

Fact Sheet

ACADEMIC YEAR 2016–2017



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UNIVERSITY OF LAPLAND

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ACADEMIC YEAR 2016–2017

The academic year at the University of Lapland comprises two semesters. The autumn semester is 1 August to 31 December, spring semester 1 January to 31 July. The opening ceremony of the academic year is always on the first Monday in September. Teaching during the academic year has been divided in five teaching periods.

Teaching Periods 2016–2017

1. period	22.8. – 22.10.2016 (9 weeks)
2. period	24.10. – 17.12.2016 (8 weeks)
Christmas break	18.12.2016 – 8.1.2016
3. period	9.1. – 4.3.2017 (8 weeks)
Spring break	5.3. – 12.3.2017
4. period	13.3. – 31.5.2017 (11,5 weeks)

University Calendar 2016–2017

August 1	Beginning of autumn semester
August 23 – August 26	Orientation programme for international students
September 5	Opening ceremonies of the
December 16	Courses end
December 31	End of autumn semester
January 9	Beginning of spring semester
January 9–13	Orientation programme for
January 11	Courses begin
May 31	Courses end
July 31	End of spring semester

Exchange Study Dates:

Autumn semester 2016:

August 23 – August 26	Orientation Programme
August 19 – August 22	Recommended arrival days
August 23 – December 16	Exchange Study Semester

Please note that the courses will begin in the first and second week of September 2016, and end on December 16, 2016.

Spring semester 2016:

January 9– January 13	Orientation Programme
January 5 – January 8	Recommended arrival days
January 9 – May 31	Exchange Study Semester

Please note that there will be no teaching in June-July.

Examinations

Examinations are arranged throughout the year, usually at the end of a course. There are no fixed examination periods.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The required level of English language proficiency must be: B2/ IELTS 6 / TOEFL iBT 80 for the Faculties of Education, Law and Social Sciences and B1 / IELTS 5 / TOEFL 75 for the Faculty of Art and Design. Students must prove their English skills (e.g. with a transcript of records, letter from the home university or official language test TOEFL iBT, IELTS Academic).

ACCOMMODATION

The local student housing foundation Domus Arctica (DAS) offers off-campus accommodation for both Finnish and international students. The apartments are shared apartments, studios and family apartments.

The monthly rents vary depending on the size, condition and furnishings of the room. After being offered an apartment, all students are required to pay a **refundable deposit** in advance in order to confirm the accommodation and receive the key to the room when they arrive.

The tenancy agreements are always periodic. For the autumn semester, the rental period starts August 1st (September 1st if possible) and always ends on December 31st. For the spring semester the tenancy agreement starts January 1st and ends May 31st.

Submit a housing application online and find more information about Student Housing Office, Domus Arctica, www.das.fi

In all housing issues, please contact DAS office:

Student Housing Office, Domus Arctica -säätio,
Ylikorvantie 22A, FIN-96300 Rovaniemi, FINLAND
tel: + 358 20 769 9180, fax: + 358 20 769 9188
e-mail: dasaspa@das.fi, web site: www.das.fi

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

An orientation programme of three to five days for new incoming international students is arranged twice a year, at the beginning of each semester. During the academic year 2016-2017, the autumn semester orientation will begin on **Tuesday**, August 23, **2016** and the spring semester orientation on **Monday**, January 9, **2017**. It is highly recommended the student to arrive in Rovaniemi at the beginning of a semester in order to be able to participate in the orientation and optimise his/her study opportunities.

STUDENT TUTOR

Each new student is assigned a fellow student tutor who will help him/her with the first steps of living/studying in Lapland. Student tutors are voluntary and trained for their duty. **Tutors will contact an incoming student by email before she/he arrives to Rovaniemi and arrange a meeting upon the international student's arrival.** Tutors will also help the student with the formalities at the university, as well as with practical issues.

LANGUAGE COURSES

Main language of instruction at University of Lapland is Finnish, but there are many courses also available in English. Nevertheless it is possible to familiarise with Finnish language: Survival Finnish and Finnish for Foreigners courses are provided for exchange students and foreign graduate students.

STUDIES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

University of Lapland offers many courses taught in English and some of these courses have been combined within, or between, faculties to provide students the opportunity to complete thematic based non-degree programs. Exchange students are free to take courses from all of the faculties. Restrictions may apply (e.g. art and design courses).

Faculties and Majors

Faculty of Education

- Adult Education
- Primary Teacher Training
- Education
- Media Education

Faculty of Art and Design

- Applied Visual Arts
- Art Education
- Audiovisual Media
- Fine Art and Cultural Studies
- Graphic Design
- Industrial Design
- Interior and Textile Design
- Clothing Design
- Service Design

Faculty of Social Sciences

- Administrative Science
- Applied Psychology
- Management
- Political Studies (Political Science & International Relations)
- Public Law
- Rehabilitation Science
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Tourism Research

Faculty of Law

- Law
- International and Comparative Law

Please see www.ulapland.fi/courses for available courses.

Non-degree programmes

Arctic Studies Programme, Circumpolar Studies Programme, Gender Studies, Global Education, Intercultural Communication, Media Education

Degree programmes

Master's degree programmes

AAD: Arctic Art and Design specializing in

- Applied Visual Arts or
- Service Design

TourCIM: Tourism, Culture and International Management

Media Education

MICLaw: International and Comparative Law specializing in

- Arctic law and Governance or
- Transcultural Business law

Doctoral degree programmes and studies

Thematic, multidisciplinary doctoral programmes

- Culture-Centred Service Design
- Communities and Changing Work
- Northern Cultures and Natural Resource Politics

General doctoral programme for more field-specific approaches

Research can be carried out in:

- Administrative Science
- Adult Education
- Arctic Doctoral Programme Arktis

- Art & Design
- Education
- Gender Studies
- International Relations
- Law
- Legal Cultures in Transnational World (LeCTra)
- Management
- Media Education
- Political Science
- Social Work
- SOSNET - Finnish National University Network for Social Work
- Sociology
- Tourism Research

SYSTEM OF STUDY COURSES

The basic unit of a study programme is a course. A typical course consists of series of lectures and an assignment. An assignment can be either a written exam or a written assignment. Please note that some courses can have book exam only meaning that there are no lectures given and student takes an exam based on individual study of a set of books from the curricula. Please see www.ulapland.fi/studies for more information on courses. There you will also find explanations about aims and terms of each course. Different types of course methods and requirements are illustrated here: www.ulapland.fi/coursemethods

EXAMS

Please note that there is no specific exam period at the end of the term; exams are held throughout the academic year. There are two types of written exams: course exams and general exams. Course exams are held after the completion of a course. General exams for each faculty or department are held once a month. On these days, a student can take an exam based on individual study of a set of books or other material from the course catalogue.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

A variety of written assignments are used in Finnish universities. There are basically three different types of written assignments: lecture journals, learning journals and essays.

GRADING SYSTEM

Finnish universities use numeric grading scales. At the University of Lapland, the scale used is from 5 (excellent) to 1 (sufficient). Please note that some courses are given only on a pass/fail basis without any further grading. In this case the mark 'pass' appears on the transcript. Every passed course and examination taken is recorded on the student's personal transcript. Failed courses do not appear on the transcript of records. Below is a comparison table with other grade scales.

	University of Lapland grading scale	European grade definition *	The US scale *
Excellent	5	A	A
Very good	4	B	A-, B+
Good	3	C	B
Satisfactory	2	D	C+
Sufficient	1	E	C

(* = not official equivalents)

CREDIT SYSTEM AND WORK LOAD PER YEAR

The University of Lapland has completely adopted to the ECTS credit system (international abbreviation: ECTS cr.). **The estimated work load for full time student in one academic year is 60 ECTS credits, meaning 30 ECTS credits per semester.**

Credits are used to define the extent of a given course. Lectures, exercises, seminars and other forms of instruction (e.g. the writing of essays; lecture journals; preparation for examinations, etc.), as well as independent research, are all taken into consideration when the number of credits for each course is being calculated. **Please note that a credit does not refer to the duration of a course, but to the estimated amount of work required. One credit refers to approximately 26–27 hours of work by the student.**

WEBOODI – STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

WebOodi is a student information system used at the University of Lapland. Through WebOodi, students can for example check their personal data and credits, browse study guide information, register for courses and exams, order a transcript of records to your email (official copies will be issued by the faculty office), and give feedback on courses.

All students receive user name to WebOodi after their arrival to University of Lapland and system will be introduced to students in more detail in the beginning of your studies. See WebOodi at: <https://weboodi.ulapland.fi/lay/>.

STUDENT FEES

The University of Lapland does not charge tuition fees from students enrolled in regular degree programmes. However, there are some compulsory fees connected closely with the studies. Before registering, **a student studying for a degree** must pay the annual membership fee (105€ in 2016-2017) of the Student Union of the University of Lapland (LYY).

For exchange students, membership is voluntary. International exchange students are entitled to join if their studies and stay in Finland last for more than 3 months.

After paying the fee, the student receives the official student card and is entitled to subsidised lunches in University restaurants, services of the Finnish Student Health Care Service (YTHS), services provided by the Student Union, possibility to obtain Student Sport Pass, discounts on train tickets and long distance bus tickets, discounts at youth hostels, museums, theatres, concerts, swimming pools, shops, ski resorts, restaurants, etc.

Visiting and postgraduate students do not have to pay the membership fee, unless they want to have the Finnish student card. Visiting and postgraduate students are not entitled to earlier mentioned benefits but are entitled to counselling and services of the student union.

LIVING COSTS

In addition to the compulsory fees and study materials, student must be able to pay for his/her food, housing, clothes, social life, etc. The use of libraries is free (except for inter library loans and photocopying services) but students must normally buy some basic books to use as a reference library at home. [Living expenses for a single undergraduate \(BA, MA\) student average EUR 560–930 per month. Doctoral level students living expenses are higher \(about EUR 1200–1500 per month\)](#), because they are not entitled to same benefits as BA and MA students.

Following is an estimate of an undergraduate student's monthly budget:

Rent

DAS Housing	
shared room appr.	EUR 125
room in a shared apartment appr.	EUR 215
studio appr.	EUR 340
Private Market	
studio appr.	EUR 500

Other expenses

Food	EUR 250
Transportation	EUR 50
Leisure, other expenses	EUR 130

Total

EUR 560–930

[Please note that it is difficult to find a part-time job in Lapland and in Finland.](#)

RESIDENCE PERMIT

1. Citizens of the Nordic countries need not apply for a residence permit but must complete a notice of removal (in Finnish: muuttoilmoitus) if your stay in Finland lasts more than three months. Please see also HalloNorden! information pages (www.hallonorden.org) for possible practices of your home country and www.changeaddress.fi for more details.

2. Citizens of other EEA countries need to register their right to reside in Finland if they plan to stay in Finland for more than three months non-stop. They can do the registration at the local police station in Rovaniemi within 90 days of their arrival to Finland. See Finnish Police's information on Licences and permits for foreigners (www.poliisi.fi).

3. Persons from outside the Nordic and the EEA countries who intend to stay in Finland for more than three months (90 days) need a residence permit. It should be acquired before arrival in Finland at the nearest Finnish embassy or consulate. A student granted a place of study in a Finnish educational institute may now submit an application for a residence permit electronically online. See detailed information on the Finnish Immigration Internet service [www.migri.fi/studying_in_finland]

The University of Lapland only provides the above information as general guidance regarding residence permits and visa issues and is in no way responsible for official rules and regulations regarding their distribution. As immigration policy is subject to change, all international applicants should consult the Finnish Immigration Service on www.migri.fi for up-to-date information regarding residence permits and the rules and regulations concerning them.

MANDATORY INSURANCE

[The University of Lapland's policy on student insurance requires that all international students obtain their own insurance, and that the coverage be valid for the entire duration of the student's stay at the University.](#)

The insurance must cover medical care and personal injury, and should also contain liability coverage for loss or damage. Proof of valid insurance coverage is required upon registration at the University of Lapland.

EU regulations on social security apply in Finland: EU (and EEA) citizens receive necessary medical services from the public health system and the Finnish Social Insurance Institution (KELA), even during short stays. All EU/EEA students are required to obtain the European Health Insurance Card from their home country and to carry it with them at all times. The European Health Insurance Card is also needed when travelling to EEA countries during your stay in Rovaniemi. Please note that this card only covers emergency treatment, so you must take out additional insurance before you travel. [Please, contact your local authorities to obtain the card, and make sure that you have all required documents concerning social security and health care coverage before you come to Finland.](#)