



Erasmus+

2016-2018 ERASMUS+ PROJECT, EUROPE AS A WORKSPACE,

STUDY AND WORK OPPORTUNITIES IN FINLAND



INTRODUCTION

The students directly involved in the program interviewed three companies, a consulting office for entrepreneurs, a vocational counselor, one university and one university of applied sciences.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES

- The most common occupations of women: practical nurse, salesperson, cleaner, nurse, office worker, teacher
- The most common occupations of men: construction worker, truck driver, salesperson, mechanic, technology specialist
- There's labour shortage in doctors, nurses, dentists, kindergarten teachers, social workers, special education teachers, telemarketers etc.
- The unemployment rate in Finland was 9,2 % in January 2017.

ECONOMY SECTORS

- The percentage of primary production in Finland is small, a few percent.
- The sector of manufacturing and refining is about 22%. The largest industries are metal products, forest industry, chemicals and electronics.
- About 73% of the employees in Finland work in the service sector.

WORKING SKILLS: SUMMARY OF THE INTERVIEWS

1. What skills does an employer look for in a job candidate? What is important regardless of the job?

Employers look for workers with the right attitude who are motivated, hard-working, spontaneous and decent. The

applicants need to have the education needed and good communication and team working skills. Punctuality and good behavior are also appreciated.

2. What is most important in writing a great CV and an excellent application letter?

It is important to target the CV and application letter to the specific job. Both should be written carefully and they should be informative and personal. All your skills, education and work experience should be included.

3. What is important to the employer when it comes to work experience?

Experience in similar tasks or skills which are useful in different jobs.

4. What schooling/qualification (vocational/university/polytechnic...) might give the best possibility to get a job in the future?

The basic requirements are language and ICT skills plus a suitable education for the job. In the future there might be more vacancies f. ex. in the fields of health care, ICT, construction, creativity and inventions.

5. Why are communication skills so important in the world of work? Which foreign languages will be important in the future? Why?

You have to be able to tell your messages clearly. English will be important in the future because it is global language. Other languages might be Chinese, Spanish, German, French, Russian etc. Especially in the export business it's very important that the language of the export destination country is understood in the company.

6. Why is "teamwork/collaboration" one of the skills needed in the world of work?

Teamwork is always needed in working life since it always leads to better results. There are many projects at the workplaces and teams change all the time. You have to be able to work with all the people from different cultures.

7. What does "learning to learn" mean? Which skills are "learning to learn"-skills? Why do employees need "learning to learn" -skills in the future?

Being critical while looking for information, determining what information is reliable, connecting information collected from different sources. You know the best way to learn for yourself and you can overcome challenges and learn from your failures.

8. Which other skills will be needed in the future working world?

Social skills, flexibility, creativity, ICT skills, independent working, an open mind for f. ex. different cultures.

9. What are the advantages of being an entrepreneur?

Making your own decisions and successes, freedom to plan the job and daily work.

10. What are the disadvantages of being an entrepreneur?

Huge responsibility, economic risks, uncertainty, facing competition and remembering to take care of yourself (tiredness, family life etc.).

11. How will the future job market look like? In which jobs will new workers be needed in the future? Which job types will be threatened most by automation? In which jobs will there be fewer job vacancies?

Automation threatens simple manufacturing jobs that are mechanical and repetitive, assembly line jobs. There might be more job openings f. ex. for journalists and in construction, ICT and health care. However, there might be fewer vacancies for accountants, secretaries as well as in culture and natural sciences.

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES AT UNIVERSITIES

- There are 14 universities in Finland and the nearest university to Äänekoski is the University of Jyväskylä, which has about 15 000 students
- There are Bachelor's programmes in Jyväskylä, but only in Finnish.
- If you have studied the Bachelor's degree in your own country, you can apply to Master's programmes, which are available in English in all Finnish universities.
- The application period for Master's programmes is in January/February
- Studying at universities is totally free, the tuition fees are only for non-EU citizens (8 000 to 12 000 EUR per year)
- At the university of Jyväskylä, for example, there are seven faculties: Education, Humanities, Information Technology, Mathematics and Science, Social Sciences, Sport and Health Sciences as well as Business and Economics.
- University of Helsinki: moved to Helsinki in 1828 when being under the sway of Soviet Union), the 91st place in World university rankings 2017, about 40 000 students, has 11 faculties and 4 campuses around Helsinki

- Aalto University: located in Greater Helsinki area, close to 20 000 students, was founded in 2010 (3 older schools united), science, business and arts, Finland's second highest ranking university
- University of Turku: more than 20 000 students, has seven faculties and seven independent units, current president of Finland, Sauli Niinistö studied there
- University of Jyväskylä: Since 1863, about 40 kilometres from Äänekoski central Finland, 6 faculties, 15 000 students
- University of Oulu: campus areas and six faculties

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES AT UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES

- There are 25 universities of applied sciences in Finland.
- The Polytechnic of Jyväskylä is the nearest university of applied sciences and the school has approx. 8500 students and 700 staff members .
- A year at a polytechnic doesn't cost anything for EU-citizens but non-EU students have to pay a tuition fee of 8000€.
- A foreigner gets assigned a tutor in Finland to help with the Finnish ways, for example with banking, living and going to the store etc.
- At the Polytechnic of Jyväskylä, for example, you can study ICT, Culture, Business Administration, Natural Resources and the Environment, Tourism and Hospitality, Social Services and Health Care, Technology and Transport.
- Metropolia: polytechnic in the Greater Helsinki area, has 3 offices, a quantity of students is about 16 500, culture, business economics, social and health, technology
- TAMK – a Polytechnic of Tampere: about 10 000 students, same educations as in Metropolia
- Polytechnic of Turku: In Turku and also in Salo, has 4 teaching divisions, about 8850 students, you can study almost everything from media industry to industrial management
- Haaga-Helia: About 10 500 students, 3 campuses (Vierumäki, porvoo, Helsinki), business, information technology,

hotel, catering and tourism industry, management's Assistants, journalist training, sports management and vocational teacher education

TABLE OF ALL ANSWERS

	Factor	Shop	Business services	Vocational counsellor	Entrepreneur
1. What skills does an employer look for in a job candidate? What is important regardless of the job?	The right attitude is the most important thing. You have to be motivated and hard-working too.	A job candidate has to be spontaneous, outgoing and decent. The candidate is interested in the company where he/she applies. In trade sector the applicant can easily be educated for the job tasks so no specialty is required. The most important thing is to give a positive image of yourself in the interview.	The employer expects good behaviour and being a good co-worker. A good attitude for the work; that they ask for advice and are interested in learning the job. Punctuality and trustworthiness.	An employer expects a job candidate to be versatile and flexible. The most important skills are interaction, communication and collaboration skills regardless of the job.	Education / training/ professionalism, team working skills and the ability to work under pressure.

2. What is most important in writing a great CV and an excellent application letter?	It is important to target the CV and application letter to the specific job. You can also find out about the company.	An application letter should be done carefully and you should tell about yourself as versatile as possible. In the application you tell about your education, work experience and give a good and honest image of yourself. If the application has a free form, write a sales pitch selling yourself. If it is a little out of the ordinary, it will stay better in mind. It is also good to include a picture.	It is important to write the CV and the job application thinking about the job that you are applying for: what things are important in that particular job and how you can use your experience or expertise in it. It is also important to answer the questions that are asked in the job advertisement.	An excellent application will be done just for the certain workplace. It should be tempting and differ from the crowd in a good way. It should also tell about the skills of the candidate and insure the candidate is suitable for the job.	It should be informative, well organized but in a relaxed, natural way
3. What is important to the employer when it comes to	It is an advantage if you have earlier experience in similar tasks.	It is important to know where your work experience has been obtained.	The employer wants to know what the applicant has done or what they are capable of	The employer prefers job candidates who can do the job and fulfill their demands.	This varies depending on the case and what kind of job they're applying for.

work experience?		Can the previous experience be used in future tasks? On the other hand, even if it is a work in a different sector, sometimes the skills learned can be useful in a different context.	doing in practice.		Challenging positions of course require more work experience.
4. What schooling/qualification (vocational/university/polytechnic...) might give the best possibility to get a job in the future?	There is a demand for any kind of schooling/qualification.	Schooling in the trade sector (business college, polytechnic) is always an advantage when you are applying for trade work.	Jobs based on expertise or requiring creativity and inventing new things.	The best occupations or schoolings to get a job in the future: nurse, health and well-being, doctor, dentist, building, architect, environment engineer, teacher and education, free time and youth work, ICT and cyber safety, paramedic, speech therapist, chef, kindergarten teacher.	There are the basic requirements, like language skills, ICT-skills and general education. The rest vary depending on the job and profession
5. Why are communication skills so	You have to be able to tell your messages clearly.	Communication skills are one of the most	To know less common languages is always a good	The languages needed listed by the British Council a few	Globalisation makes the world smaller in a way, so

important in the world of work? Which foreign languages will be important in the future? Why?	English will be important in the future because it is global language. But any kind of language skills will help your chances to get a job too.	important skills in the business work. Product/service must be sold to the customer by talking. The seller has to be capable of introducing different products in an easily understandable way and justify what is the best decision to the customer. This should be done with respect for the customer. In addition to Finnish, the salesperson should also be able to serve customers in English.	thing. In addition to English, also Spanish, Chinese and Russian are big languages that are spoken by many people.	years ago were Chinese, Spanish, Arabic, French, German. EU members answered: -English, German, French, Spanish, Chinese. Additionally, Russian is usually stated to be an important language in the future. These languages are often needed in the marketing, business and trade. Especially in the export business it's very important that the language of the export destination country is understood in the company.	you have to be able to communicate in multiple languages. English is the most important since with it you'll be okay in a lot of places but also German, Spanish and Russian would be very useful.
6. Why is "team work/collaboration" one	You have to be able to work with all the people from different	In the world of work you have to get along with different	Different kinds of expertise are usually needed when it comes to	Communication and collaboration skills will be emphasized in the future because	Teamwork is always needed in working life since it always leads to

of the skills needed in the world of work?	cultures.	stakeholders, for example customers, suppliers and workmates. Good cooperation skills affect the workplace, for example the working environment.	doing different steps of projects. One person seldom has all the knowledge needed widely enough.	work is done less alone. There are many projects at the workplaces and teams change all the time. It's important that people can work with different persons and notice everyone.	better results.
7. What does "learning to learn" mean? Which skills are "learning to learn"-skills? Why do employees need "learning to learn" -skills in the future?	You have to know what is the right way to learn for yourself.	In trade sector products and services are evolving all the time. The workers have to be interested in selling products and ready to evolve oneself and one's knowledge. For example computer skills are needed.	Being critical while looking for information, determining what information is reliable, connecting information collected from different sources.	"Learning to learn" means that you can face challenges and get over failures. You can also enjoy learning.	
8. Which other skills will be needed in the future	Flexibility and being able to adapt to changes. Also ICT skills will be needed.	Computer is used more and more in different work tasks. Good	Social skills when working with people, creativity to solve constantly changing problems	The employers need employees who can learn new things, be flexible, excited, creative and	As globalisation progresses, we will need an open mind for meeting new people who come

working world?		word processing and spreadsheet skills are necessary. Also social media knowledge is an advantage.	and to face new situations.	unprompted. The meaning of human interaction and language skills will increase.	from different cultures.
9. What are the advantages of being an entrepreneur ?	You can decide about the things by yourself. There is also some kind of freedom.	There are no fixed working hours, diverse range of work tasks and freedom to plan your own day.	As an entrepreneur you can choose to make use of your own skills in many different ways.	You can do what you want and when you want because an entrepreneur creates his/her own workplace. Something that was earlier your hobby can turn into your job.	You have the freedom to make your own decisions, mistakes and successes
10. What are the disadvantages of being an entrepreneur ?	You have all the responsibilities when it comes to your company. There is always a risk that your company won't succeed.	There are no fixed working hours and big responsibility.	Being uncertain about future work	The job takes more time and this can cause tiredness. Family life and being an entrepreneur might be a bad combination. Also economic uncertainty might be possible.	There are a lot of challenges: competition, investing, having the energy to keep going etc.
11. How will the future job market look like? In	All kinds of workers will be needed in the future. There will	People's purchasing power has weakened	Automation threatens mechanical and repetitive work the	In addition to number 4, the number of journalists can	Globalization will proceed and change the job market. At the same time

<p>which jobs will new workers be needed in the future? Which job types will be threatened most by automation? In which jobs will there be fewer job vacancies?</p>	<p>be a lot of jobs in health care. Simple manufacturing jobs will be threatened most by automation.</p>	<p>significantly in the last few years because of general depression. This causes challenges for businesses. Also online stores cause challenges for the shops. Paid workers must be multi-skilled and be able to work in many product groups.</p>	<p>most. There will be even more need for people who do creative work in the future.</p>	<p>increase. New innovations may bring new professions. Jobs within culture and natural sciences will decrease. Robotics replaces workers but also brings new jobs. Also accountants and secretaries will have less work in the future.</p>	<p>technology develops and some jobs will disappear entirely from the factory /assembly line work. But for smart and multilingual people there is always work all around the world.</p>
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