

The impacts of internationalisation extend into daily life and society

FINNISH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR EDUCATION
ARGUMENT REPOSITORY ON THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF INTERNATIONALISATION
AMONGST ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS

Internationalisation provides opportunities to gain abilities and useful skills that benefit individuals, society, and labour market.

It involves succeeding in working life, equal learning opportunities, regional vitality, growth and networking of Finnish companies, and ultimately, resolving global challenges on our shared planet. These are the benefits when adolescents and young people internationalise:

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1. Building blocks of identity and citizenship
 2. Efficiency in working life, competitiveness in business
 3. Attractive fields of education and regions
 4. Global collaboration and networks
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1

Building blocks of identity and citizenship

Internationalisation cultivates active and courageous citizens whose values, perspectives, and networks expand.

New experiences and acquaintances expand our minds. Living in a new environment and exploring a new culture broaden our views, teach us to understand others, and build useful networks.

Trust in our own abilities is strengthened. A young person not only learns about their own abilities and areas for improvement, but also acquires skills related to their field of study. This builds a sense of competence and confidence in personal abilities.

Active citizenship begins. Internationalisation is about self-expression, inspiring experiences, taking action, and stepping outside of our comfort zone. That is where active citizenship begins.

Student exchange is a journey to the self. Managing daily life and establishing routines in a new place teach us about ourselves and boost our courage and resilience.

2

Efficiency in working life, competitiveness in business

Internationalisation generates skills that everyone needs at work. In Finland, working life is international across all fields.

The need for international talent is not dependent on an organisation's size, sector, or region. Finnish working life is international. Work communities are becoming more diverse, and even small export-driven companies are reaching out globally.

Internationalisation facilitates employment and opens new doors in working life. Experiences in internationalisation teach us to solve problems, adapt, and encounter people from diverse backgrounds. We cannot cope in working life without these skills.

International competence attracts talent to Finland. Sectors suffering from skill shortages are increasingly prepared to welcome foreign labour when work communities have international competences. Attraction arises from reciprocity: those going abroad influence perceptions of Finland.

Companies' assets increase and competitiveness improves with internationalisation. To thrive in a small export-driven economy, Finnish companies need a workforce that has accumulated international expertise. Companies draw lessons from international cooperation, which boosts quality.

3 Attractive fields of education and regions

Fields of education and regions must invest in internationalisation to continue attracting students and talent.

Lessons from around the world reinforce regional vitality and attractiveness. Internationalising students and staff introduce essential expertise to regions at a time when people are migrating to growth centres and there is a shortage of skilled workers.

Educational institutions and organisations appear more attractive. Institutions that support and promote internationalisation are seen by students as interesting places for studies and by employees as desirable workplaces.

Collaboration and sharing knowledge bear fruit. We do not need to invent or create everything alone. Everyone benefits when educational institutions and providers develop their activities nationally and locally by sharing their best internationalisation practices.

Internationalisation facilitates obtaining funding. Funding is available for internationalisation efforts. International operations and research, along with the networks and recognition they bring, also help in obtaining additional funding.

4 Global collaboration and networks

Solving global challenges, such as the sustainability crisis and digitalisation, requires learning from others, listening to a wide range of stakeholders, and working together in a responsible and equal manner. Internationalisation creates networks and an open-minded atmosphere.

Experiences abroad and in international cooperation provide new perspective. International experiences help us realise that we are all interconnected, one way or another. It becomes easier to view things from different angles when you experience life elsewhere and are exposed to a variety of ways to operate.

Institutions that invest in internationalisation are in step with the times. We must invest in internationalisation in education in a way that serves the needs of learners and teaching staff. Young people already live in an international environment. Internationalisation experiences can help them succeed better in a world shaped by global developments.

Global challenges are solved through networks and by learning from others. No one holds the keys to the solutions alone; challenges must be solved within networks of different actors. This requires that we learn from others and work together, in a manner where all partners are equal and privileges are recognised.

International cooperation is in Finland's interests and enhances competitiveness. Global megatrends are changing the world, and Finland is not isolated from them. It is not enough for us to adapt to changes, as we must actively shape these developments.