

## Finland – Abo Akademi

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<sup>1</sup> To update the agenda just click right on your moose

## I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

One of my friends here in Turku said that an Erasmus mobility is like a time capsule. You develop a new life, grow, learn, and live, in an entirely new environment, for five to six months, and then just go back to your previous life. I have yet to get back home, but I know for a fact I am going to feel like sh~ when I get back home. Post Erasmus Depression is going to hit hard. After all the experiences I've had here, there is simply now way I would change destination if I could go back in time. This opportunity is most certainly one of the most crucial you will ever be faced with in your entire life.

## II. Before the travel

### A. Preparation

#### 1. Visa

Finland does not require a Visa, as it's part of the EU.

#### 2. The flight

Flights are usually Paris – Riga – Helsinki, with a train ride from Helsinki to Turku. You may also want to try Marseille Riga but I'm not sure those flights exist. Flights will be mostly from the airBaltic company. DO NOT book a flight to Turku. They cost much more. Just book a train from Helsinki to Turku.

#### 3. My luggage

I prepared my luggage like I was going to f~ing Antartica, when really, Nike AF1s did the trick. Do pack a warm coat, beanie, and passe-montagne tho those save lives. Other than that, do your thing. Some people even packed lights and stuff to decorate their rooms.

#### 4. Bank account

I had to make the necessary adjustments with my banker, but they didn't take long. I simply asked her to allow for international transactions.

#### 5. Insurance

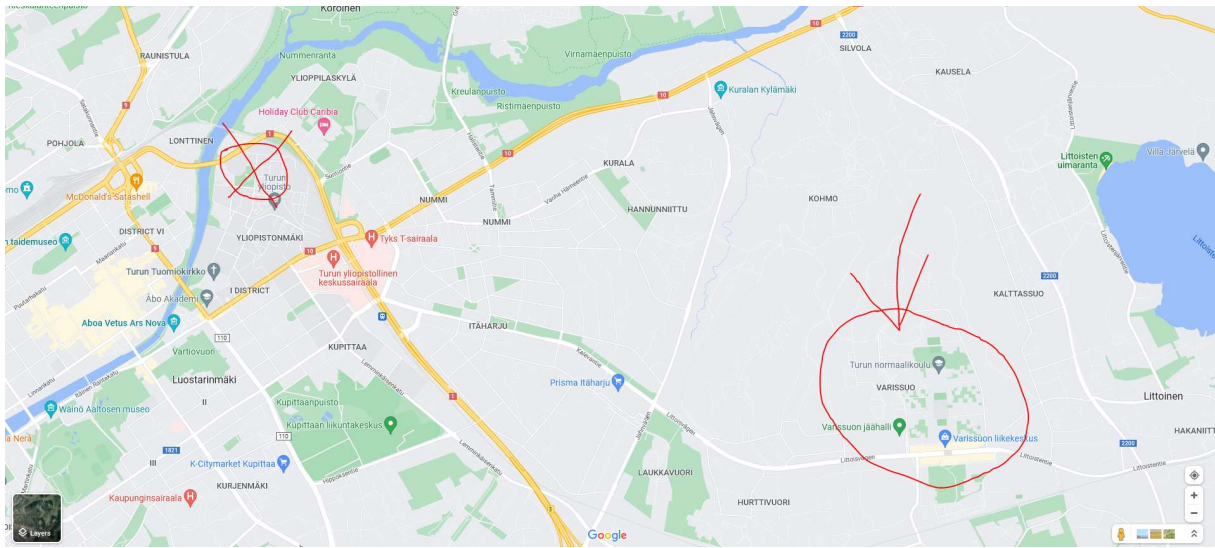
None if I remember correctly. (Don't do that, get one. I can't help on which one to get however.)

### B. Housing

#### 1. Where to live

I lived in Iltakajo, a student village dedicated entirely to Erasmus students. Best choice of my life. It's 6 kilometers from the city center, but it has very regular busses, so it wasn't a problem. (Pro tip for when you party late and busses stop : There is no Uber, but there is a Finnish equivalent : Yango) I would recommend you prioritize Iltakajo over the Student village that is situated in the city, as they have individual apartments and most

importantly individual kitchens. The vibe is also a whole lot better. Iltakajo is located in Varissuo.



## 2. Find a flat or a room

Turku's student housing institution is called TYS. I booked an Airbnb, but later cancelled it when I received an offer from TYS for an apartment.

## 3. Cost

Around 330 to 360 for a TYS apartment, and around 400 to 500 for an AirBnB.

### III. When I arrive at the university

#### A. Inscription at the university

It's quite simple. Once you're in Turku, you will need to go to the Grippen office (Grippen office works on google map). You will know when and what exactly to do when you receive the Abo Akademi email.

#### B. Information on the university

##### 1. Courses

Introduction to Finance : The course is quite simple, and the teacher is great. You need to do exercises at home, and, depending on Covid, go to school, or on a zoom, and present your results in groups. Great introduction to finance, would recommend.

Financial derivatives : This one, I have the exam in a week. I have to be real with you here, it's much harder than introduction to finance. And it's a fully self study course too so it's even harder to work with. Would not recommend unless you really know your finance already.

Policy processes in the EU : Self study course. All you have to do is write an essay on a topic that is related to policy making in the EU. The teacher will help you through the steps, there are regular classes where we present and compare our progress. It's a good course, would recommend.

Democracy : One of my favorite courses. The teacher is great, you have actual regular lectures, and the workload is just enough. A very interesting course on how democracy works, and what state democracy is in right now. Very up to date with recent events etc. Would definitely recommend.

Sustainable Business : The subject is good, but I really don't like the teacher to be perfectly honest. The two of them simply read their entire slides for 1h30 and then give you some homework like a case study or a group business pitch. It's good to have on your file for the masters, but to be extremely honest, you won't learn much from this course if you are in Licence Gestion. Would not recommend unless you have no better choices, or you really want the green stamp on your dossier.

Introduction to intercultural communication : Entirely self study. You need to read some material, then write a few short essays. Haven't started on them yet, but the few materials I have read already are quite interesting. Would recommend.



## 2. Advice on “contrat d'étude”

Good luck. Just pick whatever you want, and sort out the many problems that are bound to happen when you arrive. There's nothing to do other than that sorry.

## IV. When I live there

### A. Safety

I mean... It's Finland. What do you expect ? (Yes it's safe, you can leave your PC somewhere and find it 30 minutes later.)

### B. Phone and Internet

Some apartments have wifi routers. Otherwise you'll have to buy one and plug it to the ethernet outlet. Check with your mobile services provider how your forfait changes when travelling. (e.g., my 100 gigabytes forfait turns into a 25gigabytes one in Finland.)

### C. Events

Word of mouth, following the clubs Instagram accounts, be active on the Whatsapp group of your residence (you should get invited on it by your tutor, especially if you live in Iltakajo)

### D. Sports

You can check with Abo Akademi and University of Turku for a sports licence. You will get access to the many sports they propose, their gym membership etc. If you ever have questions, ask the student union.

### E. Eating

Haven't really eaten at restaurants or stuff to be honest, but the student restaurants are incredible.

### F. Go to the university : bus, car, bike

For Iltakajo, you go to university by bus, line 32,42,12. They pass quite regularly almost right in front of the residence. Then you stop near the university and end your trip by walking.

### G. Travels

Haven't travelled much either, but some worthy destinations you can reach by bus are Ruissalo, Tallin, Helsinki etc.

### H. Any other information you would have liked to know about

Don't invest yourself in a girl / guy, it won't end well. Be open. Lose control from time to time. **DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE SELF STUDY COURSES THEY ARE STILL HERE AND TIME IS TICKING AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA**

## V. Photos

I'm honestly going to cry if I look through my photos now so if you REALLY want them just email me sorryyy.