



SIMHE Tampere

Supporting Immigrants in Higher Education

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SIMHE Tampere

Supporting Immigrants in Higher Education

Mervi

- Finnish as a foreign language teacher
- Study and career counsellor
- Working as a SIMHE counsellor at Tampere UAS since 2020

SIMHE - Supporting Immigrants in Higher Education in Finland

- SIMHE is offering career and educational counselling for immigrants residing in Finland
- National network of responsible higher education institutions
- Local level: SIMHE Tampere.
- Public webinars, publications
- Coordinator: Finnish National Agency for Education
- [Video](#)

SIMHE

SIMHE-korkeakoulut tukevat maahanmuuttajia eri tavoin:

Erilaisia korkeakoulutukseen
pääsyä ja työllistymistä
tukevia koulutuspalveluja

Neuvontaa ja ohjausta

Kotoutumisen tukemista





SIMHE Tampere

Supporting Immigrants in Higher Education

Some highlights in the video:

- Challenges with proving competences and showcasing skills.
- Need for additional training.
- Finding employment that corresponds to educational level.
- Access to higher education.

➤ Career challenges

Similar/partly similar services in other countries

For example:

- Europass services
- ENIC-NARIC centers
- International Houses

SIMHE services in Tampere

- SIMHE counselling: career and educational counselling
- Finnish language studies
- Preparatory course for higher education studies for immigrants (Finnish, general study skills, English, mathematics)



SIMHE services in Tampere

- The most usual client has a higher education degree from their home country.
- The most usual degree is a bachelor's degree.
- Most clients are looking for higher education studies, many prefer Tampere UAS.



A case example – a client from Ukraine

- A client from Ukraine came SIMHE to get advice on how to find employment that corresponds to education.
- The client spoke Finnish on B1-B2 level and needed help to find suitable Finnish language courses.
- The client had been working as a teacher and social worker in Ukraine and had corresponding education.
- Thus, SIMHE sent the client to Finnish National Agency for Education for recognition of qualifications.



Waiting for the results



- While Finnish National Agency for Education was processing the recognition, the client was taking SIMHE's language courses and preparatory courses of a project.
- The Agency recognised:
 - ❖ a master's degree in educational sciences, a qualified teacher (a university degree)
 - ❖ a bachelor's degree in social work, a qualified early childhood education social worker (a university of applied sciences degree)

Additional studies

- Finnish National Agency for Education ordered the client to complete additional studies for both degrees.
- The agency always defines what kind of studies must be completed.
- The Agency sent the client back to SIMHE.



Back at SIMHE

- SIMHE guided the client to complete the teacher education at School of Professional Teacher Education at Tampere UAS.
- Luckily, there was a project for immigrant teachers going on.
- (Now there is a flexible application period for immigrant teachers – qualified teachers get to move on faster.)



Back at SIMHE

- SIMHE also guided the client to complete the early childhood education social worker's degree.
- Unfortunately, Tampere UAS did not offer completing studies but through SIMHE network we found a study place in Oulu UAS.



A qualified teacher and a social worker

- The client also needed to complete on-the-job training for both degrees. The workplaces for this were found through a preparatory training project and SIMHE network.
- While still working on Finnish language learning, the client got a job as a social worker that required Ukrainian language skills.
- The Finnish language studies, completing studies, training and working quickly raised the Finnish language skill level.
- The client is now working as a teacher.



SIMHE's international counselling

- **Multicultural counselling:**
Systems and ways are unknown.
Cultural expectations in counselling and studying.
- **Language aware counselling:**
Finnish and English as languages.
Language aware methods are necessary.

- Recognition of degrees and qualifications and counseling accordingly.
(Agency for Education and National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health etc.)

SIMHE's international counselling

- What can I do in Finland?
- What kind of careers and jobs are there? What is a *tradenomi* or *sosionomi*? Is there any use for my prior education and experience?
- I need to complete my studies. Where and how and will I have to study for ages?



References and more information

SIIMHE Tampere webpages:

<https://www.tuni.fi/en/study-with-us/simhe>

SIMHE webpages of Finnish National Agency for Education (webinars, publications):

<https://www.oph.fi/en/simhe-services-higher-education-institutions>

SIMHE video:

<https://youtu.be/n8b566Tzfns?feature=shared>

Hvala!
Kiitos!

