

Get inspired by UTU.

Guide for Exchange Students
2022-2023



UNIVERSITY
OF TURKU

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Welcome to Turku!

Turku is the oldest city in Finland and a former capital. The city has a long history going back to 1229 and is today a cultural and academic hub of its region with an active and international student community.

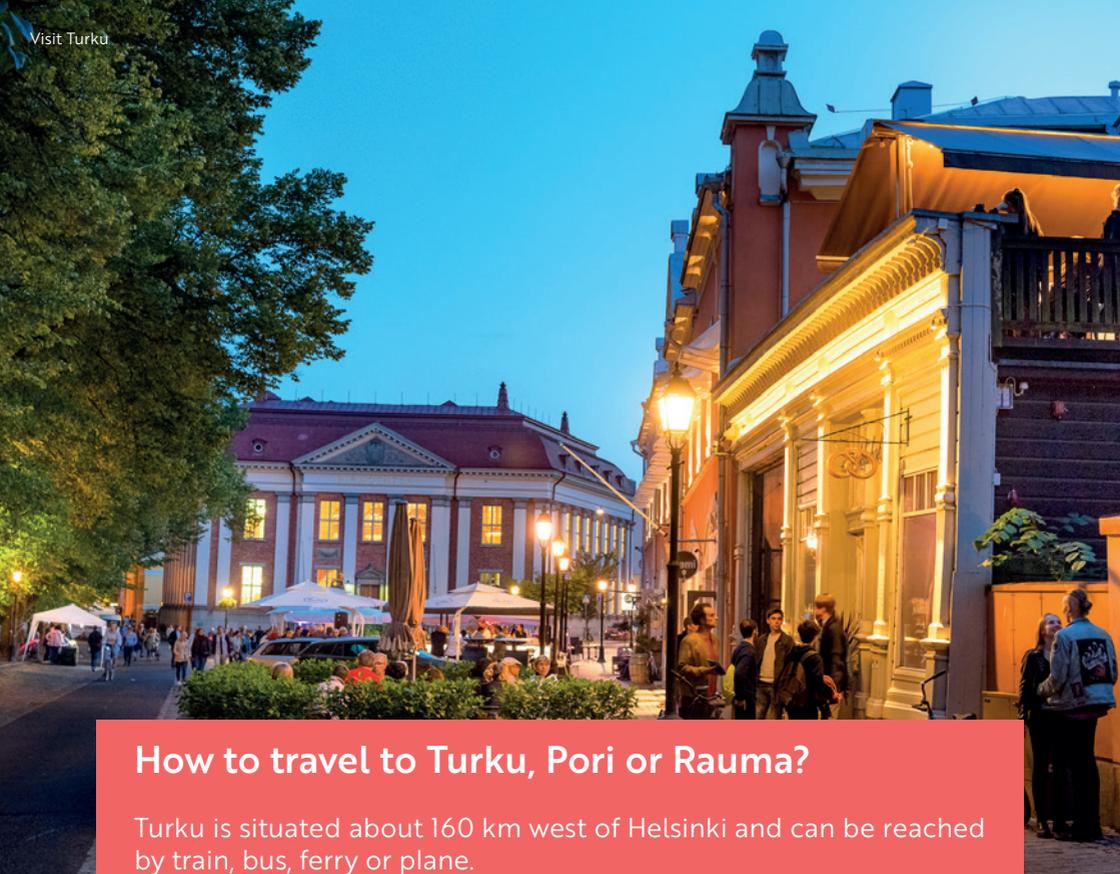
Founded in 1920, the University of Turku is a community of 25,000 students and employees who share a strong multidisciplinary and international take on research and studying.

The purpose of this guide is to help you to become acquainted with the university and its student support services as well as to help you to prepare for your upcoming exchange period in Finland.

If the COVID19 pandemic is still going on during the academic year 2022–2023, please follow utu.fi/en/information-on-coronavirus and valtioneuvosto.fi/en/information-on-coronavirus/current-restrictions.

We hope you will enjoy your stay in Finland!

International Office / University of Turku



How to travel to Turku, Pori or Rauma?

Turku is situated about 160 km west of Helsinki and can be reached by train, bus, ferry or plane.

There is a small airport about 8 km from the city centre. You can fly directly to Turku – usually taking a connecting flight from Helsinki, Stockholm or Riga. The bus number 1 operates between the airport and city centre. Check [Föli](#) for public transportation in the Turku region!

Buses between Helsinki Airport and Turku operate frequently. Check [Matkahuolto](#) for more information on long-distance buses. There are also trains from Helsinki Airport and Helsinki city centre to Turku. Check [VR](#) for further information.

Turku can also be reached by ferry from Stockholm, Sweden. The ferry lines are called [Silja Line](#) and [Viking Line](#) and the trip takes either one day or one night.

Pori is situated 150 km and Rauma 90 km north from Turku. They can be reached by bus from Helsinki and Turku and Pori also by train from Helsinki.

Faculties at the University of Turku

There are eight faculties at the University of Turku. Each faculty offers non-degree programmes and individual courses in English in several disciplines. In total, at least 300 courses are offered in English every academic year by different disciplines.

Faculty of Humanities

School of History, Culture and Arts Studies
School of Languages and Translation Studies

Faculty of Science

Department of Biology
Department of Chemistry
Department of Geography and Geology
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Department of Physics and Astronomy
Biodiversity Unit of the University of Turku

Faculty of Technology

Department of Computing
Department of Life Technologies
Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering

Faculty of Medicine

Institute of Biomedicine
Institute of Dentistry
Department of Nursing Science
Department of Clinical Medicine

Faculty of Law

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Psychology and Speech-Language Pathology
Department of Philosophy, Contemporary History and Political Science
Department of Social Research

Faculty of Education

Department of Education, Turku
Department of Teacher Education, Turku
Department of Teacher Education, Rauma

Turku School of Economics

Department of Management and Entrepreneurship
Department of Accounting and Finance
Department of Marketing and International Business
Department of Economics
Finland Futures Research Centre (FFRC)
University Consortium of Pori

For the complete selection of courses for exchange students please see the Study Guide or utu.fi/exchange-courses

Studying at the University of Turku

University Studies in Finland

The Finnish national higher education degree structure is mainly based on a three-cycle model: Bachelor's degree, Master's degree and Doctoral/PhD degree.

Students start with Bachelor studies and finish with a Master's degree after 5–6 years of studying. The degrees usually consist of studies in one main subject and one or more minor subjects. Bachelor studies usually comprise basic and intermediate level studies while Master studies comprise advanced studies.

Course Information

Most courses require some previous studies in the field. Exchange students can combine studies from different faculties with some limitations. The Faculty of Medicine and Turku School of Economics can only accept exchange students who are majoring in these subjects and there is an agreement to these study fields.

The Faculties of Law and Education can only accept exchange students from other faculties in case there are free places on the courses and the students meet the course criteria.

You can find more information on courses at utu.fi/exchange-courses and in our Study Guide at studyguide.utu.fi.

Peppi – a Virtual Study Register

Peppi is the online data system for many study-related functions such as

- > course enrolments and timetables
- > study register with completed courses and their grades
- > your personal information

You can access Peppi after activating your UTU user account by using the Signicat online identification system. You will receive an e-mail for activating your UTU user account before the semester starts.

Course Enrolment

The enrolment for courses varies between faculties, departments and courses. Having a course on your Learning Agreement does not guarantee that you have a place on it, so a separate enrolment is often required. You need to find out from the course description in the Study Guide, the departmental contact persons or teachers how to enrol to the courses you have selected.

Types of enrolment

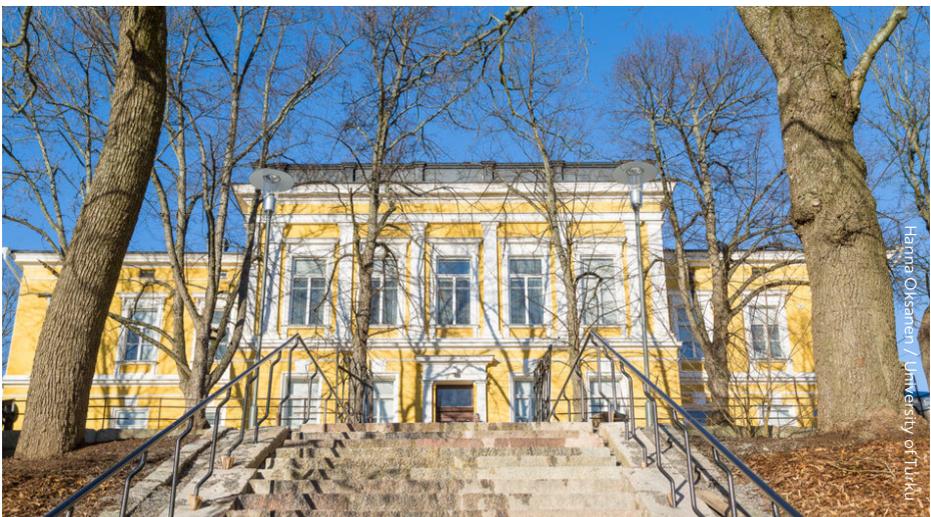
- > online enrolment in Peppi
- > an e-mail to the teacher (especially independent study options)
- > attending the first lecture

Online enrolment in Peppi is widely used at all faculties.

Please note that there are certain enrolment periods, which vary between faculties and courses. Usually enrolment ends before the teaching starts so make sure you arrive in Finland before that!

Modes of Study

In addition to lectures, seminars and group work there are some modes of study, which may be unfamiliar to you. A book exam means that you read a book or several books and take an exam based on them. Independent courses or online courses might entail essays or other assignments but no contact teaching. Some fields of study have a lot of lab courses and exercises completed individually or in a small group.



Examinations

Most courses are assessed by written examination at the end of the course. Essays and assignments written during the course may also be a part of the assessment. If the Covid-19 pandemic is still ongoing during academic year 2022-2023, some exams can be conducted online at home. Some exams are conducted in the e-Exam rooms on campus.

You have always three attempts at an exam. Courses have usually one set exam date after which you have two retake possibilities. Books exams are taken on dates determined by the teacher or the faculty. Many faculties and departments offer a possibility to take electronic exams in e-exam rooms, which you can access with an activated student card, key card or a printing tag.

Credit and Grading System

- > 1 credit = 1 opintopiste (op) = 1 ECTS credit = 27 hours of work
- > 60 credits = workload of one academic year
- > 30 credits = workload of one semester
- > Course assessment usually includes lectures, course participation, essays, and/or a written examination
- > Examinations are usually based on lecture notes as well as the required reading indicated in the reading list for the course.
- > Some courses are graded on a pass/fail basis only.
- > Exams and assignments are assessed according to the following scale:

Finnish Grading Scale	Qualitative Definition	ECTS Grades	US Grades
5	Excellent	A	A+
4	Very Good	B	A
3	Good	C	B
2	Satisfactory	D	C
1	Sufficient	E	D
0	Fail	F/FX	xF

Questions about courses or course enrolment? Contact teachers or departmental contact persons: apps.utu.fi/apply/contacts/

Courses from Åbo Akademi University

Åbo Akademi University (ÅAU) is a university providing higher education mainly in Swedish, but some programmes and individual courses are also offered in English. ÅAU's campus is located next to the University of Turku, within a short walking distance. Cooperation with ÅAU gives exchange students an opportunity to take some of their courses at ÅAU. You can find more information at utu.fi/en/studies-at-aa-u-for-exchange-students.

Learning Agreement

Learning Agreement is an important document for the recognition of studies at your home university and you need to keep it up-to-date.

A signed Learning Agreement improves the courses you wish to take. However, it is not an enrolment and does not guarantee a place on the courses. In many cases you have to enrol to the courses separately to secure your place.

When you are in Finland you can make changes to your Learning Agreement. Usually this is done during the first month of your exchange. Erasmus+ students should use OLA platform for changing the learning agreement. If the home university does not use the OLA yet, just fill the learning agreement of your home university and send it to incoming@utu.fi for approval.

Transcript of Records

Transcript of Records lists your successfully completed study units. Incomplete or failed courses will not show on the transcript. You can check and print your unofficial transcript in Peppi.

The official and final Transcript of Records will be sent to your e-mail address after you have left Turku. Official transcripts are sent to the home university only by request via e-mail or on paper. In order to receive the final Transcript of Records you must send a filled-in Departure Form and your departure ticket to international@utu.fi.

Academic Year 2022-2023

Autumn Semester 2022

September – December 2022

Orientation 24 – 26 August 2022

Spring Semester 2023

January – May 2023

Orientation 3 – 5 January 2023

(preliminary dates)

Teaching periods

(used by most of the faculties):

I 29.8.2022 – 23.10.2022

II 24.10.2022 – 18.12.2022

III 9.1.2023 – 12.3.2023

IV 13.3.2023 – 21.5.2023

Student Support Services

The Student Union

At the University of Turku there is a Student Union (TYY). The role of TYY is to represent its members, advance the position of students, and provide them with services. The membership of TYY is voluntary (but highly recommended) for Bachelor and Master level exchange students who are studying physically in Finland.

As a member of the Student Union, you are entitled to a variety of benefits such as

- > Right to get the Starting package
- > Student-discounted lunch
- > 45%-55% discount on long distance bus and train tickets
- > Consultation services from the TYY specialists
- > Services of the student lawyer
- > Turku Student Newspaper
- > Possibility for the membership in any of the TYY sub-organisations
- > Many other benefits & discounts

NB! Doctoral level exchange students can also join the Student Union but their benefits are limited. Please see tyy.fi/en/students/student-card/doctoral-candidates for detailed information.

The Student Union functions as an umbrella organisation for many student clubs: faculty or subject-specific organisations, political and religious organisations, student nations and cultural organisations.

For more information about the Student Union visit tyy.fi/en. If you have any questions regarding your membership or the student card, e-mail tyy-internationalspecialist@utu.fi.

Joining TYY and Getting a Student Card

In order to join TYY and get the student benefits you need to pay the Student Union membership fee. You will receive the payment details from the International Office after you register to the university. You will not receive any confirmation e-mail after paying the Student Union membership fee.

After paying the fee, you can either download a student card application or order a plastic student card. Both options entitle you to receive the Student Union membership benefits. Frank App can be downloaded for iOS and Android phones. Please note it can take several days after paying before the App starts working. The plastic card can be ordered and paid online at frank.fi/en. You need to have your Finnish study right number, a digital photo and a valid credit card (Mastercard or VISA) for ordering the card. Processing the order takes some time. The plastic card will be sent to your address here in Finland.



Want to meet Finns?
Join your own subject-specific organisation and their activities!
Find out more at tyy.fi/en/sub-organisations.

Student Health Care

Exchange students can use the healthcare centres in Turku, Pori and Rauma if they need medical care during the exchange. We recommend all students to get a personal health insurance to cover the exchange period. For more information regarding the student health care, please visit utu.fi/en/study-at-utu/accepted-students/residence-permit.

In urgent, genuine cases of emergency, the official emergency number is 112.

EU/EEA citizens are advised to apply for the European Health Insurance Card before arriving in Finland.

Student Tutors

The International Office will assign a personal student tutor to you before your arrival in Turku. You will get each other's contact information by email so that you can keep in touch and get to know each other before your exchange begins. The tutor will also meet you upon your arrival at the airport, bus station or train station in Turku, Pori or Rauma (if possible). Therefore, it is important that you let them know about your arrival details.

A student tutor is a Finnish student interested in foreign cultures and languages. The tutor has volunteered to help you with the practical matters and guide you through the student life in Finland. Your tutor will show you the campus and help you get around. Each tutor has 3-5 exchange students. Tutoring is free of charge.



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1 University Main Building | 38 Biocity | 56 Eurocity |
| 2 Feeniks Library | 45 Office of the Student Union (TYU) (building A) and Starting Package Storage (building B) | 57 Turku School of Economics |
| 5 Natura | 46 Finnish Student Health Services (YTHS) | X Student Centre Disco/ International Office |
| 6 Agora, Centre for Language and Communication Studies | 47 Educarium | Å2 Gripen, Åbo Akademi University's Student Office |
| 7 Quantum | 49 Pharmacy | Å7 Career Services |
| 9 Rosetta | 50 Publicum | |
| 10 Signum | 51 Historicum | |
| 22 Arcanum | 52 Minerva | |
| 23 Colonia | 53 Artium | |
| 26 Hämeenkatu 4 | 54 ICT-City | |
| 30 Medisiina | 55 Electrocity | |
| 32 Dentalia | | |
| 35 Teutori | | |
| 37 Dacity | | |

Orientation

An orientation is held at the end of August and at the beginning of January and all exchange students are required take part in it. You can find the programme of the orientation at utu.fi/en/study-at-utu/accepted-students/orientation before the semester starts.

The orientation gives you information on

- > course and university registration and studies in general
- > student support services at the University
- > academic culture and practicalities
- > student life and free-time activities
- > Finnish society and language

IT Services

You need an UTU user account in order to have access to the IT resources of the university. You will receive an e-mail about how to activate your UTU user account before the semester starts. With UTU user account you have access to

- > your UTU email account
- > wireless networks
- > university's intranet
- > Peppi
- > Moodle

Wireless networks enable access to the Internet around campus. The university offers computer labs for study-related matters. Computer labs are open 24/7 and an activated student card, key card or a printing tag is required for access.

For more information, please visit utu.fi/en/university/wireless-networks-utu-accounts-and-it-support

Library Services

Turku University Library consists of six discipline-specific libraries and library services in Pori and Rauma. Most of the university library services are free of charge. However, if books are not returned by due date, a fine will be charged. You can get a library card in any of the university's libraries by showing your ID and giving your address in Finland.

Libraries offer you

- > course books and other materials for borrowing and reading in libraries
- > papers and journals for reading
- > electronic resources, online dictionaries and online search engines
- > reading rooms and facilities for group work
- > support in information retrieval

For more information, please visit utu.fi/en/university/library.

Language Courses

The Centre for Language and Communication Studies offers all students a variety of language courses and other activities. Please note that some of the courses are available only to degree students. Language courses of the Turku School of Economics are primarily intended for degree and exchange students of TSE, but if there is enough room, exchange students from all faculties are welcome to attend.

The Centre for Language and Communication Studies offers

- > Finnish courses
- > Courses in other languages
- > Language Circles (for native and non-native speakers to meet up – no credits can be earned but participants receive a certificate of their participation)
- > Language and Culture Tandem (practice your Finnish with a native speaker)
- > Language Partner (learn a language with others on your free time)
- > Language Tutors (work as a tutor in courses or in the self-study room)

For more information please visit utu.fi/en/university/centre-for-language-and-communication-studies.

Sport Facilities

CampusSport provides the university community with versatile sports services focusing on fitness and health. By paying a small fee you can use most sports services. CampusSport offers

- > instructed workout and body maintenance classes and courses
- > gyms
- > open training times
- > personal training and sports tutors
- > possibility to join teams and tournaments

For more information, please visit campussport.fi/en/frontpage/.

Practical and Academic Counselling

Practical counselling for exchange students is available from incoming@utu.fi. See our other contact information at utu.fi/exchange -> Contact Information

You can also visit the student service desk Disco. See the opening hours and visiting address at utu.fi/en/study-at-utu/disco.

Academic counselling is available at the departments. See your department's departmental contact person at apps.utu.fi/apply/contacts/!

Living in Turku and Finland

Residence Permit

Non-EU/EEA citizens

If you are not an EU/EEA citizen you must obtain a residence permit from the nearest Finnish embassy or consulate. You can apply online but a visit to the embassy/consulate is needed for the biometrical identification. For obtaining the residence permit you are required to have a valid health insurance and to be able to prove that you have at least 560 € a month at your disposal.

NB! You should apply for the Finnish ID Code at the same time you are applying for a residence permit. The Finnish ID code is required e.g. for opening a bank account in Finland.

Please start the residence permit application process within 7 days after you have received the acceptance letter for the exchange studies from UTU.

For further information, please contact your nearest Finnish embassy or consulate or the Finnish Immigration Service at migri.fi/en/instructions-for-exchange-students.

When in Finland, you have to register as a foreigner. Please see further information at utu.fi/en/study-at-utu/accepted-students/residence-permit

EU/EEA Citizens

If you are a citizen of EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland you do not need a residence permit but you have to obtain a Finnish ID Code and register as a foreigner.

Registering to Finland as a foreigner and the Finnish Identity Code

All exchange students need to register themselves as foreigners in Finland and obtain a Finnish ID Code (henkilötunnus in Finnish). The ID code will make your life easier in Finland and it is required for opening a bank account and for statistical purposes.

Digital and Population Data Services Agency (The Finnish Digital Agency) will register you as a foreigner when you apply for the Finnish ID Code. Please find more information here: dvv.fi/en/foreigner-registration.

There are two ways to obtain the Finnish ID Code (if you have not obtained one when applying for a residence permit):

1. Make an appointment at the Finnish Digital Agency in advance online at isl.ajanvaraus.fi/frontend/ (recommended option for those who are in a hurry to get the code e.g. for a bank account).

2. Apply for the code during a pop-up event at the Finnish Digital Agency (specific days at the start of every semester, no appointment needed).

The student's information (including the ID Code and the Finnish address) will be entered into the Finnish Population Information System.

NB! You will receive the ID code via e-mail after your visit at the Finnish Digital Agency. When you receive the code, please send it to our staff in the Student Centre Disco at disco@utu.fi from your UTU email. Our staff will enter the code into your personal information in Peppi.

NB2! If you have obtained a Finnish ID Code when obtaining a residence permit, you will still need to register yourself as a foreigner in Finland. In addition, please send your Finnish ID code to disco@utu.fi.

Health Insurance

It is always advisable to take personal health insurance.

EU/EEA citizens who have a European Health Insurance Card are entitled to municipal health care at the same prices as Finnish citizens. However, healthcare is not completely free of charge and the fees depend on the treatments.

For the residence permit, non-EU/EEA citizens are required to have valid health insurance which covers the costs of medical care (up to € 100,000). Health insurance is required when the student exchange lasts for more than three months but less than two years. For more information please visit the Finnish Immigration Service at migri.fi/en/insurance.

**Questions about the residence permit or insurance requirements?
Visit [Migri's web page](#) for more information!**

Student Housing

You must find a place to stay during your exchange yourself. University of Turku cannot guarantee or arrange housing for exchange students. However, we have negotiated with some companies in order to provide housing options for you. Our housing page can be found at utu.fi/housing.

Turku Student Village Foundation (TYS)

TYS has apartments and shared apartments reserved for exchange students coming to study in Turku. All the apartments are furnished and the rent starts from approximately 300 € month (including water, electricity and internet). Please see more information about the apartments and application process at tys.fi/en/exchange-students/.

In Pori and Rauma

Your contact person in Pori or Rauma will give you more information about housing. For Pori see ucpori.fi/en-gb/article/etusivu/accommodation/1909/.

Money and banks

In Finland most of the invoices (e.g. your rent) can be only paid as a bank transfer. Opening a bank account in Finland is usually free but sometimes a bit complicated.

> For students coming from EU/EAA countries we recommend arranging online banking possibility, so that you are able to make money transfers using your account in your home country.

> If you get a scholarship from the University of Turku, you have to open a Finnish bank account. NB! You need the Finnish ID code for opening a bank account.

Costs of Living

You will need at least about 600 € a month for living in Finland. This amount covers only the most necessary costs and does not include leisure activities.

For more on financial matters, please see utu.fi/en/study-at-utu/financial-matters.

Please note that finding a part-time job in Turku and in Finland is difficult.

Public Transport in Turku Region: Föli

Turku region public transport Föli provides transport services in six municipalities (Turku, Kaarina, Raisio, Naantali, Lieto and Rusko). Exchange students can also obtain a bus card with student discount, you will receive more information upon your arrival in Turku. You can read more about Föli here: foli.fi/en.

Tip!

Check the app called [My Mobile Tutor](#). You will find in one place helpful links to information on studying at UTU, living in Turku, and lots of inspiring things to explore.

Checklist

Before you arrive in Finland

- > Confirm your exchange in SoleMOVE.
- > Apply for housing. You should apply at least six weeks before your arrival in Turku.
- > If you are a non-EU/EEA citizen, start your residence permit application within 7 days after you have received the acceptance letter from UTU. You should apply for the Finnish ID code at the same time.
- > Take health insurance for your exchange period.
- > Book your travel tickets. You should arrive in time for the orientation.
- > Contact your personal student tutor.
- > Make preparations for money transfers or check that your online bank works in Finland.

When you have arrived in Finland/right before your arrival

- > Send university registration documents to international@utu.fi (you'll receive instructions via e-mail)
- > Activate your UTU user account via online identification system (you'll receive instructions via e-mail)
- > Take part in the orientation for new international students.
- > Sign your lease at the housing office.
- > Pay the Student Union fee (voluntary but recommended) and apply for the Finnish student card if you are physically studying in Finland
- > Open a bank account, if you have been granted a scholarship by UTU.
- > Obtain a Finnish ID Code if you haven't already and register yourself as a foreigner in Finland.
- > Fill in a "change of an address" notification at a post office.

Questions about your upcoming exchange period? Don't hesitate to contact the incoming student mobility team at incoming@utu.fi!

**Follow us on
social media!**



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