

Guidance services at the Open University

University of Jyväskylä - University of Excellence in Adult Education

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- part of adult education / life long learning / in universities
 - legislation and general guidance from the Ministry of Education
 - universities negotiate about funding with the Ministry every year for three-year periods (2004-2006, 2007-2009...)
 - 50-70 % of funding comes from the Ministry (based on the results)
 - 30-50 % of funding comes from study fees
 - Competition in the market of education
 - Strong customer orientation
- Open university studies are organized by 19 Finnish universities
 - models, amount of studies and educational institute **partners** (network), organizations and methods of learning vary quite a lot

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Target: to increase educational equality (“minimize the obstacles in learning”)

- free entry regardless of age and educational background
 - challenges for guidance and support
- possibility to apply for admission to university studies through the open university channel (without entrance examinations)
- regional equality; open universities organize their studies “outside the campus” through different methods and partners
 - also possibilities for distance learning
- mainly for adults (earlier 25+, now also younger ; 40 % under 25 years old
 - applying the theory, idea and methods of adult education
- not expensive (?)

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■ general "rules"

- responsibility for the quality assurance in faculties
- study programmes
 - the same requirements as in the faculties, different methods in organizing studies
 - some subject studies have the status of minor studies (focus on substance, less methodological studies)
 - also some multidisciplinary studies which are based on the actual phenomena in society; these studies are not available in faculties
- teachers and tutors are accepted in the faculties
- students get their certificates from the faculties
- co-operation between the faculties, departments, students and the open university

Why collaborate with the Open University of Jyväskylä University?

- nearly 1/4 (18 000) of Finnish open university students study at the Open University of Jyväskylä
- nationwide and also abroad
 - ca. 160 partner institutions in adult education organize studies from the Open University of Jyväskylä
 - **large network** (guidance, quality assurance, help, education)
- studies from 7 faculties, ca. 60 subjects
 - basic studies and also subject studies in 28 subjects
 - language-, communication- and general studies from almost all degree programmes
 - mainly in Finnish
 - more and more possibilities to study also in English

Study requirements

- Basic studies at least 25 credits
- Subject studies at least 35 credits
- one credit requires about 27 hours of work

The philosophy and model of teaching/learning at the Open University of Jyväskylä

- focus and values of the Open University:
 - teaching and learning are student-centered; lifelong learning
 - student's own responsibility and self-guidance
 - academic education
 - success of educational institute partners
 - innovativeness and willingness for renewal
 - sustainable development

Humanistic orientation in adult learning

- everybody can learn or learn to learn
- student instruction and guidance important, **flexible** student services
- different targets and motives in the studies
 - as a starting point for planning the studies (theoretical orientation – adapting theory to practice)
 - different methods of learning, for passing the courses

■ An own pedagogical strategy

- own pedagogically qualified teachers in many studies/subjects
 - easy to get in touch
- **Academic, value based and supportive “good guidance” at the right time as “a guiding light”:**
 - Independence in self-guidance (self-evaluation, reflection)
 - web pages for general guidance and for specific studies/subjects
 - VAINU: a web-based programme for planning the studies and the carrier
 - printed guidebooks in each subject (how to study, what to do, how to solve problems, step-to-step instructions)
 - personal guidance
 - phone, e-mail or Skype can be used to contact the study counsellor, customer service, manager of education, teachers
 - appointments
 - personal feedback on exams and essays, support when needed
 - a group of peer students

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