



WELCOME  
to the  
University  
of Turku!

# UNIVERSITY OF TURKU

was founded in 1920 as the first Finnish-language University.



Academic heritage in Turku since 1640:  
Royal Academy of Turku – Academia Aboensis 1640–1828.



# FACULTIES

- Humanities
- Mathematics and Natural Sciences
- Medicine
- Law
- Social Sciences
- Education
- Turku School of Economics



## SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

- 20 000 students from 103 countries
- 3 400 staff members from 60 countries
- Graduates in 2014
  - 1519 Bachelor's degrees
  - 1713 Master's degrees
  - 186 PhDs
- 4 803 scientific publications



# Context of Higher Education in Finland

- Two sectors of HE: research universities (1640- ; 14 institutions) and universities of applied sciences/polytechnics (1990s- ; 24 institutions) → extensive network of HEIs
- Several reforms (been and are) going on in both sectors: legal status, number of institutions, organizational structures, funding system, degree structures, curricula etc.
- Three-cycle degree system (Bachelor + Master + Doctorate; 3+2+4 years);
- Research universities offer all three cycles; UASs 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Restricted but equal access for all; different access criteria, usually results of matriculation exams and entrance tests



## ... context continued

- Full autonomy in academic issues
- Active staff and student participation in management from mid 1970s; low hierarchy; strong national student organisations
- University and UAS public databases openly available online (an important part of quality assurance!)
- Government steering (mostly) by information and funding system
- 2/3 of funding from the state; funding performance-based
- Tuition free system; fees for non-EU-students coming





# What influences the development of education

- At European level
  - European Higher Education Area ("Bologna Process", Finland member-country 1999- )
    - Three-cycle system, credit system (ECTS), grading system (1-5)
    - Policies and practices: competence-based curricula, recognition of prior learning, student-centred approach etc. etc.
  - EU policies, programmes etc.



# ... influences

- National level
  - Universities Act & Government Decree on University Degrees
    - Educational responsibilities (right to offer degree education in certain fields)
    - Degree structure, aims of the degrees, extent of studies leading to a degree etc.
  - "Education and Research" Development Plan
  - National strategies & programmes
- Institutional level
  - Full autonomy (by the Constitution of Finland)
  - Responsible for the quality of degrees





# The process of curriculum design in the University of Turku

- The council of teaching and learning has made decision in 2013 that curriculum is composed for two year periods in every faculty
- The council of teaching and learning has also decided that curriculum is constructed by the european ideas of learning outcomes
- And very important cornerstone is that teaching in our university is always based on research and theoretical thinking
- Every faculty accepts its curriculum



# The process of curriculum design in the University of Turku

- The process of curriculum starts every second year in autumn semester. Vice rector who is responsible for the development of education and educational structures, will send the so called curriculum letter to faculties. In this letter she will give orders and guidelines what the units in this precise time should have to take into account.
- After vice rector´s letter, units will start their own curriculum designing process in institutional teams/groups they have just for this purpose and where teachers, researchers and students are as members.
- Units works with their curriculums about 2-4 months and when they are ready the department´s council will deal and accept it.
- Curriculum will published in university´s webpage



# Academic Curriculum

- Academic Curriculum contains
  - Learning outcomes in curriculum level and course level
  - Learning and teaching approaches
  - Course material
  - Methods of learning assessment
  - Are produced every second year



# Curriculum's "timetable"

- This part of curriculum contains how the education / courses are put into practise.
- This information is produced every semester / year
  - Who is responsible for teaching?
  - When the lessons are held?
  - Where / In what rooms is teaching given?



# What is Academic curriculum?

## A Pedagogic Perspective

- It is a guidance system in academic studies and learning affairs
  - It is a student's map in a strange terrain
- It concretizes the ideas of current teaching philosophy in University and Unit level
  - What is the teaching philosophy of the university/faculty/department?
  - What are the basic values in teaching and researching?
- It is a part of university's/faculty's/department's management system
- It is a tool to develop teaching and learning in different units at the university
- It gives information about the quality system of University



# Support to curriculum process...

- In central administration we have a unit for Educational development and counselling services. This unit will support the curriculum work in faculties and departments (e.g. intranet pages, seminars, meetings, personal support when needed)
- Also the unit for Student and admission services support the curriculum process by providing electric programmes and platforms where the ready curricula are published. They will also give support to administrative staff who are responsible for coding the curriculum data into the system



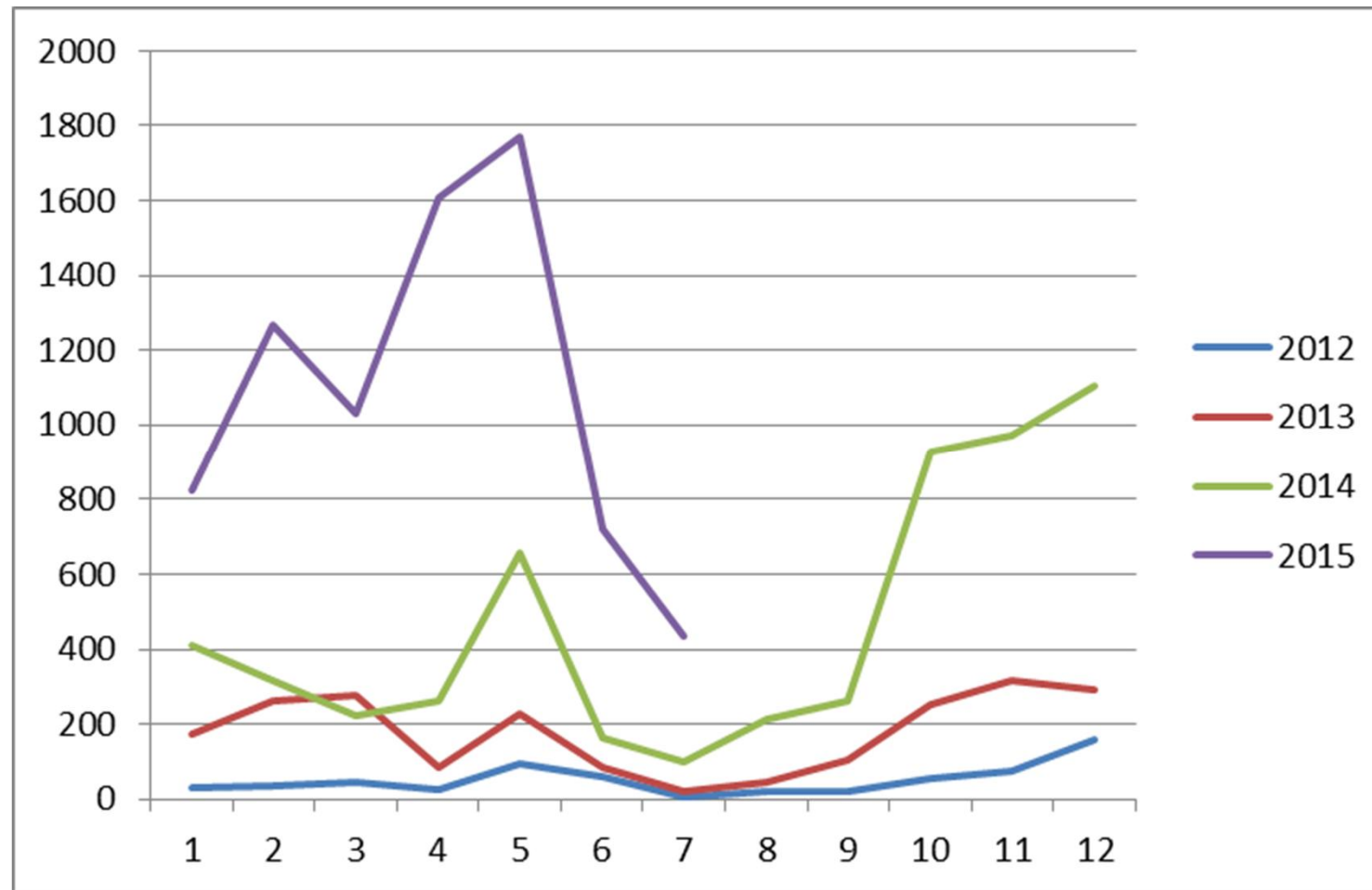
# Role and level of the technology-enhanced study and teaching

- Rector's decision about the investment programme for modernisation of teaching and learning environments
  - Physical learning environments
  - Digitalisation of teaching and learning
- e-Learning tools and services:
  - Tenttis / EXAM – electronic, computerized examination platform
  - ViLLE – Virtual Collaborative Learning Environment
  - Moodle – learning environment
  - Echo360 – lecture capture platform, video-making tool





# E-exams – electronic exams taken by students / month since 2012



# Not only infrastucture...

- "Digi-Pedagogy"
  - Need for technical as well as pedagogical training and support for teachers
  - Need for pedagogical rethinking of learning and teaching
  - Need for reformulating roles of teachers and students
    - New teaching methods (flipped classroom, blended learning, MOOC's...)
    - Responsible study culture



# University level support for teachers and counsellors

- "DigiUTU" –working group
  - Promoting digitalisation of learning and teaching
  - Technological and pedagogical support available by one contact
- University of the Future –action plan (from 2014 - )
  - Concurrent series of seminars for the university teachers about new learning environments and technology-enhanced learning and teaching
  - Sharing experiences and best practices among teaching staff
  - Engaging also the students in dialogue – project is coordinated by the National Union of University Students in Finland (SYL) and involves 11 universities
- Training programme for teacher tutors (from 2014 - )

