International student exchange
9.2.2015

- Common principles
- Arrangements
- Erasmus-places
- Other programmes
- Timetables
- Applying and what after that
- Grants
- International exchange services
- Additional information
- Why leave, why not?

Common principles

- starting from the second year at university
  - Need to have at least 60 credits
- Demands longterm planning
  - application … (months) … leaving
  - financing
  - language skills (before!)
  - commitment (cancellations not so nice)
- Duration 3-12 months (the exchange agreements have limitations), in practice one or two semesters

Common principles -2

- Places
  - The Nordic countries (Nordplus, Nordlys)
  - In Europe (Erasmus)
  - elsewhere (ISEP, bilateral agreements, MAUI etc.)
- Erasmus exchange: department, others: international exchange services
- Different kinds of application times, often only once a year
  - In 2015, Erasmus application period is 2.2. – 25.2.
- Planning of studies: major or minor subject studies (might be limitations)
  - obligatory, optional, language studies
- Erasmus exchange once in each degree (BSc,MSc,PhD),
Common principles - 3

- Use of local language?
  - There is NOT always teaching in English!
  - It is always good to know the basics of the local language
  - Certificate of language skills can be required (depends on the receiving university)
  - Language training usually offered by the receiving university
- Time of semesters varies
- Right to minor-subject studies varies
- You must study, not just learn the culture
  - If not enough credits earned (20 cr. per semester), you may need to pay back part or all of the travelling grant

Why leave?

(source: HS newspaper – education supplement, January 2006 – 1st-year students in Helsinki and Tampere)

- for experience 96 %
- to learn language 91 %
- to learn multiculturalism 91 %
- to improve chances of getting work 79 %
- to be new contacts 72 %
- to get out of Finland 33 %
- for teaching not available in Finland 25 %
- for a better standard of teaching 16 %
- other reasons 9 %

Arrangements

- Think
  - suitable time for your studies
  - suitable university
- Make study plan
  - courses you need for your degree
    - major subject, minor subject, others?
  - not overlapping (→ recognition of credits)
- Study the language of the host country – start now!
- Arrange funding (and other practical things)
  - Study grants, summer job etc.
Erasmus-programme

Based on an agreement between the **sending** and the **receiving** department/university

The department of computer science has altogether 20+ partner universities, in the following cities:
- **Spain:** Barcelona, Madrid (2 places), Valencia
- **Italy:** Pisa, Padova, Turin, Bolzano
- **Austria:** Graz, Linz, Innsbruck
- **France:** Caen, Lyon, La Rochelle
- **Germany:** Berlin (2 places), Bielefeld, Darmstadt, Hannover, Lubeck, Munich, Paderborn, Göttingen
- **Hungary:** Budapest
- **UK:** Bath
- **Estonia:** Tallinn, Tartu
- **Chech Rep.:** Prague, Brno
- **The Netherlands:** Amsterdam

Teaching in English (at least some)

Applying for Erasmus Exchange

There are three parties involved
- The **sending** university/department (=UH)
- The **receiving** university/department
- **You**
- Both the **sending** and the **receiving** university must accept the applicant
- You must be satisfied with the offering at the receiving university

The application process

There are two phases in the process
1. You must first apply to be **nominated by the department** as an Erasmus exchange candidate to the receiving university
2. If you are nominated, you then need to submit a **second application** to the receiving university
Application I (For nomination by the department)

- In February: 2-25.2.2014
  - Application portal for students Mobility-Online: https://kvl.it.helsinki.fi/mobility/MobilitySearchServlet?sprache=en&identifier=helsinki01
  - A motivation letter stating the reasons for wanting to go (in Finnish or in English)
  - Transcript from study register (unofficial)
  - Study plan (as exact as possible, not necessarily final)
- Application delivered on paper with annexes to Heikki Lokki by the dead-line

Application I contd.

- The department selects the nominees in March (about)
  - Study progress (amount and level)
  - Necessary language skills (language of target country, English)
  - Study plan
  - Other reasons (to do with degree programme)

Application II

- After you have been nominated, you can submit the second application to the receiving university
  - Following their requirements and process
  - Each university has their own schedules and deadlines for the applications
After you have been accepted

- International services sends information package to elected students
  - in addition, traveling orientation in summer, December
- Grant application (international services)
  - more, details in info package from int. service

Important: take care of the schedule yourself!

Funding – Travel grant amounts

Erasmus exchange (OLD)
- 3 months: 1000 €
- 4-6 months: 1200 €
- 7-10 months: 2000 €
- 11-12 months: 2400 €
  - finding housing is generally assisted (paid by student)

This is a lump sum paid once, not a monthly allowance!
**Funding contd.**

- In exchange programs, you do not need to pay tuition fees at the receiving university.
- You may use the government paid financial aid for studying abroad (e.g. Study Grant).
  - See pages of KELA for more information.
- The receiving university often assists in finding housing.
  - They may offer student quarters at campus, for example.

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**International student services** 1/4

- Information in Flamma:
  - Opiskelijalle
  - Opiskelu ja harjoittelu ulkomailla
  - Students
  - Exchange opportunities and training abroad
- See also Faculty of Science pages in Flamma:
  - Matemaattis-luonnontieteellinen tiedekunta » Opiskelijalle » Opinnot ja harjoittelu ulkomailla

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**International student services** NOT UPDATED ... 2/4

- Information meetings for those elected for an exchange programme
- Guide for exchange students
- Travel orientations:
  - Contents of orientation:
    1. Arrangements before leaving
    2. Settling down in the exchange target: bureaucracy, studying, and everyday life
    3. Presentation of countries + former exchange students' presentations
    4. Sources for additional information
    5. Returning to your home university
International student services 3/4

- Each exchange student receives an information package by post:
  - a guiding letter
  - a grant application form
  - the elemental book for Erasmus students
  - the form Letter of Confirmation for an Incoming Erasmus Exchange Student
  - bulletin on study grants for studying abroad
  - a guidebook with practical instructions for exchange students
  - invitation to orientation event

International student services 4/4

- Erasmus Intensive Language Courses applications in May and October (courses in target country)
- Student Exchange Certificate
  - exchange target, exchange period, and amount of grant
- notifying study grants office about exchange period
- granting and paying out of exchange grants

More details

- Some feedback from former exchange students (in Finnish) in Aimo: … Opiskelu ulkomailla -> Vaihtopalautteet ja maakohtaiset kertomukset
- CIMO: http://www.maailmalle.net
- country guides
- student histories
- ulkomailliaopiskelu@helsinki.fi (UH, int. services)
- Inquiries about Erasmus positions to the department: anti-ppekko.tuovinen@cs.helsinki.fi
THE END?