

Are the subject teachers' English skills good enough?

BESIGPoznan

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Satakunta University of Applied Sciences, Finland

- Students 6500
- Staff 500
- 22 Bachelor's degrees; 3 in English
- 3 Master's degrees; 1 in English
- Some modules in English in all programmes



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English for Educational Professionals

- 1.5 yrs programme, 30 ECTS
 - Orientation and Evaluation
 - Professional Core Studies
 - Crosscultural Communication in Professional Context
 - Reviewing, Updating and Activating Professional Language
 - Development Project



Staff opinions

- Staff: Mostly Finns, but also Austrian, Thai, Chinese, Russian and American teachers; also visiting lecturers from all over the world
- [Accounting teacher](#)
- [HRM teacher](#)
- Teachers' own views of challenges:
 - Understanding students' English, making students understand, ability to take different cultural backgrounds into account
 - Nothing to improve
 - Vocabulary, grammar, spelling, everyday English, written English, slow pace

Student opinions 1

- Students in an English degree programme and exchange students
- Countries: Finland, China, France, Italy, Nepal, Russia, Nigeria, Ghana, Germany, Bangladesh,
- Most happy with the skills
- Does not matter whether the speakers are native or non-native
- Non-native speakers easier to understand than native speakers
- English skills do not matter as they are helpful otherwise

Student opinions 2

- Do not understand students' English
- No attention to students' poor English skills
- Too much focus on their own use of English, instead of subject
- Poor English skills – Finglish
- No attention to different cultural backgrounds
- Grading without attention to students' nationality

Language challenges

- Accent
 - strong accent – hard to understand
 - Later in business – used to accents
- Pronunciation
 - Words not recognisable
 - Students learn wrong pronunciation
- Vocabulary
 - Limited vocabulary
 - translated idioms
 - terminology ok
- Grammar
 - Non-English structures
 - Oral vs. Written English
- Fluency
 - Slow and monotonous

Are the Subject Teachers' English Skills Good Enough?

- YES
 - learning subject
 - getting used to English
 - enabling crosscultural/-lingual groups
- NO
 - learning English
 - raising cultural awareness

YES

NO