



Aalto University

Exchange Report

2018-2019 FALL



So Ho Kit

BBA (IS & ECON)

Monthly Log

September

The first month in Helsinki was quite boring as the school did not start yet. I had to join the Mursulaiva with friends to spend time on a cruise and visit Estonia for a few hours. The trips are fun although the time we had spent in Estonia was too few. I also travelled to Suomenlinna which is a post-military use island near Helsinki.



October

My friends and I joined the Exchange Cottage Trip in October. It was so fun! Don't miss the camp fire and Sauna at night. It was the only chance that we could live in a cottage in Finland.



November

I went travelling in November. I have visited Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Oslo was the only place that I could see night view in Nordic countries. The natural views in Nordic countries are quite nice.



December

I went to the Lapland trip organized by EY-Sub and travelled within Eastern Europe in Christmas. This is the most fruitful month in Finland! I did husky ride and snow skiing in Lapland. I has also visited Austria, Hungary, Czech and Germany.



General exchange information:

Visa Procedures

1) Prepare health insurance proof from SFAO

It requires around 2 weeks for SFAO to prepare the proof for you after submitting the form.

2) Fill the online application through <https://enterfinland.fi/eServices>

3) Call 25255485 for making an appointment to visit Finnish Consulate

4) Visit Finnish Consulate with required documents and photo

5) Pick up the resident permit (It is okay to authorized others to pick it up for you)

Orientation Activities

An email about orientation events would be sent to Exchange students in late August. The first day is about necessary information such as academic regulation and academic tools. KY, the students union of Aalto, would also promote you to join the club. You can only get student cards if you join KY with around 50 euros. The tutor would also help you to apply for Travel Card. The other orientation days would provide more information about the campus in Espoo. It is not mandatory to join all the orientation events but I would recommend it as I had a great time with other exchange students in my tutor group during the orientation.

International Activities

KY-Sub are responsible for organizing events for Exchange Students.

Welcoming events	8.9.2018	Free
Mursulaiva - Ship Happens party cruise	22.9.-23.9.2018	15 EUR
Exchange cottage trip	4.10.-5.10.2018	25 EUR
Trip to Saint Petersburg	8.11.-12.11.2018	235 EUR
Around the World Sits Party	16.11.2018	15 EUR
Trip to Lapland	28.11.-3.12.2018	220 EUR
Farewell Evening	7.12.2018	Free

You can buy the tickets, except for the Saint Petersburg trip, in the Welcoming events. There are other activities such as horror movie nights, do take attention to Facebook events page to participate more.

Accommodations

Most of the exchange students I know live in HOAS dormitory. The people you meet in the dorm are all exchange students. The price varies from apartment types, it is around 300-500 euros per month. The apartments are well furnished, you may need to buy cooking utensil such as saucepans.

My apartment has shared toilets, bathroom and kitchen with 6 single-rooms. It is located in Kampii which is quite convenience to travel. I paid 417 euro per month. You may set up a bank account there to pay for the rent or pay the rent in Danske bank with 6 euros service fee.

AYY also provides students housing service but so far I did not meet anyone live in AYY dormitory. The private housing in Helsinki is quite expensive, you may want to apply for both HOAS and AYY as soon as possible to avoid renting an apartment in the private market.

Courses Registration

You don't need to register the course as soon as it is opened as there are quite a lot of places for those courses. The starting date is around 14/8. You need to use WebOodi for course registration.

Teaching and Assessment Methods

There are two period in a fall semester. 1 course takes 6 ECTS which is 3 credits in HKUST. I complete a total of 30 ECTS in the semester. The courses are relatively easier and less work load compared to UST. The grading is from 0-5. You will get a fail if you get 0 but the failed courses would not be showed in transcripts. It is absolute grading and the passing grade is about 50% for most of the courses. Do not worry about the study because the exam is relatively easy. I recommend you to take fewer courses in the first period so you can travel more when day time is still long.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

The sports facilities are provided by UniSports. You need to have the student card to join the UniSports. You may need to join the UniSports for some access for the facilities such as gym rooms.

Finance & Banking

You can only withdraw money from the ATM in the airport and those ATM may not work sometime. Therefore it is recommended for you to bring some cash. Credit cards are accepted for most of the stores, but American Express are not widely-accepted. I did not open a bank account but you may consider it if you do not want to store too many cashes in the apartment. I brought around 4000 euros cash.

Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities

I did not join any clubs there but I recommend you to join some volunteer works such as Slush! which is the biggest events for startups. You may meet students and businessmen around the world.

Health & Safety

Be aware of drunk men at night as they might talk to you or scream at you. Also, it is very slippery when there is ice on the ground. I have fell two to three times in my stay. Apart from these, Finland is a very safe place to live so you don't need to worry about it. There is pharmacy if you need medicine and the staff would help you to pick the right medicine as all the packages are in Finnish and Swedish.

Climate

It is not as cold as I expect in Finland but you still need to bring a thick jacket there. The temperature would drop to below 0 degree in December from 18 degree in September. The day time is long in September. Therefore it is recommended to travel more in September and October. The sun goes down around 1530 in December.

Food

The restaurants in Helsinki are quite expensive, you may need 8-10 euros for a normal meal. You can get meals from campus cafe with 2.6 euros. Asian buffet would cost around 12 euros for lunch which is also a bargain.

Transportation

The transportation is convenient in Helsinki. The HSL app would tell you how to travel with buses, trains, trams and cruises in Helsinki. The fare is around 1 to 2 euros per trip depending on regions.

You may consider walking as Helsinki is not a big city.

Communication

Most of the Finnish know English and they are willing to speak it. Therefore, you don't need to learn Finnish to communicate with them.

Other Notes:

*****Don't lock your keys in the rooms*****

As you may live in single room in shared apartments, it might be easy for you to lock your key in the room accidentally. It costs you 28 euros to call securities to open the doors. Everyone in my apartment has paid for it so it is not a rare case to forget the keys.

*****Don't lock your keys in the rooms*****

Things to bring:

- 1) Internet router
- 2) Rice Cooker
- 3) Adaptors
- 4) Sufficient cash

Useful Links:

Resident Permit: <https://enterfinland.fi/eServices>

Course Registration: <https://oodi.aalto.fi/a/etusivu.html>