



FINNISH NATIONAL
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION

Integration of International Students in Finland

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Finnish National Agency for Education and International Students in Finland

- StudyInFinland.fi Promoting Finland as a country of education
- Studyinfo.fi Application
- Supporting internationalisation in Finnish education and society, information, studies, networking

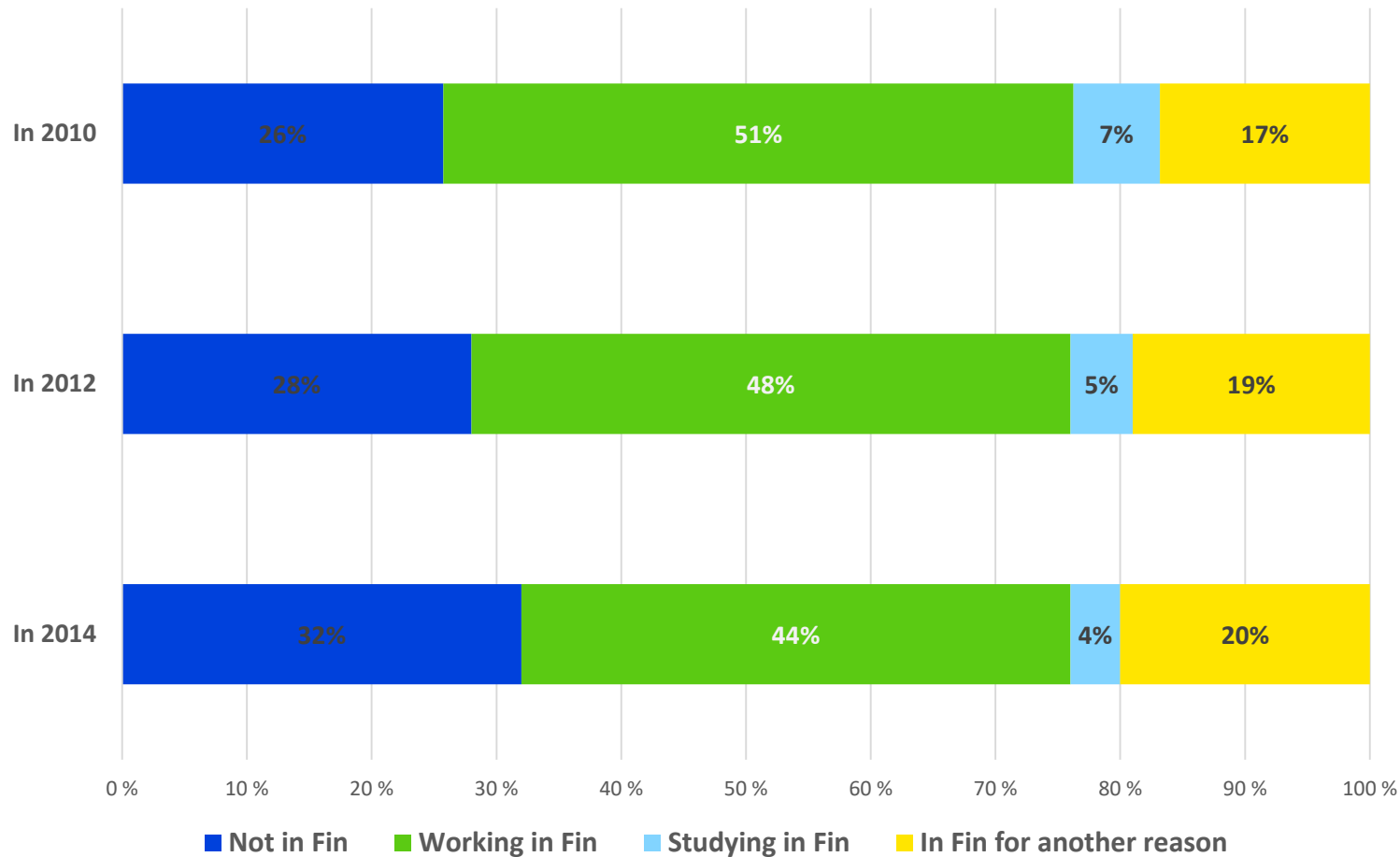
Statistics & background

A decorative graphic consisting of thick, wavy, overlapping lines in green and blue, flowing from the bottom left towards the top right, framing the text.

Foreign Students in Finnish HE

- 20 000 students, 5 000 new enrolments and 3 900 graduates
- Bachelor in UAS, Master's in university and PhD (main degrees)
- 1) Business, 2) Engineering and 3) Information Technology (main fields)
- Uusimaa Region (main area)
- 77 % come from outside EU/EEA area

Situation of foreign graduates 1-3-5 years after




Biggest % of working in Finland:

- Health care and social services
- Bachelors degree in UAS
- Students from Europe and Africa

Jobs of foreign graduates

	Finnish graduates	Foreign EU/EEA graduates	Other foreign graduates
Managers	3 %	0 %	1 %
Professionals	63 %	72 %	46 %
Associate professionals	19 %	19 %	16 %
Service and sales workers	5 %	2 %	4 %
Clerical support workers	6 %	4 %	13 %
Workers in transport., plant/machine operators, assemblers	1 %	1 %	3 %
Elementary occupations	1 %	4 %	16 %

Master's degree graduates from universities. Source: Vipunen database



International Student Barometer – student satisfaction & perception

Factors influencing when deciding where to study

- Opportunities for a full time work in this country following my studies 69 %
- Opportunities to further study in this country following my studies 73 %
- Opportunity for permanent residence in this country 53 %

→ International students coming to Finland aim also for the future work

Learning satisfaction

- Learning spaces 94 %
- Support with learning 90 %
- Academic content of my studies 84 %
- Smooth running of the course 84 %
- Quality of lectures 83 %
- Opportunities for work experience as part of studies 58 %
- Advice and guidance on long-term job opportunities and careers 58 %

Living satisfaction

- Making friends from other countries 92 %
- Quality of accommodation 87 %
- Social activities 83 %
- Social facilities 80 %
- Making good contacts for the future 75 %
- Making friends from this country 62 %
- Opportunity to earn money 35 %

Support satisfaction

- Student Advisory Services 96 %
- Institution Clubs / Societies 93 %
- Personal tutors 92 %
- Counselling Services 91 %
- Campus eating places 87 %
- Accommodation Office 85 %
- **Careers Advisory Services 78 %**

Student experience on getting a job



Biggest barriers to finding a job

- Lack of Finnish language skills
- Lack of contacts / networks
- Lack of opportunities to gain relevant work experience
- Small labour market
- Discrimination
- Lack of access to job search information

Shumilova, Cai, Pekkola (2012)

Most important skills required at work

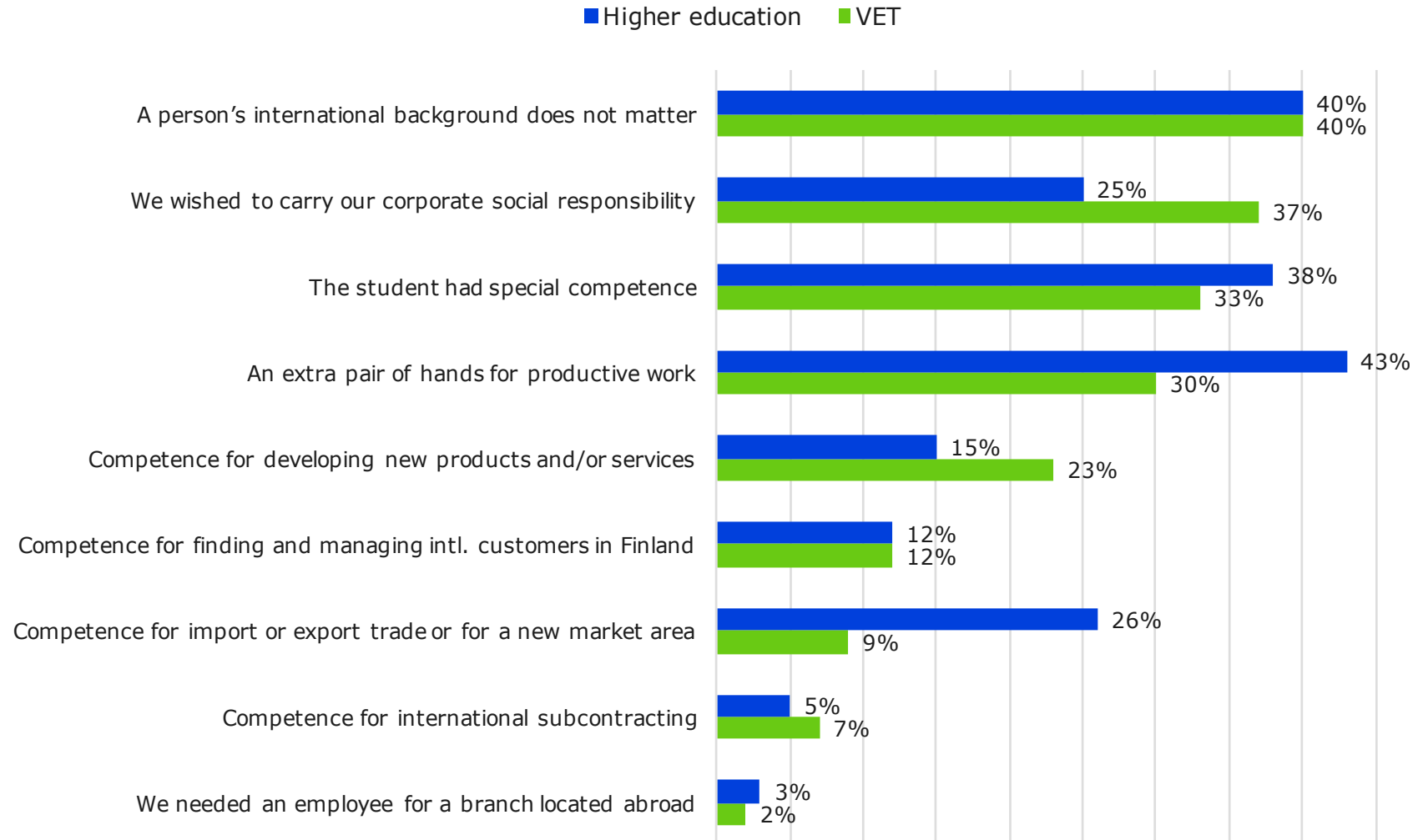
- Problem solving
- Team working
- Computer skills
- Communication / social skills

Shumilova, Cai, Pekkola (2012)

New competence for SMEs

The background features abstract, flowing shapes in vibrant green and blue. A thick green band curves from the top right towards the center, while a blue band flows from the bottom left, partially overlapping the green one. The overall composition is dynamic and modern.

Results: Why had the company hosted international talents?



Results: Companies' motives for hosting international talents:

On the basis of data on the companies' motives for hosting international talents, different profiles were modelled. These motives partly overlap.

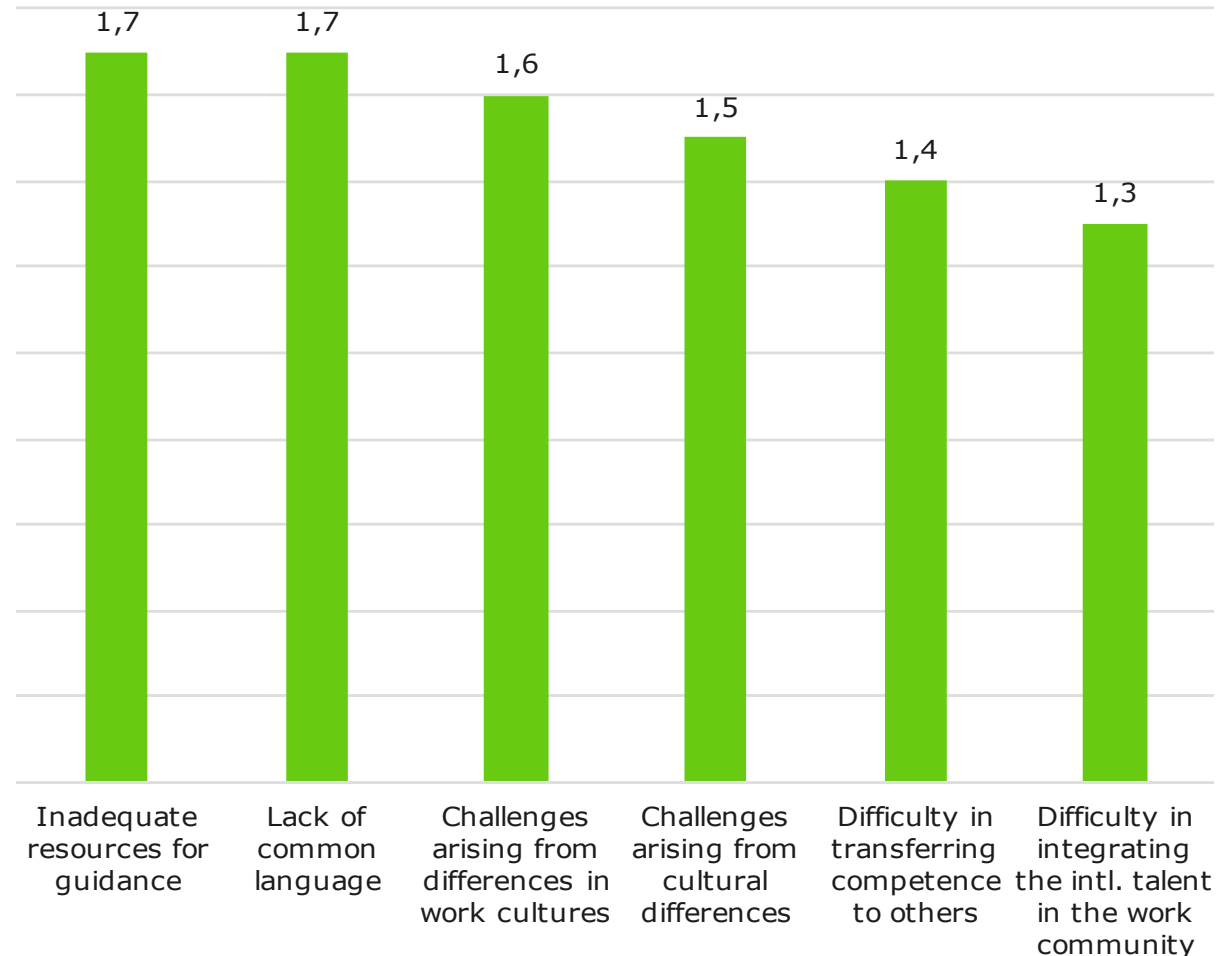
- **"Aiming abroad"** companies wanted to draw on the students' skills to support their internationalisation.
- **"Talent hunters"** often already are international companies, and the talent's background thus makes no difference. What matters is their competence and potential.
- **"Internationalisation at home"** companies had hosted an international talent as an extra pair of hands, or maybe to strengthen their competence in serving foreign customers.
- **"Corporate social responsibility"** companies hosted international talents when requested to do so as an additional resource or to improve the employees' linguistic and cultural skills.



Results: Challenges experienced by companies

Average 1 (none) – **4** (very many)

- The most common challenges encountered by companies that hosted foreign VET students for work placement were inadequate resources for guiding the student and the lack of a common language.
- For companies that hosted higher education students, inadequate resources for guiding the student and challenges arising from differences in working cultures were somewhat more common.



Results: Companies with no international talents

Why not hosted international talents?

Intl. talents have not applied: 47 %

No need for trainees: 33 %

The background of the student
does not matter: 23 %

Insufficient language skills: 22 %

- The most common reason for the companies not hosting international talents was that the companies and the students had failed to meet, or the company had no need for trainees in general.

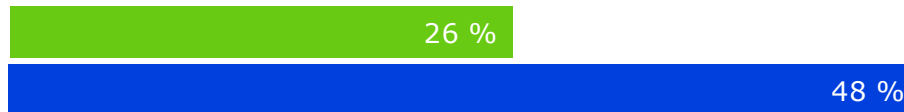
Results: What type of support is required from educational institutions?

- Companies would like more information about the possibilities of hosting and benefitting from international talents
- Among companies that have hosted international talents, the ones that had hosted higher education students, in particular, appeared to have less need for support.
- Companies that have hosted foreign VET students have received more support from educational institutions.

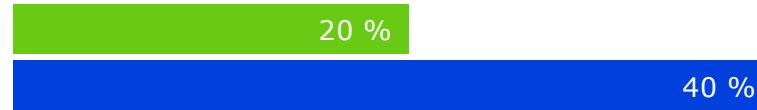
What type of support would you need from educational institutions?

■ Company has hosted intl. talents ■ Company has not hosted intl. talents

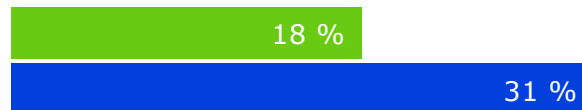
More information about the possibilities of hosting students:



Support for language problems:



Support in charting suitable tasks:



Support in guiding the students:



Key messages to educational institutions



Information about possibilities

- Communicate about how international talents' competence can be utilised.
- Market the benefits and make them visible.



Better matches in recruitment

- Matching international talents with companies is based on knowing the persons. How can you facilitate this?



Business cooperation

- Operate as bridge-builders, listening to the companies: company visits, invitations, fairs, recruitment meetings - there are many ways of doing this. Companies are different, which should be taken into account in the cooperation.



Developing guidance and instruction

- Career guidance and linguistic studies should have closer links with everyday life.
- The students should have more capabilities for making their competence visible.

Cooperation of different actors



Make it in the Netherlands 2013-2016

- National programme of all actors involved in recruiting and retention of international students
- 1 It all starts with language (online language courses, single portal for language lessons)
- 2 From studying to career (info about career prospects & starting a business)
- 3 Breaking the bubble (buddy program, cultural connection award, ensuring student services for int., mixed housing)
- 4 From red tape to red carpet (administrative procedures, info on permits & finance)
- 5 Regional results (actions & info tailored regionally)



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Thank you

