

FUTURES STUDIES

Finland Futures Academy (FFA) is a national network of 9 universities aimed at facilitating academic educational and research programmes in Futures Studies. The co-ordinating unit of FFA is the Finland Futures Research Centre at the University of Turku. The courses at the FFA are organised together with national and international partners. Educational activities are based on the following key concepts: interdisciplinarity, internationality, interaction between theories and practices, open distance learning solutions and a multiform approach. Futures studies education includes modules of contact and distance learning. Contact learning sessions combined with the use of information technology for distance learning enable motivating interaction of students and teachers. It also emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of futures studies. Futures studies are available for students either as part of other futures studies modules or as supplementary studies within the specific orientation of an M.A. degree. Contact information www.tvanet.fi

FUTURES 1	How Can We Explore the Future?	6 ECTS cr
FUTURES 2	Futures Research Methods	8 ECTS cr
FUTURES 3	Methods Exercise Course	3 or 8 ECTS cr
FUTURES 4	Changing Futures Theme	3 or 8 ECTS cr

FUTURES1 HOW CAN WE EXPLORE THE FUTURE?

Credits	6
Term	I-II
Person responsible	Leena-Maija Laurén tva@tse.fi
Aim and content	Futures studies is a field of knowledge characterized by interdisciplinarity. This module offers an introduction to the knowledge field of futures studies. Futures research in Finland focuses on visionary knowledge regarding alternative futures and challenges included in them. Futures research offers futures-oriented information to back up decision-making in public and private sectors.
Contact hours	This blended learning module consists of various learning methods - collaborative study, independent study, distance education (using virtual learning environment, videoconferencing, etc.) and traditional lecturing. Students meet in their local study group participating in lectures as well as in group work and discussions. Students read study materials and do exercises. Students from various local study groups share their ideas and experiences in a web-based learning environment (Moodle).
Literature	Individual and group assignments are based on following literature: 1. FFA, Study Guide and Collection of Articles, Turku 2010. 2. MASINI, ELEONORA, Why futures studies? Grey Seal, London 1993. 3. Bell, Wendell, Foundations of Futures Studies. Volume I. Transaction publishers, London 1997. 4. Lecture notes.
Mode of assessment	To complete this course students have to a) actively participate in local study group, b) do all the exercises and c) pass a group exam.

FUTURES 2 FUTURES RESEARCH METHODS

Credits	8
Term	III-IV
Person responsible	Leena-Maija Laurén tva@tse.fi
Aim and content	The aim is to give readiness to understand and use various methodologies and methods in futures studies. Students will particularly learn about Delphi method, Scenarios, Environmental Scanning, Soft Systems Methodology

Prerequisites	and Foresight. We recommend course Futures1 How Can We Explore the Future? or pre-reading material.
Contact hours	This blended learning module consists of various learning methods - collaborative study, independent study, distance education (using virtual learning environment, webcasting, etc.) and traditional lecturing. Students meet in their local study group participating in lectures as well as in group work and discussions. Students read study materials and do exercises.
Literature	1. Bell, Wendell, Foundations of Futures Studies. Volumes I and II. Transaction publishers, London 1997. 2. FFA, Study Guide and collection of articles. Turku 2011
Mode of assessment	To complete this course students have to a) actively participate in local study group, b) do all the exercises, c) participate in a Delphi process exercise and d) write a report on the group work.

FUTURES 3 FUTURES RESEARCH IN PRACTICE 3 A

Credits	3 / 8
Term	I-II
Person responsible	Sari Söderlund tva@tse.fi
Aim and content	The students will learn how to argue in a scientific manner and how to assess scientific argumentation as well as how to evaluate research. They will also learn to use the multidisciplinary point of view in research and take advantage of inter-, trans- and multidisciplinary research methods and viewpoints.
Prerequisites	Futures 2
Contact hours	Lectures in Tampere
Mode of assessment	To complete the course the students have to a) actively participate the lectures. b) do online assignments and c) carry out an individual research or write an article exercise
Notes	Further information: www.tvanet.fi

FUTURE 4 CHANGING FUTURES THEME

Credits	3 / 8
Term	IV
Person responsible	Hanna-Kaisa Aalto tva@tse.fi
Aim and content	To familiarize students with recent academic futures research on a specific topic such as foresight management in corporations and public organisations, scanning for the future, scenario building, tools and strategies for sustainable futures and regional foresight. Topic follows annually the topic of the international conference of Finland Futures Research Centre and Finland Futures Academy.
Contact hours	Summer School is organised parallel to the annual international conference of Finland Futures Research Centre and Finland Futures Academy
Mode of assessment	To complete the course the students have to a) study the pre-reading material, b) actively participate in the lectures and conference and c) do course exercises.
Notes	Further information: www.tvanet.fi