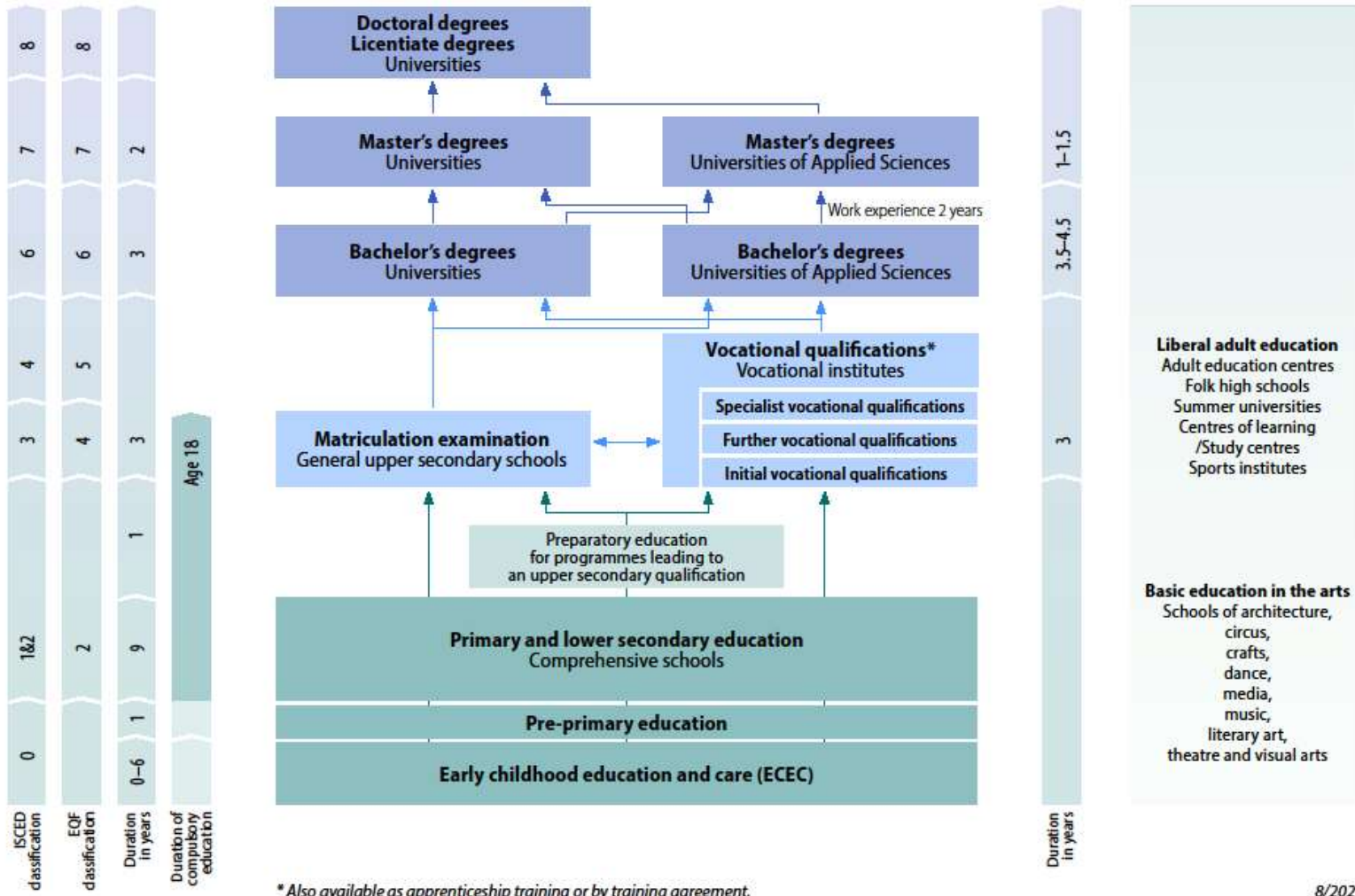


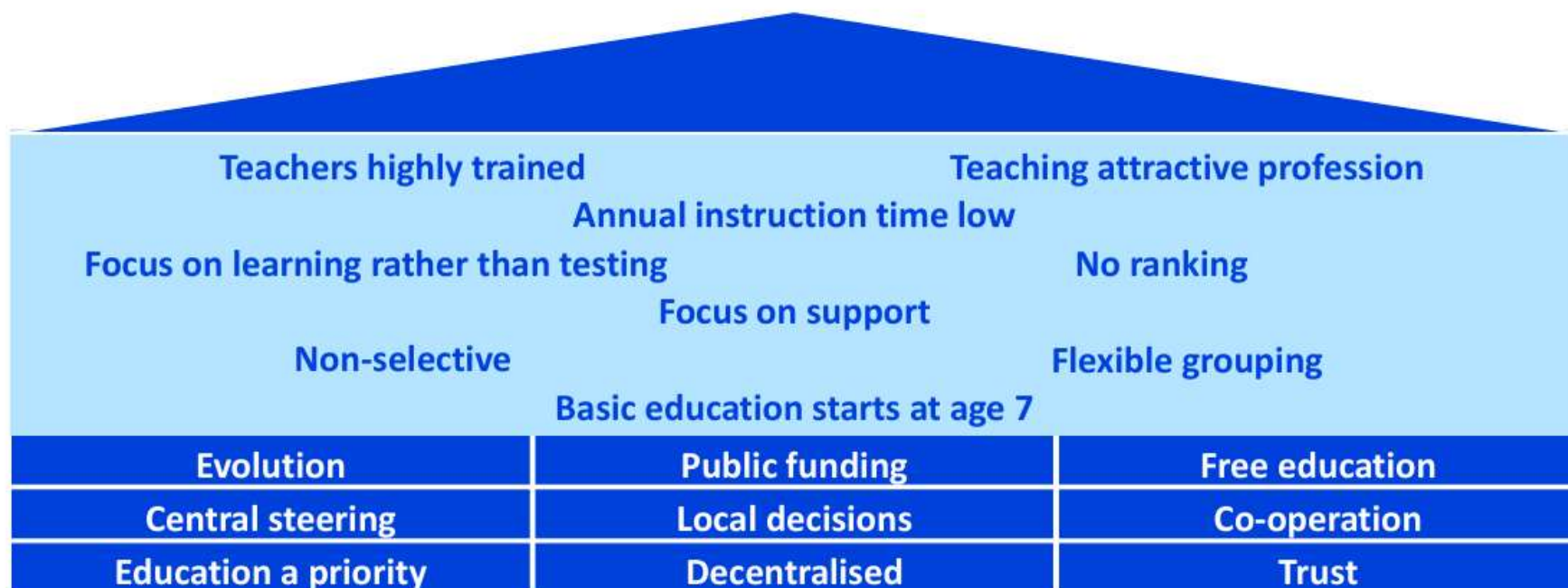
EDUCATION
SYSTEM
IN FINLAND



EDUCATION SYSTEM IN FINLAND



SPECIFICITIES OF THE FINNISH EDUCATION SYSTEM



ADMISSION TO FINNISH UNIVERSITIES AND UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES (UAS) – BRIEF SUMMARY

Finland uses several pathways for higher-education admission:

- **Certificate-based admission:** Universities and UAS select about half of the students based on matriculation exam results.
- **Entrance examinations:** Both universities and UAS use national or field-specific exams to assess academic skills.
- **Additional methods:** Some programmes require interviews, portfolios, aptitude tests, or standardized tests (like SAT).
- **Application routes:** Students apply through national **joint application** rounds or programme-specific **separate applications**.

THE BASICS ABOUT FINNISH UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL, KNOWN AS “**LUKIO**”



Focus: Lukio emphasizes both academic and personal development, preparing students for higher education and lifelong learning.



Duration: Lukio typically lasts for three years, although students can take longer if needed.



Free of charge: Lukio is free of charge until the age of 20. All materials and computers, etc., are provided by the City of Riihimäki.



Curriculum: The curriculum is broad and includes subjects like Finnish, Swedish, foreign languages, mathematics, sciences, humanities, and arts. Students have also flexibility to choose courses based on their interests and future plans.


- **Grading System:** The grading scale typically ranges from 4 (fail) to 10 (excellent). Also S (suoritettu = passed) is possible in electives.
- **Assessment/exam week:** the academic year is divided into five periods. At the end of each period, there is an assessment/exam week.
- **School-specific electives:** In our lukio, you can choose school-specific electives from all mandatory subjects. Additionally, you can study theater, robotics, ICT, entrepreneurship.
- **Diplomas:** You can also complete a diploma in music, physical education, and arts. Diplomas are national.



Distribution of lesson hours in general upper secondary education

Compulsory studies	94 – 102* credits
Minimum total of elective studies	48 – 56* credits
Minimum total number of studies	150 credits

*Total number depends on the student's scope of syllabus in mathematics



Matriculation examination

First national examination in the Finnish education system is at the end of general upper secondary education



- Minimum 5 tests
- Mother tongue + 4 of the following:
 - 2nd national language
 - foreign language
 - mathematics
 - general studies(one subject in sciences and humanities)

- One or more optional tests possible
- Biannual
- Examinations in arts and skills subjects (visual arts, music and physical education) will become part of the matriculation examination starting in autumn 2029.

Photo: Hanna Anttila