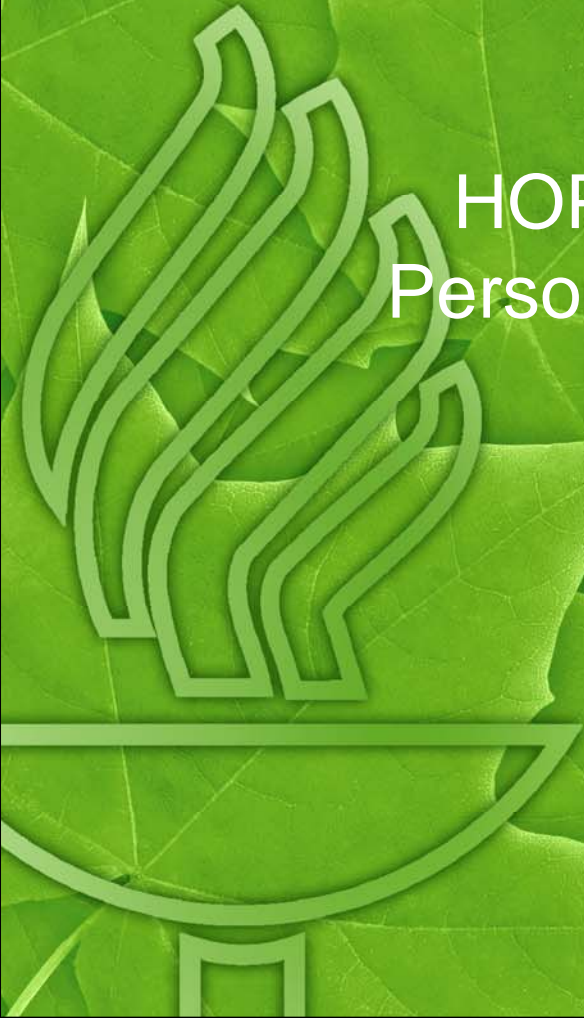


Studienfachberatung 11.June 2009 - Berlin

HOPS – Personal Study Plan or
Personal Learning plan: whose plan is
it and what for?

Juha Lahti



Positioning myself to this impulse speech and PSP

- Former career counsellor 1995 - 2004
 - Long overdue PSP and BA/MA structure are enhancements in HE studies in Finland
 -
- School counsellor instructor/adult educator 2004 - present
 - PSP is an essential pedagogical instrument
- Critical, practical and life like – and positive
 - PSP has potential
 - A win-win situation is possible
- Recent interviews with a student union representative, and two pedagogical experts involved in the field of HE pedagogics to gain a picture how the PSP functions in practice.

What is PSP basically?

- The Personal Study Plan is an aid for students to follow their own progress during studies.
- It should be updated regularly by the students in cooperation with their responsible teacher.

Why PSP in the Finnish HE?

- some background

- Not a sudden interest in the well being of the students by the politicians but a national economic reasoning behind the PSP
 - Average age to enroll at the university: 21
 - Completion of Degree : ~ 6 years (at age 27)
 - Drop out < 30 %
 - The phenomenon of dropping out is challenging to catch by statistic surveys

Studies indicate that the guidance and counselling services in HE in general, are inadequate.

- Student teacher ratio is below the OECD average
- Role of minor subjects (=Nebenfächer) in the degree structure
 - Degrees in Finland often consist of 3 – 5 minors
 - This creates an additional challenge for guidance
- Critical phases regarding drop-outs
 - after the 1st year and just before thesis completion

PSP is obligatory for all new university students since the academic year 2006 – 2007



What do we mean when we speak about PSP?

- PSP – a variety of actions, form filling, processes and... ways of thinking
 - From a web based system to a narrative
- Personal studyplan
 - Departments point of view ?
- Personal learning plan
 - Students' point of view ?

What do we mean when we speak about PSP? Cont.

- Usage and understanding of PSP varies largely from department to department
 - The need for PSP may vary as well
 - Biology and Physics - with their tight degree structure - allow little room for personal tailoring of the combination of majors and minors
 - Degrees in Human & Social Sciences allow more space for personal tailoring, thus require individual combinations of majors and minors.
 - This forms a challenge for the students and for the advisory/counselling personnel



Web based PSP

- Part of the overall 'Raven' system
 - For the academic staff:
 - Enables course planning, PSP supervision, monitoring student enrollment, lecture room booking, and grading
 - For the students:
 - Enrollment for the courses and general follow up of their studies including PSP and grades
- Used widely at the university
 - Minimalistic and maximalistic approach
 - In the beginning of the BA or MA cycle (or)
 - Continuing updating

Student view 1:Modify

- Studies
- Calendar
- Organizing your studies**
- Study plans**
- Active**
- [F]BA and MA English**
- Olli Opiskeliia**
- Structure
- Schedule
- Arguments
- Modify**
- Surveys
- Following degree requirements
- General data
- Planned
- Expired
- By others
- Create new
- Copy
- Degree requirements
- Study modules
- Settings
- Personal data
- Groups
- Bulletin board
- Surveys
- Classroom bookings
- Other systems

Korppi > Organizing your studies > Study plans > Active > [F]BA and MA English Olli Opiskeliia > Modify

BA and MA English Olli Opiskeliia

- Structure
- Schedule
- Arguments
- Modify**
- Surveys
- Following degree requirements
- General data

 Save
  Cancel
  Schedule

Show all Close all

BA and MA (2005-2006) [Add]

You may answer the following surveys: [**student exchange**] [**Opened PSP**]

	Add/Delete	Cr	Starting time	Ends	Argument
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's degree (HuK) (2005-2006) [Add]	[Delete]	106.5/167	2006 Fall I	2007 Spring II	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major subject [Add]	[Delete]	100.5/100	2006 Fall I	2007 Spring II	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EKIPER Basic studies English (2005-2006) [Add]	[Delete]	54.5/44	2006 Fall I	2007 Spring II	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EKIP100 Module 1: Communication [Add]	[Delete]	18.5/17	2006 Fall I	2007 Spring II	
EKIP101 Phonetics and Pronunciation	[Delete]	3/2	2006 Fall I	2006 Fall II	
EKIP102 Academic Writing	[Delete]	1	2006 Fall II	2006 Fall II	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EKIP200 Module 2: Form, Meaning and Fun... [Add]	[Delete]	2	2006 Fall I	2006 Fall II	
EKIP202 Introduction to Language Study	[Delete]	3.5/4	2006 Fall I	2007 Spring I	
EKIP204 Exploring Grammar 1	[Delete]	1.5	2007 Spring I	2007 Spring I	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EKIP300 Module 3: Language Learning and...	[Delete]	2	2006 Fall I	2006 Fall I	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EKIP400 Module 4: Text and Discourse	[Delete]	2/2	-	-	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EKIP500 Module 5: Language, Culture and... [Add]	[Delete]	4/3	2007 Spring II	2007 Spring II	
EKIP501 Culture and Society Tutorial	[Delete]	6/5	2007 Spring II	2007 Spring II	
EKIP502 British and American History	[Delete]	4	2007 Spring II	2007 Spring II	
EF10259 Options: American Studies e13. Americ... [Transfer]	[Delete]	2	-	-	
EF10289 Optional Course/Problems and Debates ... [Transfer]	[Delete]	0	-	-	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EKIAIN Subject Studies (2005-2006)	[Delete]	2	-	-	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Language and Communication Studies (2005-2006)	[Delete]	36/28	2007 Spring I	2007 Spring I	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor subjects [Add]	[Delete]	6/6	2007 Spring II	2007 Spring II	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RFIPER Basic Studies in Romance Philology (2004-2005)	[Delete]	40/47	-	-	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RFIAIN Subject Studies in Romance Philol... (2004-2005)	[Delete]	15/15	-	-	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Master's degree (2005-2006) [Add]	[Delete]	25/25	-	-	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EKISYV Advanced Studies (2005-2006)	[Delete]	6/67	-	-	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EKISYV Advanced Studies (2005-2006)	[Delete]	6/44	-	-	

Introduction to Language Study is intended for all students majoring in English and those students whose major is not a language. It forms a part of the course 'Näkökulmia kieleen' that is obligatory for all language students.

English teachers: basic and subject studies 65 pts, pedagogical studies (partly).
 English specialists: basic studies at least in one subject, the degree can include several subjects.

August 2006

No	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31:	1	2	3	4	5	6
32:	7	8	9	10	11	12
33:	14	15	16	17	18	19
34:	21	22	23	24	25	26
35:	28	29	30	31		

Suomeksi
Test environment!
 menu time: 0 ms
 2006.08.16.19.10/news

Student view 3:

Following degree requirements

[Studies](#)
[Calendar](#)
[Organizing your studies](#)
[Study plans](#)
Active
[\[F\]BA and MA English Olli Opiskelija](#)
[Structure](#)
[Schedule](#)
[Arguments](#)
[Modify](#)
[Surveys](#)
Following degree requirements
[General data](#)
[Planned](#)
[Expired](#)
[By others](#)
[Create new](#)
[Copy](#)
[Degree requirements](#)
[Study modules](#)
[Settings](#)
[Personal data](#)
[Groups](#)
[Bulletin board](#)
[Surveys](#)
[Classroom bookings](#)
[Other systems](#)

August 2006
 Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su
 31: 1 2 3 4 5 6
 32: 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
 33: 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
 34: 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
 35: 28 29 30 31

[Suomeksi](#)
Test environment!
 menu time: 0 ms
 /2006.08.16.19.10/news

[Korppi](#) > [Organizing your studies](#) > [Study plans](#) > [Active](#) > [\[F\]BA and MA English Olli Opiskelija](#) > Following degree requirements

BA and MA English Olli Opiskelija

	Cr	Starting time	Ends	Completed	Grade	AS	ASc	SS	SSc	Arguments
BA and MA (2005-2006)	0/106.5/167	2006 Fall I	2007 Spring II							
Bachelor's degree (HuK) (2005-2006)	0/100.5/100	2006 Fall I	2007 Spring II							
Major subject	0/54.5/44	2006 Fall I	2007 Spring II							
EKIPER Basic studies English (2005-2006)	0/18.5/17	2006 Fall I	2007 Spring II							
EKIP100 Module 1: Communication	0/3/2	2006 Fall I	2006 Fall II							
EKIP101 Phonetics and Pronunciation	1	2006 Fall II	2006 Fall II							
EKIP102 Academic Writing	2	2006 Fall I	2006 Fall II							
EKIP200 Module 2: Form, Meaning and Fun...	0/3.5/4	2006 Fall I	2007 Spring I							
Introduction to Language Study is intended for all students majoring in English and those students whose major is not a language. It forms a part of the course 'Näkökulmia kieleen' that is obligatory for all language students.										
EKIP202 Introduction to Language Study	1.5	2007 Spring I	2007 Spring I							
EKIP204 Exploring Grammar 1	2	2006 Fall I	2006 Fall I							
EKIP300 Module 3: Language Learning and...	0/2/2	-	-							
EKIP301 Opi oppimaan vieraita kieliä	1	-	-							
EKIP302 Tuutorointi ja HOPS	1	-	-							
EKIP400 Module 4: Text and Discourse	0/4/3	2007 Spring II	2007 Spring II							
EKIP401 Texts and Literacy	2	2007 Spring II	2007 Spring II							
EKIP402 Introduction to Critical Analysis	2	-	-							
EKIP500 Module 5: Language, Culture and...	0/6/5	2007 Spring II	2007 Spring II							
EKIP501 Culture and Society Tutorial	4	2007 Spring II	2007 Spring II							
EKIP502 British and American History	2									(1)
substitutive course 19.8.2006 13:25 Olli Opiskelija Type: arguments (public) substitutive course: EF10259 Options: American Studies e13. Americ...										
EF10259 Options: American Studies e13. Americ...	0	-	-							
EF10289 Optional Course/Problems and Debates ...	2	-	-							
EKIAIN Subject Studies (2005-2006)	0/36/28	2007 Spring I	2007 Spring I							

PSP as a narrative

- Especially with students in adult education and in pedagogical education
 - The importance of connecting the past with the present and towards the future
 - Making learning an integral part of the whole human being's existence
 - Studying is not merely learning new 'academic knowledge' but making the "new-learned-material" a meaningful whole with the previous knowledge and life lived so far.

- Who am I?
 - Where do I come from, where am I now and where am I heading to?

- Alongside the official curriculum
 - Bridging the curriculum with oneself
 - "Meaning-making"

Juh@lahti



Summa summarum

- PSP enhances the quality of guidance at the universities
 - A real improvement, a new paradigm!
 - The questions of guidance and counselling *are* part of the academia; not just **research**..... and tuition
- From the very beginning students and academic staff must(?) establish a connection with each other
- Students are offered a map and a compass to orientate themselves better in their university studies
 - From "just" studying towards learning and meaning-making
 - Less chances to get completely lost in the academic mass
- Transparency and the connection between studies and worklife are a improved



Summa summarum cont.

- When humans are involved the attitude is everything
 - Being an academic is not an automatic pre-requisite for a good PSP advicer
 - Lack of training
 - Not all academics understand the point of PSP
 - Delivery accordingly

- The overall reality of the universities reflects on the PSP - *naturally*
 - Short term contracts mean short term PSP processes
 - Shortness of academic staff
 - PSP guidance is not sufficiently considered in the workload of the staff



- As stated earlier, in spite of all the hickups, the PSP *is* a pedagogical instrument that can make a difference in the quality of university guidance.
- Thank You