



South-Eastern Finland  
University of Applied Sciences

# Game Design Application FAQ

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# EXAM INFORMATION

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## When is the application period?

For August starting full-time studies application period is on January. For January starting part-time studies application period is on September. Please find detailed information on application time: <https://www.xamk.fi/en/education/applying/>

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## What are the qualifications to apply?

You are eligible if you can produce any of these certificates/qualifications:

- Upper secondary education / matriculation examination completed in Finland.
- International Baccalaureate (IB), Reifeprüfung (RP) or European Baccalaureate of European schools (EB) completed in any country.
- Vocational qualification completed in Finland.
- Degree or qualification completed outside Finland that gives eligibility for higher education in the awarding country.

You can also find more information here:

[https://studyinfo.fi/app/#!/haku/xamk%20game%20design?page=1&facetFilters=teachingLangCode\\_ffm:EN&tab=los](https://studyinfo.fi/app/#!/haku/xamk%20game%20design?page=1&facetFilters=teachingLangCode_ffm:EN&tab=los)

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## How do I apply?

You need to fill out the application located at Studyinfo.fi.

[https://studyinfo.fi/app/#!/haku/xamk%20game%20design?page=1&facetFilters=teachingLangCode\\_ffm:EN&tab=los](https://studyinfo.fi/app/#!/haku/xamk%20game%20design?page=1&facetFilters=teachingLangCode_ffm:EN&tab=los)

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## Do I need to apply? Can I just take the exam?

You must apply to have the possibility to be invited to the entrance exam.

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## Do I have to pay to apply/go to the entrance exam?

Both the application and the entrance exam are free of charge.

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## Do I need to send in proof of my English skills?

No. We do not require an English certificate from you. Your English proficiency will be checked at the entrance examinations.

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## When and where will the entrance exams be held?

The exact date, time, and location will be sent in the information packet you receive if you are invited to the examination.

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## Are there exam locations outside Finland?

In autumn application entrance exam possibility is only in Finland. In spring application the FINNIPS network will arrange entrance examinations in selected countries outside Finland. The exams will be held on March. Information on the exam countries on Spring 2020 are given below. Please note that changes may occur.

- Brazil
- China
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Hungary
- India
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Mexico
- Russia
- South-Korea
- Vietnam

If you want more information about this either go the FINNIPS own website or to the Xamk specific webpage here:

<https://www.xamk.fi/en/education/entrance-examinations/>

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## What should I bring to the exam?

Specific information about the exam will be in the information packet you receive if you are invited to the exam. Generally you will be asked to bring at least: a pencil, a pen, extra paper, and your choice of art materials (with some limitations). Please read the invitation letter carefully to know the exact specifics for your exam.

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## What are the exam tasks?

The exam changes every year and, before the exam, it is impossible to say what the tasks will be. The tasks usually measure your creative/ideation skills, logical thinking, writing skills, communication skills, etc.

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## What should I know in advance?

The degree covers a broad base. While it is not required that you are proficient in all areas, it is definitely recommended that you are at least acquainted with the basics.

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## What should I study before the exam?

It is recommended that you practice your communication skills, ideation, and creativity. Uniqueness, interest, and the ability to communicate your ideas clearly are definite advantages in the exam.

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## Can I get into the programme if I am not good at...?

Drawing, Design, English, 3D modeling, Programming, Math, etc.?

The entire programme is in English so a good grasp of English is required. Most other skills, such as Drawing or Design skills, are taught in the degree and so are not required to be accepted.

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## How do I transfer to your program?

Students transferring from a Finnish educational institute should apply using the information found here:

<https://studyinfo.fi/wp2/en/higher-education/how-to-apply-for-bachelors-and-masters/transfer-student-application/>

Students transferring from outside of Finland will have to apply through the normal application procedure. This will include the entrance exam. Previous studies are not relevant in the application process, however, if you are admitted, you have the possibility to apply for a credit transfer for previously completed studies when you begin studying at Xamk.



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## I am graduating this year? Can I still apply?

Yes you can apply already.

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## When will I hear if I was accepted?

Please see the timetable here: <https://www.xamk.fi/en/education/applying/>

# DEGREE INFORMATION

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## How much is tuition for EU citizens?

EU citizens are exempted from tuition fees. You will only have to cover your own personal costs, such as accommodation and living costs. For information about living costs please see, "Living in Finland" below.

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## What is the tuition for citizens from outside the EU?

Tuition for Non-EU students is 6000/Euros per academic year. You may be exempted from paying tuition if you have one of the following documents:

- Passport or identity card to indicate the citizenship of EU/EEA/Switzerland
- EU Blue Card in Finland
- Continuous residence permit card in Finland, Type A permit
- EU Family Member's Residence Card in Finland
- Permanent residence permit card in Finland, Type P permit
- EU residence permit for third-country citizens with long-term residence permit card in Finland (Type P-EU)

Note that the residence permit in another EU/EEA country is not sufficient grounds for exemption, only residence permits in Finland can be considered. Further information on who is required to pay the tuition fees can be found here:

<https://studyinfo.fi/wp2/en/higher-education/tuition-fees/am-i-required-to-pay-tuition-fees/>

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## What is in the curriculum?

The basic studies cover arts and design skills, design methods and professional tools. The education centers around 3D modeling, concept art, script writing and game mechanics. Different game design concepts will be explored in workshops, leading to design-orientated multidisciplinary projects in cooperation with various organizations.

More information about the programme can be found here: [www.xamk.fi/game](http://www.xamk.fi/game)

Specific information about the curriculum and classes can be found here:

<https://opinto-opas.xamk.fi/index.php/en/30/en/6788>

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## Are there any scholarships available?

All tuition paying students are eligible for scholarships. The scholarship scheme at Xamk rewards you for completing at least 55 ECTS credits during the academic year. You can get a 50% refund on the tuition fee by progressing in the studies. The refund is paid yearly on the basis of the study credits completed during the previous academic year.

<https://www.xamk.fi/en/education/tuition-fees/>

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## So is this degree about Design or Programming?

This is a primarily Design degree. There are parts of some modules that touch on programming but it is not the focus of the programme. For more information regarding game programming see our sister degree in Kotka. The game programming degree can only be taken in Finnish.

<https://www.xamk.fi/koulutukset/insinööri-amk-peliohjelmointi/>

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## Is everything in English?

All classes in the Game Design degree are taught in English. However, most optional courses provided by other degrees in the university are taught in Finnish.

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## Will I need a laptop to study?

You will be using computers provided by the school while you are on campus and so it is not required have your own laptop/computer to study here. However, most homework will require a computer, so if you want to do homework at home then it is recommended that you have something that can run the necessary programs.

# LIVING IN FINLAND

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## What are the living conditions like for students?

Students studying at Xamk in Kouvola have the opportunity to live in student housing. The different apartments are located throughout the city. You can find more information about renting the apartments here:

<https://www.kouvolanasunnot.fi/opiskelijat/students/>

All of the apartments are within a comfortable biking distance from the university, with the average biking time being about 20 minutes.

Kouvola also has a public transportation network with bus stops near the student apartments and the school. However, the buses can be infrequent to some apartments so if you plan on using the buses frequently then it is recommended that you email the housing company at:

[opiskelija-asunnot@kouvolanasunnot.fi](mailto:opiskelija-asunnot@kouvolanasunnot.fi) for more information.

All student apartments are within walking distance of a grocery store and within a 15 minute bike trip to the city center.

Outside the city center is Veturi, a large shopping center that also has Kouvola's movie theater. Next to Veturi is Prisma, the largest department store in Kouvola. They are both within a 10 minute trip with a bike from the university.

If you want more information about living in Kouvola then look here:

<https://www.kouvola.fi/en/index.html>

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## Can I get a job and what does it pay?

It is possible to get a job without strong Finnish language skills. However, the Finnish job market is highly competitive so it is not guaranteed for even people who speak Finnish fluently.

The pay varies from industry to industry. There is no national minimum wage so it is generally up to the union and/or the specific employer what the hourly wage will be. It can range anywhere from 7 euros an hour or higher.

If you expect to be working while studying, it is recommended that you begin searching as soon as possible.

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## How much does it cost to live in Kouvola per year?

We recommend that students budget at least 600 euros/month for living expenses. This includes accommodation. The university does not have any additional costs except an optional student union membership (40 euros/year). The student union membership is entirely optional but it is recommended. You can look below for more information about the student union.

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## What is the Student Union?

The student union represents the students and provides the student cards that give discounts at certain locations and venues. For example, the national train system allows for significant discounts on train tickets for holders of a valid student card.

The student union also runs parties and other student events throughout the year. If you want more information about the student union then go here:

<http://www.opiskelijakuntakaakko.fi/en/>

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## I don't speak Finnish. Is that a problem?

It is not a problem. Most Finnish people speak at least the basics of English. The younger generations are generally more fluent. Students will be taught the basics of Finnish in their first year. Afterwards, there are several optional classes that allow the student to continue their studies of the Finnish language.

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## Can I get student loans?

Finnish students or people that receive student funding from Kela are able to receive student loans through Kela. More information about that can be found here: <http://www.kela.fi/web/en/financial-aid-for-students-student-loan>

Non Finnish students can not receive student loans the Finnish government.

# USEFUL LINKS

## StudyInfo.fi

Studyinfo.fi is the official and up-to-date website with all the information about study programmes leading to a degree in Finland.

<https://studyinfo.fi/wp2/en/>

## Bachelor of Culture and Arts, Game Design

The main page on Studyinfo.fi about this degree. Here you can find information that may not be listed otherwise.

[https://studyinfo.fi/app/#!/haku/game%2520design%2520xamk?page=1&facetFilters=teachingLangCode\\_ffm:EN&tab=los](https://studyinfo.fi/app/#!/haku/game%2520design%2520xamk?page=1&facetFilters=teachingLangCode_ffm:EN&tab=los)

## How to apply for a Bachelor's

Additional information about application times and what you need to do to apply. <https://studyinfo.fi/wp2/en/higher-education/how-to-apply-for-bachelors-and-masters/>

## Xamk.fi

The english homepage for the university. Here you can find additional information about the university.

<https://www.xamk.fi/en/frontpage/>

## Xamk.fi - Kouvola Campus

Here you can find more information about the Kouvola Campus.

<https://www.xamk.fi/en/xamk2/kouvola-campus/>

