

# Opasraportti

## Future Studies (2014 - 2015)

### Future Studies

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Website: <http://www.oulu.fi/tulevaisuudentutkimus/>

### Admission requirements

Courses in the Future Studies programme are organized by the Finland Futures Academy (FFA), which is a national education and research network. The Academy itself is co-ordinated by the Finland Futures Research Centre at the University of Turku.

In order to study at the FFA, students must have the study rights at one of the partner universities or institutes of higher education. Studies in the programme can be included in the student's elective studies. Students are free to complete individual courses or compile a study package of 25 ECTS credits. (nearly) equal to that of a subsidiary (minor) subject.

### Study guidance

Study guidance in the University of Oulu is provided by the University Lecturer, Erkki Urpilainen, tel. +358 29 448 3305

### Future Studies

In many ways the point of departure in the Future Studies programme is the same as in the social sciences in general: it is based on society's need to increase the number of moral choices on the horizon and provide meaning to the choices we make in the present. However, those choices are always dependent on past developments and our previous choices. One could say that, for certain matters at least, we can follow the traces of our choices and their consequences far into the past—perhaps even hundreds of years back. In addition, the choices we make now are always intrinsically connected to the information we have at the moment as well as our view of the future. Additionally, the information and knowledge that societies or individuals use to make decisions are themselves dependent on history, culture, values as well as on the decision maker's level of education, character and experience.

The aim of Future Studies is to discover, evaluate and suggest possible or probable futures and thereby help people to go through the various alternative futures they want so that they can use this information in their decision making. In this way, it is possible to make effective plans to enhance the chances of achieving the best possible future. Futurologists use research and innovations from other disciplines when sketching out the various possible, probable and desirable futures that await us.

It is not possible to directly research the future. It does not exist in the same way as the present and past do. Instead, it exists in the present as intentions, which we can explore. We can also explore the matters and phenomena that will affect the future. The future is not predestined either. We can explore alternative paths of development so long as we remember that different outcomes have different levels of probability. Because it is possible to influence the quality of

the future by individual decisions, it is naturally important to define what kind of choices lead to the best and most approved of state of the future. For that reason, discussion concerning values takes on essential importance in the Future Studies programme.

### Study packages and learning outcomes

Upon completion of the study package, students have a conception of the academic tradition in the research of the future, a basic knowledge of the academic thought on the future, and knowledge of the central concepts and methods in the discipline. Students can explain the significance of methodological choices in research as well as the connections between theoretical approaches, points of departure concerning philosophy of science and methods. They can apply the perspectives and methods of their expertise in Future Studies in their own research.

## Tutkintorakenteisiin kuulumattomat opintokokonaisuudet ja -jaksot

700713P: Changing futures theme, 5 op  
 700715P: Foundations of Futures Studies, 5 op  
 700716P: Future Research Methods, 5 op  
 700717P: Futures Research Methods in Practice, 5 op  
 700714P: Scenario Thinking, 5 op

## Opintojaksoiden kuvaukset

### Tutkintorakenteisiin kuulumattomien opintokokonaisuuksien ja -jaksojen kuvaukset

#### 700713P: Changing futures theme, 5 op

**Voimassaolo:** 01.08.2005 -

**Opiskelumuoto:** Basic Studies

**Laji:** Course

**Vastuuyksikkö:** Faculty of Humanities

**Arvostelu:** 1 - 5, pass, fail

**Opettajat:** Urpilainen, Erkki Juhani

**Opintokohteen kielet:** Finnish

**Leikkaavuudet:**

ay700713P Changing futures theme (OPEN UNI) 5.0 op

**Voidaan suorittaa useasti:** Kyllä

**Assessment methods and criteria:**

Read more about [assessment criteria](#) at the University of Oulu webpage.

#### 700715P: Foundations of Futures Studies, 5 op

**Voimassaolo:** 01.08.2012 -

**Opiskelumuoto:** Basic Studies

**Laji:** Course

**Vastuuyksikkö:** Faculty of Humanities

**Arvostelu:** 1 - 5, pass, fail

**Opettajat:** Urpilainen, Erkki Juhani

**Opintokohteen kielet:** Finnish

**Leikkaavuudet:**

ay700715P Foundations of Futures Studies (OPEN UNI) 5.0 op

**Voidaan suorittaa useasti:** Kyllä

**Assessment methods and criteria:**

Read more about [assessment criteria](#) at the University of Oulu webpage.

## 700716P: Future Research Methods, 5 op

**Voimassaolo:** 01.08.2012 -

**Opiskelumuoto:** Basic Studies

**Laji:** Course

**Vastuuyksikkö:** Faculty of Humanities

**Arvostelu:** 1 - 5, pass, fail

**Opettajat:** Urpilainen, Erkki Juhani

**Opintokohteen kielet:** Finnish

**Leikkaavuudet:**

ay700716P Future Research Methods (OPEN UNI) 5.0 op

**Voidaan suorittaa useasti:** Kyllä

**Assessment methods and criteria:**

Read more about [assessment criteria](#) at the University of Oulu webpage.

## 700717P: Futures Research Methods in Practice, 5 op

**Voimassaolo:** 01.08.2012 -

**Opiskelumuoto:** Basic Studies

**Laji:** Course

**Vastuuyksikkö:** Faculty of Humanities

**Arvostelu:** 1 - 5, pass, fail

**Opettajat:** Urpilainen, Erkki Juhani

**Opintokohteen kielet:** Finnish

**Leikkaavuudet:**

ay700717P Futures Research Methods in Practice (OPEN UNI) 5.0 op

**Voidaan suorittaa useasti:** Kyllä

**Assessment methods and criteria:**

Read more about [assessment criteria](#) at the University of Oulu webpage.

## 700714P: Scenario Thinking, 5 op

**Voimassaolo:** 01.08.2012 -

**Opiskelumuoto:** Basic Studies

**Laji:** Course

**Vastuuyksikkö:** Faculty of Humanities

**Arvostelu:** 1 - 5, pass, fail

**Opettajat:** Urpilainen, Erkki Juhani

**Opintokohteen kielet:** Finnish

**Leikkaavuudet:**

ay700714P Scenario Thinking (OPEN UNI) 5.0 op

**Voidaan suorittaa useasti:** Kyllä

**Assessment methods and criteria:**

Read more about [assessment criteria](#) at the University of Oulu webpage.