

Information sheet for Partners and Exchange students

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Academic calendar

Semester 1 (autumn):	End of August – Christmas
Semester 2 (spring):	January-May

Nomination Deadline for coordinators

Nomination deadlines	Autumn Semester (+FY):	15 April
	Spring Semester:	1 October
	Nominations should include student's complete name, student's e-mail address and duration of exchange and choice of campus (Åbo or Vasa).	

Application Deadline for students

Deadline for Applications	Autumn Semester (or full year):	30 April
	Spring Semester:	15 October

Application Procedure

Nomination	The partner university nominates students for the upcoming exchange semester or year. Nominations are preferably sent by email to international@abo.fi
Online application	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students will receive an email with a link to the online application system, after being nominated by their home university.2. Students are asked to complete the online application and upload the following documents:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning agreement/Study Plan• Certificate of English proficiency. We expect from all our incoming non-native English speaking exchange students that their level of English is good, corresponding to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- B2 in CEFR, Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, issued by the home university's language center (or similar). OLS results cannot be used.- or min. 78 points in TOEFL iBT, 540 TOEFL PBT,- or 6,0 in IELTS• A copy of the passport (or European National identity card)• An official transcript of records in English listing <u>all</u> courses taken so far.
Learning Agreement	The Learning agreement/Study plan that has to be uploaded in the online application is available at http://web.abo.fi/fa/ie/forms/studyplan.pdf . If a student's home university requires a Learning Agreement signed by Åbo Akademi University before the beginning of the exchange; please include the Learning Agreement in the online application. Students who are required to hand in a Learning Agreement to the home university after having started the exchange at Åbo Akademi University, should bring it with them and have it signed at Åbo Akademi University after arrival.

Academic Information

Credit System

Each semester at Åbo Akademi University is divided into two study periods which both end with one examination week. 1 credit at Åbo Akademi University corresponds to 1 ECTS. Full-time studies correspond to 30 credits per semester. Åbo Akademi University expects exchange students to study full time. Please note that some courses use other forms of examination than written exams and run over more than one study period.

Course/Programme Catalogue

Complete course and programme catalogues in Swedish and English are available online at:

<http://www.abo.fi/student/en/courses>

Schedule

The schedule for the autumn semester will be published in the middle of August and the schedule for the spring semester will be published in the beginning of December. Please check the course schedules so that there are no clashes between the courses. If you have courses which clash you can change your courses after you have arrived at Åbo Akademi University. The schedules can be found via the following link

<http://www.abo.fi/student/en/courses>

Language Proficiency

We expect from all our incoming who are not native speakers of English exchange students that their level of English is good (corresponding to at least B2 in CEFR, Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, min. 78 points in TOEFL, or 6,0 in IELTS).

Support Program

Arrival days and pick-up service
Orientation week
Tutor system
Summer school in Swedish language in August

Grading Scales

ECTS grades	Åbo Akademi University grades
A	5 (Excellent)
B	4 (Very good)
C	3 (Good)
D	2 (Satisfactory)
E	1 (Sufficient)

Academic Transcript

Åbo Akademi University will issue transcripts twice a year, in July and in February. Exchange students request a transcript at the end of their stay at:

<https://survey.abo.fi/lomakkeet/5350/lomake.html>

One transcript will be sent to the student and a scanned copy is sent to the home university.

Master's Thesis / Project

Exchange students are recommended to take courses while studying at Åbo Akademi University. The possibilities of doing a project work or writing a Master's thesis at Åbo Akademi University are limited and depend on the department. Students who have the intention of doing project work or write a Master's thesis should establish contact with a supervisor at Åbo Akademi University before arrival by contacting the department directly. In order to contact the right department, one needs to have decided the subject/field of the thesis or project. Also, when contacting a potential supervisor, please include a description of the project and information about the number of credits it should contain as well as a brief background of your previous academic work.

Accommodation

Accommodation

Åbo/Turku is a popular city to study in and there is a very high demand for student housing. Finding appropriate accommodation may be difficult, especially in the autumn semester.

www.tys.fi

www.retrodorm.fi

www.tvtasunnot.fi/students

www.forenom.fi/en-us/frontpage/students

At the Vasa campus the incoming exchange students stay in student apartments.

<http://studiebostader.fi>

Information on how to apply for student rooms will be sent by email in the Welcome letter that all accepted students get.

Arrival and Enrolment

Enrolment

The exact date and time for exchange students' reception and enrolment at Åbo Akademi University will be communicated in the Welcome letter.

Orientation course

Åbo Akademi University welcomes incoming exchange students with a **compulsory Orientation course**. More information can be found at <http://www.abo.fi/student/en/orient>

Estimated Costs of Living (in €)

Accommodation

Student housing: 282-429 € per month

Private housing: 350-550 € per month

Food/Meals

250-300 € per month

Local transportation

30 € per month

Personal Expenses

(Clothes, leisure, etc.)

100-200 € per month

(depending on individual needs)

Student Union Fee

Approx. 53 € per semester

Accessibility

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Wherever possible, Åbo Akademi University strives to provide reasonable accommodations in order to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Applicants with special needs who require special arrangements can contact the International Office (international@abo.fi) to discuss the issue and get further information.

Visa requirements and residence permits

Entry regulations

Citizens of the Nordic countries, the European Union, Lichtenstein and Switzerland do not need to apply for a residence permit before arrival.

Citizens from countries outside of the EU need a residence permit already when entering Finland. The application for a residence permit can be made online at http://www.migri.fi/studying_in_finland

The application should be submitted as early as possible, preferably immediately after receiving the letter of admission. The fee is 300 € (electronic application). The following appendices are obligatory;

- acceptance letter issued by Åbo Akademi university
- documentation of a comprehensive health insurance for the entire study period. Your health insurance must cover the cost of medical treatment up to 100,000 EUR.
- documentation of sufficient funds to cover the expenses for the study period in Finland. If your studies last less than a year, you are required to have 560 EUR for each month you intend to stay in Finland. Your livelihood has to be secured with a deposit in your own bank account (bank statement) or with an official certificate of a grant/scholarship (by a government, an organization or an educational institution)
- a copy of the passport

Health Insurance

Exchange Student Insurance

Citizens of a Nordic country, an EU/EEA country, Switzerland, or another country that has a convention regarding medical benefits, must bring an European health insurance card or similar from their home country for the insurance to apply.

Students from outside the EU must have private insurance which covers the cost of medical treatment up to 100 000 €. Åbo Akademi University has partnered with the Student Insurance Package (SIP) provider MARSH. For further information please see <http://www.sipinsurance.eu/>

Bank Account

Credit Cards	All major credit cards (VISA, MasterCard etc.) are accepted widely in Finland.
Finnish Bank Account	Due to the new European banking rules, it is rather difficult for exchange students to open a bank account. Banks need to determine the student's need for an account as well as the trustworthiness of the client. In order to fulfill the requirements students are advised to bring a statement from their home bank.

Miscellaneous

Student Union	Exchange students have the right to join the Student Union of Åbo Akademi university. The membership entitles students to health care, a student card, meals at reduced prices at university cafeterias, reductions on train and bus tickets, legal advice and it will also enable you to take part in the activities of the student union. More information can be found at www.karen.abo.fi
Transportation	Information and timetables for buses in the Åbo area can be found on http://www.foli.fi/en . As the student accommodation at the Vasa campus are in, or close to, the city centre, students rarely need to use buses.
Tourist Guides	Åbo: http://www.turku.fi/ Vasa: http://www.vaasa.fi//Other_languages

More information for incoming exchange students can be found here:

<http://www.abo.fi/exchange>