

Comparison between education systems of Bulgaria and Finland

Similarities	Differences
- Starting age for school is 7 years (or the child should turn seven during the school year);	- For students there are no free books after 4 th grade;
- Going to school in Bulgaria is obligatory by law until the age of 16.	- There are no free meals for secondary school students;
- There are free books for pupils at primary school;	- Only few schools have uniforms;
- From 1 st till 4 th grade inclusive there is one teacher for all subjects (except for foreign languages);	- Next to public, there are also private schools in Bulgaria. They could charge different fees.
- Usually school lasts for 12 years;	- Unlike Finland there are no faith-based schools;
- After the 12 th grade there is a compulsory matriculation exams on 3 subjects; The results of these exams could be recognized as entrance exams for some universities.	- The grading scale is from 2 to 6. The pass mark is 3.
- Many students nowadays are working in order to support their studies.	- There is no <i>Licentiates</i> degree in Bulgaria;
- In accordance to Bologna process there are Bachelor's, Master's and Doctor's university degrees;	- There is no compulsory membership in student's unions (there used to be such before 1989);
- There are 42 universities and institutes of higher education in Bulgaria (including state and some private ones) compared to 20 Finnish universities;	- There are no state guaranteed loans for students;
- At Bulgarian universities students have a health insurance for free up to the age of 26. Those over this age should pay health insurance by themselves;	- In order to teach at school level a Bachelor's degree is sufficient. Teachers would not receive a higher salary only because they possess a Master's degree.