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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.

We hope you will enjoy your stay in Turku!

International Office

University of Turku
How to travel to Turku or to Pori?

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 http://www.foli.fi/en for public transportation in the Turku region!

Buses between Helsinki Airport and Turku operate frequently. Check https://matkahuolto.fi/en/ for more information on long-distance buses! There are also trains from Helsinki and Helsinki Airport to Turku. Check http://www.vr.fi/en for further information!

Turku can 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 north from Turku. It can be reached by bus from Helsinki and Turku and by train from Helsinki.
Faculties at the University of Turku

There are seven 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 and Engineering
Department of Biochemistry
Department of Biology
Department of Chemistry
Department of Geography and Geology
Department of Future Technologies
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Department of Physics and Astronomy
Centre for Environmental Research of the University of Turku

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 www.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 Turku School of Economics and the Faculties of Law, Medicine and Education do not offer courses to students from other faculties.


NettiOpsu – a Virtual Study Register
NettiOpsu is an online system for many study-related functions such as

- course and exam registration
- personal study register with completed courses and their grades
- personal data
- link to the Study Guide

You can access NettiOpsu at http://nettiopsu.utu.fi after activating your UTU user account by visiting one of our IT helpdesks on campus.

Course Registration
The registration 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, as a separate registration is often required. You need to find out in the course description, from the departmental contact persons or teachers how to register to the courses you have selected.
Types of registration:

- attending the first lecture
- online registration in NettiOpsu
- an e-mail to the teacher (especially independent study options)

Online registration is required especially for the courses in Turku Law School and at the Turku School of Economics, and it is widely used at other faculties as well. Please note that there are certain registration periods, which vary between faculties and courses. Usually registrations end before the teaching starts so make sure you arrive in Turku 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.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finnish Grading Scale</th>
<th>Qualitative Definition</th>
<th>ECTS Grades</th>
<th>US Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sufficient</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>F/FX</td>
<td>xF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions about courses or course registration? Contact teachers or departmental contact persons: https://apps.utu.fi/apply/contacts/
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 approves the courses you wish to take.
• However, it is not a registration and does not guarantee a place on the courses.
• In many cases you have to register to the courses separately to secure your place.

When you are in Turku/Pori you can make changes to your Learning Agreement. Usually this is done during the first month of your exchange. Just fill in (your home university’s own) Learning Agreement form with the changes and send or bring it to the International Office (located in the Student Centre Disco on the University Hill) 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 NettiOpsu.

The official and final Transcript of Records will be sent to you or to your home university after you have left Turku. In order to receive the final Transcript of Records you must leave a filled-in Departure Form at the International Office.

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 https://www.utu.fi/en/studies-at-aau-for-exchange-students.
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.

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

- Basic health care at the Finnish Student Health Service
- 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 and discounts

NB! Doctoral level exchange students can also join the Student Union but their benefits are limited. Please see http://www.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 http://www.tyy.fi/en.

If you have any questions regarding your membership or the student card, e-mail tyy-kvishteeri@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 in the Student Centre Disco when you register. You will not receive any confirmation e-mail after paying the Student Union membership fee.
After paying the fee you can order a student card which entitles you to receive the Student Union membership benefits. The card can be ordered and paid online at http://www.frank.fi/en. You need to have your Finnish student number, a digital photo and a valid credit card (Mastercard or VISA) for ordering the card. Processing the card order takes some weeks and it will be sent to your address here in Turku.

Instead of a plastic card, a Frank App can be downloaded for iOS and Android phones. To be able to activate the digital student card, you need to have the Finnish ID Code and it needs to be registered in NettiOpsu.
Student Health Care

The Finnish Student Health Service (FHS S, YTHS in Finnish) provides basic health care at a low cost for the members of the Student Union. Consultations with a nurse, general practitioner and laboratory tests are free of charge. A small fee is charged for consultations with specialists (gynaecology and dermatology) and for dental treatment.

It is highly recommended that you have personal health insurance for several reasons:

- FHS S is open from Monday to Friday during the office hours only.
- At other times, you must rely on municipal or private health care facilities at your own expense.
- FHS S does NOT cover emergency or hospital treatment or other treatments exceeding basic health care.

For more information, please visit http://www.fshs.fi.

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 (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 Turku. Your tutor will show you the campus and help you get around. Each tutor has 3-5 exchange students. Tutoring is free of charge.

Want to meet Finns?

Orientation

An orientation is held at the end of August and at the beginning of January and all exchange students are required to participate in it. You can find the programme of the orientation at https://www.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 a personal user account in order to have access to the IT resources at the university. After registering to the university, you can activate your user account at one of our IT helpdesks by showing your ID. With the user account you have access to

- your UTU email account
- wireless networks
- intranet
- NettiOpsu
- Moodle
- the flexible study right portal Joopas (for studies at ÅAU)

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.


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 http://www.utu.fi/en/units/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 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.

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)


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 http://www.campussport.fi/en/frontpage/

Practical and Academic Counselling

Practical counselling for exchange students is available at the International Office (Student Centre Disco). See our contact information at http://www.utu.fi/exchange > Contact Information

Academic counselling is available at the departments. See your department’s departmental contact person at https://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 valid health insurance and to be able to prove that you have at least 560 € a month at your disposal. You should apply for the Finnish ID Code at the same time you are applying for a residence permit.

For further information, please contact your nearest Finnish embassy or consulate or the Finnish Immigration Service at http://migri.fi/en/residence-permit-application-for-studies.

When in Finland you have to register as a foreigner. Please see further information at https://www.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 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, for statistical purposes and for downloading the student card application.

The Local Register Office will register you as a foreigner when you apply for the Finnish ID Code.

Questions about the residence permit or insurance requirements? Please visit http://www.migri.fi for more information!
There are two ways to obtain the Finnish ID Code (if you have not obtained one when applying for a residence permit):

• Make an appointment at the Local Register Office in advance online at http://www.maistraatti.fi/en (recommended option for those who are in a hurry to get the code e.g. for a bank account).

• Apply for the code during an on-campus Local Register Office pop up (specific days at the start of every semester).

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

NB! If you obtain your ID code by appointment at the Local Register Office, please send the the code 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 NettiOpsu. If you apply for the code during the Local Register Office pop up, you will not get the code straightaway. The University will get the codes from the Local Register Office and you will be notified when the code is available for pick-up.

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.

**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 https://migri.fi/en/insurance.
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 https://www.utu.fi/en/study-at-utu/accepted-students/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 € a month (including water, electricity and internet). In addition, TYS requires a 60 € admission fee and a deposit of 300 €. Please see more information about the apartments and application process at http://www.tys.fi/en/exchange-students/.

Retrodorm

The city of Turku rents apartments for exchange students in the Luolavuori area. There are small single room apartments with shared showers and a kitchen area. All apartments are furnished and the rent is 285 € a month (including water, electricity and internet). More information about the Retrodorm housing and for the application form visit http://www.retrodorm.fi.

In Pori and Rauma

Your contact person in Pori or Rauma will give you more information about housing. For Pori see https://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.

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 https://www.utu.fi/en/study-at-utu/financial-matters.

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

Before you arrive in Finland:

☐ Confirm your exchange in SoleMOVE.
☐ Apply for housing from several housing providers. You should apply at least six weeks before your arrival in Turku.
☐ If you are a non-EU/EEA citizen, apply for a residence permit well in advance. You can 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:

☐ Register for the university at the International Office in the Student Centre Disco.
☐ Activate your IT user account by visiting one of our IT helpdesks.
☐ 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.
☐ 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!