

Apply for student exchange!



empower
refresh
network
get prepared
stand out

**GOOD
TIMES**



A SAFE AND
EASY WAY
FOR AN
ADVENTURE

<https://www.aalto.fi/fi/muut-opinnot/vaihto-opinnot>

Mari Dagnall
Planning Officer in International Mobility
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Why?
What?



How many of you have already decided to go for exchange?

**Yes, I have
already
decided I
want to
apply.**

**No, not
sure yet.**



**WHY
BOTHER?**

Photo credit: unsplash.com



Photo credit: unsplash.com

**EMPOWER
NETWORK
REFRESH
GET
PREPARED
STAND OUT**



**You will take
a big step
ahead of
those who
stay at
home.**

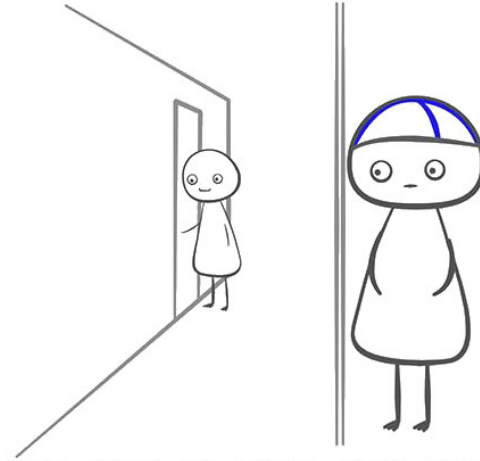
“I SPOKE TO MY NEIGHBOUR TODAY”



FINNISH APRIL FOOL'S JOKE

FINNISH NIGHTMARES

FINNISHNIGHTMARES.BLOGSPOT.FI
FACEBOOK.COM/FINNISHNIGHTMARES
TWITTER.COM/FINN_MATTI



WHEN YOU WANT TO LEAVE YOUR APARTMENT
BUT YOUR NEIGHBOR IS IN THE HALLWAY



A”

Aalto-yliopisto
Aalto-universitetet
Aalto University

A photograph of a wooden wall with a neon sign. The sign is made of several horizontal bars with orange neon letters. To the left, a black lamp hangs from the ceiling. In the background, a Christmas tree is visible. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the neon providing the main light source.

I DON'T KNOW!
WHERE I'M GOING
- FROM HERE, -
BUT I PROMISE IT
WON'T BE BORING

**MANY WAYS
TO MAKE
YOUR
STUDIES
INTER
NATIONAL**



- ✓ **Student exchange at foreign university**
- ✓ **Summer and intensive courses abroad**
- ✓ **Internship abroad**
- ✓ **Double degree programmes**
- ✓ **Master's Thesis abroad**
- ✓ **Aalto's own international community**

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)

Destinations



- 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*)
- Destination Database:
<https://aalto.moveon4.com/publisher/9/eng>

When can I apply?

Bachelor students:

- **min. 30 ECTS**
- **present one term at Aalto**
- **Min. GPA 2,00 (can vary, always check)**

Everyone:
always check the applicant requirements set by the host university!

Calculation of Academic Index:
Credits / number of semesters attended* x GPA
*current term not counted

Apply!
September
November
January

- Be awake early enough!
- Europe: bachelor level studies in the native language, master studies in English
- Asia: plenty in English on bachelor level too
- 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!

Complete an English course as soon as just possible => no need for English language certificate for most destinations and a requirement for many destinations.

Language skills?

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 or electives
- *International Studies Minor*
<https://into.aalto.fi/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=7149390>

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>

The right timing for an exchange

- In general: no recommendations, most common on 3rd and 4th year.
- Aalto BSc Tech students: recommended to go for exchange on your 2nd year or 3rd year autumn. Not 3rd year spring (see next slide)
- The host university may have restrictions regarding the 1) study level or 2) the amount of credits of students applying. Check.
- Check the academic term dates of the exchange destinations, so that you can plan your studies before/after the exchange.

For those paying tuition fee (bachelor level)

If the exchange takes place in the 3rd spring semester
(i.e. the last semester of the degree's target period)

→ a high risk that the exchange studies will not be registered within the frames of the last semester.

→ the student can be granted a grant for an extra semester (as long as all the criteria are met), so that the exchange courses can be completed and they can be registered.

→ **However, using the grant for an extra semester automatically means that the student no longer meets the criteria for a master's grant.**

A photograph of a brick wall at night. A neon sign is mounted on the wall, glowing with a warm orange-red light. The sign reads "THIS IS THE SIGN YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR" in a stylized, hand-drawn font. Below the sign, there are some decorative items, including a small sign that says "The Adventure" and some colorful fabric or paper decorations.

THIS IS
THE SIGN
YOU'VE BEEN
LOOKING FOR

Photo credit: unsplash.com

WILL I
MANAGE?
DO I HAVE
THE
COURAGE?

Will I make it financially?

- Aalto scholarship 1500 € / 2500 €
 - In Erasmus+ programme even more..
- Student benefits if you get them in Finland (study grant, housing benefit, study loan)
- Accessibility support already in Erasmus+ and Nordtek programmes, coming to bilateral exchanges too
- Support for green travel in Erasmus+
- Save.

Will I make it mentally?

- Courses on Intercultural Communication
- Pre-departure and Return Orientations
- Exchange coordinators at reach during the exchange
- Aalto Starting Point of Wellbeing

Photo credit: unsplash.com

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 Academic Index.
- ✓ Dream!



More information?

Aalto Exchange Coordinators

- **ASIA:** Kaisa Pulliainen
international-chem@aalto.fi
- **LATIN AMERICA:**
Vilma Jokinen
exchanges-eng@aalto.fi
- **NORTH AMERICA,
AUSTRALIA:**
Mikko Tähtö-Pakkanen
outgoing-elec@aalto.fi
- **SCI, INDIA, JAPAN,
ERASMUS FOR ALL-
DESTINATIONS:** Mari Dagnall
exchanges-sci@aalto.fi

- **Student Guide (Opiskelijan opas) webpages**
<https://www.aalto.fi/fi/muut-opinnot/vaihto-opinnot>
- **Destination database**
<https://aalto.moveon4.de/publisher/9/eng#>
- **Destination coordinators**
- **Professors, students that have already completed their exchange semesters**
- **Need help in planning the studies? Contact the planning officer of your study programme**
- **Instagram: #aaltovaihtarit #aaltoexchange**



JUST GO FOR IT!

» Apply for student exchange



Info events

- ✓ **Guild-specific sauna-evenings in November-December**
- ✓ **Country-specific infos (e.g. destinations in Japan)**
- ✓ **How to apply –infos at the beginning of application periods (January, September)**
- ✓ **Partner universities can visit Aalto or have their own zoom-infos**

“Although it sometimes might feel that it is difficult to fit such a long period of staying abroad into your life due to, for example, studies, work, personal life, or relationship, all these issues are usually all arrangeable.

6 months might feel a long time beforehand, and it might feel that you are leaving many essential parts of your life behind and many things would change during your stay abroad, it’s not really the case after all.

One of the most remarkable things that I have learned during my exchange periods has been to notice that nothing really has changed at home after I have travelled back. The friends, families, hobbies, school and works have been waiting here, and they have not disappeared or receded meanwhile.”

- in Spain, spring 2021



Let's make
your
studies a
success
story!

