

Personal Report

Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, WiSe 2021/22, 1 Semester FB2 – Business Information Systems - Bachelor

Language

Which language did you use? How did you communicate with your fellow students?

The working language was English. I did not learn any new languages. I communicated with my fellow students in English.

How well were you able to follow classes linguistically at the partner institution? Did the partner university provide language classes?

I could very well follow the classes. The university did not provide any language classes during the semester.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation? How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

Yes, they provided dormitories and the quality was good.

How high were your overall monthly costs for accommodation (in Euro)?

366€

How well was the accommodation situated? How long did it take you on average to reach the partner university (in minutes)?

The situation of the accommodation was fine. I needed 40 min to reach my partner university on average.

Which web sites, forums, facebookpages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?

I used the offer from the partner university and therefore I did not have to look for anything myself

Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)?

I have been accommodated in a HOAS dormitory. The address was kitarakuja 1b in Helsinki. There were supermarkets nearby. I needed 20 minutes to the city center with the train.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

The best arrival time is about 2 weeks before the semester starts. That is the time when there are already quite a few students to do something together and one has enough time to settle in properly.

How did you organize your arrival? Were all important questions answered? What did you have to find out yourself? How fast were you able to get in contact with the domestic students?

I did not organize much for my arrival, except for booking a flight. The orientation program was sufficient. I did not have much contact to the domestic students. That was the case due to different reasons, one of them being covid. The services for the exchange students were good.

Living Abroad

Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad? What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad?

It was much higher than the costs in Frankfurt, about 200%. Lidl should be the cheapest supermarket available. The additional expenses were mostly due to the fact that Finland and Helsinki are really expensive in general.

How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

The discounted student ticket was only valid in the city center and a small area around it. Student life was nice, because I got to know many different exchange students. The mensa was cheap, but did not taste that good. They also had vegan and vegetarian food. There are computer pools available, but I don't know how to access them. There was free Wi-Fi on the whole campus. We had study rooms we could use. Most often there were quite a few rooms available. The university provided a university gym and some courses, but one had to pay a certain amount to access it.

Studying at the Host University

How would you describe the academic standard of classes compared to Frankfurt?

Similar to Frankfurt.

Did you experience any difference in teaching methods/ class structure? Which were the difference regarding your expectations and your experiences at the partner university?

The classes were a lot more relaxed if it comes to student teacher communication. The teachers were addressed by their first names by the students. The partner university also has a lot more projects and assignments. New students should know, that they are going to have to do a lot of assignments and that the studies there are not easy.

How were the student services? Was the fact, that you were an exchange student taken into account (by professors or other staff)? If so, how? How were difficulties, which you or other exchange students may have met, handled by the partner university?

I don't know if it was taken into account that I am an exchange student. If we had difficulties, the responsible persons most often were able to help as fast.

Final Remarks

What should future exchange students know/ do/ avoid? How would you overall rate your exchange experience? In what ways have you benefitted academically, personally, linguistically for your future career?

Future students should to do all assignments as fast as possible, otherwise it could get hard to catch up. I learned a lot at the partner university. I benefitted the most academically, because I learned a lot doing all the assignments, projects and examens. I've developed quite a few new IT skills (C++, web development, C, Cloud, Python). I learned valuable skills for my life and because I have made valuable experiences in my time abroad.