

Finnish VET pedagogy - Teaching methods of sustainable construction area

Finland's northern location, variable weather conditions, and the high costs of labour and materials have over time directed us towards energy-efficient and high-quality construction and building systems. When designing and constructing houses, we take into consideration their longevity, and regular maintenance is carried out throughout their life cycle. In this cold climate, proper insulation and efficient heating systems are of particular importance.

In vocational education, we teach these high building standards and regulations through practical exercises in educational workshops, theory classrooms, and on-the-job training periods. The education is based on a strong theoretical foundation and the development of practical skills, ensuring that future professionals are prepared to carry out high-quality and sustainable construction.

Vocational training is conducted in close collaboration with businesses, and every study module includes on-the-job training periods and skills demonstrations of professional competence in workplaces. Theory tests are seldom used in vocational education and training.

At Samiedu Vocational College, students acquire their basic professional skills in a safe educational environment, in Samiedu College works shops, where they can receive personalized guidance based on students' skills and experience. Additionally, students have the opportunity to practice needed work skills for the necessary duration. The time spent on vocational studies may vary, and any skills acquired elsewhere are recognized and acknowledged.

To prepare for the demands of their future professions, students practice essential tasks through practical assignments that simulate real workplace challenges. The duration and methods of learning are individualized and skill-based rather than time-based. Students are supported by teachers, coaches, student counselors, study advisors and health professionals. If necessary, small group teaching, extra lessons or other support measures are arranged.

Our main goal is that all students acquire the skills needed for the working world during their studies in Samiedu.

At Samiedu Vocational College, vocational education begins with an assessment of the student's skills, through a conversation between the teacher and the student, discussing their abilities, experience, and goals. Based on this information, a personalized learning path is designed for each student. Yes, for each student!! The methods of learning, duration of studies, and modules of the qualification vary according to the individual needs of the student.

Learning in the workplace is an everyday practice and is a part of all the modules of the qualification. Work-based learning periods last several months and during the studies, there will be many work places and tasks completed. It is also possible to complete the entire qualification in a workplace setting.

The work-based learning period is also guided. The teacher is responsible for finding a suitable workplace, and a workplace supervisor guides the actual work tasks. Progress is monitored using a digital journal, and adjustments to workplaces, tasks, or guidance are made as needed.

When the required competence for a qualification component has been achieved, the skills are assessed in a professional skills demonstration. This is the most important assessment during the studies. The competence is evaluated by a representative from the workplace, the teacher, and the student.

It is possible to complete vocational studies as part of the JA company program by establishing your own business for a year and working in your own company. The year as an entrepreneur is a learning program that combines theory and practice. The program's objectives are learning and developing entrepreneurial skills and an entrepreneurial attitude.

At Samiedu Vocational College, on nearly all field of studies, it's possible to pursue studies through Moodle online courses. Small and comprehensive study modules can be completed at student's own pace in the Moodle environment. Online learning may include webinars, lessons, instructional videos, online assignments, and reporting or discussions. Online education in vocational training is a relatively new and often challenging aspect for students. To support students, Samiedu has allocated resources for teacher guidance, and there is also an educational advisor focused on online learning to assist students.

Teaser.

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Class room.

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Workshop.

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Personal pathways.

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Work places.

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Entrepreneurship and JA program.

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On-line studies.

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