



RETOUR D'EXPÉRIENCE

Åbo, Finlande



UNIVERSITÉ DE
MONTPELLIER

MONTELLIER
MANAGEMENT



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Overall, I had a great experience. Finland is very different from France and it is quite a change of scenery, that is one of the reasons why I chose to come here. So, if you want to step out of your comfort zone, it is the right choice for you.

Finnish culture was really interesting to discover, and Turku is a really cute city, it isn't too big nor too small either, just the perfect size I would say.

Also, if you want to travel around and discover northern Europe, Turku (and Finland in general) is a great place to be.

However, if there would be one negative point about my semester it would be the choice of courses at Uni. The choice wasn't great, and I got refused two courses, so I had to select by default. That being said, you are going on an Erasmus more for the experience than the actual courses themselves.



Practical informations

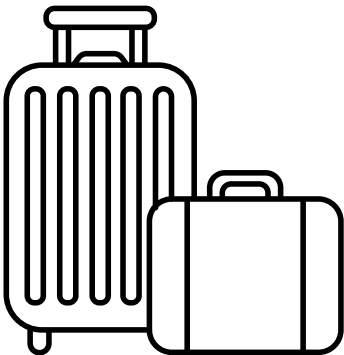


You don't need a visa to study in Finland if you have a passport/ID from one of the countries of the European Union.



On my outbound I flew from Paris CDG to Helsinki with Air France and then took a train from Helsinki to Turku (the Finnish SNCF is called VR trains). Finnish trains are cheap if you book them in advance (the prices start at 5€). I paid around 180€ for the flight including 30kg of luggage.

On my return journey I took a train from Turku to Helsinki and then I flew from Helsinki to Paris Beauvais with Ryanair. I paid around 100€ for the flight including 40 kg of luggage.



Take warm clothes! The first week I arrived it was like -10°C to -17°C all week so be prepared! Also, if you plan to go to Lapland, you will need warm clothes. So don't forget:

- Thermal underwear
- A really warm coat
- Gloves & a hat
- I would recommend snow boots because it can get really snowy and slippery
- A swimming costume (you will be doing a lot of saunas)





I enrolled as soon as the applications opened around September and received an offer beginning of November for a semester starting in January.

You have two choices of student housing in Turku:

- The student village (number 1 on the map) which is located close to the center, you have your own bathroom and bedroom but share a kitchen with your floor (around 10 people).
- Iltakajo (number 2 on map) which is more in the suburbs, it is around 20/30 min bus ride from the center and it's only shared flats of 2 or 3 people.

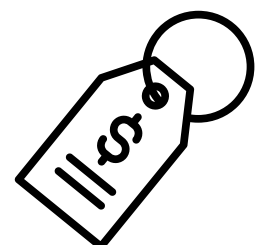
I lived in Iltakajo and it was a good choice for me because I became really close with my roommate and I really loved living with her. She became one of my closest friends. I also had a little group of friends from Iltakajo and we would often hang out together in each other's apartments. However, when you want to go out and party, living in Iltakajo is not great because on weekdays the latest bus is at half past midnight, so you have to take an uber or sleep at your friend's place in the student village. On Friday and Saturday evening the last bus is at 2:30 a.m.

Overall, if you want to party a lot then definitely go to the student village but if you're more "chill", you don't mind taking the bus and want something that is more like a real home then go to Iltakajo.



The great thing with going to Finland is that their "CROUS" system (which is called TYS) is way better than in France so all you have to do is enroll on the TYS website and you're pretty much guaranteed to have an apartment without providing much effort. You will then receive one or two housing offers that you can accept or decline.

350 euros per month for any TYS apartment
(including furniture, electricity, sauna and water)



Courses selection

Sustainable business



I think this was one of my favorite courses. There is quite a lot of lectures, but you don't need to learn them by heart as you do for Moma. There is no final written exam but lots of little deadlines (three group projects + two individual essays). My team was really great and we worked really well so that also influenced my judgment for this course. It is easy to have a 4 or 5 in this course if you do your work correctly. Overall, this course is quite demanding because you have quite a bit of work (but you will have plenty of time to do it don't worry) and I would recommend it.

Democracy



If you're interested in political sciences then definitely pick this course. The teacher is great, and the topic is very interesting. You have no final exam just essays to do about articles and books. I would recommend.

Policy processes in the EU



The volume of work for this course is little. You have one essay to write of 3 600 words (around 15 pages with bibliography, cover page ect) and you don't have any lectures only checkup meetings. I wrote about a topic that I was really interested in so I really enjoyed working on my essay. I would also recommend.

Information architecture and strategies



The volume of work for this class was really little. You don't have to spend a lot of time on this course. You have to do one group project and one final exam. There wasn't a lot of lectures either (4 lectures of 1h30 in total I think). The course in itself wasn't that interesting but I still learnt a lot concerning websites and information systems during the group project.

Development of digital services

This course was more interesting than information architecture and strategies but not very well structured and there was a lot of work (weekly group projects + lecture reflections + a final group project and video). The teacher wasn't very well organized and not very clear sometimes. I would recommend you pick the course usability testing if you're interested in information systems and website planning ect.

Finland

TO DO LIST

- ☐ Follow Erasmus Student Network Uni Turku and ESN Åbo Akademi on Instagram
- ☐ Enroll with Campus sports (50€ per semester) for unlimited activities (gym, Pump / Zumba classes, basketball, etc)
- ☐ Try the university restaurant for 2,9€
- ☐ Go to Kulma in the center of Turku and try Hesburger (the Finnish Mcdonald's)
- ☐ Plan many travels : Lapland (a must), Sweden, Norway, Estonia and Latvia
- ☐ Take time to think about the future : plan your applications for Masters

