



ICOS Summer School 2026: Digital tools and databases

The International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) will organize its third Summer School in Helsinki, Finland, from 24 to 28 August 2026. The idea of an ICOS Summer School is to bring together young onomastic researchers from all over the world, to help them network and expand their onomastic knowledge.

The theme of the Summer School 2026 is Digital tools and databases. The fast technological development is changing the nature of research and producing new ways to retrieve information and manage data. The Summer School's programme includes lectures that delve into various aspects of onomastics, emphasizing digital data and methods.

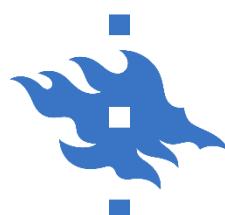
In addition to the lectures, there will be a variety of workshops. The terminology workshop is designed to enhance students' understanding of key terminology relevant to their field. In the hands-on workshop, participants will gain firsthand experience working with digital data. The specialized presentation workshops will provide students with an opportunity to practice delivering presentations and acting as chairs of academic sessions, preparing them for future academic seminars and conferences. Furthermore, the summer school will also include short excursions to onomastically interesting locations in Helsinki and informal leisure activities. Please find a more detailed preliminary programme below.

The Summer School is targeted to PhD students, but Master's students intending to continue to PhD level are also welcome. Please note that the Summer School is only for ICOS members. If you are not a member currently, you can become one [here](#). The Summer School will be held hybrid. The maximum intake is 25 students in-person and 25 online. Participants will be awarded a diploma and a recommendation for 5 ECTS (student points). Each participant must apply for official course credit through their own university's doctoral program.

The Summer School is financially supported by both ICOS and University of Helsinki, so there will be no participation fee for the course. Unfortunately, we cannot offer scholarships, so funding, travelling and accommodation are left to the responsibility of those students' attending. We are, however, willing to help students find affordable solutions.

The application form will be open from 12 to 31 January 2026. Applicants to the course will be informed by February 13, at the latest.

If you have any questions regarding the Summer School, feel free to contact the course organizer Milla Juhonen (milla.juhonen@helsinki.fi).





ICOS Summer School 2026

Digital tools and databases

Course preliminary programme
Venue: University of Helsinki

Monday 24.8.2026 (orientation day)

12.00–12.15 Opening words

12.15–13.00 Terhi Ainiala: *Exploring fieldwork data: Observations and interviews as onomastic research material*

13.00–13.45 Leena Kolehmainen: *From a visual landscape to a digital database: The multiple roots of multilingualism in the linguistic landscape of cemeteries*

13.45–14.15 Coffee

14.15–16.00 Group activities

Tuesday 25.8.2026 (focus on data)

10.00–11.30 Datasupport lecture: *Research data management*

11.30–12.30 Lunch

12.30–13.15 Minna Nevala: *How to work with "bad" data: Names, titles and labels in historical linguistics*

13.15–14.00 Taarna Valtonen: *Challenges of Digital Tools and Databases in Onomastics of Minority Languages: examples related to Saami languages*

14.00–14.30 Coffee

14.30–15.15 Kalle Juuti: *Generative artificial intelligence tools in higher education*

15.15- Onomastics-themed city walk

Wednesday 26.8.2026 (workshop and presentation day)

10.00–11.30 Presentation workshops

11.30–12.30 Lunch

12.30–14.00 Presentation workshops

14.00–14.30 Coffee

14.30–16.00 Presentation workshops

16.00– Recreational outing

Thursday 27.8.2026 (lecture day)

10.00–10.45 Lieven Ameel: *Place names in Helsinki literature: notes on facts, functions, and the problems of translation*

10.45–11.30 Lasse Hämäläinen & Milla Juhonen: *Names in Alan Wake II video game*

11.30–12.30 Lunch

12.30–13.15 Isabelle Buchstaller & Seraphim Alvanides: *Street name ideologies: insights from visualising change over time and space*

13.15–14.00 Väinö Syrjälä: *Names and the linguistic landscape – online and offline*

14.00– Excursion to the Institute of the Languages of Finland

Friday 28.8.2026 (hands-on day)

10.00–11.30 Jaakko Raunamaa: *The digital Names Archive in practice: examples and exercises*

11.30–12.30 Lunch

12.30–14.30 Harri Kettunen: *Onomastic terminology and The Helsinki Term Bank for the Arts and Sciences*

14.30–15.15 Therese Lindström Tiedemann & Lisa Södergård: *(Automatic) pseudonymisation – opportunity or challenge*

15.15–16.00 Discussion