

Supporting higher education paths* of refugees and migrants – piloting model in University of Jyväskylä

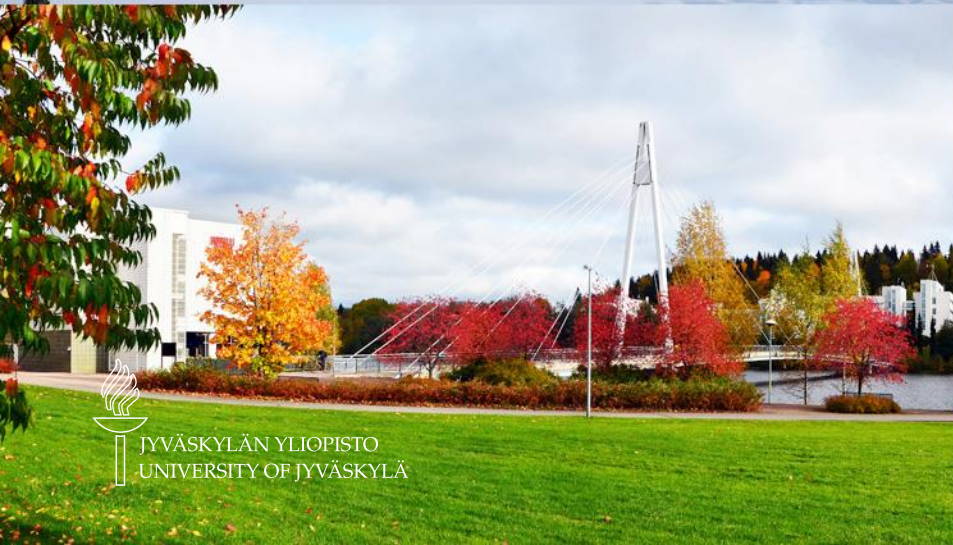
Staff Training Week
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Marita Häkkinen, Planning Officer, Student and Academic Services,
University of Jyväskylä

marita.h.hakkinen@jyu.fi

*SIMHE = Supporting Immigrants in Higher Education in Finland





JYVÄSKYLÄN YLIOPISTO
UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ

Demographical development

- Migrant population increase from 1990's
 - In 2016 Finland's migrant proportion 6,6 %
- Rapid changes in refugee situation
 - 3651 asylum seekers in 2014
 - **32 476 in 2015** (RP's to 30 % only)
 - 5 651 in 2016
- Age range (youth and young adults) and educational backgrounds (highly educated) of asylum seekers and refugees

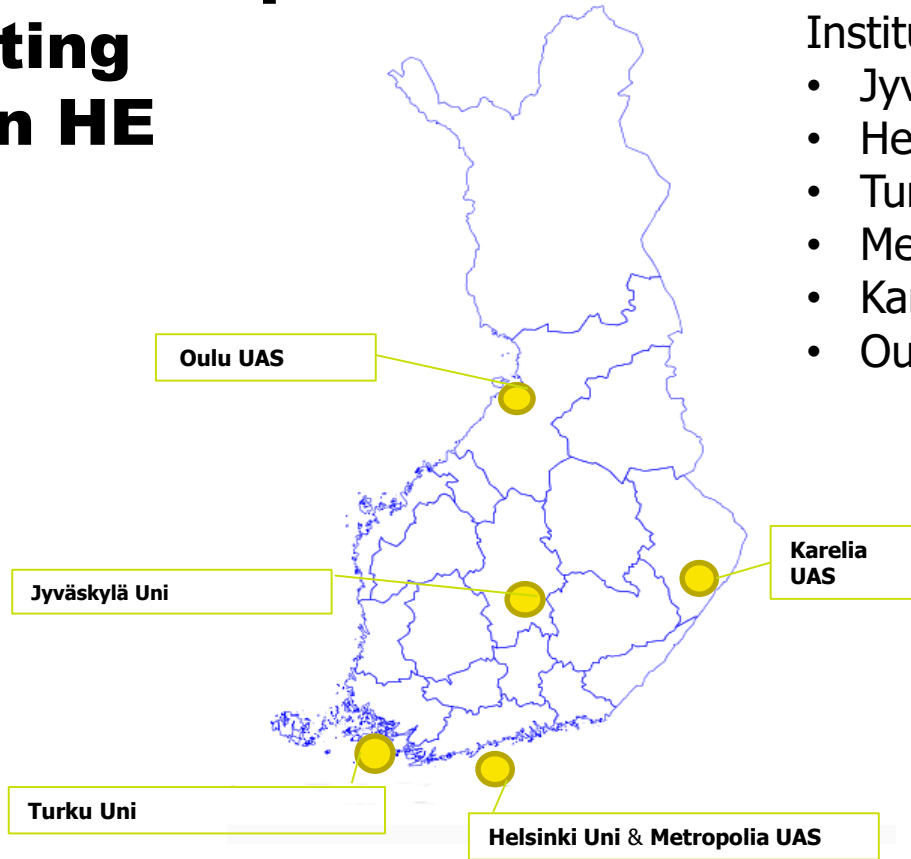


Broader context in higher education

- First steps towards supportive initiative by the Ministry of Education and Culture from late 2015
- Finnish HE institutions responsible for developing models to support migrant and refugee prospective students = **SIMHE**
- **SIMHE** at the University of Jyväskylä since March 2016
 - Other 5 HEI's including universities and applied sciences implementing SIMHE but slightly different focuses
 - Each HEI offers G&C, access to academic courses and support for RPL processes -> to streamline study and career paths



Institutions in responsible for supporting migrants in HE (SIMHE)



Institutions 2017-2020

- Jyväskylä Uni
- Helsinki Uni
- Turku Uni
- Metropolia UAS
- Karelia UAS
- Oulun UAS

Effective support rests on networks

- Committed networks and collaboration
 - HEI's, integration education providers, National Agency for Education, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, social partners, reception centres, multicultural centers, associate projects etc.



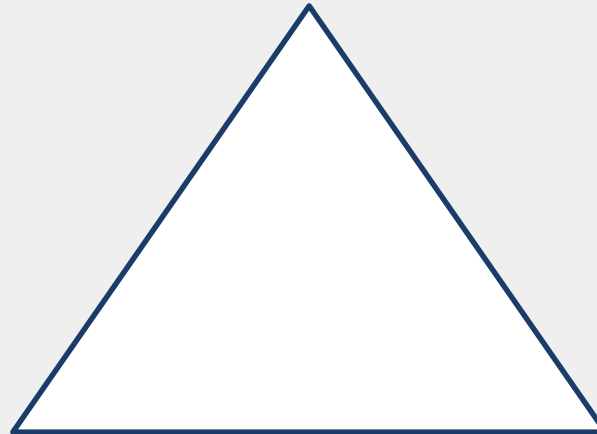
Integra in Finland, 45 ECTS integration training programme for prospective refugee and migrant students



University Language

Centre:

- Coordinator
- Finnish studies
- English studies



SIMHE:

- Guidance
- Support
- E.g. Individual study plans

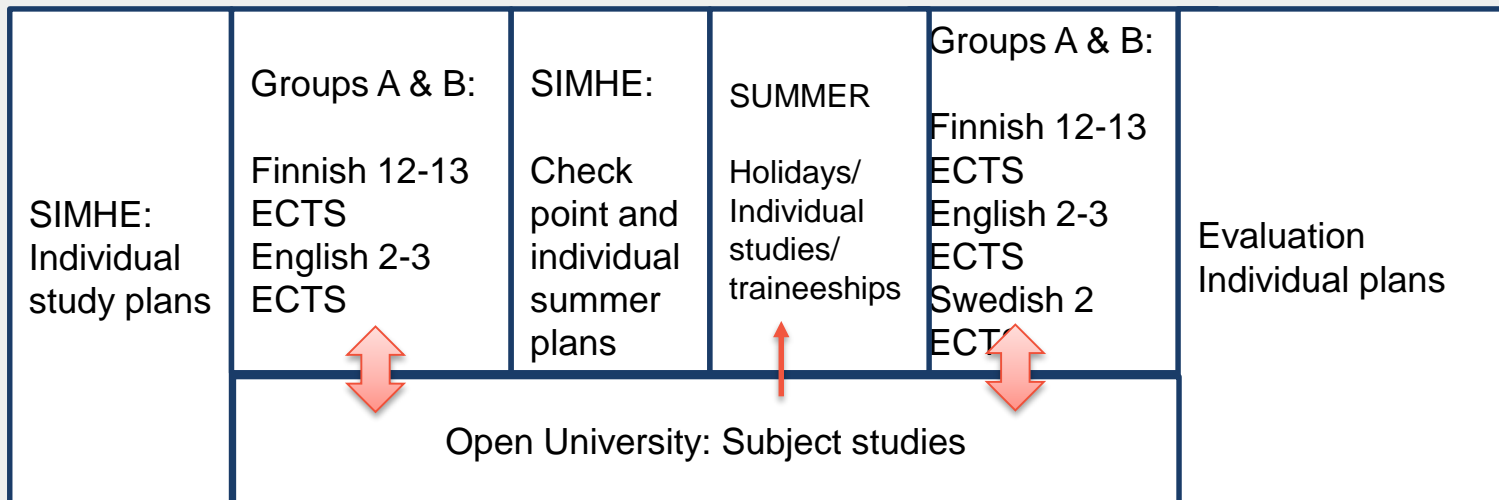
Open University:

- Subject studies, e.g. Economics, IT, Educational Sciences



Programme structure, Integra in Finland

- Languages 30 ECTS
- Subject studies 10 ECTS
- Counselling (individual and group) 5 ECTS



Student recruitment and backgrounds

- 22 students began Integra studies March, 5th 2018
- All students have previously studied years or full degrees (bachelors/masters) within HE from various fields
- Finnish language levels from A1 to B2
- English language levels from A1 to C1
- Strong motivation and orientation to further studies
- Employment office supports and unemployment benefits against credits



Initial experiences

- Students with good English skills and ability to proceed fast in Finnish studies have adjusted well
- Even students with relatively basic Finnish or English level have expressed great motivation and benefitting their studies
- "Key factor" seems to be active participation in group based learning and discussions
- Every student needs regular individual support for planning their studies and adjusting the community



Information online

- **SIMHE-JYU** (University of Jyväskylä):
<https://opiskelu.jyu.fi/en/apply/simhe/simhe-guidance-and-counselling>
- SIMHE publications:
 - “More than just a project”
<https://jyx.jyu.fi/dspace/handle/123456789/56007>
 - “Open the doors!” <https://jyx.jyu.fi/dspace/handle/123456789/53167>

Webportals:

- Studyinfo.fi providing degree studies, open Higher Education etc.:
<https://studyinfo.fi/wp2/en/>
- HE knowledge for students living in Finland: <http://www.studyinfinland.fi/>
- Finnish Immigration Service: http://www.migri.fi/studying_in_finland





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