

Exchange Report

University of Tampere, Finland

Mandy Lam PACC/3, 2014/15, Spring Semester

About University of Tampere (UTA)

The history of the university began in 1925 when the Civic College was founded in Helsinki (capital of Finland). The college moved to Tampere in 1960 and became the University of Tampere in 1966.

Studying in UTA

BBA students in CUHK will be assigned to School of Management. Courses provided under the school are mainly in Finnish and English. Credit transfer was possible for Business Communication (ELTU 3110 for the old curriculum) in the past few years according to my research. Accounting courses with the similar course title were also provided by the school yet as I have studied them before I applied for the exchange, I did not study much about the credit transfer.

I took some interesting courses such as Culture Conversation, Scottish Politics and Survival Course for Finnish. Some business courses such as Business Law and European Finance are offered online.

Semester in UTA are divided into two periods. Different courses are provided for different periods. All courses I had taken were offered in period III so that I was free for the whole period IV (to go travel).

Workload are really not heavy compared to CUHK as Finnish emphasis self-learning more.

Weather

In fact, weather is not really THAT terrible in Tampere. Though the temperature may be only -25 degree Celsius, it is more comfortable than Hong Kong. Just make sure you have enough clothes with you. Wear in layers as there is warm indoor. A water-proof jacket, heat tech and down (羽绒) is a must. Be mentally prepared that you will only see the sun for 4-6 hours per day in winter. On the other hand, there is not any sunset in the summer.

Travelling

Tampere is not a big city and you may transit by bus.

There is a small airport in Tampere from which flights of Ryanair to London can be found.

To go to Helsinki, 2-2.5 hours are needed, depending you are going to the city center or the airport directly.

Accommodation

In-campus accommodation is not available. You have to apply for hostel through TOAS, an organization which centralized all hostel for Tampere. Rent is not expensive comparing to most of other European countries. If you are joining the sem 2 exchange, you will probably be assigned to Lapinkaari, the nearest hostel for UTA. Monthly rent for a single room is around EUR280. (The room is even bigger than double room of hostel in CUHK.)

Expenses

Generally, dining in restaurant in Finland is ALWAYS expensive. However, you can still find some cheap meals in lunchtime. A Japanese semi-buffet costs you EUR15 while a Chinese buffet costs you only EUR9. Just do not expect too much on the quality.

Self-cooking can save a lot. Price level for necessities is generally low. For example, a pack of 500g pasta only costs you EUR0.4 (Less than HKD4!!!). Milk, egg and cheese is super cheap as well. I suggest you to bring some rice and instant noodles with you when depart. You will definitely need them as there is only one small Asia “market” in Tampere and you will miss Chinese food.

A monthly bus ticket costing EUR34 is highly recommended.

Travelling expenses really depend on your travelling style. I spent almost HKD60,000 for travelling and visited almost 20 countries. You can assume HKD20,000 per month is needed for travelling.

For networking, I bought SIM card from Saunalahti and paid for a plan with unlimited 3G network. All of these costs about EUR30 for HALF YEAR. Roaming charge is EUR0.062/MB. This is a very reasonable charge. I prepaid EUR20 for roaming for my three months journeys. This is more than enough if you only use WhatsApp and Google Map.

Visa costs around HKD2,900. Insurance for one year costs HKD2,720. A round-trip Finnair student ticket with 2 pieces of luggage costs around HKD8,700.

Others

Finnish love partying VERY MUCH. Be careful to drunk man. In fact Finnish are generally very nice.

The owner of the EUR 9 Chinese lunch buffet restaurant is from Hong Kong. Just go there whenever you are home sick and miss Chinese food. Chat with her in Cantonese and sometimes she will served deep fried banana with ice cream to you as a gift.

Remember to bring a swimming suit with you to enjoy the fascinating sauna. (Of course, if you want to enjoy the **REAL** FINNISH sauna, you may choose not to bring any swimming suit!! ^^)