



Hochschule Augsburg
University of Applied Sciences



Lapland University of Applied Sciences

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FAKULTÄT FÜR ELEKTROTECHNIK

Travel

Preparation

As a member of the European Union, the entry process is very simple. There is no need for a visa. Upon arrival, you will need to register with the Finnish authorities, but this process will be explained at the university's orientation meeting. (A tip: register directly for an appointment, as the waiting time can be very long once the rush of exchange students begins).

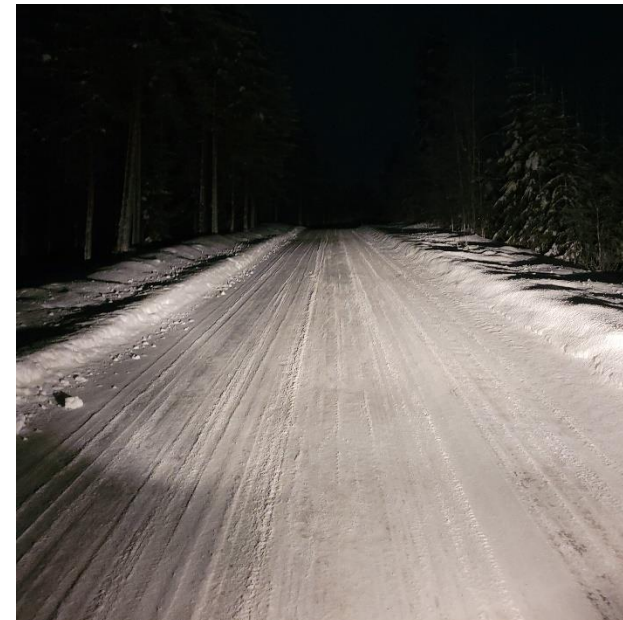
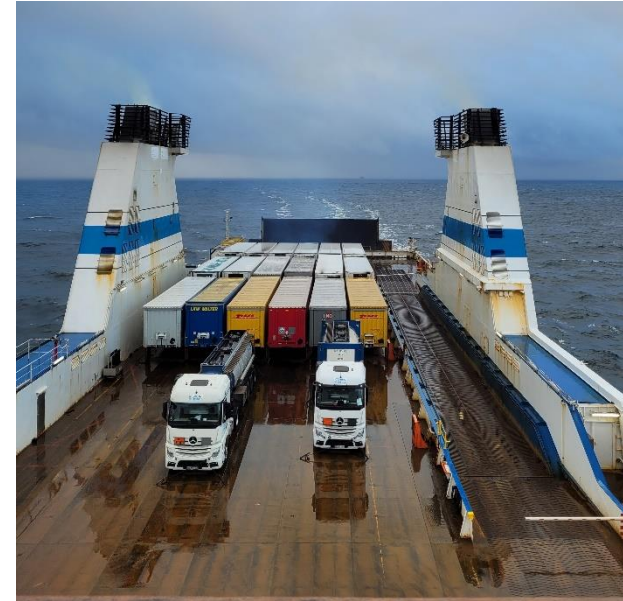
Arrival

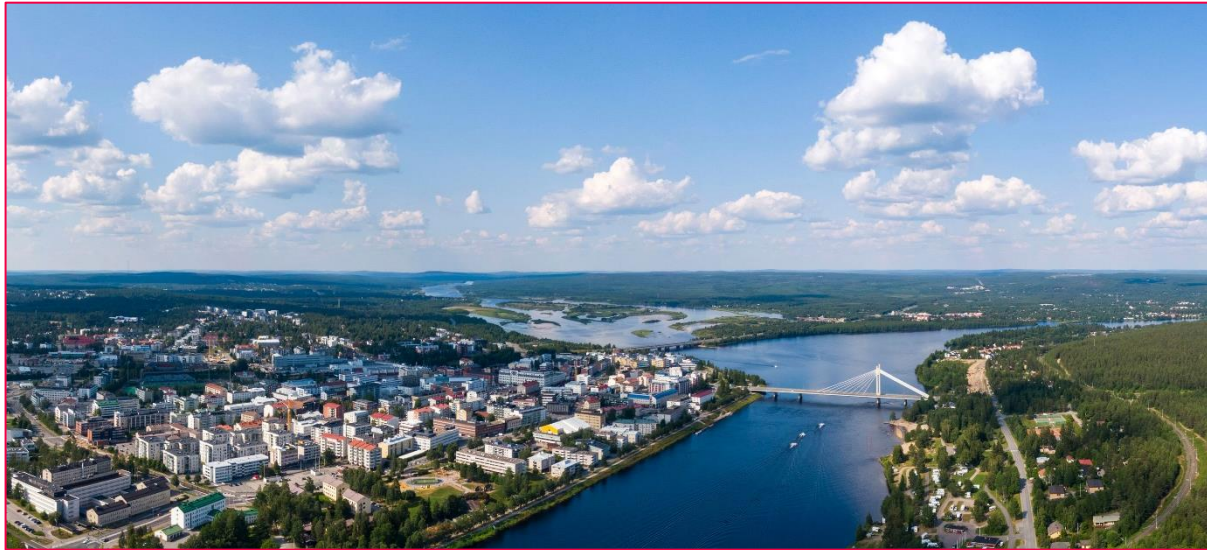
The journey in my case was very special, because I decided to drive with my own car from Augsburg to Rovaniemi. I drove across Germany and then took a ferry to Helsinki. From there I drove on to Rovaniemi. With some planning and enough stops this is definitely doable. The earlier you buy the ticket for the ferry the cheaper it is of course. With my tutor I was able to make a flexible appointment to pick up my apartment key, because from the beginning it was obvious that the travel time predicted by Google Maps is difficult to keep. Of course, the car has to be winterized. (Oil, windshield wiper water,

tires) I also bought snow chains that I have not needed, however, because the roads were very well cleared.

Transport connection

In general, the roads were very passable. For anyone who does not have their own car on site, there was the possibility to rent a car flexibly at any time. Whether this is still possible now I can not say, because at my departure apparently the current operator of the vehicle fleet has ceased operations in Rovaniemi. Rovaniemi has an airport and a train station, so a journey by plane as well as by train is no problem. Depending on where the apartment is it is worth buying a bike, which can be purchased relatively cheaply by departing students. Walking is also a possibility which prepares you directly for the many hiking possibilities.





<https://www.elchburger.de/finnland/staedte/rovaniemi>

Features of the city

Rovaniemi itself can hardly be compared to a city in Germany, as everything there is an extreme. The temperatures in winter are extreme, the sunshine hours are minimal in winter and very long in summer. As a city in the Arctic Circle, the sun sometimes does not rise in winter and in summer it is always light from the middle of April. As the official hometown of Santa Claus, the city is very

touristy, so in winter you meet a lot of tourists and in summer the city changes completely, because hardly any tourists come to visit. You have no problems to find your way around, because the Finns speak English very well, especially in a city dominated by tourism.

Culture and tradition

Here I can not give much informative input, because I had much contact only with our Finnish tutors and the exchange students. What is true for every country in the world is that you should inform yourself about the culture, especially the parts with which you have contact in everyday life.

A small example: In Finland, you should not greet people you pass by accidentally, because they then assume that you know each other, which leads to very confused looks, trust me on that.

On the other hand, Finns are so polite and try to make an embarrassing situation as easy as possible for others by not reacting and looking at you when something embarrassing happens. For example, if all your change falls on the floor.

I would have liked to know more about the indigenous Sami people, but I had no contact with them. I only know that the goal of politics is to give this population group more rights.



<https://eichstaettweltweit.wordpress.com/category/finland/>



Life and parties

Housing and accommodation

The accommodation is well organized. There is a company that operates student apartments (DAS). You apply for these before your stay abroad. I am not aware of any case where there were not enough apartments. The only thing that is important to know is that certain apartments are a little further away from the university, so when you apply, make sure which apartments you apply for. The prices in Finland are comparable to Germany. However, not for alcohol and soft drinks. Since the Finnish state has imposed a high tax on them, the prices are very high, and you can pay more than twice as much as in Germany.



Nightlife

You can party in Rovaniemi very well there are several clubs and bars. There is something for everyone. After a long club night, you can take a cab to your accommodation, or you walk back through the night. It takes about 30 minutes from the university (accommodation) to the city center (clubs).

Hochschule und Studium

Courses and lectures

I found all the courses I took very interesting. The only thing that can be criticized is the whole system of applying for a semester abroad: It is probably a problem that cannot be solved. Since you have to apply for a semester abroad with a lot of advance notice, it can happen that the courses for which you have chosen the university may no longer be offered when you are abroad.

In my case, this was the case for two subjects, but the alternatives were also very good. The teaching style is hardly comparable to that in Germany, which is not a valuation, since both have advantages and disadvantages. In Finland, there is a lot of self-study. Presentations are required from the students. In groups or alone, a certain topic must be worked on and presented. Especially for a semester abroad, this is very good, because you are "forced" to speak English and especially to present in English.

Exams

My exams consisted of the previously mentioned presentations, mostly a written exam and sometimes general participation during the seminar.

The biggest plus point, which you should definitely adopt in Germany, is that the courses start at different times and are then worked through in blocks. The exam takes place at the end of the course. This means that what you have learned is still

fresh and the exam phase extends over the entire semester, which in my opinion significantly reduces exam stress. In short: A course takes place a few weeks later, the next course starts, then at some point comes the exam of the first course, the third course begins, and the exam of the second course takes place and so on... So it can be described a little bit simplified.



Leisure activities and things to know

In terms of leisure activities, there is just about everything you can imagine.

Of course, hiking is at the top of the list. To exaggerate, you can leave the house and be right in a hiking area. Finland is 70% forest; the glaciers have made the land very flat and left large rocks that are very beautiful to look at. Right in Rovaniemi there is a hill that offers a beautiful view. Skiing is the second big leisure activity in Finland. Directly in Rovaniemi there is a ski area also you can make husky and reindeer tours.

Apart from that you can watch ice hockey of the local club.

For 30€ you can get the wellness pass which gives free or reduced entrance to many leisure activities. Some examples are Swimming, soccer, volleyball, bowling, basketball, yoga and gym.

Here you can get together with exchange students and Finns in a casual environment.

