

Aalto University, Helsinki, Fall 2016

Ksenia Dmitrijenko

When I was choosing a place for my exchange semester I was already aiming at Finland. From cultural point of view, Finland is very similar and yet different from Sweden and it is interesting to discover. From career point of view, large fraction of business is done by Finish companies in our region so it is useful to understand and study more of their approach.

Courses:

Most of the studies are held in two campuses. One of them is in the centre of Helsinki and there most Master Business courses are held. All other studies are in Otaniemi campus, which is around 10-15 min away by metro from central station.

I had a free choice of courses and I was lucky to pick very interesting once. I have taken Corporate Financial management which was an easier version of Corporate Finance course and I can definitely recommend this course. We had unusual approach to the lectures at that course as we were not having lectures rather discussions and case solving sessions. Another course that I strongly recommend is Doing Business in Russia. From cultural perspective this course was interesting, but more importantly we had field trip to Saint-Petersburg with all costs covered. The reason for that was that we were working on a project with real Russian consultancy company to help their Finnish client company to penetrate Russian market. This was very exciting experience to participate in this kind of real project. I also can recommend Corporate Communication in Global Context which was very reach of discussions and interesting insights about role of culture and communication. There are also several courses that combine different fields such as Engineering and Management and those are also very unique. Aalto provide language courses if you like to learn some Finnish.

Overall teaching approach was mostly of a very good quality and course design always included some practical opportunities. I worked with several real companies during my courses, which was very insightful.

Housing and practicalities

I received housing from student accommodation organization called HOAS. I advise you to apply for accommodation the moment application is opened as finding it from private market is a challenging task. If you receive accommodation from HOAS, like most of exchange students, it is very cozy and convenient.

International office is very helpful and friendly. Online sources and facilities are very clear and easy to reach.

Student union organize lots of fun activities and trips. I participated in several, for instance in 24-hours party with lots of fun challenges. Overall at the beginning student receives

tutors that will meet you at the airport and will help you to find your accommodation. During the semester, you will be in contact with your tutor group and participate in activates with them. I also recommend you take part in Slush, it is an amazing event.

Overall, I am very happy about my exchange experience. I gained very useful business contacts, learned a lot new things, meet some friends and discovered an amazing country.

Please feel free to contact me for any questions you may have.

Best Regards,
Ksenia Dmitrijenko