

# Managing expectations and services at arrival stage – Cases SIMHE, SIMHE Ukraine and SAR

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## ➤ SIMHE – Supporting Immigrants in Higher Education in Finland

### History and networks

- in 2016, in the SIMHE pilot, the responsible HEIs were the University of Jyväskylä and Metropolia University of Applied Sciences
- in 2017–2021 , the universities of Helsinki, Turku and Vaasa, as well as the universities of applied sciences Karelia, Oulu, Savonia, Tampere and Arcada have joined the pilot.
- SIMHE is funded and supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture
- partners are for example International Houses and Talent Hubs, cities and municipalities, TE Offices, education institutions, employers, projects and associations working with international students in higher education or international talents, immigration work specialists and multicultural associations

# ➤ SIMHE – Supporting Immigrants in Higher Education in Finland

Finnish National Agency for Education

Ministry of Education and Culture

Reception centres

TE Offices

Education institutions

Other local actors

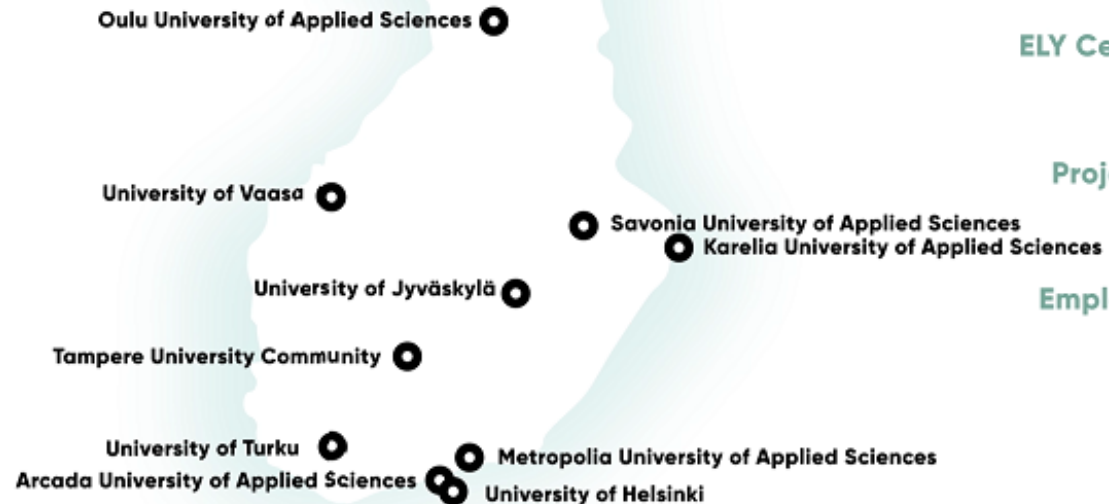
Cities / Municipalities

Ministry of Economic Affairs  
and Employment

ELY Centres

Projects

Employers



## ➤ SIMHE – Supporting Immigrants in Higher Education in Finland

### SIMHE aims

- to facilitate the identification and recognition of the prior learning of highly skilled migrants
- to promote access to higher education at national and regional level
- to guide target group members towards the right educational and career paths
- to disseminate good practices and models for the benefit of the whole Finnish higher education sector

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## Case UTU

- study and career guidance to immigrants in higher education and related questions about working life
- help in processes of recognition and international comparability of qualifications
- Finnish language courses in small groups and individual training
- job search training and training for language proficiency tests in Finnish
- guidance and courses are provided in personal meetings, in classrooms or via Zoom or Teams.
- training sessions or webinars on guidance or related topics for migrants with higher education background

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### SIMHE Ukraine

- funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture 11/2023–6/2024
- UTU is offering short course modules: the basics of Finnish and English and strengthening working life and academic skills
- short information sessions e. g. on starting a company, the Finnish higher education system and society
- study and career guidance in Russian, English and Finnish; later also in Ukrainian
- collecting data of needs of people who have received asylum from Ukraine to develop the services
- ethical questions of attracting and retaining people



➤ **SIMHE – Supporting Immigrants in Higher Education in Finland**

## ➤ Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (TIAS) and SAR

- Scholars at Risk (SAR) is an international network of academic institutions, organised to support and defend the principles of academic freedom and to defend the human rights of scholars around the world.
- Hosting Scholars At Risk – [Handbook for best practices](#) (version 1.1. in 2020) was written to support the SAR actions of TIAS
- the main academic community of the SAR scholars are TIAS and the hosting university department
- International HR Services are contacted when the process starts (residence permit, status at the University, accommodation, matters connected to everyday life etc).



## ➤ **Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (TIAS) and SAR**

### **Checklist: the most important matters in hosting**

1. Choose very suitable department or other scholarly community.
2. Meet the SAR scholar when they arrive and be prepared to answer for a lot of questions, but do not provide all information once.
3. Provide a good support team and mentoring available right from the start.
4. Arrange light work from the beginning: (joint) supervision of research students, teaching, anything to take the mind away from the things left behind.

## ➤ **Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (TIAS) and SAR**

### **Checklist: the most important matters in hosting**

5. Be always aware of the potential security issues – always ask permission to all kinds of sharing of SAR scholar information.
6. Even before the Scholar arrives consider how to help with their lives after funding ends
7. Always consider SAR Scholars as colleagues, not refugees.

## ➤ **Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (TIAS) and SAR**

### **TIAS Fellowship programme for new SAR researchers**

- funding from Kone Foundation in 2022, first for one fellow, then an additional funding for two more scholars, who have been displaced by the Ukrainian situation
- intensive Finnish language course during the first months of their stay in summer → Introduction to Finnish Language and Culture (90 lessons) during the academic year
  - delay in arriving Finland
  - busy schedule in their academic responsibilities and activities
  - differences in future plans

**Thank you for your attention!**



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