

# GLOBAL EDUCATION ALLIES

Connecting educators and students through partnership programs that develop global awareness and foster innovative learning environments.

SUMMER 2022  
Educator Excursion

# Finland

THE COUNTRY OF EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

## FINLAND, SWEDEN, AND THE BALTICS: A History of Deliberate Effort to Leave No Child Behind

Global Education Allies is hosting an educator excursion to Finland to explore the educational system that has astounded many with its top performing scores, yet boasts an approach to schooling that some call “unorthodox” with its high level of trust, shorter school days and minimal pressure to perform. This educational excursion will give participants the chance to observe the Finnish education system on many levels, ask questions of experts, and make connections with local K-12 educators and administrators. Educators will have the option to participate in pre- and post-trips, which illuminate the region’s complex, yet vibrant history. [Click here](#) for more details.

## REFUNDS AND COVID SAFETY

Please read [here](#) about our refund policies, extensive Covid strategies, and how GEA intends to make travel as safe, fair, and comfortable as possible.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

Shared accommodations, most meals and program activities (including sightseeing and entrance fees), and local transportation (including possible overnight ferries and flights). There will be an additional fee of \$150 for non-educator guests to cover additional expenses. We reserve the right to change the itinerary. See [website](#) for additional details.

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

International airfare, airport transportation to and from our meeting and ending locations, some meals, travel insurance, add-on or upgrade options that may be selected, and any covid-related testing costs.

## APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The early consideration deadline is January 15, 2022. Those hoping to do the Lapland and archipelago post-trip are encouraged to apply by this date. The final deadline is March 1. ZOOM interviews will be held January through March and all selection decisions will be made by March 15th, 2022. A non-refundable program deposit of \$250 for the main program will be due within 1 week of acceptance. Program balance (including any pre- or post-trips), must be paid in full by July 1, 2022. **APPLY NOW** at <https://www.globaledallies.org/scandinavia-sign-up>



- Explore the education system in Finland.
- Work directly with Finnish educators in establishing lasting partnerships with local schools.
- Discover the history and culture of the Baltic region.
- Earn professional development hours.

## WHO?

All interested educators and their guests

## WHEN?

July 25 - August 7  
(6-13 day options)

## WHERE?

Finland, Sweden, Latvia, Estonia, Lapland

## DEADLINE?

Priority Consideration Deadline: Jan. 15, 2022

Main Deadline: March 1, 2022 (if spaces are still available)

## HOW MUCH?

Main Finland Program: \$1750

Finland + Sweden and the Baltics: \$2950

Finland + Lapland and the archipelago: \$2750

Entire package: \$3950, a \$300 discount

## 2022 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Optional Pre-trip (Part 1) to Stockholm, Sweden: Venice of the North (July 25 - 27)



- Visit many of the famous landmarks in Sweden, including the Vasa Ship and Skansen, an outdoor folk museum that replicates the country's cultural heritage.
- Explore Gamla Stan (Old Town), the Royal Palace, and the Nobel Museum.
- Visit an innovative youth education center.

### Pre-trip (Part 2) to Riga, Latvia and Tallinn, Estonia: The Medieval Cities (July 27 - 30)

- Take a cruise on a large ship to Latvia across the Baltic Sea.
- Discover the Old Towns of Riga and Tallinn, UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Dine at a Medieval restaurant in the Old Town square.



### Main Program in Finland: The Educational Innovator (July 30 - Aug 4)

- Visit a variety of Finnish schools and the University of Helsinki to learn why Finland ranks among the highest in the world in education.
- Share a meal in the home of a Finnish host family and stay at a nature retreat center at a lake in the Finnish forest to get an in-depth cultural experience.
- Meet many Finnish educators to exchange ideas and to create classroom-to-classroom or school-to-school partnerships.
- Explore a state-of-the-art educational center at Nuksio National Park.
- Visit the Design District, the famous Farmers Market, and an island fortress UNESCO World Heritage Site in Helsinki.
- Experience a traditional Finnish sauna on a lake.

### Optional Post-trip to Lapland and the Finnish Archipelago (Aug 4 - 7)

- Fly to Lapland, the land of the midnight sun, and visit the Arctic Circle.
- Visit a reindeer farm and participate in a Lappish initiation rite.
- Drop by Santa's workshop and meet the real legend in person.
- Create a craft inspired by the indigenous Sámi people at a local craft collective.
- Ride with an Arctic dog sled team.
- Learn about the Arctic dog sled industry and interact with the dogs.
- Visit Arktikum, a state-of-the-art museum to learn about the science, history, and arts of the Arctic North.
- Explore the Southern Finnish archipelago.
- Enjoy a buffet dinner at a fisherman's cabin.



## ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

All educators and administrators are eligible to apply. Educators are encouraged to apply early for priority consideration as we have always filled our programs before the final deadline. Non-educator guests will be considered based on availability.

## Program Staff

**Dr. Lora Anderson Cook**, a longtime advocate of global education and exchange programs, is the executive director of Global Education Allies. Dr. Cook has directed dozens of international education programs for thousands of participants on several continents. She is also the director of Au Pair Weekend, which offers intensive weekend courses in nine cities in the USA for international students.  
Email: [loracook@globaledallies.org](mailto:loracook@globaledallies.org)

**Aino Larsen** is the director of Global Education Allies and has led hundreds of educators on programs on four continents. Her background is in international education and her interests lie in innovation, educational reform, and school culture. She is originally from Finland and has experience teaching in K-12, community organizations and higher ed. Email: [ainolarsen@globaledallies.org](mailto:ainolarsen@globaledallies.org)



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APPLY NOW!