



5 216 000
inhabitants



\$ 3 317
income per year



♂ 76yrs ♀ 83yrs
life expectancy



12.1%
of GDP for health



33.0
doctors/10 000 people

STUDYING MEDICINE IN...

Helsinki

Riikka Kempainen (25) is a fifth year medical student from Helsinki, Finland.

How many hours a week do you spend on your study?

It depends on the course that you are involved in. I have around 25 to 35 hours obligatory teachings per week. On top of that we might have to examine patients or spend some time at the emergency room. Furthermore, I study around two hours per week for exams but I think that is an extremely low figure – some people might study up to 15 to 20 hours per week.

What is the biggest difference between studying medicine in Finland and other countries?

In Finland medicine is definitely one of the toughest fields at the university and it is fairly difficult to get in as probably everywhere in the world. Still I feel that compared to many other countries medical school in Finland is not that time consuming and competitive.

What do you think is the best part of medical education in Finland?

In Finland it is possible to start working as a doctor once you have finished your fourth year. I think this is really motivating and gives us invaluable clinical experience in an early stage. Because we can start working so early

the education is also very practically oriented. We don't need to know all the molecules and pathways by heart but we need to know how to diagnose, how to treat and when to send to a specialist.

Is it financially possible for everyone to study medicine?

Medical education in Finland is for free. The government supports our studies by giving each student a study grant of €300 and housing supplement of €27 to €200 depending on your housing costs. On top of that you can get government guarantee for a student loan €300 a month that you have to pay back with interest once you are finished. All in all, I get €470 from the government each month. To give you some perspective, my rent is €456 a month.

In Finland medical education is for free

Describe your life in 2020...

I would really need a crystal ball for this! I haven't really planned my life that far. Besides medicine I am studying to become a contemporary dance teacher and my nearest goal is to graduate from both schools by 2014. After that I'll be a happy dancing doctor! **MP**

