

**EXCHANGE REPORT****Name****Year and term for exchange**

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2021 Fall

Exchange university

Aalto University

Degree programme

Sustainable Urban Planning and Design

An autumn/winter memory of exploring Finland

Before departure

As an Asian student, coming to Europe for postgraduate study was a great opportunity to explore the land, so to have the experience of studying in more countries and schools in a short period of time must have been more than worth trying. With many exchange programmes cancelled due to the epidemic, I chose Aalto in the final stage of my back-up application for the experience of studying on an architecture course, and the semester proved to exceed my expectations. Most of the courses at Aalto are taught in English, and you need to apply for Mobility notification in advance to go on the exchange, and there is clear information and guidance on how everything works.

Upon arrival

There is a week of orientation week before the course starts, during which the school sends out emails and holds talks to provide information and guidance on course selection for each student, and there are student groups that organize events to meet different people at the start of the course.

Financials

Erasmus offered a scholarship and a return train reimbursement, but I didn't submit an application because my personal itinerary didn't depart from the host university city, but the scholarship basically covered accommodation in Finland, which took a lot of pressure off!

Accommodation

As for accommodation, I shared a three-person flat at HOAS with my two exchange students for over 400 euros a month, which was much better value for money than in Stockholm.

University and studies

Due to the epidemic, most of 2021fall is still online, but the school's School of Architecture has an extensive infrastructure to offer, as well as a 3d printer for students to practice on. studio courses generally take up a full day each week, while other courses range from two hours to a day depending on the number of credit hours, and the overall working day schedule is very similar to that at KTH. The Aalto University campus is more spread out than KTH, with bus stops and carriageways spread across the campus area.

Courses

As a student of urban planning and design, I was able to take the Aalto architecture course during the exchange semester, taking the architecture studio and the school encourages you to take courses from the Art School and other programmes. The school gives full course descriptions and

recommendations in the first week of each semester. Just be careful not to clash with each other when choosing your courses.

City and country

Helsinki is a relatively neat and design-conscious city, and Finland has given me a new appreciation for winter scenery. I finally had the opportunity to spend a week in Finland after the end of the semester, experiencing different cities, skiing and aurora along the way, and staying in a chalet on the edge of a lake in icy weather. The whole thing was a healing and beautiful experience!

Other recommendations and observations

Although Finland is at a similar latitude to Stockholm and both are coastal cities, the temperatures are surprisingly much cooler. If you are going on an exchange in the autumn term, I would recommend bringing more winter clothes and cold weather stuff.