



Research notification / PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

1. Request to participate in a study

You are invited to take part in the study "Kielitaidosta kiinni", which examines the experiences of adults Finnish/Swedish language learners on language requirements and language test assessments in Finland. The study is part of the IMPACT project at the Centre for Applied Language Studies at the University of Jyväskylä.

Participation in the study is important because there is no previous research on the subject. It is therefore not known what multilingual adults think about the language requirements for, i.e. applying for Finnish citizenship, a job, or a place of study, or what their personal experiences are of language assessment and language testing in Finland.

You are being asked to take part in the study because you have previously taken the Finnish/Swedish language test in YKI examination, and you belong to the target group of the study. Permission to use your contact information for this designated purpose has been obtained from the data controller of the YKI examination.

This research notification describes the study and how to participate in it. An annex explains how your personal data is processed.

To participate in the study, you must have previously taken the Finnish/Swedish YKI test at the intermediate or higher level of the National Certificates of Language Proficiency (Yleiset kielitutkinnot, YKI). In addition, to participate in the study, you must give permission to the researchers at the Centre for Applied Language Studies to include information about your examination results (YKI language proficiency assessments) in the research data.

The study will involve an estimated total of at least 1000 adults who have taken or, will in the near future take the intermediate or advanced level language YKI test to obtain an official certificate of their Finnish/Swedish language skills.

This is a single study. However, you may be contacted for further research if you give your consent to be contacted.

2. Voluntariness

Participation in this study is voluntary. You can refuse to take part in the study, discontinue participation or withdraw your consent at any time during the study without giving any reason. There will be no negative consequences for you.

If you discontinue your participation in the study or withdraw your consent, the personal data, research samples and other information collected about you up to that point will be used as part of the research data when necessary to verify the results of the study.

3. The research process

If you take part in the study, you will initially be **asked to complete two online surveys**. The first one is about your **experience of taking part in the YKI examination** (Questionnaire 1). The second one concerns your **opinion on the language requirements in Finland** (Questionnaire 2). You will start by answering Questionnaire 1, which will also ask you a few questions about your background. Answering Questionnaire 2 is not compulsory, but it is important for the success of the study that as many participants as possible answer both questionnaires.

The surveys will be conducted during the autumn of 2025 via Webropol survey tool on your own computer or smart device. Answering is done online and does not require downloading any separate software. **Links to the questionnaires will be emailed to you from the Webropol system address**. The questionnaires will mainly consist of multiple-choice questions. In addition, you can give reasons for your answers and answer open questions verbally.

You can read the survey questions in Finnish/Swedish or English. When you open the questionnaires in Webropol, you can change the language yourself. Note! If you wish, **you can answer the open questions not only in Finnish, Swedish and English, but also in one of the following languages: Arabic, Estonian, Kurdish, Persian, Russian, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese**.

Please allow at least 20 minutes to complete the survey. Answer the questionnaires only once. If you have not responded to the online questionnaires, you can receive a paper questionnaire by post.

Some respondents will be invited for an interview. At the end of questionnaire 2, **you will be asked if you want to be invited to an interview**. If you agree, the researchers may send you a separate invitation to an interview at a later stage of the study. When you receive the invitation, you can decide whether you want to participate in the interview.

Some interviewees may be offered the opportunity to take part in a citizen science project and/or a free retest in the YKI examination as part of the IMPACT project and receive feedback on their skills. Participation in the citizen science project and the retest is voluntary. The number of people invited to the citizen science project and those invited to take the retest, as well as the selection criteria, will be determined on the basis of the funding of the study and the initial results.

Only those who have accepted the research use of their YKI data have been sent an invitation to this study. **If you decide to take part in this study, new research data will be combined with the test result** (language proficiency level) **you received in the YKI Finnish/Swedish examination earlier**. If you have previously answered the YKI background questionnaire, **the information collected in the background questionnaire** (e.g. mother tongue, educational background, Finnish/Swedish language learning and use) **will also be included in the research data**.

4. Potential benefits of the research

There is no salary for participating in the study and no other direct benefit for the participants. However, the study will be useful for a little-studied field of research and for the development of language assessment.

By taking part in the study, your experience and opinions on Finnish language requirements and language assessment will become part of the research data. In this way, you will contribute to the production of new scientific knowledge. This can have an impact on the development of test assessment and Finnish language policy.

Some of the participants in the follow-up phase of the study will be able to participate a citizen science project and/or retake the YKI test, which will also provide feedback.

5. Risks, inconveniences and discomforts that may arise from the study and how to deal with them

There is no harm to participants and no particular risks or discomforts associated with taking part in the study.

6. Costs of the research, compensation to the researcher and funding of the research

There is no fee for participating in the study. To complete the online survey and participate in remote interviews, if volunteered, you must have your own device (e.g. computer or smartphone) and an internet connection. There are no other costs for the participant to participate in the survey and possible interviews.

For a possible retest, you do not have to pay the retest registration fee, but you must organize and pay for any travel to the test site. There is no salary for taking the retest, but all participants will receive feedback on his/her performance after the test.

The members of the research team conduct research as part of their work or academic studies at the University of Jyväskylä. The research was initiated in 2024 and is funded by the Academy of Finland during the years 2025–2029 (decision number 369511).

7. Research findings and results

The research is published in scientific publications, theses and conference and seminar presentations. The results of the research can also be used in teaching and collaboration with stakeholders.

Participants will be informed about the research and its results via the research website, which will also include information on research publications.

Participants cannot be identified from the research publications.

8. Insurance cover for subjects

The University of Jyväskylä is insured for its activities and the participants of scientific studies.

The University of Jyväskylä's insurance policies cover only such damages in remote research that are directly related to the assigned research task and have occurred during the actual instructed research task. Damage during breaks is not covered by the insurance.

The University of Jyväskylä's insurance is not valid for remote studies if the participant is not resident in Finland.

The insurance includes patient insurance, liability insurance and voluntary accident insurance. For studies, participants are insured against accidents, damages and injuries caused by external causes during the study. Accident insurance is valid for the measurements and for travel directly related to the measurements.

9. Contact details

Contacting the research team by email: yki-tutkimus@jyu.fi

Research director: Mari Honko, Senior lecturer, title of docent (adjunct professor) in applied linguistics

mari.h.honko@jyu.fi puh. +358408053165

Postal address: Soveltavan kielentutkimuksen keskus, PL 35 40014 Jyväskylän yliopisto