

**2016-2017**

English-Language Instruction in Espoo

English language comprehensive school instruction is intended for children and young people who live in Espoo and speak English as their mother tongue or otherwise possess sufficient English language skills.

Nearly all instruction is conducted in English within the scope of the English language instruction system. The objective of English-language instruction is to provide pupils with a language proficiency that allows them to continue their studies in English even after comprehensive school. English-language instruction complies with the Finnish basic education curriculum in all subjects. English is the pupils' A1 language. Pupils can choose an optional A2-level language starting in the fourth grade.

Finnish language studies are compulsory for all pupils. Pupils who do not have sufficient Finnish skills to study Finnish as a mother tongue, study Finnish as a second language. Since the language of almost all instruction is English, those applying to the English language instruction must fluently speak English and understand spoken English.

ESPOO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL [espoo.fi/espoointernationalschool](http:// espoo.fi/espoointernationalschool)

Street address: Lillhemntintie 1
Postal address: P.O.Box 3343, 02070 CITY OF ESPOO
Principal Anne-Marie Rapo
Tel: 050 343 2460
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School Secretary, tel. 09 816 39124

- x Number of students: 565, grades 1-9
- x A1-language: English
- x A2-languages: French, Spanish
- x B1-language: Swedish
- x B2-languages: German, Spanish, Russian

APPLYING TO 1ST GRADE

In addition to enrolling for the basic education in web service Wilma (<https://wilma.espool.fi>) guardians fill in the form "Application for education in English (1st Grade)" and submit it to Espoo International School by 22 January 2016, at the latest. Signed applications must be submitted as email attachments to [eis.admissions@ espoo.fi](mailto: eis.admissions@ espoo.fi) or by post to the Principal of Espoo International School (see address above).

New pupils applying for English-language instruction take part in exams on 3rd-4th February 2016. Espoo International School will send the applicants a personal invitation to the examinations.

Pupils can also apply to bilingual instruction. The primary form of instruction is marked on the application and the choice is binding. When applying to both forms of instruction, the guardians must fill in two separate forms:

1. "Application for education in English (1st Grade)"
2. "Hakemus kaksikieliseen opetukseen".

If the new pupil is simultaneously also applying to bilingual instruction, the exam that evaluates reading and writing proficiency is taken in Finnish.

Application forms are available at [espoo.fi/opetuslomakkeet](http:// espoo.fi/opetuslomakkeet) and the school office.

The following briefings regarding English language instruction and bilingual instruction will be organised for parents and guardians:

Pupils entering the seventh grade, 7 January 2016 at 6 p.m., Espoo International School

Pupils entering the first grade, 11 January 2016 at 6 p.m., Espoo International School



Starting school one year before the statutory age

It is possible to start basic education one year before the statutory age, if the child possesses the skills to cope with studying based on psychological and, if necessary, medical examinations. In this case, the child begins school the year he/she turns six. The examinations (development assessments) required for six-year-olds to begin their education are privately conducted, and guardians are responsible for any expenses incurred from such examinations.

New pupils applying to English-language instruction must undergo a development assessment prior to taking the entrance exam. In order for the pupil to be allowed to participate in the language proficiency test, his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) must submit a copy of a child development assessment prepared in Finland to Espoo International School before the entrance examination. The parent(s)/guardian(s) must also submit the application entitled "Perusopetuksen aloittaminen poikkeavasti" and the original development assessment document by 15 February 2016 to:

Finnish Education Unit
Head of the Schools Psychology Services Kirsi Raunela
P.O. Box 31
02070 CITY OF ESPOO

The application form for starting basic education before the statutory age is available at

espoo.fi/opetuksenlomakkeet

Admission criteria for pupils

Applicants are admitted to first grade based on the following exams:

- ✗ English language skills are tested in an interview and a group assignment.
- ✗ In addition, applicants take an exam that evaluates their linguistic proficiency either in Finnish or in English depending on the guardian's choice.

In order to be accepted, the applicant must achieve the minimum score, determined in advance, in all sections of the exam. After this, applicants are admitted in order of their total score from these exams.

Placing on a waiting list

Applicants who have completed their exams successfully or have exceeded the minimum acceptable score, but have not been admitted due to the limited number of study places, are placed on a waiting list and ranked in order of their score. If places become available by the exam day in August at the latest, the principal will invite applicants on the waiting list in ranking order to fill in an available place. Espoo residents have priority of admission. The waiting list expires on the exam day in August.

If the guardians of a new pupil who is on the waiting list wish to remove their child from the list, they must contact the principal of Espoo International School.

For more detailed information on the admissions procedure regarding English language instruction, please see espoo.fi > Childcare and Education > Comprehensive Education > Instruction in the English language.



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Application in August

Espoo International School may leave up to 10 study places unfilled for the exams in August. The exams in August are for those who move to Espoo after the 22 January 2016 but before the exam day in August, and who have not taken part in the February exams. An applicant who has already lived in Espoo during the application period ending in January, but has not taken part in the February exams, cannot take part in exams in August.

In August, the remaining study places will be given to those placed on the waiting list in February and to those who participated in the August exams. Espoo residents will not have priority of admission at this stage. If two applicants have the same score, admission will be determined by drawing lots.

APPLYING TO 7TH GRADE

Application for admission to English language instruction will take place in January in connection with registering a pupil to enter the seventh grade. The pupil's parent(s)/guardian(s) must submit the application form entitled "Middle (lower secondary) school registration" through Wilma at <https://wilma.espoo.fi> by 15 January 2016. New applicants will be invited to the entrance examination organised by Espoo International School (English language test).

Pupils who have attended English language instruction in Espoo in the sixth grade may transfer to the seventh grade without participating in a separate entrance examination. These pupils do not have to apply separately for English-language instruction in their own school for grades 7-9.

Applying to 6th grade after the 7th grade entrance exam has already been held

If the applicant has taken the 7th grade entrance exam in February in order to start school there in the beginning of the next school year, he/she may no longer take part in the entrance exam to be admitted to 6th grade.

Admission criteria for pupils

Applicants are admitted based on the admissions protocol regarding comprehensive school instruction in English:

1. Pupils who have attended English language instruction in Espoo in the sixth grade
2. Pupils from Espoo who pass the English language test are admitted in the order of their total score.
3. Pupils from other municipalities who pass the English language test are admitted in the order of their total score.

Placing on a waiting list

New applicants who have completed their exams successfully or have exceeded the minimum acceptable score, but have not been admitted due to the limited number of study places, are placed on a waiting list and ranked in order of their score. If places become available during spring or summer, or by the exam day in August at the latest, the principal of Espoo International School will invite applicants on the waiting list in ranking order to fill in an available place. Espoo residents have priority of admission. The waiting list expires on the exam day in August.

If the guardians of a new pupil who is on the waiting list wish to remove their child from the list, they must contact the principal of Espoo International School.

For more detailed information on the admissions procedure regarding English language instruction, please see espoo.fi > Childcare and Education > Comprehensive Education > Instruction in the English language.



Application in August

In August, any remaining study places are filled by applicants who were placed on a waiting list on the exam day in February as well as applicants taking part in the exam day in August in the order of their exam scores. At this stage, Espoo residents no longer have priority of admission. If two applicants have the same score and both cannot be granted a study place, the choice is decided by a draw.

APPLYING TO GRADES 2-9

New pupils applying to grades 2-9 in English-language instruction are admitted primarily in the beginning of a school year, if there are available study places.

Guardians fill in the form "Application for education in English (Grades 2-9)" and submit it to Espoo International School. Signed applications must be submitted as email appendices to eis.admissions@espoo.fi or by post to the Principal of Espoo International School (see address on page 1). The applicants must participate in an entrance examination organised in August before the beginning of the school year (English language test). The applicants must have studied in English-language instruction directly prior to the application process, in Finland or abroad.

Pupils are selected in the order of the score they received in the English language exam. All applicants, regardless of their grade, must achieve the minimum acceptable score, determined in advance, in all sections of the exam. If two applicants have the same score, the choice is decided by a draw. Espoo residents do not have priority of admission in the entrance examination held in August.

Pupils who have been to school abroad are assigned a grade matching their age-level, according to their year of birth. Applicants who have studied in Finland are admitted to a grade according to their latest certificate in basic education.

Applicants who have not been assigned a study place in Espoo until the end of the school year

If it is reasonably possible, these applicants must participate in an entrance exam in August, if they are applying to grades 2-6 or in February, if they are applying to grades 7-9.

If the pupil has moved to Espoo and wishes to begin studying in English-language instruction in the middle of a school year, the principal of Espoo International School may grant the right to take the entrance exam during a time that allows the pupil to start school immediately after he/she has passed the examination.

Applicants rejected in the entrance exam

An applicant who has been rejected in the exam in February may re-take the entrance exam no earlier than the February of the following year, and an applicant who has been rejected in the exam in August may re-take it in the August of the following year. If the applicant has taken the entrance exam at another time during the autumn term and has been rejected, he/she may re-take the entrance exam no earlier than the following August. If the applicant has been rejected in the entrance exam during the spring term, he/she may re-take the entrance exam no earlier than the August of the following year.

Applicants living in other municipalities

In accordance with the cooperation agreement between the cities of Espoo and Kauniainen, English language instruction applicants from Kauniainen are treated in the same way as applicants from Espoo.

If study places are still available, the principal of Espoo International School may admit pupils from other municipalities who have successfully passed the entrance exam.