

1. Where and when did you study abroad?

I studied abroad in Finland, Espoo (outside of Helsinki), at the Laurea University of Applied Sciences (Leppävaara).

2. What KEA program did you attend at the time?

BA in Business Economics and IT.

3. What classes did you take during your semester abroad?

I took 4 courses during my semester:

- Management and Leadership

An alright course. 2 group projects.

- Basics of Corporate Security and Risk Management

We had one project that started at the beginning of the semester and we worked on it until our last week. We worked with an institution and even went there.

- Service Business Management

2 individual projects and one in group. I personally did not feel like I learnt a lot on this course, since I knew most of what the teacher was teaching.

- Digital Service Business and Marketing

Again, the main project was for the whole semester and we worked with a startup. We met with them and talked with them constantly throughout the semester. We did not have any classes (no theory for this course) which was a disappointment. We mainly did what the company asked us to do and all the 5 teachers for the course offered to help if necessary, but I did not feel like I learnt that much here.

Academic Experience

1. How helpful was the receiving school in the process of choosing classes and settling you in?

Laurea gives you a page where you can see the courses that they offer, and you have to choose for yourself everything. I found the administration at Laurea to be really nice and helpful, yet, for some things I needed to talk to the international coordinator, yet, she did not reply to me online and I just had a hold on her during the introduction week.

4. What classes would you advise other KEA students going to the receiving school to choose or not to choose?

I would not recommend at all to choose Service Business Management since apart from knowing most topics from my previous semesters. When I applied for this course and read the topics, it did seem different. Also, the teacher did not manage to express himself good in English.

Cultural/Personal Experience

1. What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?

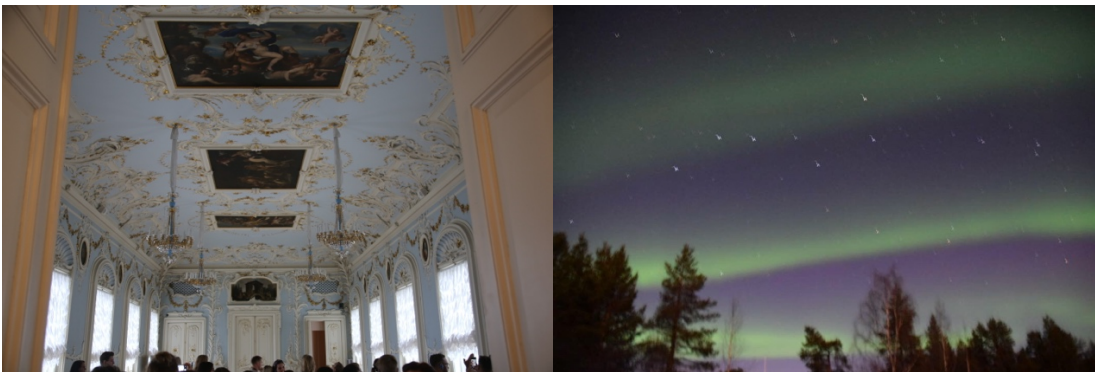
Personally, I did not experience any challenges when it comes to the culture. I read beforehand a bit about it and overall, I easily adapted.

a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

On the first week, the introduction week, they talked about the culture, what to expect and how to behave. They made it very funny and interesting.

2. What was the best cultural/personal experience during your studies abroad?

The best experiences were definitely the travel that I managed to do. I went to Saint Petersburg Lapland with other exchange students and tutors from Laurea (organized trips). I also went to other cities near Helsinki.



3. What advice would you give other KEA students going to study abroad at the receiving school?

To really appreciate the way of life in Helsinki, to have a lot of chocolate from Fazer and to travel as much as they can.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

The application process was easy and fast.

a. What did KEA help you with?

Anne helped with everything that I needed. She always replied fast and was extremely helpful. I am really glad that I got her throughout this experience. I knew I could count on her at all times.

b. What help did you receive from your school abroad?

They were ready to answer any questions that I had and also guide me and make sure that I knew what I needed to know.

2. Did you have any practical difficulties settling down in at your destination?

No. My buddy helped me from the airport and we both found my accommodation together. That was a massive help and I am forever grateful for that. Each exchange student automatically has a buddy.

3. Where did you live?

I lived in an apartment with two other girls that were on exchange.

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

Laurea does not have their own accommodation but they tell you how you can find it. HOAS is the best place to go if you need something cheaper, but they only tell you if you got a room/apartment a month or so before classes start so that was a bit nerve-wracking.

b. Was it expensive?

For my room in the shared apartment I paid 423EUR monthly.

4. What kind of expenses did you have in general?

I had similar expenses as here in Copenhagen (not counting my trips).

a. Did you spend more or less money than you budgeted with?

I spent a bit more, but then again, that was because I chose to go on a couple of trips that I did not count on.