

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH SCHOOL

Preparing student teachers for school practice



GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH SCHOOL (1 CR)

- Getting Acquainted with School (GAWS) is a mandatory part of Basic practice in Subject Teacher Education at the University of Helsinki
- Connects PCK, PK and practice
- GAWS is completed in Period 1 of Subject Teacher's Pedagogical Studies (Master level), prior to Basic practice in Period 2
- It is also connected to the first subject didactics course (Subject Didactics I: Curriculum and Teaching)





COHERENCE

- In terms of coherence, GAW S connects pedagogical theories and principles in Subject Didactics I to the practical knowledge in Basic Practice
- GAW S prepares the student teachers for the Basic Practice by familiarizing them with school environment, pupils/students and subject teacher's tasks and role as an educator
- The group discussions and individual work support the development of pedagogical thinking and reflection

	Basic Studies 25 cr (PED310)	Intermediate Studies 35 cr (PED320)
Studies in Education 15 cr	Psychology of Learning and Development 5 cr (PED002)	Social, Cultural and Philosophical Foundations of Education 5 cr (PED001) Support for Learning and Well-being 5 cr (PED004)
Studies in Subject Didactics 25 cr	Subject Didactics I: Curriculum and Teaching 10 cr (PED0032) 10 cr	Subject Didactics II: Assessment and Development 5 cr (PED007STEP) Teacher as a Researcher Seminar 10 cr ● Research Seminar 8 cr (PED0062) ● Didactics 2 cr (PED0061)
Teaching practice 20 cr	Basic Practice 10 cr (PED311)	Advanced Practice 10 cr (PED321)

Getting Acquainted with School (1cr)

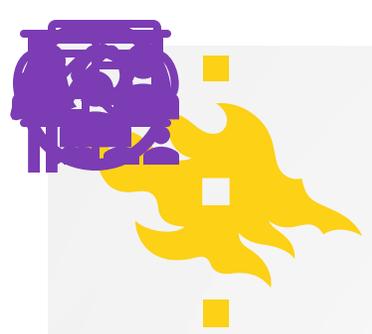
University of Helsinki, 2021



GOALS

The objectives of *Getting Acquainted with School* are that student teachers...

- 1) observe and study their own teaching subject, the school and other subjects from a didactical point of view
- 2) familiarize themselves with subject teacher's tasks and role as an educator
- 3) gain preparedness to study and analyze the teaching-studying-learning process
- 4) start to develop their own pedagogical thinking to guide their decision-making in teaching



IMPLEMENTATION

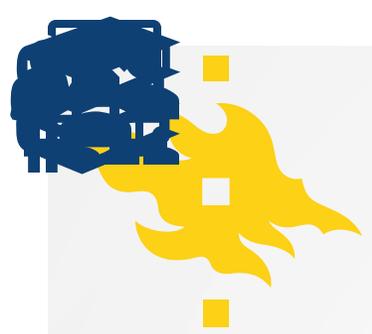
Student teachers reserve three full days for the instructed visit to the University of Helsinki Training Schools (or field schools)

Student teachers are divided into mixed groups of 5 (from different subjects) by the practice coordinator

Students are given a detailed schedule and daily assignments beforehand

The assigned group of student teachers observes 3-4 lessons a day on different subjects and **complete assignments** according to the theme of the day both individually and in groups

The assessment is based on the participation of all three days of the visit and turning in a final essay (assessed by the Subject Didactics Teacher on the scale Pass/Fail)



TASKS

Student teachers are given research-based study material beforehand

Each of the three days of the school visit has its own theme and related tasks:

Day 1: The diversity of teaching subjects and students

Day 2: Teaching methods and posing questions

Day 3: Teacher as an ethical educator, classroom dynamics, and peaceful classroom climate

Task are designed to be completed individually before and during the lessons, and in groups after the lessons

It is recommended for the assigned student group to meet and discuss at the end of each day

The study material consists of tasks that cover many viewpoints so that students may choose the one that seems applicable and meaningful for the lesson they are observing



TASKS

- The tasks support the student teachers' goal to follow, observe and analyze the lessons
- The observation and analysis of the lessons is supported by the instructions and pre-lesson and during-the-lesson tasks in the study material
- The tasks carried out in groups complete the task entity
- The final essay is written individually

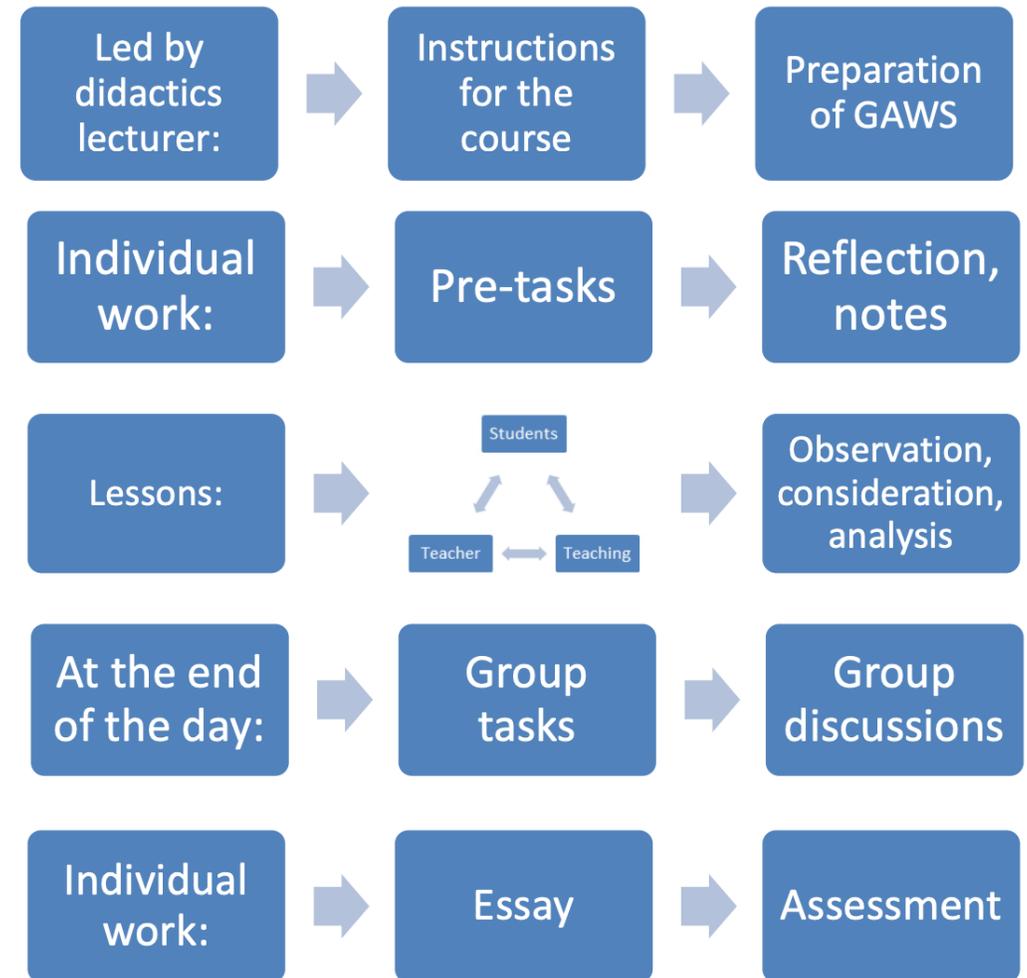


Figure 1. Different phases of GAWS work.

Department of Teacher Education, Hahl & Peltonen, 2015



FURTHER INFORMATION ON SUBJECT TEACHER'S PEDAGOGICAL STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

[IO7 Video 1: FLTE at the University of Helsinki](#)

<https://studies.helsinki.fi/instructions/article/would-you-become-subject-teacher>



REFERENCES

Hahl, K. & Peltonen, P. (2015). *Getting acquainted with school - Study Material*. University of Helsinki Department of Teacher Education. (Translated and modified from a Finnish language content update from 2014 by Päivi Portaankorva-Koivisto, Kirsi Ripatti, Eero Salmenkivi and Kirsi Wallinheimo.)

University of Helsinki (2021). *Would you like to become a subject teacher? Instructions for Students*. <https://studies.helsinki.fi/instructions/article/would-you-become-subject-teacher>