



Taster Course and Bench Test for The Independent Watchmaker Course

All candidates of The Independent Watchmaker Course must participate in a 2-day Taster Course and Bench Test prior to being considered for admission.

The Taster Course and Bench Tests of 2026 are scheduled as follows:

Option I

Dates: Thursday, February 19 – Friday, February 20, 2026.

Optional event: Meet and greet event on Saturday, February 21

Option II

Dates: Thursday, May 7 – Friday, May 8, 2026

Optional event: The Watch Show Finland, May 9

The Taster Course and Bench Test is organized at The Finnish School of Watchmaking in Leppävaara, Espoo, Finland (Vanha maantie 11, 02650 Espoo). The sessions commence at 8 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m.

Based on the Bench Test, the top 10 candidates are offered positions in the class of 2026. Please note, we will fill the positions in the order of the Bench Tests. Candidates who are considered suitable but do not rank among the top 10 are offered positions in future classes that commence at a later date.

The Taster Course and Bench Test fee is 480€ (including VAT) and it covers instruction, materials, lunch, and coffee/tea during the two days.

Process steps:

1. Please enroll in the Taster Course and Bench Test via Enrolment Form (<https://kelloseppakoulu.fi/the-independent-watchmaker-course/>)
2. You will be contacted by phone to discuss the details of the bench test and answer any questions you may have regarding the course, transportation options etc.
3. The Finnish School of Watchmaking will send an invoice for the Taster Course and Bench Test.
4. Upon payment, you will receive a confirmation and welcome letter to the Taster Course and Bench Test.

Taster Course and Bench Test - Schedule and Content

The course and test consist of two full days of instruction and evaluation, giving you insight into the teaching style and required skills at our school. The school is introduced along with practical experiments ranging from basic manual skills exercises to practice with a pocket watch. Additionally, there is an optional event where you can meet other watch enthusiasts.

Overall Schedule for 19. - 20.2.2026 & 7. - 8.5.2026

8:00 – 11:30 Instruction, tests, and interviews
11.30-12.30 Lunch
12.30-16:00 Instruction, tests, and interviews

Day 1: Introductions & Bench test begins

The Finnish School of Watchmaking introduced

- The Foundation, tradition, pedagogy, community

Bench test begins / filing exercises

Day 2: Bench test continues

Instructions + work on a pocket size watch

Optional Day 3:

Meet and greet event, February 21, 2026

The Watch Show Finland, May 9, 2026

Evaluation Criteria

Motivation

Basic hand-eye coordination and utilization of tools

Willingness to acquire new knowledge and receive guidance

Collaboration skills

Ability to follow the teaching in English

Please Note the Admission Requirements

- Age: Candidate must be over 18 years old.
- Language Proficiency: Must be able to speak and write English fluently (similar to level 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.

Looking forward to meeting you at the Teaser Course and Bench Test!

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