

# WELCOME TO ÅBO AKADEMI UNIVERSITY

05.01.2026

Katie Fagerström, Study Counsellor, Internationalisation

# WELCOME







# Today's Programme

- This week's schedule
- Fast facts about Finland and Vasa
- Åbo Akademi University
- Getting to know each other
- Registration at ÅAU
- Student Union fee/student card
- Registration with DVV
- Registration with Immigration Services
- Wise & Revolut
- Healthcare
- Wifi
- Tutors!

	Friday 02.01	Monday 05.01	Tuesday 06.01	Wednesday 07.01	Thursday 08.01
	<p>Warm welcome to Åbo Akademi University!</p> <p><b><u>ARRIVAL DAY</u></b></p> <p><b><u>VASA CAMPUS</u></b></p> <p>Registration with Katie Fagerström at Strandgatan 2, Academill Building, B7 floor between 9-12 and 13-15.</p> <p>(Access the building from Strandgatan 2, the seaside, and take the lift straight ahead of you /the stairs to the B7 floor)</p> <p>For registration please bring with you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Your official ID</li> <li>- Student Union Fee receipt</li> </ul>	<p><u>Lecture Room C0214, Academill Strandgatan 2</u></p> <p>9:00 - 10:00 Welcome to Åbo Akademi University, presentation of tutors Katie Fagerström</p> <p>10:00 - 10:15 BREAK</p> <p>10:15 - 11:00 Academic practices and study technique Katie Fagerström</p> <p>11:00 - 11:15 Rectors Greeting (recording)</p> <p>11:15 - Group Photo</p>	<p><u>Public Holiday in Finland University is closed</u></p>	<p><u>Lecture Room C0214, Academill Strandgatan 2</u></p> <p>9:00 - 9:30 Language courses at ÅAU Kristina Granstedt Ketola</p> <p>9:30 - 10:00 Safety on campus Roland Nylund</p> <p>10:00 - 10:15 BREAK</p> <p>10:15 - 10:45 ÅAU Sports Anki Stenkull-Aura</p> <p>10:45 - 11:15 Courses at the Open University Christina Loo &amp; Christina Teirfolk</p> <p>11:15 - 11:30 BREAK</p> <p>11:30 - 12:00 Safer study environment and support in cases of harassment</p>	<p><u>Lecture Room C0215, Academill Strandgatan 2</u></p> <p>9:00 - 10:00 Campus tour <b>and escape the library</b> with tutor groups ONLINE with tutors</p> <p>10:15 - 10:45 - Welcome to Finland Katie Fagerström</p> <p>10:45 - 11:00 BREAK</p> <p>11:00 - 12:00 Q&amp;A Katie Fagerström</p>
		LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
		<p>12:30 - 13:15 Introduction to ÅAU's ICT service and digital environment Jens Granlund &amp; Maria Heimonen-Byholm</p> <p>13:30 - 14:30 Peppi session - How to register for courses Katie Fagerström</p>		<p>13:00 - 13:30 Student Union</p> <p>13:30 - 14:00 ESN</p> <p>14:00 - 14:15 BREAK</p> <p>14:15 - 14:45 Welcome to ÅAU Library Linda-Marie Evertson</p>	

# Fast Facts about Finland

- Independent Republic since 1917
- Population of 5.6 million
- EU Member since 1995
- Official languages: Finnish and Swedish
- Swedish-speaking minority of 5 percent
- Small Sami minority in the north (80,000 totally and 10,000 FIN)
- Current President is Alexander Stubb; Prime Minister is Petteri Orpo.
- About 75% of Finland's surface is covered with forests
- "The land of a thousand lakes"
- Rich archipelago
- 11 out of 12 lost wallets are returned to their owner
- Aims to be carbon neutral by 2035



# VASA CITY

- Often called the **sunniest city in Finland**, is situated on the **west coast** of Finland with direct connections to Helsingfors (Helsinki) and Stockholm, Sweden.
- Vasa region is one of Finland **most multilingual** and **international regions** with over **100 different languages spoken** in Vasa and around 120 different nationalities.
- The city is **bilingual** with 69.8% of the population speaking Finnish as their first language and 24.8% speaking Swedish. The surrounding Ostrobothnian municipalities have a clear Swedish-speaking majority, which is why the Swedish language maintains a strong position in the city.
- The region is one of the most innovative in Finland and an important center for Finland-Swedish culture.







# VASA CITY

- Vasa is a university city with many institutions of higher education bringing over **13,000 students** to the area.
- Several universities and polytechnics represented: Åbo Akademi University (Swedish), University of Vaasa (Finnish), Hanken School of Economics, VAMK (Finnish UAS), Novia (Swedish UAS), University of Helsinki (bilingual law department).
- Vasa has about About **70,000 inhabitants** – about one in five is a student.

# Åbo Akademi University

The Swedish university in Finland

Education at the highest level in Finland

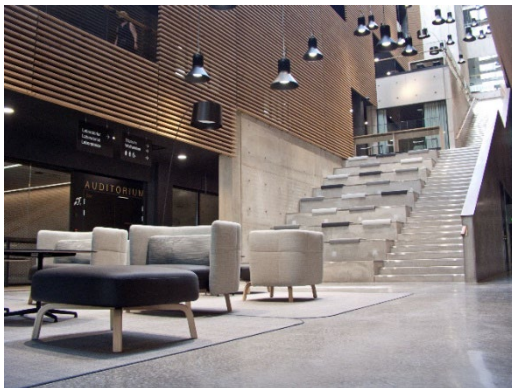


# Åbo Akademi University

- The only Swedish-language multidisciplinary academic university in Finland.
- Two campuses – in Åbo (Fi: Turku) and Vasa (Fi: Vaasa)
- Approx. 5,000 students, of which approx. 1,500 in Vasa
- 1,100 employees; 650 working in education and research

# Our campuses

- Situated in the old parts of Åbo and by the waterside of Vasa
- Donated residential homes and old factory buildings, also modern buildings
- Academill in Vasa, an old renovated mill



# VASA CAMPUS

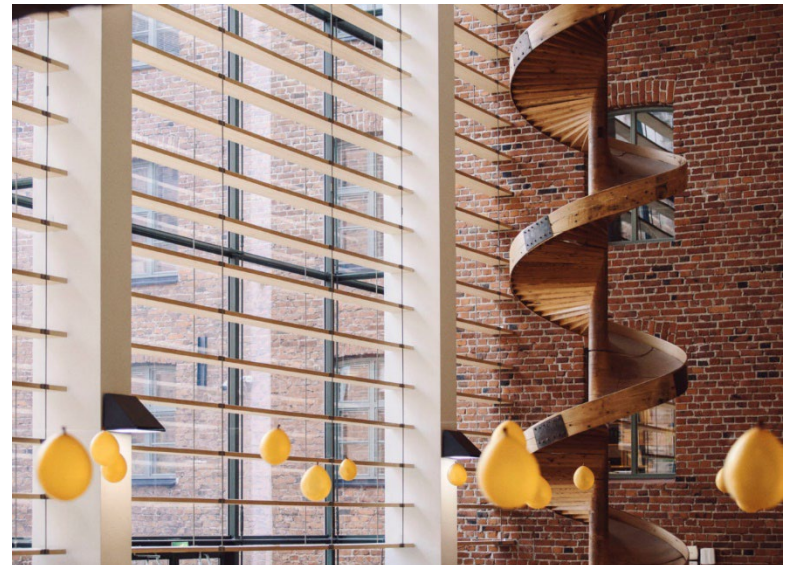
The Vasa campus is small and friendly with easy access to services and outdoor activities. The location and university have been very highly rated by international students over the years.





# VASA CAMPUS

The Vasa Campus is situated in a building which used to be a steam powered grain mill and has views over the archipelago.



# Faculties at Åbo Akademi

- **Previously 4 Faculties:**
  - Faculty of Education and Welfare studies (Vasa)
  - Faculty of Social Sciences, Business and Economics and Law
  - Faculty of Science and Engineering
  - Faculty of Arts, Psychology and Theology



# New Faculties as of 1st Sep 2025

- **Faculty of Human and Social Sciences**
  - Business and Economics and Law
  - Arts
  - Education
  - Social Sciences
- **Faculty of Nature and Technology**
  - Bio- and Natural Sciences
  - Health Sciences
  - IT and Engineering



# INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

- **149** exchange students totally autumn 25 and full academic year 25-26 and 60 exchange students during Spring 26.
- **25** exchange students in total at Vasa Campus during autumn 25 and **4** during spring 26.
- 4 International Masters programmes at the Vasa Campus.
- Lots of international students



# MASTER DEGREES

## Åbo

- Information Technology
- Biomedical Imaging
- Governance of Digitalization
- International Law and Human Rights
- Sustainable Chemical and Process Engineering
- Social Exclusion

## Vasa

- Teaching and Learning
- Advanced Practice Nursing
- Peace, Mediation and Conflict Research
- Chemical and Process Engineering: Energy Technology



# ÅA's Partnership with Vasa Övningsskola

Vasa Övningsskola is a Swedish-speaking school in Vasa, which is part of Åbo Akademi University, and the Faculty of Education and Welfare studies.

Students studying to be teachers can complete their practice period at Vasa Övningsskola with a supervisor from the school.

Exchange students that come to Åbo Akademi University in Vasa, also have the opportunity to complete a practice period at Vasa Övningsskola – 5 ECTS course for one semester.

Requires enrollment in a teacher programme at home, and a valid criminal records extract from your home country



# Student Life

- Active student union
- Over 60 student associations
- ESN for exchange students
- Excursions, parties, language exchange, traditional student festivities



# Get to know each other

- **Who are you?**
- **Where do you come from?**
- **What do you study at home? What will you study here in Vasa?**
- **Plans for the future – How will you benefit from this experience in your future career?**
- **Common interests? What do you enjoy doing? Hobbys?**

# Official Registration at Åbo Akademi for Exchange Students

- Visit the International Office (F4 corridor, room F416)

## **BRING!**

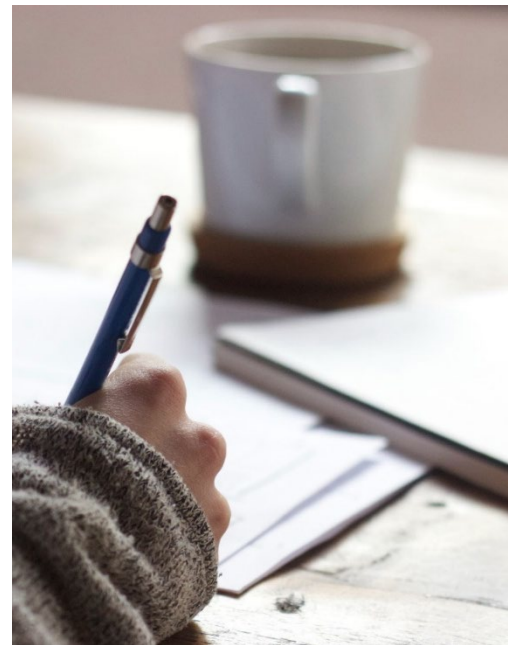
- Your ID and your receipt that you have paid the student union fee

## **RECEIVE:**

- Receive your computer username and password
- Welcome bag

## **NOTE!**

- Please print and bring other documents that need signing!
- You can download your official certificate of study from peppi later

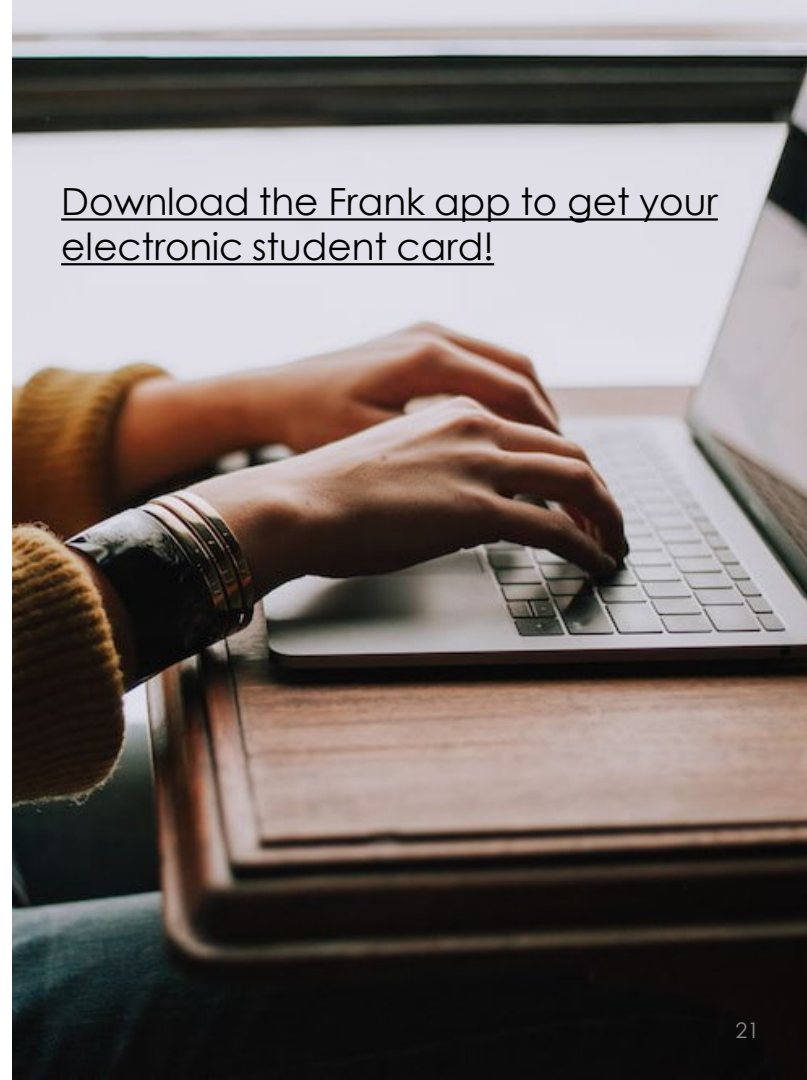




# Paying the student union fee

- **69€** for the entire academic year
- **34,50€** for the autumn semester
- Please, pay the fee prior to registration to:
  - Åbo Akademis Studentkår,  
Tavastgatan 22, 20500 ÅBO
  - IBAN: FI25 1743 3000 0191 03
  - BIC: NDEAFIHH
  - **Reference number: 10100**

Download the Frank app to get your electronic student card!



# Registration with DVV

- All students who stay in Finland for more than three months must obtain a Finnish personal identity code
  - **Non EU-citizens already have it on their residence permit: DDMMYY-XXX**
- The code is required for the study register at the University
- Required by most banks – if you decide to open an account
- You should first complete an **online application form**, and then book and attend a meeting with the DVV to show your original documents and identify yourself.

## How to apply?

1. Register at Åbo Akademi University
2. Complete the online application form (link in the information package)
3. Visit the DVV to prove your identity.



# Meeting with DVV

- Wednesday 10th September between 13:30 and 15:45 (if you cannot visit DVV at this time, please book your own appointment online)
- Remember to bring:
  - A valid passport / ID
  - Certificate of attendance (you can download this in peppi)
  - Complete Finnish Address
  - A residence permit, if you have been granted one, or a certificate of your right of residence if you have submitted a mobility notification to the Finnish Immigration Service



# Application for right of residence at the Finnish Immigration Services (Migri) AFTER you arrive to Finland

EU citizens (except for Nordic citizens) need to **register of the right of residence of a citizen of the European Union**

- Complete **application** form and attach all required documents at the Enter Finland website <https://enterfinland.fi/eServices/info/europeancitizens>
- Select the **service point** where you need to go to prove your identity.
- What do you need for registration at Migri?
  - ✓ National proof of identity or passport
  - ✓ Certificate of study from ÅAU (you will get it when you register)
- Registration costs 54 euros

# International Payments

- Students from within the EU often do not experience problems in making cross border transfers, while students from outside the EU often face problems trying to make cross border payments.
- We recommend students to use the following international payment providers:
  - WISE
  - REVOLUT





# Health Insurance

## EU Citizens

- You will need to book an appointment to visit a health care professional. You will need to show your **European Health Insurance Card**, so please make sure you bring the card with you and that it is in date.
- Start with contacting your local health station! <https://www.turku.fi/en/health-and-social-services/appointments-and-advice>

## Non-EU Citizens

- You should contact your health insurance provider that you organized insurance with for your stay in Finland. Your health insurance company will be able to give you more information on what private health care services you should contact in Finland for your needs.



# WIFI and EDUROAM

- You can access our WiFi called Eduroam. Many universities use this, so you can try with our own credentials or then use [username@abo.fi](mailto:username@abo.fi) (the **short** version) and your password.
- Use your Åbo Akademi University username and password to access all our systems.



# Education Services – International Affairs

- Katie Fagerström, Coordinator –  
International Affairs
- `firstname.lastname(at)abo.fi`
  - 06-324 7473
  - Location B702
- Available most weekdays 13-15,  
appointments via e-mail



# Questions?

5.1.2026





# TUTORS!



# **BREAK**

## **From 10:00 – 10:15**