

The Finnish School of Watchmaking

The Independent Watchmaker Course

The Independent Watchmaker Course at The Finnish School of Watchmaking is a comprehensive two-year program designed for aspiring watchmakers who wish to master the craft, design, technology, and tools that drive today's horology. The course provides students with the skills needed to practice small-scale, high-end watchmaking professionally.

The Finnish School of Watchmaking is known for its high-quality training. We have a long-standing tradition of excellence in watchmaking education. We pride ourselves on providing top-tier instruction and fostering a learning environment that encourages innovation and mastery of traditional watchmaking techniques. Our graduates are highly respected in the watchmaking industry and have gone on to achieve success worldwide.

The Finnish School of Watchmaking is operated by a dedicated foundation whose sole purpose is to advance the watchmaking profession. We are committed to preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of watchmaking while embracing new technologies and methodologies that enhance the craft.

Located in Leppävaara, Espoo, the Finnish School of Watchmaking benefits from being in one of Finland's most dynamic and innovative cities. Espoo is home to numerous technology companies, research institutions, and educational establishments, creating a vibrant ecosystem for innovation and professional development. Finland is celebrated as the happiest country in the world, boasting an exceptional education system that emphasizes quality, equity, and lifelong learning. Our country is a leader in innovation and technology, making it an ideal location for advancing one's skills and career in watchmaking.

Course Structure:

Year 1:

Tool Making and Basic Training

- Filing, cutting, lathe work, and milling
- Heat treatment and material handling
- Making precision tools used in watchmaking

Watch Repairing

- Mainspring and barrel, gear train, escapement, and balance
- Adjustment, cleaning, oiling, timing, and poising of the barrel wheel
- Automatic and calendar mechanism
- Chronograph mechanism

Precision Work and Design

- Making a hairspring: colleting, truing and centering, vibrating
- Introduction to case and digital design using Autodesk Inventor



Year 2:

Final Project: Watch

- Case design and construction
- Dial making
- Making selected movement parts
- Finishing and decoration
- Finishing the movement

Beyond hands-on training, students work with internationally renowned watchmaking masters in exclusive Masterclasses.

Admission Requirements:

- **Age:** Candidates must be over 18 years old.
- **Language Proficiency:** Must be able to speak and write English fluently (IELTS 5.0 - 6.0 or CEFR B2).
- **Previous Experience:** No prior watchmaking experience required, but previous professional experience outside the watchmaking field is preferred.
- **Entrance Exam:** Candidates will undergo a bench test to evaluate their abilities and manual dexterity.

Course Details:

- **Duration:** 2 years
- **Location:** Espoo, Finland
- **Language:** English
- **Class Size:** Maximum 10 students
- **Tuition Fee:** €25,000 per year, total €50 000 for the whole course.
- **Next class starts:** 9/2026

Students from outside EU: please note the time needed for residence permit applications.

Why Choose Us?

- **Expert Instructors:** Learn from highly skilled professionals with extensive experience in watchmaking.
- **Masterclasses** by successful graduates of the Finnish School of Watchmaking.
- **Facilities:** Access to tools and equipment necessary for high-end watchmaking.
- **Individual Attention:** Personalized instruction based on individual learning progress.
- **International Opportunities:** Connections with prestigious watchmaking ateliers and opportunities for practical training abroad.
- **A unique watchmaker community**
- The intensive and demanding program requires a student to have high ambition and motivation level in order to succeed.



Contact

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