

Industrial Management Program in Stadia autumn 2003

Our Exchange Students from Germany wrote this for you:

HELSINKI

Helsinki is the capital of Finland, located on the south coast of the Baltic Sea. The number of inhabitants is more than a million. In Helsinki you can find all you need: large department stores, small boutiques, street cafés, night clubs.

STADIA AND CONNECTIONS

Helsinki Polytechnic, nicknamed Stadia, is located right in the city center. The number of students is around 8 000. The walking distance from the railway station is 10 minutes, but it's also easy to take a bus or tram. The metro station is very close.

FINNISH LANGUAGE

For a short visit such as half a year it was not really worth it to study Finnish to any level of sophistication (we took one course). First, the language is pretty tricky, hard to grasp. But again, all Finns speak English, so there is not real 'must' to study it, either.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

This is really works! Metros run every 3-5 minutes, the only restriction is that they stop at 23.30 p.m. Night buses run until 1.30 a.m. on weekdays and all night through during weekends. Maps on tram and buys connections are everywhere, easy to read. Electronic information boards indicate when the next one is coming. A one-day ticker costs EUR4.80. The transportation ticket for my 14 week stay was about EUR125. These tickets are valid for all public transportation -except for some night buses where you pay on extra charge.

NIGHT LIFE

You get to know Finns nicely in discos and night clubs. Some pubs have no entrance fee, others with live music may charge for extra.

SPORTS AND CULTURE

THE sport above all in Helsinki is ice-hockey. Football and floorball (dry version of ice-hockey) are also played. In the winter you can do cross-country or downhill skiing and skating. There are quite a few swimming pools to go for swimming. Every exchange student must visit Fortress Finland, which is an old fortification just outside Helsinki. Culture is everywhere in Helsinki - student associations also organize trips to different spots.

LIVING IN HELSINKI

Stadia organizes exchange student housing through HOAS. This is an organization specialized in student housing. For housing purposes it is very important to inform the coordinator early on when you arrive to reserve your accommodation immediately as you arrive.

All student houses are located conveniently to Stadia and shops are close. The rent is EUR200-300. If you request for private accommodation, the price will be higher accordingly. 3-5 students share one apartment. Each student has a private room, but the kitchen, toilet and shower are shared. Each apartment is either for male or female. The rooms are furnished: a bed, bedside table, a big drawer, a desk and a lamp, a chair, bookshelf and armchair. A pillow and a blanket are available, but you should have towels and a bed cover yourself. The rent includes the Internet connection.

The kitchen has necessities such as utensils, dishes, frying pan, kettles. You can reserve a time for laundry. One wash is EUR1.30. The sauna is reserved twice a week, separately for male and female.

Some descriptions of projects and courses:

Multi Tier Applications

'Tier' is programming and means 'level'. So the project was about applying programming to several different levels of IT architecture.

The course consisted of two parts, first databanks, where we learned to administer using MySQL language. The commands by MySQL were handled using JBuilder, a program that converts the commands to HTML or JavaScript. It would have been useful to have more knowledge on HTML and JavaScript, but we managed to complete the project without prior knowledge.

Operations Management and International Business

The project started with classical International Business contents with practical cases. Who knew in advance why Americans used IKEA flower vases as drinks glasses? In the middle of term we were introduced to a 'real' product development project (Wireless Wellness Project), for which we would need to develop a preliminary business plan.

In this project we collaborated closely with other units of Stadia, especially with Automation Engineering. For calculations we received help in the form of input on Accounting and Business Planning. The Wellness Project was also linked with the Introduction to Research course, which helped us to think about principles of research and apply practices of academic writing in our business plan.

This real project will continue with further business plan development and new classes of Industrial Engineering students.

Other courses

Other courses included **Logistics**, lectured by Professor Mayas, a visiting professor, who gave his course in one week. From a situation where we had not a clue of what logistics is we now know a few basic concepts and some fundamentals of this field. **Communication across Cultures** was taught by Mr Stephen Stacey. Comparisons to the ways of doing business with Americans, the Japanese and other cultures. The student had to give a presentation on a culture based on the concepts discussed in the course. In **Applied Physics** we had several assignments for different themes. The major project involved a 20-page report on a phenomenon in Physics. Your knowledge in the subject was controlled through a professional presentation, which was also a final project for the **English for Industry and Business** course. Other subject areas in the English course, included case practice for meetings and negotiations.