



**Aalto University**

# Information Sheet About Exchange Studies for the Academic Year 2018-19

## School of Engineering

### Academic Matters

Autumn term            August - December, periods I and II  
Teaching and exams 10 Sept 2018 – 4 Jan 2019 (For  
exchange students, it should be possible to complete  
studies/exams by Christmas.)

Spring term            January - July, periods III, IV and V  
Teaching and exams 7 Jan – 31 May 2019

The orientation for exchange students is held before the  
teaching starts.

#### Language of instruction

Finnish, Swedish and English. The links to the courses taught  
in English can be found in the studies-related section of this  
information sheet.

#### Fields of study

Building Technology  
Energy Technology  
Geoengineering  
Geoinformatics  
Mechanical Engineering  
Real Estate Economics  
Spatial Planning and Transportation Engineering  
Water and Environmental Engineering

What can exchange students study in Aalto?

This link will lead to the [courses taught in English](#).

Please check the full descriptions of the courses from [WebOodi](#) or [MyCourses](#).

Please note that study programmes are updated in the summer for the following academic year. There are some changes in the course selection every year. Hence, students must be prepared to make changes in their study plans upon arrival under the guidance of the exchange coordinator.

**Language courses** Exchange students may take language courses subject to availability and prerequisites. Please note that especially English language courses may be very full and degree students have priority to these courses.

The language center offers some Finnish courses for International students.

**Grading scale** 1-5 or pass/fail (1 is lowest passing grade and 5 the highest)

**ECTS credits** The extent of the courses is given in ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credits. One credit corresponds to 27 hours of work, including lectures and other forms of instruction, exercises, seminars and independent work at home and in the library. The scope of a course can be 1-15 credits depending on the content of the course.

How many courses should the exchange students take?

We expect incoming exchange students to study full time while at Aalto and to pass the courses with good grades. Full workload at Aalto is 30 ECTS credits per semester.

Please note that 2/3 of courses should be from one field of study!

Are exchange students allowed to take courses from other schools of Aalto?

Yes, 1/3 of courses can be taken from another school as long as the student fulfills the prerequisites and the courses are available in English. However, the exchange students in School of Chemical Engineering, School of Electrical Engineering, School of Engineering and School of Science are NOT allowed to take courses from the School of Arts, Design and Architecture or the School of Business.

Aalto University offers a possibility to take some interdisciplinary courses, [Aalto cross-school courses](#) and [University Wide Art Studies \(UWAS\)](#).

Aalto University offers exchange students Finnish language and culture courses free of charge. There are also communication courses recommended for exchange students.

Can exchange students take courses from different levels?

Yes. Please note that most of the courses offered in English in the School of Engineering are in the Master's level. Bachelor's level students may take Master's level courses if they fulfill the prerequisites. Aalto University recommends 3 years of Bachelor's studies before arriving to Aalto University.

**Please note that in order to be accepted to and successfully complete a course, students must have sufficient prerequisites!**

## Applying

Application deadlines

NOTE! Please check the application dates online.

April 30: Applications for the next autumn term/academic year.

October 15: Applications for the next spring term only.

Late or incomplete applications will not be handled after these dates.

**The online application will open a month before the application deadline. The link to the online application system will be sent to the nominated students only!**

Application procedure

After the home university has sent a nomination to Aalto University exchange coordinator, the nominated students shall receive the applying instructions and a link to the online application system by email. The nomination should, therefore, always contain the students' names and email addresses.

Instructions for applying

The home university should send by e-mail the nominations of candidate students (name, e-mail) for exchange students to [exchanges-eng@aalto.fi](mailto:exchanges-eng@aalto.fi). Then, the nominated candidates will be provided with detailed application instructions including a link to the online application system. The nomination of the candidates should be sent two weeks before the deadline at the latest because by the application deadline, all applications must be completed. Late applications cannot be accepted.

## Language requirements

For the exchange students from partner universities:

- If the language of instruction at home university is English: no requirements
- If the language of instruction at home university is other than English: a certificate from an English language teacher/professor or an official language test stating that the student has fluent language skills (level B2) to study in English in the subject area.

## Application outcome

The information about the application result will be sent directly to the students' email or home addresses within one and a half month after the deadline.

## Can students extend their exchange period?

Yes, if certain conditions are fulfilled. Please contact the coordinator as early as possible for handling the practical matters.

## How to get official transcript of records after the exchange?

The students should contact the student exchange coordinator as soon as all of their courses have been registered and we will send them one to the address of their preference. Please note that we do not send the official transcripts automatically, but only on request.

There is also a possibility to order an official, digitally-signed transcript of records from WebOodi while the exchange student is still a student at Aalto. More information can be found [here](#).

## Accommodation

### Is university accommodation available?

The university does not own any student housing but cooperates with housing providers. There are some apartments reserved for exchange students. However, please note that the housing situation in Helsinki metropolitan area is difficult and we cannot guarantee accommodation for all exchange students. The housing situation is better in the spring term than in the autumn term. Students must apply housing for themselves according to the housing instructions.

### How to find accommodation?

Please see the [webpage about housing](#) for exchange students.

## Visa Requirements, Cost of Living and Insurance

Who needs a visa/residence permit?

Students coming outside of EU/EEA countries need a residence permit for Finland.

How to get one?

[Please visit the web pages of the Finnish Immigration services \(migri.fi\)](#)

Insurance

To be bought in the home country before arriving in Finland. Students from non EU/EEA countries are required to have a valid health insurance. This is a compulsory requirement for obtaining residence permit for studies lasting more than 3 months. [See, for example, SIP insurance.](#)

Exchange students **are NOT covered** by Aalto University's accident insurance. Therefore, it is important that exchange students have their own insurance.

Estimated monthly expenses in the local currency (euro, €)

Students are advised to budget about 650-950 euros for living costs (housing, transportation, food & other daily necessities) per month.

AYY (Aalto University Student Union) membership fee

Compulsory for those students who live in AYY apartments and highly recommended for all. More information at [AYY webpage](#).

## Contact Information and Useful Links

Ms Saara Sokolnicki, exchange agreements  
([saara.sokolnicki@aalto.fi](mailto:saara.sokolnicki@aalto.fi)),

Ms Niina Huovinen, outgoing exchange students  
([niina.huovinen@aalto.fi](mailto:niina.huovinen@aalto.fi)),

Ms Hannele Pietola, incoming exchange students  
([exchanges-eng@aalto.fi](mailto:exchanges-eng@aalto.fi); [hannele.pietola@aalto.fi](mailto:hannele.pietola@aalto.fi))

[Aalto University](#)

[Information for incoming exchange students](#)

[Webpages for all international students](#)

Please check our webpages for incoming exchange students. These pages contain a lot of important and useful material and the web pages always provide the most up-to-date information!