



About Finnish Police Education

Timo Korander
Senior Lecturer
Police College of Finland

International seminar:
**Police education and training in Belgium: on the
way to Bologna?**

16 October 2008, Egmont Palace, Brussels

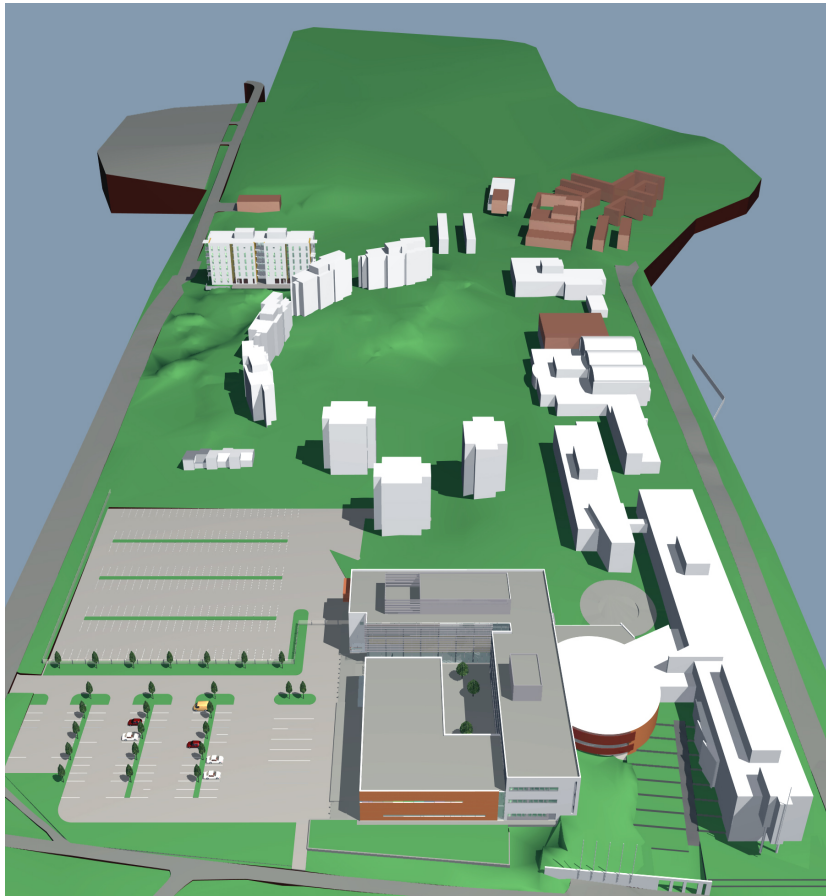


Police College of Finland

- The Last Reform: The two police training institutes of Finland,
 1. the National Police School (training of officers, staff 2006: 168)
 2. the Police College, (training of superior officers training; staff 2006: 61)merged into a single police training establishment at the start of 2008. (Number of staff 2008: 217)
- Regionalization followed the principles of the new state personnel policy
- The Aim: Increase effectiveness and efficiency; cut down management costs; increase coordination between different levels of police education and training; better use of resources (housing, classrooms, equipments, teachers etc.)



Police College of Finland



- Tasks of the institution:
 - recruitment for police training
 - selection of students
 - diploma studies

- further training
- leadership training
- research and development

(The Police College Area: Main building, National Police Museum, Accommodation, Sports hall, Practice area)



A short history of the Finnish Police Education reforms

In 1918 national police training starts in Suomenlinna, Helsinki
 In 1962 cadet and police officer training at the Police Academy in Espoo

Commanding officers training:
Police Academy, Espoo

Conscious development for better and more academic education: Leadership training becomes longer (3 years) and more advanced – researchers are recruited into the Police Academy

"The last B.A. reform" 1998:

Police Academy is given a polytechnic status, it becomes the **Police College of Finland**.
 Research Department is founded in College. Co-operative professor-posts of Police Commanding (M.A.) are funded in two Universities.

Next reform:

The aim: Commanding level will be M.A. level of vocational education – both B.A. and M.A. will be given in The Police College



Basic training of constables:

In 1973 the Academy's Police Course Centre in Helsinki
 In 1974 Police Course Centre moves to Tampere
 In 1986 The National Police School is founded

In 1993 The **National Police School** moves to Hervanta in Tampere

Basic training becomes longer (2,5 years) and advanced, many new teachers are needed to be recruited (number of staff grows 150-180)

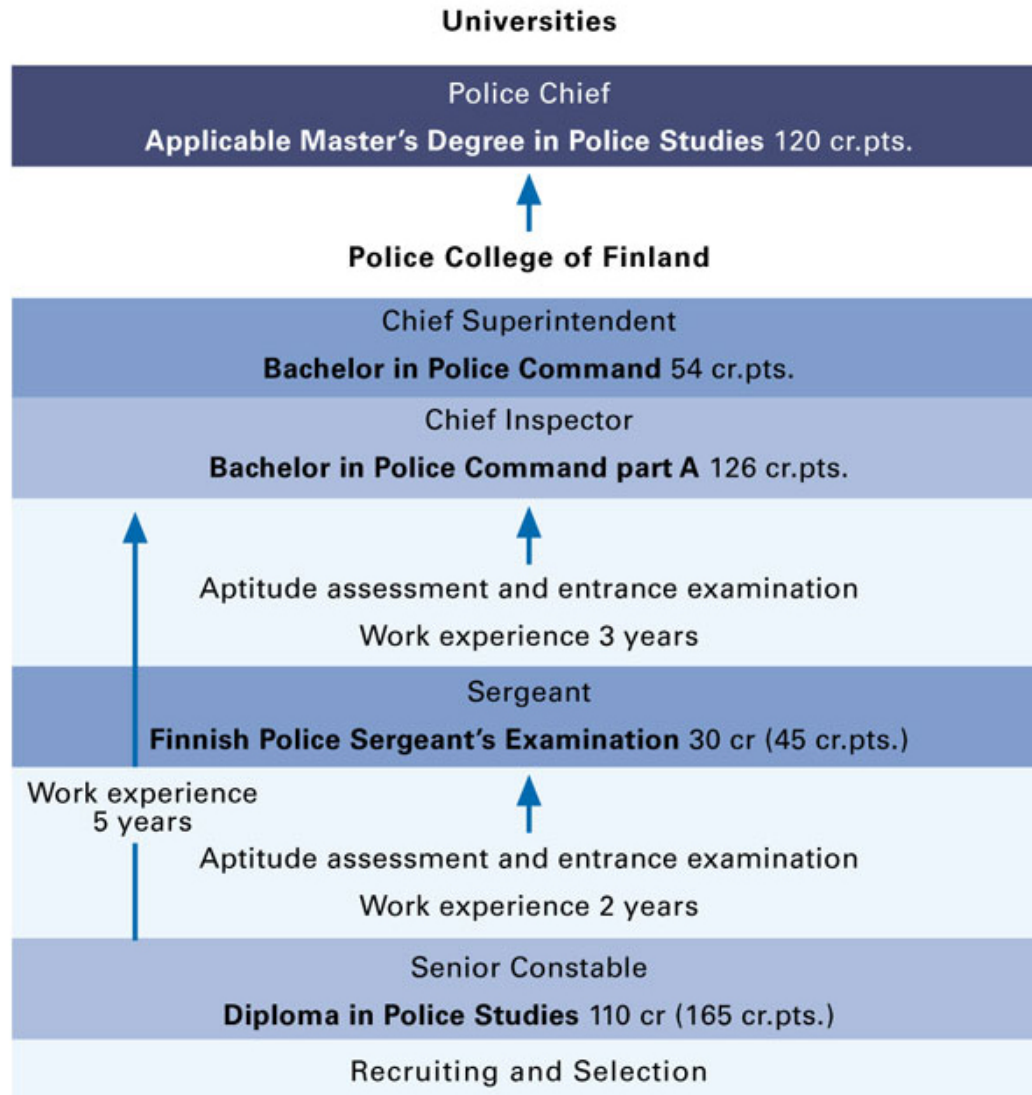
Current reform 2008:

The Police College and the National Police School merges to the new **Police College of Finland**, in Tampere (number of staff 217)

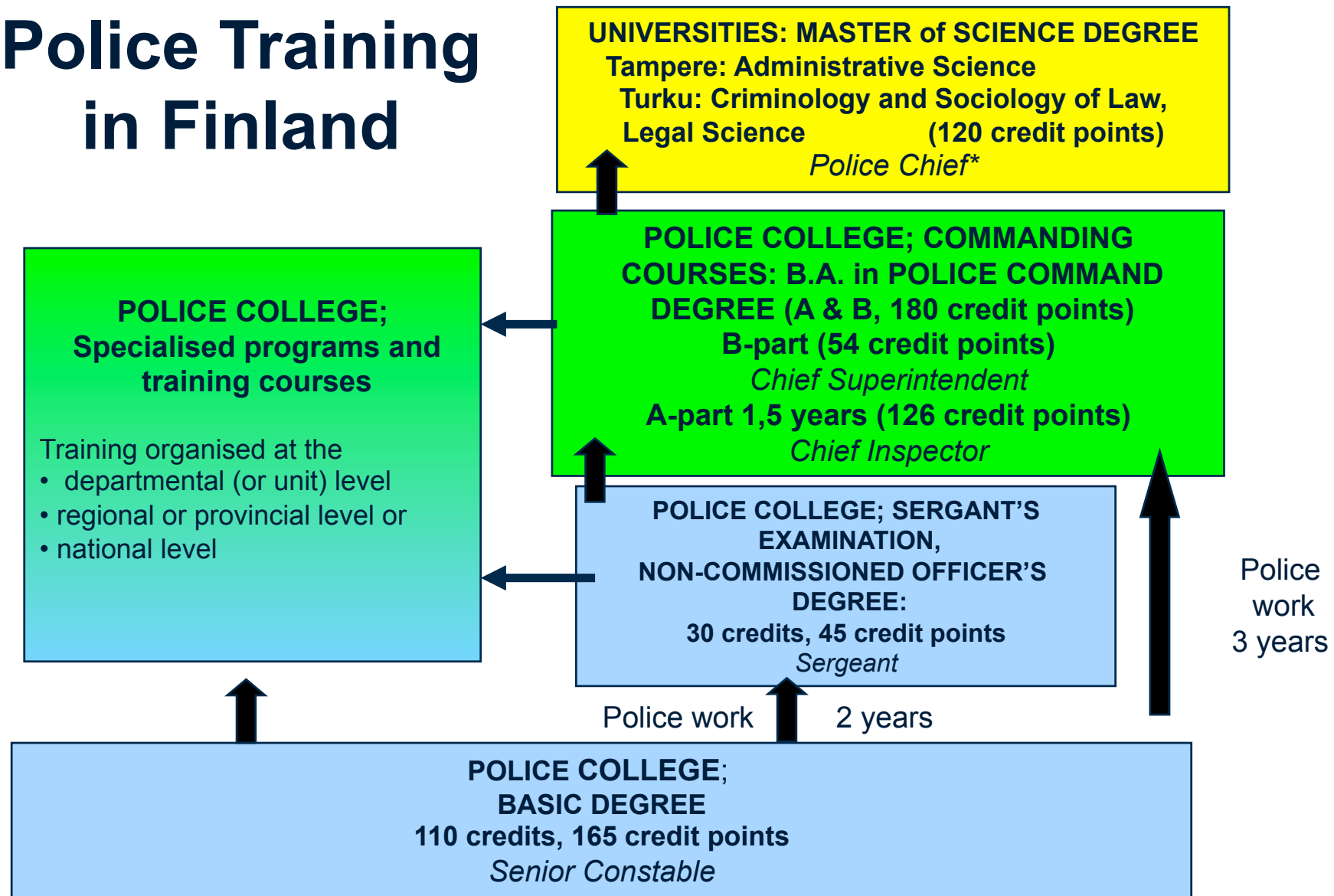
The aim: Basic training of constable will be B.A. level of vocational education, polytechnic level



Degree Programmes in Police Studies



Police Training in Finland



**traditional way to become a Police Chief is also a M.A. degree in Law, Law School in any University*





”1990’s B.A. reform: 1998” - Police College, a polytechnic

- The early 1990’s Finnish Police, Ministry of Interior needed research information – some researchers were recruited to the Police Academy, (there was shortage of criminological, especially Police (relevant) research in Finland*). Researchers also gave lectures in Commanding Courses.
- University lecturers were recruited to the new Police College 1998, now for example administrative science and criminology lectures co-operated with lecturers of law
- Researcher Department was established in new Police College 1998 – researchers have role in Commanding Courses education (B.A.)
- Co-operative professor-posts of Police Commanding (M.A.) are funded in two Universities 1998, University of Turku and University of Tampere
- Commanding courses strated to have more academic content and higher academic standards: administrative and social sciences and scientific methodology became integral part of higher police education in commanding courses (B.A. level) >>>

*The National Research Institute of Legal Policy was in practice the only insitute which is conducting research in the area, about 6-10 criminologists in Finland, but it is part of Ministry of Justice





BA in Police Command 1

- Prepares students to *all functional areas* within the Finnish Police
 - One program gives required competence, skills and training to all functional command positions, e.g. both to criminal investigation and field (patrol) operations management, as well as traffic policing
- Degree is a *professional* degree
 - Professionally oriented university degree; Polytechnic degree
 - Prepares students for new tasks, new role and new responsibilities





BA in Police Command 2

- The core of the program is management and leadership training
 - Commanding officer's profession is to manage and lead others; to define strategies, clarify goals and objectives, allocate resources, give direction and motivate, evaluate outcomes and develop police activities under his/her authority
 - Professionalisation of management and leadership
 - Stress on human and conceptual skills





BA in Police Command 3

- Degree is a professionally oriented *university (polytechnic) degree*
 - Professional understanding of the police work and police management is deepened and developed by using scientific knowledge and research
 - Integration of research, learning, organisational development and professional & personal growth
 - Application of theoretical knowledge and systematic research in developing police work and police management
 - Education as well as training





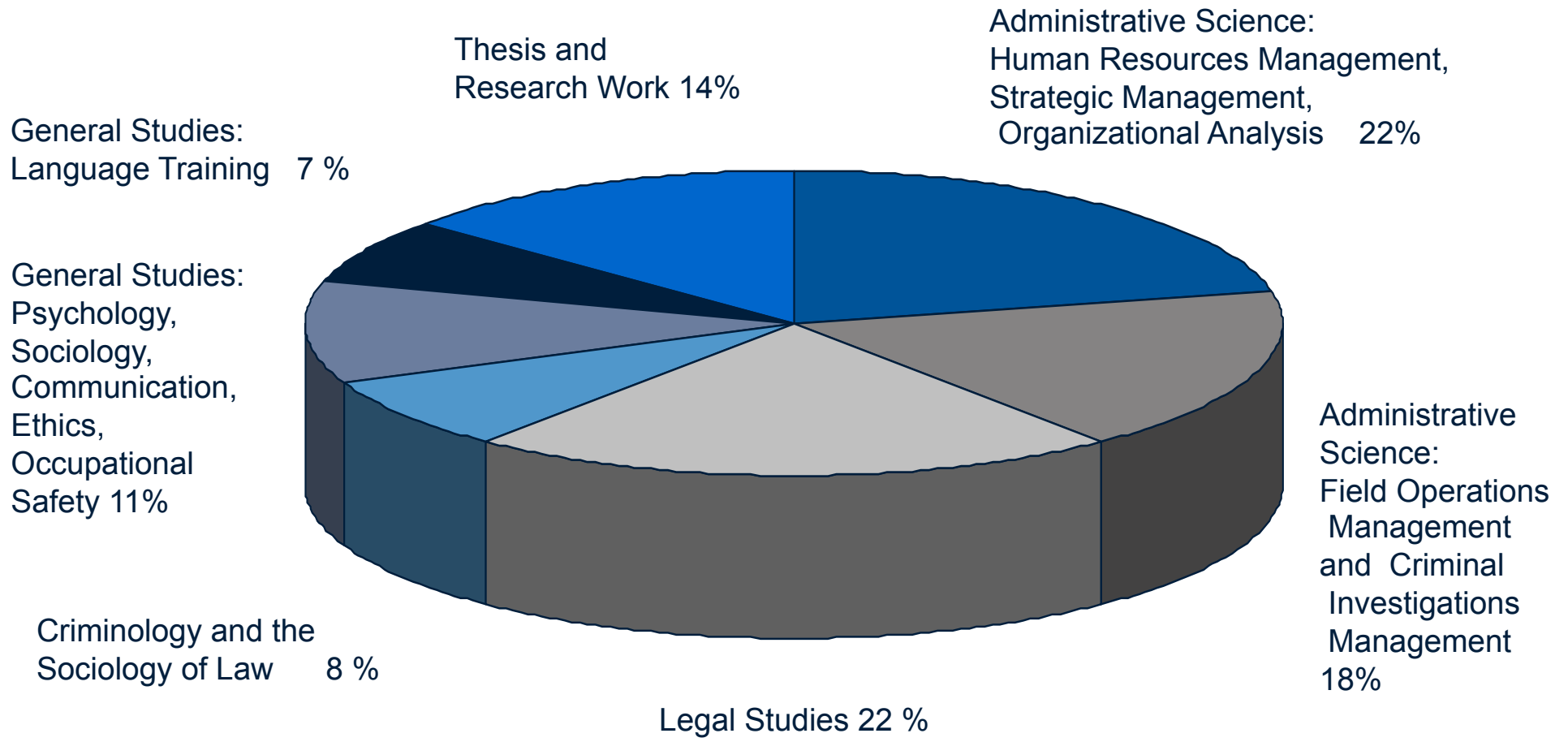
BA in Police Command 4

- Degree is based on *co-operation with research universities*
 - Program was designed in co-operation with two internationally well-known, high quality Finnish universities (U. of Tampere and Turku) - applying their expertise on public management, legal sciences and criminology
 - Students may continue their studies towards Masters Degrees at Universities of Tampere (Police Administration and Management) or Turku (Criminology and Sociology of Law; or Legal Sciences)
 - Those who do not want to continue in University, can choose more professional, not academic, contents in B-part of the BA degree



COMMANDING OFFICER'S TRAINING (B.A.)

The contents of the Curriculum (1998-):





RESEARCH IN THE CURRICULA

Studying research methods plays an important role in the Commanding Officers' training.

The aim of the methodological studies is:

- to give a student the necessary skills to prepare and interpret statistical material and apply scientific research methods and results in police work, especially in crime prevention and the kind of senior-level tasks requiring examination of the effectiveness of the organisation
- to give necessary skills to conduct independent research which is essential for postgraduate studies.



The Police College of Finland

NOTE: This was taken from ppt's: Introduction of Police College 1999





Extra useful information

- [About Finnish Police Training >](#)





Vision and Values of the Police College

- Vision 2015

In 2015, the Police College will be a highly regarded police skills training, research and development institute working to promote cooperation in the field of security at national and international level.

- Values

Fair and just
Professional and capable
Serving the community
Wellbeing at work





BASIC TRAINING: Diploma in Police Studies

- Duration of 2 ½ years
- Worth 110 credits (165 credit points, includes a 20-credit supervised work practice period)
- Accommodation, food, and healthcare is free during the classroom training periods
- The Diploma in Police Studies are eligible for the posts of
 - Senior Constable,
 - Senior Detective Constable and
 - Detective.

The Diploma in Police Studies is made up of three main elements:

- Field Activities: general police studies, communications systems, legal studies, psychology, and the use of force.
- Crime Prevention: investigative tactics, crime scene investigation, criminal law and criminal procedure law.
- Traffic: road traffic legislation, driver training





BASIC TRAINING: Oath Concerning the Professional Ethics of Police Officers

– all constables swear this oath in their graduation

- “I do solemnly declare upon my honour and conscience that I will act at all times to the best of my ability and knowledge in a manner befitting a police officer.
- I will preserve the dignity and will respect the rights of all individuals.
- I will exercise my authority as a police officer in the manner intended by the law.
- I will faithfully obey the orders of my superiors and will be ready to confront danger in the line of duty.
- I will discharge my duties with integrity and will promote understanding and conciliation.
- I will act with honesty, courtesy and regard for the welfare of others, and will endeavour to develop the esprit de corps.
- I will act justly and impartially and with propriety towards my fellow officers.
- I will constantly strive to honour this oath in my service as a police officer.”





BASIC TRAINING: Key Figures on Applicants and Students for the Diploma

- Approximately 1,500 applicants yearly
- 312 applicants accepted in 2007
 - 408 a year in 2004–2006
 - 360 a year in 2001–2003
- One Swedish-speaking student group per year
- 30 % of applicants are female, and 25 % of students starting
- Average age of both the applicants and those accepted is 24





Finnish Police Sergeant's Examination

- Duration of 2–3 years
- Worth 30 credits (45 credit points)
- The studies are planned to be undertaken alongside work
- Those who successfully complete the Finnish Police Sergeant's Examination are eligible for the posts of
 - Sergeant,
 - Detective
 - Sergeant and
 - Senior Detective.





Bachelor in Police Command

- The polytechnic degree programme at the Police College
- Worth 180 credit points:
 - Part A (126 credit points)
 - Including basic and advanced vocational studies, practical learning and the writing of a study paper
 - Duration of 1 ½ years
 - Part B (54 credit points)
 - Studying while working by a personal study plan
 - Duration of about 3 years
- Those who have successfully completed part A of the programme are eligible for the posts of Sergeant, Chief Inspector and Detective Chief Inspector
- Those who have successfully completed part B of the programme are eligible for the posts of Chief Superintendent, Detective Chief Superintendent and Deputy Police Chief, and other senior police posts.





Research

- Independent research on areas of relevance to police work from the social, behavioural and legal science perspective
- Research areas:
 - Narcotics Crime
 - Crime and Security
 - Police Administration
 - Policing
 - Economic Crime





Research

- Carries out research on policing, police organisation and on the operational environment of the police:
 - Supports internal safety planning, anticipates internal security threats and develops the police organisation and the methods of policing
 - Contributes to both domestic and international social and criminological debate
- Findings are used extensively in police training, and the research staff teach and provide guidance for students working on their study papers
- Offers paid services to outsiders





Police College Key Figures

- 217 employees
 - Approximately 120 teachers and trainers
- Police College's operating expenses in 2008: 23 million Euros
- Statistics for 2007:
 - 1322 people applied for the Diploma in Police Studies
 - 321 people began studying for the Diploma in Police Studies
 - 372 people received the Diploma in Police Studies
 - 63 people sat the Finnish Police Sergeant's Examination
 - 25 people sat the Part A in Bachelor in Police Command



Police in Finland

