



The Finnish Online University of Applied Sciences
Suomen Virtuaaliammattikorkeakoulu • Finlands Virtuallyrkeshögskola

www.oncampus.fi

The higher education in Finland consists of two sectors: universities and universities of applied sciences (UsAS). The mission of UsAS is to train professionals in response to labour market needs, and to conduct R&D which both supports instruction and promotes regional development.

The Finnish Online University of Applied Sciences (Finnish Online UAS) coordinates the collaboration of the Finnish universities of applied sciences.

Our main responsibilities are:

- + arranging exchange of online courses between all universities of applied sciences in Finland
- + defining guidelines and making recommendations concerning the policies of the acceptance of studies between UsAS
- + offering high-standard educational services and online courses for all the Finnish UsAS
- + promoting co-operation between universities of applied sciences and working life
- + promoting the use of modern ICT in learning.

PORTAL

Oncampus.fi portal is the main public interface, offering various services for UAS students and staff, and for anyone interested in learning:

- + General information on online learning
- + Study Services
- + Production and Learning platform
- + DIGMA – educational material bank and metadata repository.

The portal is used as a forum for professional cooperation, as a place to bring the educational expertise together and to share information between different target groups. It is built on a web publishing system utilizing multi-portal functionality. The portal provides a single sign-on to all the Finnish Online UAS services. The sign-on process is distributed, allowing students and staff to use their home UAS identification.

STUDY SERVICES

The Study Services provide a one-point access to the courses suitable for online or blended learning. It offers UAS students a flexible way to study. Students can apply to courses arranged by all Finnish UsAS. The portal has a fully electronic course application system. It also has tools for the study officials to electronically handle the students applications and grades and billing information in different UsAS. Finnish Online UAS studies are free of charge for UAS degree students. Thousands of student applications are sent through this system every year.

From the technological point of view, any educational institution could easily be added to the system – including foreign universities and organizations.

PRODUCTION AND LEARNING PLATFORM

Production Platform has been created for the learning material production process. It is an environment where teachers and developers can easily compile course material from separate learning objects.

In 2001 - 2006 educational material for different study fields was produced in national production teams. Almost a thousand people from UsAS were involved in the process, and about 1500 study credits worth of learning material was produced.

DIGMA - LEARNING MATERIAL METADATA REPOSITORY

Learning objects and courses produced by the UsAS are hosted and provided to the public in the material bank DIGMA. Metadata is included in the learning objects and other course materials to enable searching by diverse search criteria. The metadata model is based on Dublin Core.

Any learning material has to pass an evaluation process before being published in DIGMA. Copyright and terms of use are carefully defined.

At the moment, DIGMA is designed for Finnish speaking users, though it does offer some English material. The English DIGMA interface is already being planned.

DEVELOPMENT UNIT

The Finnish Online UAS operations and services are coordinated by the development unit founded in 2001. The unit operates as a network under TAMK UAS administration.



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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Finnish Online UAS joined the European Network for Higher Education Online (EuNeOn) in 2008 together with Germany, Estonia and Sweden. We are open for all international cooperation.