

Report of my semester abroad at Tampere University of Applied Sciences in Tampere

spring semester 2026

Application process in Trier:

First you apply choose 3 universities that you would like to study at. I applied in August and received an email after two weeks confirming my first choice, Tampere University of Applied Sciences. Ms. Rock also attached a flyer with various information about my chosen university, responsible person, semester dates, application deadlines, and much more, which was quite helpful.

Application process TAMK:

The university contacted me after some time in September. They sent me a link where I was able to upload necessary documents for my application. The university needs your personal ID, and a transcript of records. You will need to fill out personal information and write a letter of motivation. Whenever I had questions regarding the application process or during my studies, I was able to reach out to the international office (replies take one day). At the end of October, I received my acceptance email from TAMK asking to confirm or (cancel) my study application. After I got a follow/up email with docs such as a checklist, guidelines for tuberculosis, and a questionnaire (screening).

Regarding the course selection, you are only allowed to choose courses from the International Business degree program, or you can also apply for cross-study courses from the other university (Tampere University). Later on I found out that this possibility exists, since half of the offered courses are similar to the ones in Trier.

In November I had to activate my TUNI account, aka my email, to be able to access Outlook, Pakki (a platform where you enroll in courses, check grades, etc.), and other necessary platforms like moodel. Further, each student has an assigned tutor. Therefore, my tutor contacted me one month prior to my departure. She gave important and helpful information, regarding the weather conditions, and the exchange student WhatsApp group. After a couple of weeks, I received a PDF with a welcome week program and some information on arrival, location, instructions on public transport, and many more helpful links to check out.

I had a positive experience during my preparation for Finland. The international office gave necessary information in advance, I was able to contact them, and everything was organized in the best possible way.

Arrival at Uni:

I arrived in Tampere at the end of December, right after I finished my first semester abroad in Madrid. Keep in mind the spring semester at TAMK starts on the 2nd of January. Therefore, I had only a short break between both universities. Nevertheless, the first introduction session took place that day with other exchange students. When I arrived in Tampere, it was -13 degrees. I would recommend wearing warm clothes, a hat, scarf, and gloves. During the first introduction session, we got a folder containing necessary docs such as a checklist, campus info, a welcome week plan, certificate of acceptance, and a student discount card for lunch. Additionally, they offered drinks (tea and coffee), and pastries (traditional buns) and welcomed us.

Welcome Week:

On the 5th of January we had another introduction session with our coordinators and tutors. We played Kahoot, got necessary information about the personal finish ID that we had to acquire, student housing TOAS and POAS, and important meetings that we need to attend throughout the week. During the day our tutors showed us the campus, we had lunch together at the cafeteria, and they introduced us to Outlook, Pakki (course selection), Tuudo (mobile app), etc., and helped us if we had issues.

Furthermore, we had a meeting with Riita Vihuri, the responsible person for international business. She introduced the courses, signed and helped with learning agreements, and consulted us. Unfortunately, that day it came out that one of my chosen courses (International Branding Management) got cancelled, while other courses from IB were unavailable for us exchange students (changed the week after). I decided to take a cross-study course from the other university. When you enroll into courses, you will have to check Moodle (an app where all your courses will be available, presentations, submissions, deadlines, etc.).

Overall, the welcome week was organized perfectly well, providing necessary information for exchange students and getting to know other people from different countries. The majority of people were from Germany, France, and Spain.

Study Experience:

I had the following classes in international business (total 30cr):

- Marketing Strategies in the Digital World (5cr)
- Successful Digital Selling (5cr)
- Enterprise Resource Planning (5cr)
- Contemporary Leadership Skills (5cr)
- Organisations and Leadership (5cr)
- Financial Management and Business Control (5cr)

At TAMK, one semester is clustered into two periods. Therefore, I did Financial M., Organisation and Leadership, and Contemporary Leadership Skills in the 3rd period and the other 3 (Digital Selling, ERP, and Marketing) in the 4th period.

The classes are structured the following way: little assignments such as essays weekly, IG posts, lil group discussions in class, smaller group assignments, group projects, presentations throughout the course, and sometimes exams. During my time I had one exam in a separate room (the room can be booked via a platform, and there is a camera – a unique experience 😊) and a group exam.

The assignments, exams, and essays are not as hard, but you still need to be familiar with the course material. In addition, many use AI to write reports, essays, and finish assignments. Teachers use AI detectors like Turnitin and students fail if AI is detected.

The grading system is totally different from the one in Germany. It's quite similar to the one in Russia. Therefore, the best grade is 5, which counts as a 1 in Germany.

Regarding attendance, it's mandatory (majority of time), yet if you miss once or twice, it's usually not a problem. For instance, in ERP and Marketing the attendance counted toward our final grade. Furthermore, during the class, small assignments or group projects are done. I would not recommend missing too much, especially when you need to gather 30cr.

Typical University Week:

I had three times a week classes in both periods. Therefore, the majority of classes started at 11:10am, while other classes start at 8:30am and 2:15pm. Each class lasts officially 3 hours yet the teachers usually finished 30 min earlier. In the 3rd period I had to go to Hervanta once a week for my cross-study course at the other university. It was mostly optional yet I was able to earn extra points for my final grade.

Usually, I was taking the tram (1 Tays) to TAMK. It took me around 15 mins to get to the university by tram from the city centre where I had my apartment. When you use elevators or enter classrooms, sometimes you will be required to present a key card, either your student ID (which you can obtain for 26€) or a visitor key card for free.

One of my days looked the following way: arriving at Uni around 11am, being in class for 3hrs, getting lunch with other exchange students, and going back to my apartment to study (aka write essays) or to

Espresso House (cafe). Alongside present lectures, I also had some online classes in ERP and Marketing, and a fully online course (Digital Selling).

Marketing was one of the courses where the teacher combined theory and practical application. We had to apply our knowledge and consult business owners preparing a future marketing campaign for their businesses. Therefore, we conducted different analyses such as SWOT, PESTEL, competitors analysis, defined a buyer persona, and touchpoint journey; and planned the whole campaign. Throughout the course we had to develop an Instagram account and occasionally post stories, posts on our progress, and much more, which was part of our grade. ERP was similarly structured; we designed a company and applied the processes to our chosen ERP system (Odoo).

Unfortunately, tasks were badly explained sometimes, too many assignments at once, some deadlines for the same day, mostly group work, and from time to time bad organization of courses. Some teaching methods are quite questionable in terms of unnecessary assignments and provided task instructions. However, the teachers are often helpful, open to negotiation, and have a good level of English to avoid misunderstandings. Further, we had a crash course in SAP (ERP system) application, which I consider helpful.

Apartment hunting:

The university offers student housing, TOAS and POAS. These offer shared apartments and private rooms with bathroom and a shared kitchens. The prices range between 250€ to 350€ per month, which is considered cheap. I wouldn't recommend staying at student housing because the majority of the time it's loud, the kitchen is dirty, and the rooms are quite small.

I decided to stay at a one-room apartment that I found on Qasa (a site that lists apartments in Finland). You can also try Facebook. My apartment was located at Hallituskatu, 5min away from Keskustori, which is the city center and the main shopping street with clubs, bars, and malls. I was paying 697€ for 30m², including electricity, wifi, water, heating, and any other expenses. Considering the high living costs, apartments are more or less affordable.

If you want a private apartment, start to look for places 2 months prior to your departure. If you want to stay at TOAS or POAS, consider to applying asap when you receive your acceptance from TAMK. Unfortunately, the majority of student accommodations are further away from the university and city Center. I would not recommend staying in Hervanta because you will be spending 40-50 min to get to uni. Additionally, major events happen around Keskustori, and there are no trams and buses after 1am.

Tampere:

Tampere is a small city with around 250k residents. The city is quite similar to Trier, and Finland is extremely similar to Germany. Students use "Kide," an app, to book tickets for events. The majority of the time students go to bars, karaoke bars, and clubs during the week and on weekends. Finland has a tradition: every student wears an overall in a certain color representing the major they study. Students can gather patches for each event they attend. There is a popular international party (Symposium) once a month on a Thursday with different themes where many international students meet.

Furthermore, the city offers breathtaking landscapes. I can recommend Ranta Tampella for sunsets, walks, and northern lights. You should definitely visit Hervantajärvi; there is a huge lake, woods, and a calming and beautiful atmosphere. Lastly, I can recommend going to South Park pier and walking all the way to Pyynikki Public Beach through the woods, watching the sunset, and checking out the beach.

Moreover, Tampere has many museums, such as Milavida, the famous Moomin Museo, Vaprikki, and a Spy museum, which I recommend visiting.

Finnish people love saunas (owning more saunas than cars ;)), drink a lot of alcohol, and love to keep their distance. Finnish people are helpful, kind, and speak very good English.

Keep in mind if you go to Finland for the spring semester, it can be very cold. January was between -10 to -15, while February was the coldest month, reaching -25 degrees. It was a true winter wonderland with snow, minus degrees, and frozen lakes. Eventually, in mid March, it finally became warmer (3-7 degrees). Do not underestimate the wind in Finland. When I was leaving Finland at the end of April, it was around 5 degrees with brutal wind, and weeks prior the temperature was 13 degrees.

Northern lights:

It's possible to see the northern lights in Tampere without spending money on a trip to Lapland. Download the apps "Aurora" and "Hello Aurora" and keep track of the prognosis. I saw them twice at the end of March; it was mesmerizing and beautiful. One of my friends saw them in mid October... there is always a possibility!

Expenses:

Finland is quite expensive, especially the food and different activities. My rent was 697€ per month, additionally I was paying 46€ for my monthly transport card and groceries around 50-60€ per week. The food in the cafeteria ranges between 3.10€ at the Grill (better food, aka fast food chicken tenders, burgers, pizza, etc.) and 5.95€ and the special meal was the same price per meal. I did not eat much at uni because I was not a fan of the food. For all the drinkers out there, alcohol is very expensive. For activities (museums, clubs/bars), I spend, in 4 months, at max. 100€. Unfortunately, we did not get any Erasmus funding for our second semester abroad. Therefore, I had to cut my expenses.

Travelling:

I went to Helsinki for a two day trip. I took a 2hr train (18€ for both ways) and stayed at Citybox Hotel, which I can recommend (76€/night). Helsinki reminded me a lot of Düsseldorf. I can totally recommend visiting Helsinki, especially the library, Sinebrychoffin taidemuseo, some streets, exploring the city, the art museum, and discovering some stores. I would also recommend visiting Tallinn and Espoo. To be honest, every city is similar to one another because they all have the same cafes, similar streets, etc. If you have the possibility, you should definitely visit Lapland (keep in mind it's very expensive, especially activities). Some of the exchange students went with ESN to Lapland and to Norway (Tromso).

Overall, Tampere is a cute and quiet city with beautiful landscapes. This city will suit you if you like to party, drink, and go on trips/see beautiful nature – and of course if you want to see the northern lights ;)

If you might have further questions or want to see more pictures, you can check out my IG: [d_4n.ii](#) ☺

