

Language Centre information

Exchange students and Master students in Vasa

Åbo Akademi University

28.8.2024

The Language Centre in a nutshell

- Operates in Åbo and Vasa
- Courses in languages and communication, for example:
 - Swedish and Finnish as a Foreign Language (max. 24 students/group)
 - Developing Thesis Writing Skills, 5 ECTS
 - Academic writing skills in English, 3 ECTS
 - Other foreign languages (taught in Swedish)
- Language response of degree theses
- Text consultation
- Language proficiency tests

Staff in Åbo and Vasa

Language Centre staff consists of approximately 20 full-time lecturers across an array of foreign languages and language counselling, an additional 10-15 occasional instructors, and central administration.

Exchange students

- Optional language courses.
- You are welcome to join **Swedish as a Foreign Language level 1 and Finnish as a Foreign Language level 2 (if you already have studied Finnish A1)**.

Swedish as a foreign language, level 1, 5 ECTS

Learning objectives (level A1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)

- Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to do the following:
 - understand the main content of simple texts that contain familiar words and phrases
 - understand information regarding familiar everyday situations when spoken slowly
 - write a simple text about themselves and their life
 - express themselves adhering to basic rules and answer questions about topics that have been dealt with during the course
- **Teacher: Kristina Granstedt-Ketola**
- **Languages of instruction: English and Swedish**
- **2 groups : September–December 2024**
- **1 hybrid group (on campus, but possibility to participate on Zoom) – mainly for Master students**
- **1 campus group (no Zoom possibility) – mainly for exchange students**
- **Registration by 6th September**

For more detailed information see: <https://studiehandboken.abo.fi/en/course/940211.0/2303?period=2024-2027>

Finnish as a foreign language, Level 2, 5 ETCS

Learning objectives (level A1-A2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)

- Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to do the following:
 - understand the main content of texts that deal with familiar topics
 - understand information in stories and discussions about familiar themes in clear Finnish that is not spoken too quickly
 - write about their life and their local environment
 - participate in conversations about familiar subjects
- **Teacher: Linda Takala**
- **Language of instruction: English, Finnish**
- **October-December 2024**
- **Mostly on campus – some lessons on Zoom**

For more detailed information see: <https://studiehandboken.abo.fi/en/course/CS00BT57/12225?period=2024-2027>

Language Café - Språkkafé

The popular language cafés for international students continue with new meetings during the autumn semester.

- Eight gatherings with various themes and activities are scheduled from September to December 2024.
- The language cafés offer international students the opportunity to practice spoken Swedish and Finnish in pleasant, relaxed and authentic situations, guided by ÅA students who serve as tutors during the sessions.

For more information about the language cafés, please contact the coordinator, Marit Vest-Sjöholm (marit.vest-sjoholm@abo.fi).

Important!

- Register for the course version you wish to attend via Peppi.
- Be present at the start of the first session, regardless of whether it is a physical or virtual session.
- Updated information about our courses can be found in the [Study Guide](#).

If you have any questions, please contact sprakcentret-vasakansli@abo.fi or our teachers.

Not sure which CEFR-level is suitable for you?

CHECK YOUR CEFR-LEVEL HERE



Master students

- T-Learn
- PEACE
- APN
- IT

T-Learn: Compulsory language course

- **T-Learn-students from abroad** (Master programme)
- **One compulsory language** course:
- ***Swedish as a Foreign Language Level 1***

Starts **10.9** at **8.15**, room **B 624** (hybrid group)

Starts **10.9** at **14.30**, room **B 624** (campus group)

Other Master-students

- **PEACE-students** (Master programme) and **Advanced Practice Nursing** (Master programme) and **IT-Master from abroad do not have** compulsory language studies in their exam.
- **You can choose language courses as optional courses.**

The Swedish 1 hybrid course is planned for you schedule, if you want to participate.

Developing Thesis Writing Skills, 5 ECTS

- For students who need extra support in completing their thesis, focusing specifically on developing the students' language and writing skills in English.
- Participants must have started the actual writing of their thesis.
- Focuses on different aspects of the academic writing process (reading, text structuring, using tools and resources, feedback). Each student will set personal goals for developing their writing skills. Most of the course work is spent on the student's individual thesis.

Academic Writing Skills in English for Master's students, 3 ECTS

- Gives the participants an awareness of the nature of academic writing and develops overall competence in appropriate academic English usage.
- Compulsory for students for Master students of Economics.
- Useful for students who are writing their Master's thesis in English.

Note! Please check with the study advisor of your Master's programme if you need to take the course!

923800.0-3034 is a distance course, arranged March-May 2025.



Language response

- Compulsory language response for all Master students on the Master's thesis.
- The purpose is to enable you to identify merits as well as difficulties in your text and, with the aid of the feedback from the teacher, help you deliver a well-written text. It is thus an important tool during the writing process.

Note! Submit text for language response *well before* you have finished your thesis.



Text consultation

Would you like advice on and help with your text before submitting it for compulsory language response? Individual academic text consultation in English is available to degree students.

Make an appointment for language response when your text is sufficiently completed so that the teacher will be able to properly review and comment on the language. Submit 5–7 pages at least five days before the appointment.

More info on the [Language Centre intranet](#).

National students – please contact the language centre!

The following info only applies to national students.

NATIONAL STUDENTS

National Master students

- Please book an appointment with Kristina Granstedt-Ketola, so we can go through your previous studies to see if you already fulfill the language requirements.



National students (1/3)

National Master's students with a Bachelor's degree from abroad

- ...need to demonstrate **excellent proficiency in their language of secondary education**, as well as **satisfactory or good proficiency in the other national language** according to [Finnish law](#). (F 794/2004)
- This means that even if you study at an International Master's Programme at ÅAU, you still need to demonstrate at least satisfactory proficiency in the other national language (Swedish or Finnish).

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact sprakcentret-vasakansli@abo.fi.

National students (2/3)

...with **Swedish** as language of secondary education, BA from a Finnish university:

- If your BA degree includes the required compulsory languages (Swedish/Finnish, a foreign language, communication studies) and a maturity test in Swedish, you do not need any compulsory language studies in your Master's degree.

... with **Swedish** as language of secondary education, BA from a university abroad:

- *If not in the BA, included in the MA:*
 - Finnish as Second National Language on level “good” or “satisfactory”.
 - Maturity test in Swedish (the language will be evaluated).
 - Compulsory language response on the language of the degree thesis.

National students (3/3)

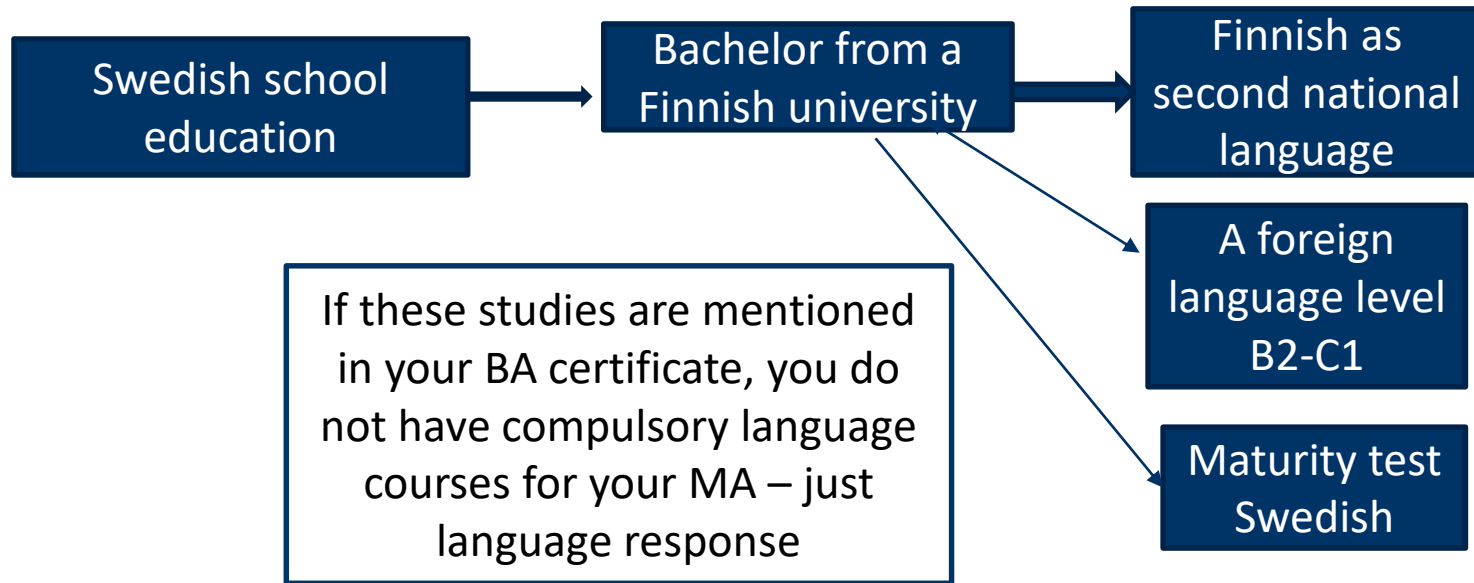
...with **Finnish** as language of secondary education, BA from a **Finnish** university:

- If your BA degree includes the required languages (Finnish/Swedish, a foreign language, communication studies) and a maturity test in Finnish, you do not need any compulsory language studies in your Master's degree.

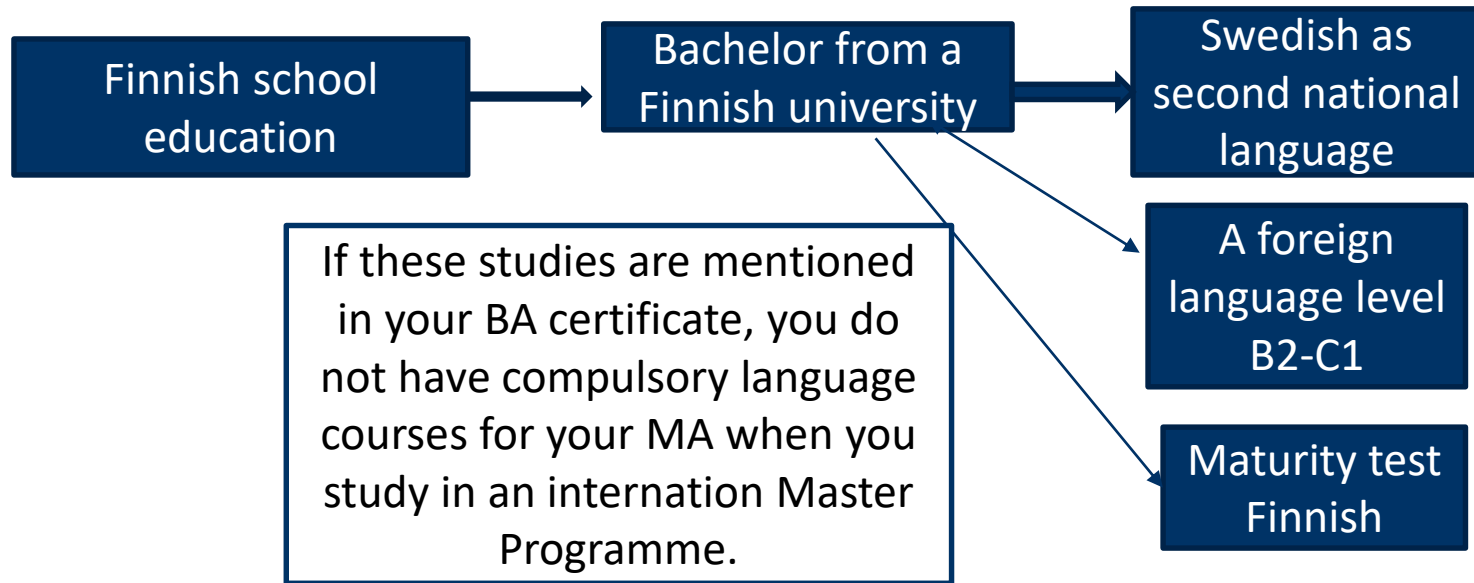
... with **Finnish** as language of secondary education, BA from a university abroad:

- *If not in the BA, included in the MA:*
 - Swedish as Second National Language on level “good” or “satisfactory”.
 - Maturity test in Finnish (the language will be evaluated). If you have obtained M/E/L in Finnish as your mother tongue in the Finnish matriculation examination, no maturity test is needed.
 - Compulsory language response on the language of the degree thesis.

National Master students



National Master students



National Master students



National Master students



National Master students

School education in
other language than
Finnish or Swedish



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Please contact the Language Centre!

If you are a Finnish citizen but have got your school education abroad or in another language than Finnish, Swedish or Saami in Finland, the university have other language requirements for you.

Language resources

- You can find a Moodle course with language resources here:
<https://moodle.abo.fi/course/view.php?id=7139>



Location in Vasa

Academill B 6



Guidance and counselling

Amanuensis, responsible for the department in Vasa

Kristina Granstedt-Ketola,
room B 610

kristina.granstedt-ketola@abo.fi

Secretary

Nina Strandberg

nina.strandberg@abo.fi

sprakcentret-vasakansli@abo.fi

- You can find us on the intranet:

[Administration](#)



[Teachers](#)

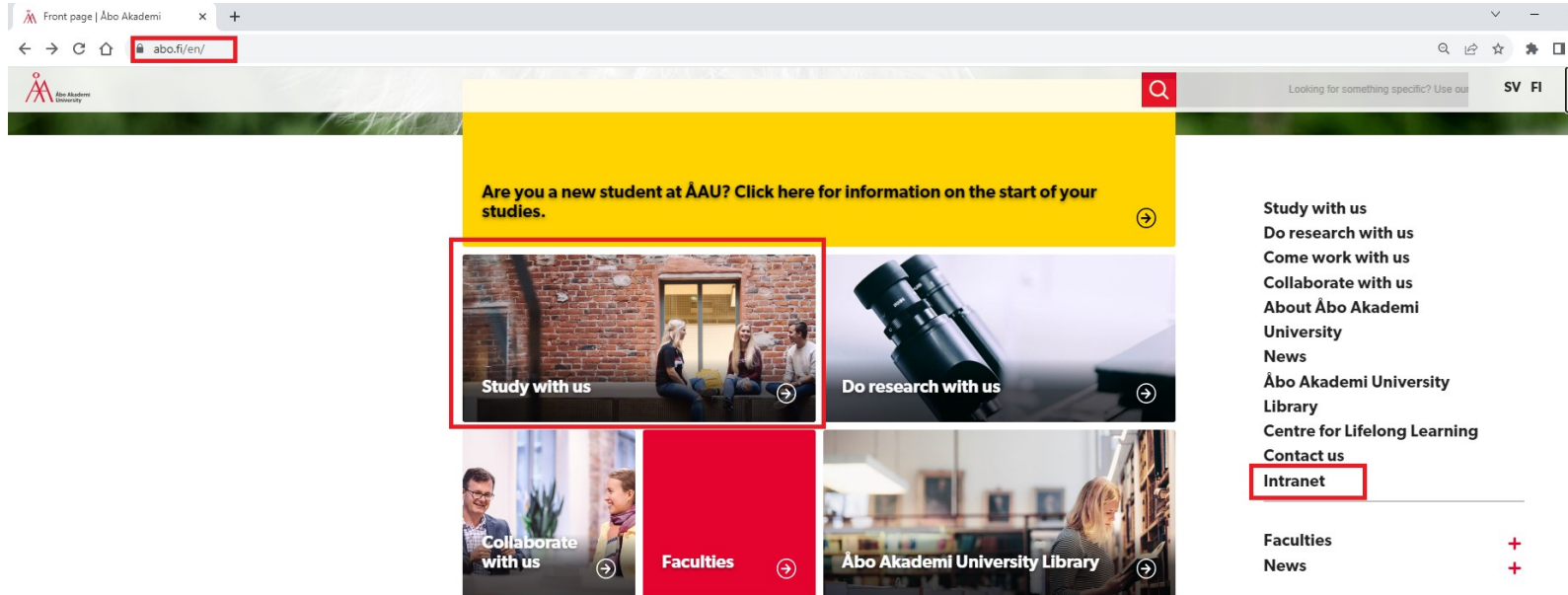


Communication channels

- Study Guide
- Language Centre webpages on the intranet
- Instagram
- News letter

Remember to read your abo.fi e-mail regularly!

Website abo.fi/en



Front page | Åbo Akademi

abo.fi/en/

Looking for something specific? Use our search

SV FI

Are you a new student at ÅAU? Click here for information on the start of your studies.

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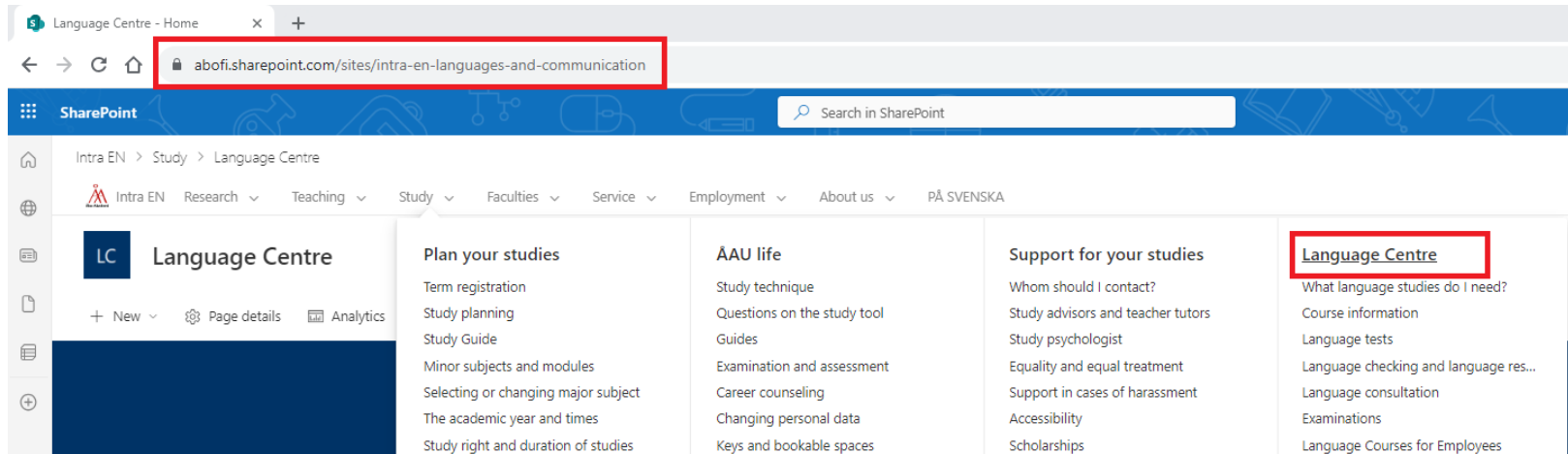
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The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `abofi.sharepoint.com/sites/intra-en-languages-and-communication` highlighted in red. The page is the SharePoint Intranet for the Language Centre. The breadcrumb trail is `Intra EN > Study > Language Centre`. The navigation menu includes `Intra EN`, `Research`, `Teaching`, `Study`, `Faculties`, `Service`, `Employment`, `About us`, and `PÅ SVENSKA`. The main content area features a 'Language Centre' header with a search bar and a list of links. The 'Language Centre' link in the list is highlighted with a red box. The list includes:

- Plan your studies**
 - Term registration
 - Study planning
 - Study Guide
 - Minor subjects and modules
 - Selecting or changing major subject
 - The academic year and times
 - Study right and duration of studies
- ÅAU life**
 - Study technique
 - Questions on the study tool
 - Guides
 - Examination and assessment
 - Career counseling
 - Changing personal data
 - Keys and bookable spaces
- Support for your studies**
 - Whom should I contact?
 - Study advisors and teacher tutors
 - Study psychologist
 - Equality and equal treatment
 - Support in cases of harassment
 - Accessibility
 - Scholarships
- Language Centre**
 - What language studies do I need?
 - Course information
 - Language tests
 - Language checking and language res...
 - Language consultation
 - Examinations
 - Language Courses for Employees



Åbo Akademi

Welcoming to the Language Centre!