

Personal Report

Arcada University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki, WS 2018/19, 1 Semester

Wirtschaft und Recht, Fachbereich 3 Frankfurt

Language

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

Everyone in Finland and especially at Arcada is fluent in english. The lecturers are easy to understand. The same counts for the other students.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation?

Yes, in a dormitory.

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

417€

How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

Good.

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

I lived in HOAS Pasila. It is well located when you want to go the city. To university, it takes about 20-25 minutes to walk or 20 minutes by bus (Line 506, 3 minute walking distance).

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

None. Arcada took care of it.

Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)? And how would you describe the surroundings of your accommodation (shopping facilities, distance to the city center, nightlife, etc?)

HOAS Junailijankuja 5, Pasila. There is a Lidl and a K-Market in 5 minute walking distance. In the K-Maket is a Post office to where big packages will be sent.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

2-3 days before the introduction days, so you are able to get to know the first people before groups are formed.

How did you organize your arrival? Was the extent of the orientation program sufficient? What activities can you recommend? 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? How were the services for exchange students?

I arrived by ship from Stockholm. My tutor picked me up at the harbour, gave me my keys and brought me to my apartment. During the two introduction days, we were able to get to know a lot of local students, which helped a lot in later times.

Also, the tutors will walk you through all necessary paperwork and show you the important places.

Living Abroad

Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad?

Higher, it cost about 150%.

What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad? How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How was your student life off-campus? How were the mensas/ student cafeterias? What types of meals were served? How much did the meals cost? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? Were you able to use study rooms? Were you able to rent separate rooms for studying? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

I spent most of the time with 3 other exchange students. In total, everyone of us spent around 8.000€. This includes rent, food and going out. Also, a lot if that was spent for expensive goods (Eating out, alcohol is pretty expensive).

We went on two roadtrips, organized by ourselves. These were around 600€ / 10 days each.

There are two possible semester tickets:

1. Time-card. cost 27€ /Month
2. Prepaid card. 1,10€ /ride.

This covers every place around the university and the city. 2€ extra when going to the airport.

For Lunch we mostly went to DIAK, the university next to Arcada. The meal is slightly cheaper (2,25 instead of 2,60€) and the queues are not that long.

During the week, we often went to Heidi's or Villi Wäinö. There is a cheap, small gym at Arcada and a big sports area north of the campus (Volleyball, Hockey, Tennis,...).

The library is free, it just requires to create a library card.

There are Computer rooms and a Mac room free to use. Wifi is available.

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? What surprised you, what should newly arriving students know? 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?

The lectures are different. There are two periods instead of one semester. During the periods, it is mostly required to write assignments instead of having an exam phase at the end. All-in-all, it is not more work than in Frankfurt, but spreaded over the time.

We haven't been handled differently just because we are exchange students.

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?

Get in contact with local students! It helped a lot knowing people who actually grew up in Finland, and a lot of the students there are more than happy to get in touch with foreigners. Finnish friends helped us at everything, starting from ordering food (because it's only written in finnish) to planning our roadtrips. And visit the finnish nature and sourrounding citites (Talinn, Stockholm, St. Petersburg,..)