Tampere University of Applied Sciences



15.10.2024 Mervi Kastari





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-korkeakoulut tukevat maahanmuuttajia eri tavoin:

Erilaisia korkeakoulutukseen pääsyä ja työllistymistä tukevia koulutuspalveluja

Neuvontaa ja ohjausta

Kotoutumisen tukemista

Oulun ammattikorkeakoulu

Vaasan yliopisto

Jyväskylän yliopisto

Tampereen korkeakouluyhteisö 🔘

Savonia-ammattikorkeakoulu

Karelia-ammattikorkeakoulu

Turun yliopisto

Ammattikorkeakoulu Arcada

Metropolia Ammattikorkeakoulu

Helsingin yliopisto







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.

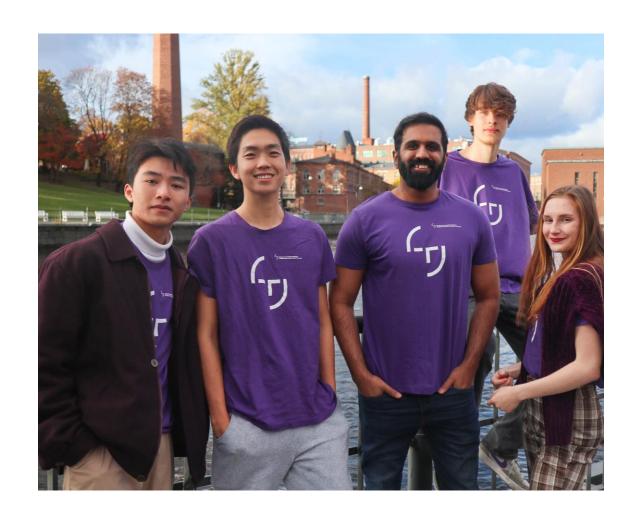






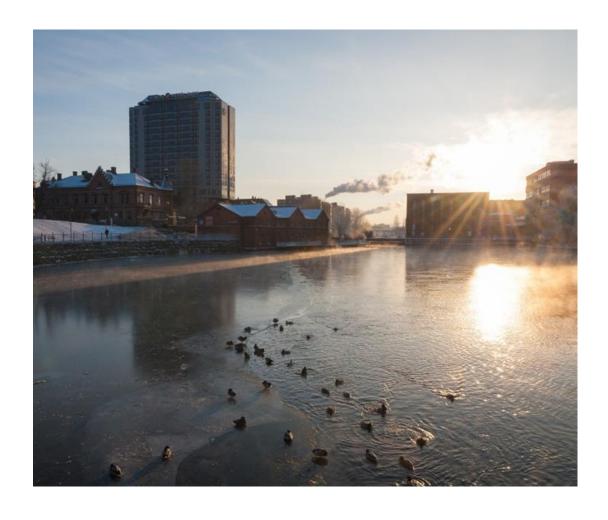
A case example – a client from Ukraine

- 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)

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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.)



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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.



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A qualified teacher and a social worker

- The client also needed to complete on-thejob 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!



