

National Qualification Requirements for VET

Finland

Vocational education - eRequirements

DESCRIPTION

The Finnish National Agency for Education sets the national qualification requirements for vocational education and training, which all education providers are obligated to follow. These national qualification **requirements integrate the fundamental values and competence objectives** of VET.

According to these values, **VET equips individuals and communities with the ability to make decisions based on ethical and critical reflection, empathy, and informed consideration. Inclusion, active agency, and togetherness** are emphasised throughout VET activities. VET also promotes **equality, non-discrimination, well-being, and democracy** as well as **respect for human rights, tolerance, and cultural and other forms of diversity**. These underlying values are reflected in the culture of VET institutions as well as in the acquisition and demonstration of competencies and in the learning environments.

Initial vocational qualifications include mandatory social studies. In addition to that, students may have **additional voluntary courses in social subjects**. The compulsory learning outcomes cover competences about **how to operate as a member of society** (such as understanding fundamental rights, responsibilities, and the principles of equity and equality) and **how to act as an active and influencing citizen**. They also provide essential knowledge about **working life, including the key principles of the labour market and legislation, and employment contracts**.

Overall, the goal of these underlying values and national qualification requirements is **to support and enhance students' understanding and competences regarding the values and principles of Finnish society**.