



RETOUR D'EXPÉRIENCE

Laurea, Finlande



UNIVERSITÉ DE
MONTPELLIER

MONTELLIER
MA NAGEMENT



Honestly, I'd definitely go back on Erasmus. I think that whatever the destination, the experience is just incredible and unforgettable. Helsinki has something magical about it, you get to the snowy days and discover the very short hours of sunshine and then spring comes and you discover nature buried under the snow and then comes the start of summer, sunshine and endless days where the sunset never comes! life is really beautiful, don't hesitate!



Practical informations

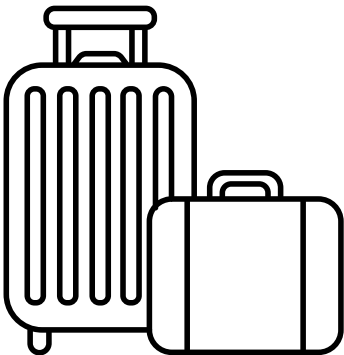


You don't need a visa to study in Finland if you have a passport/ID from one of the countries of the European Union.



I took an Air France flight from Montpellier to Helsinki with a stop at Paris Charles-de-Gaulle. It took me about three hours of flight. I took my flight tickets maybe two weeks before the departure as I didn't receive yet the confirmation of my accommodation.

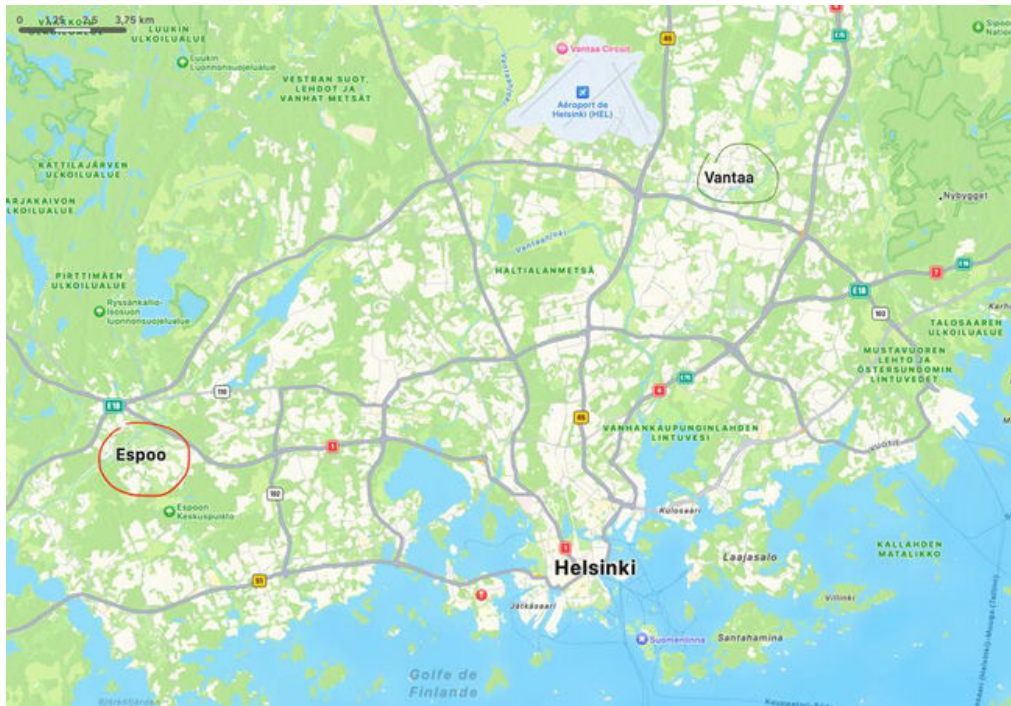
I should advise you to take your round trip directly as soon as you can, it can be expensive at the end of the Erasmus semester to go back in town!



In your luggage, the essential is obviously everything related to snow clothing: warm jacket, ski trousers, gloves, scarf, hat, boots, warm clothing, warm socks but you will need also swimsuit and flip-flops for sauna sessions!

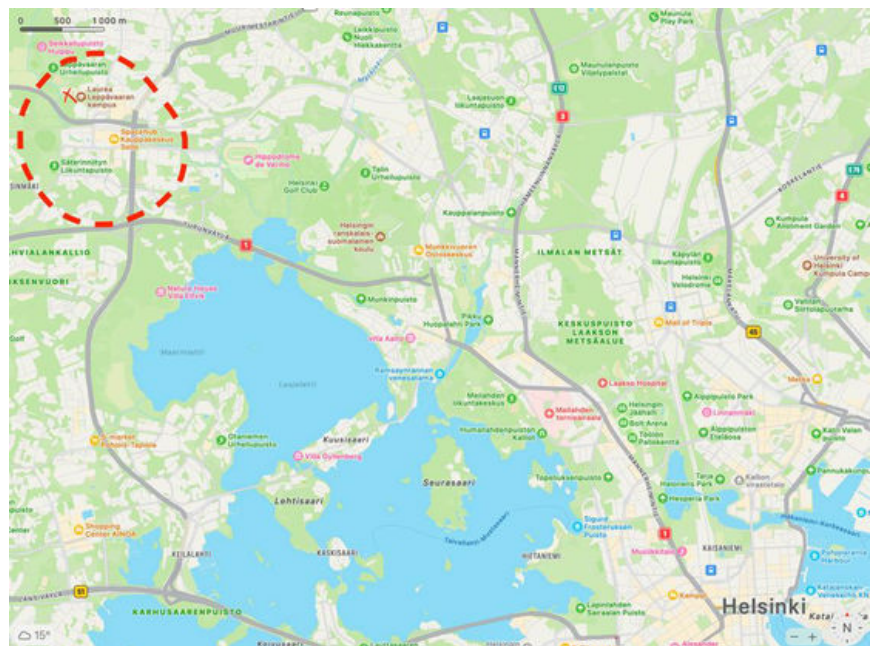
Do not forget to be dressed warmly the day of the arrival, be careful of the negative temperatures!

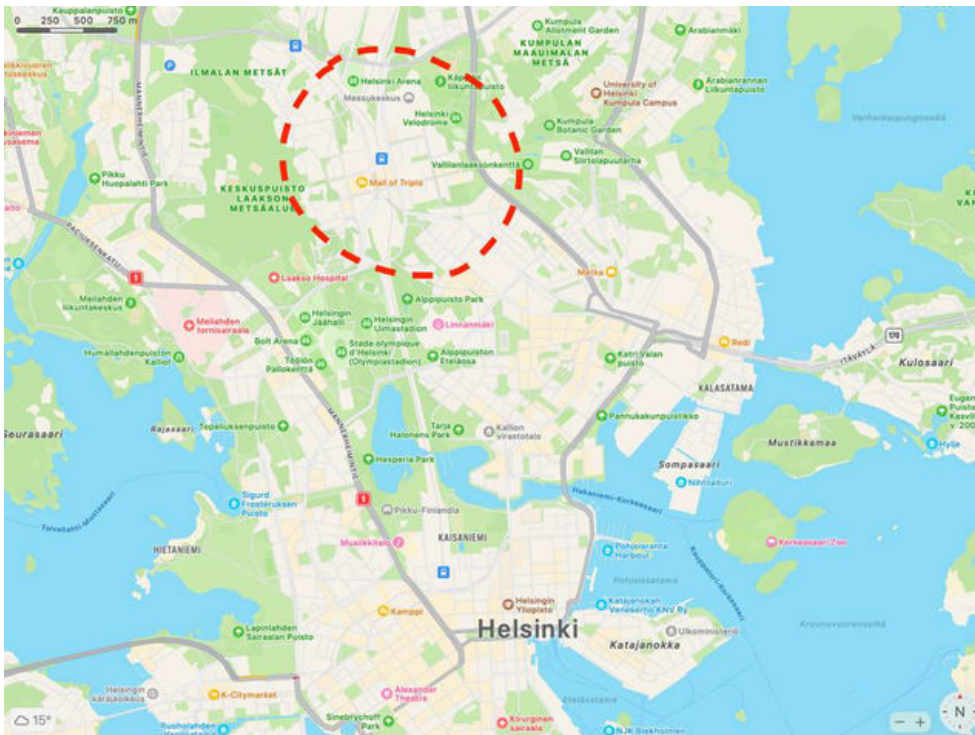




Here is the map of Helsinki. You will have the choice between some several campus of university. The two big are in Tikkurila, close to Vantaa (east) and the second one is in Leppävaara, close to Espoo (west). I recommend you if you can choose, to choose Leppävaara campus. Vantaa is a big city but it's a bit far from the city center (35 minutes by train against 20 minutes by train for Leppävaara). Espoo is beautiful city, the second largest city of Helsinki, you can find nature and shopping centers both, and there's also a national park to not avoid from one hour by bus.

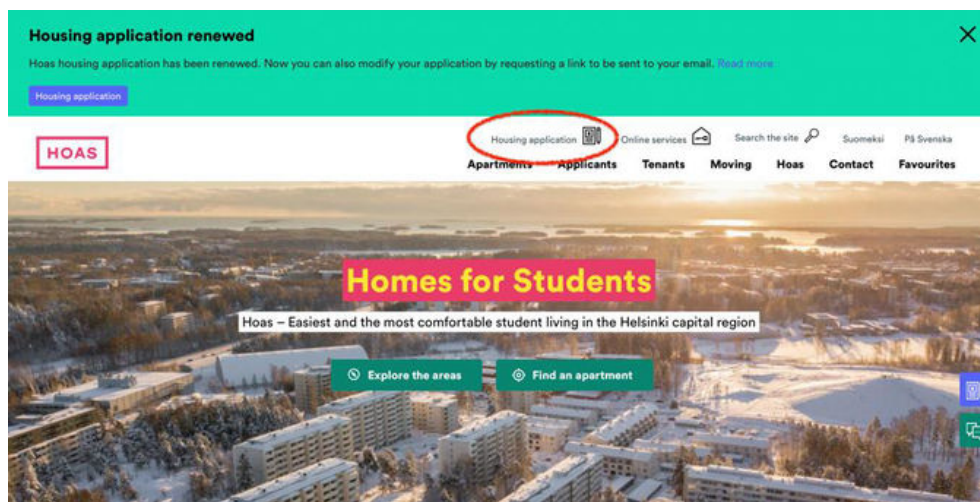
This neighborhood is where I lived, Leppävaara. Near to a big mall and the nature, I absolutely recommend you this place. The university is at 10 minutes by walk. The only negative you point you can have is the fact that you'll live at 20 minutes by train from Helsinki against 5 minutes by train for the next neighborhood below.



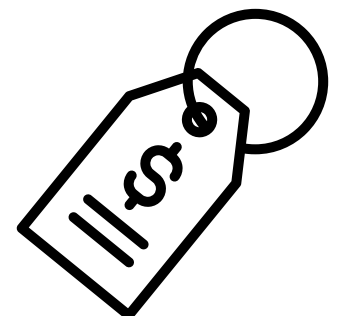


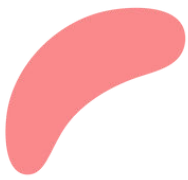
This neighborhood is Pasila Bole. It is the nearest neighborhood before Helsinki. The accommodation are just close to a big mall where you can find everything.

You need to contact Hoas by filling in a form on their website : <https://hoas.fi/en/>

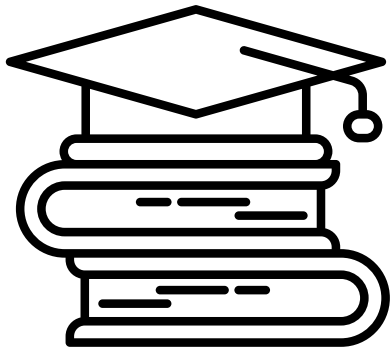


You should plan for a shared flat between 400€ and 500€.





The University



As far as courses are concerned, make sure you look carefully before choosing whether the course you want to take is face-to-face or online. If the course is distance learning, this can have advantages, but don't take all your courses distance learning, as you risk finding the time long if you don't go to the campus and you'll also meet fewer people.

First of all, the courses are taught by two teachers most of the time. Classes last between 2.5 and 3 hours.

Some courses involve a fair amount of work and others less, depending on the number of credits your course has. A 10-credit course involves a lot of work, usually with a theory part to be done independently and a practical part that takes place in a group. Even the practical parts may be distance learning if your course is distance learning. This can be a little more complicated to manage, as you may find yourself with Finnish students of your own age or even students who are retraining and therefore have a busy timetable, which can be complicated when you have to organize meetings to work.

The teachers have a different way of teaching which is quite interesting, they're keen to understand you, and they'll know how to forgive you if there's the slightest problem. if you can't attend one of their lessons, just let them know by email or tell them about the class before.



Courses selection

Tourism Marketing



This class was one of my favorites, it's really interesting if you do like marketing in a tourism aspect. We worked with a company, and we had to create a video to promote their company for potential partners or stakeholders. I really recommend you this class, teachers are nice and the plan of the course is really interesting.

Digital Marketing and Sales



This class has the same organization as Service Design, but it takes less time and is more interesting. The level of this course expected can be a bit harder than we are used to in Moma if your practical project is ambitious. The teachers are really kind, I recommend you this class.

Latest Trends of Social Media and Marketing Automation

This course was not bad, but I didn't learn many new things. The course is divided into two parts: theory and practice. The theory was presented in the form of videos to watch with content that complemented what the videos said. The practical part was aimed at helping a company gain visibility on social networks.

Introduction to Finnish Language and Culture

This course is an option, you can't choose this one as their credits can't be counted. But I recommend you take it as an option if you're interested in discovering and learning topics about Finland and the Finnish (their language). The course is really easy and do not require a lot of time of work.

Service Design



Service Design is the course that took me the most time and required a lot of work. As I said, there was a theory part which started in December, even though I wasn't yet in Finland. It was to be done independently but it was very long, then the practical part was to work with a company on a project related to the course. It's interesting but I wouldn't recommend this course.

Finland

TO DO LIST

☐

Check the student office at Laurea to know more about upcoming events, activities and trips

☐

Enroll at Pasila Fitness24 if you're looking for a gym center

☐

Go food shopping at Lidl or Prisma if you are on a budget

☐

Plan many travels : Estonia, Lapland, Hungary, Croatia, Sweden

☐

Take time to think about the future : plan your applications for Masters

