

Aalto University School of Business (Fall 2013)

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How to survive in the first week

I arrived Helsinki in the beginning of September. I still remember the moment when I stepped out of the airport; I was hit by the cold and fresh breeze of Finland. It was actually cold for me back then even though it was only around 18 degree Celsius. I was lucky that the school managed a tutor, pretty much the same as a buddy, to come pick me up so I did not have to catch a bus with my big luggage.

My first week was a bit difficult because everything is extremely expensive especially the transportation costs. The bus costs 2.8 euros for single trip in Helsinki region and 4.5 for bus to Vantaa, Espoo or other regions. To settle things down, we went to Ikea by an Ikea bus that took us to Ikea Vantaa, in another town. It took around 30 minutes and of course, it is free of charge! When it comes to cooking, the super market that is



recommended is Lidl, the German super market gives you the best price, but there are not much of variety as K-market and S-market do. As I mentioned that my first week was a bit difficult, it was because I did not have student card. Being a student will make your life much easier, you'll get everything in almost half price e.g. the travel card costs only 25 euros for one month's time including bus, tram and metro. That is the reason why it is normal for Finnish people to study bachelor for 7 years or more than that. So to



survive in the first week, I tried to stay home as much as possible until I got the student card or anything that stated that you are a student studying here.

How to prepare for studying

What I really like about the school system here is that there is no add/drop period; you can drop whenever you would like to and it is done via the server called WebOodi. You can register the course you would like to take in a given period and to take the exam, you also need to register for the examination in the given period. If you fail to register the exam,



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you will not be able to take the examination. In the case that you get F or drop out, nothing will be shown in your transcript. If you could not manage to register your wishing course, you can just go to the first class and fill in your name in the name list. Finnish students do not really print out all the materials, they tend to read them from their laptops or tablets. The curriculum here is quite flexible for students, if they missed the examination, they could register for the second round exam.

Finns love sauna! And it is a must to try. Sauna is the best when the weather gets colder and you do not get to sweat. When you finish sauna, make sure that you jump into the pool or the lake. You'll feel refreshed.

When the weather is good, the sun is out. It is the time to go out and enjoy the sun. Suomenlinna, a World Heritage

is the good choice to have a picnic. It is a maritime fortress located off the coast of Helsinki. There are also café and restaurants there if you are not into picnic. You can get there only by the ferry from Market Square (Kauppatori).



There are many activities that are recommended when you come to Finland. Lapland is one of the destinations for travellers to visit. There are many interesting activities out there such as snowboarding, skiing, riding a snow mobile, husky/reindeer sleigh riding, seeing northern lights, visit ice castle and visit the Santa Claus village. For Helsinki, it is the small capital and there is not much thing to see except the museums. Or a former capital called Turku that is full of historical places.

