STUDY LIFE - GO ABROAD!

Mari Dagnall 23.9.2021
We already have the BEST DEAL

WHY BOTHER?
You will take a big step ahead of those who stay at home.
The Finnish worldview explained

Some people think I'm unhappy, but I'm not. I just appreciate silence in a world that never stops talking.

MEANWHILE IN FINLAND

These new social distancing rules are crazy! We have to stand 2 metres apart!

I know! Why do they want us to stand closer together than normal?
Ethnocentrism 101

How do I get to the other side?!!!

You are on the other side!
Many ways to make your studies international.
- Student exchange at foreign university
- Summer schools
- Internship abroad
- Double degree programmes
- Master’s Thesis abroad
- Practise your global skills at Aalto
What is student exchange?

- One term or one academic year abroad
- At Aalto's partner university or at university sought by yourself (free mover exchange)
- Part of your degree at Aalto
- No degree from abroad, except in Double Degree –programmes
- Possible to apply to the same destination with a friend (may depend on destination)
Apply!
September
November
January
• Erasmus-exchange: Europe, Nordic countries
• Nordtek: Nordic countries
• Bilateral destinations:
  • Switzerland, Africa (Namibia), Asia (China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam), Australia, Northern (Canada, US) and Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru), Russia
• Destination Database:
  https://aalto.moveon4.com/publisher/9/eng
When can I apply?

- You can go for exchange both during bachelor and master studies.
- Bachelor level students, at the time of applying (latest on the deadline day):
  - Minimum of 30 ECTS in study register
  - Exchange can take place at the earliest in the 2nd year of study at Aalto
  - Applicant must always check separately whether it is possible to apply for the destination in the second year of study and what number of credits the host university may expect from the applicants.
- Minimum GPA requirement 2.00 (Japan 3.50)
- No more minimum Study Index requirement for long distance destinations

*Calculation of Study Index: \( \text{credits / number of semesters attended} \times \text{weighted Grade Point Average} \)

Note! Changes in principles autumn 2021!

These are according to the new principles.
What can I study?

- Bachelor students: 30 ECTS/term
- Master students: 24 ECTS/term
  - Note: even one course to bachelor's degree >> 30 ECTS requirement
- Easiest: minor studies (20-25 op) or electives (25-30 op),
- Common: on 3rd year, between bachelor and master studies
- Not recommended: major studies abroad
- *International Studies Minor*
One shot, two degrees – why not!

• Go for exchange and get a double-degree
• 2-year Master’s programme in English, two universities & countries
  E.g. 1st year abroad, 2nd year at Aalto → graduate DI from Aalto + Master of Science from partner university
• Tight, ambitious, international peer community: studies, events and graduation together
• Scholarship opportunities up to 1000€/month
• “Package solution” – (semi)fixed curriculum, no learning agreements, no recognition process of studies
• You need to apply for the specific master’s programmes – check application periods & requirements per programme
  Take a look!
  https://www.aalto.fi/en/admission-services/international-joint-degree-programmes
• Be awake early enough!
• Europe: bachelor level studies in the native language, master studies in English
• Asia: plenty in English on bachelor level too
• Complete Aalto English language course as soon as just possible – no need for English language certificate to most destinations & requirement to some destinations
• TOEFL / IELTS tests universal tests with fees and on certain dates every month – register early enough!
• ALWAYS check the updated requirements before planning to apply!

Language skills?
Will I make it financially?

- Aalto scholarship 1500 € / 2500 €
- Student benefits if you get them in Finland (study grant, housing benefit, study loan)
- Special Needs Grant already in Erasmus, First- ja Nordtek programmes, coming to bilateral exchanges too
- Family benefit in Erasmus-exchange 200 € /month, coming to bilateral exchanges too
- Save.
Will I make it mentally?

- Courses on Intercultural Communication
- Pre-departure and Return Orientations
- Aalto University exchange coordinator at reach during the exchange
FIND THE PERFECT DESTINATION – FOR YOU
• Language skills? In which language I am able to study 30 / 24 ECTS per term?
• What do I want to study? From which university I find suitable courses? (> Destination Database)
• For one term or for two terms?
• Expenses?
• Do I fill in the applicant requirements set by the host university?
• Tips from professors, staff?
• Personal points of interest: in which country I would like to live? Which culture I want to learn more about? What I want to do on my free time? What kind of experience would benefit best my future working life?
Get prepared!

- Plan your studies: how and where to include exchange studies in your degree
- Complete an English course at Aalto asap, so you can proof your English skills (for most destinations)
- Learn the language of the country where you wish to study
- Save money
- Study fast and with good grades to get a good Study Index.
EASY STEPS TO STUDENT EXCHANGE

001
Start early! Will the exchange fit into your degree?

002
Check exchange options!

003
Need help? Talk to your school's exchange expert.

004
Prepare the needed documents.

005
Apply for exchange in Aalto.

006
Wait for the selection information from Aalto.

007
Apply to the exchange destination.

008
Attend the departure orientation.

009
Get prepared for moving abroad after you receive your admission letter.

010
WOOHOO! Make the most of your exchange!

into.aalto.fi

*A! Aalto University*
Still not convinced?

Stand up comedian
Joel Willans
25th November at 4pm
@zoom

Why to study abroad?

More info:
Into news closer the event
More information?

Aalto Exchange Coordinators

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- INTO-webpages
  https://into.aalto.fi/display/enopinnot/Exchange+studies
- Destination database
- Destination coordinators
- Guild-specific exchange infos late-autumns
- Professors, planning officers, student that have already completed their exchange semesters
- Instagram: #aaltovaihtarit #aaltoexchange
Let’s make your studies a success story!