



EXCHANGE STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Academic year 2021-2022 (updated on 7.12.2020)

Name of Institution		University of Helsinki
Erasmus ID Code		SF HELSINK01
		FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
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The University of Helsinki is the only university in Finland that provides education in veterinary medicine. The Faculty is approved and accredited by the EAEVE. The Faculty comprises four divisions:

- Department of Veterinary Biosciences
- Department of Food Hygiene and Environmental Health
- Department of Equine and Small Animal Medicine
- Department of Production Animal Medicine

In addition, the Faculty has a separate Veterinary Teaching Hospital that works closely with the Departments of Equine and Small Animal Medicine and Production Animal Medicine.

Location: Most of the faculty, including The Small Animal Hospital and the Equine Hospital is located in the University of Helsinki's Viikki campus, around 8 km from the center of Helsinki. [Aerial photo of the campus.](#)

For the most part Department of Production Animal Medicine and the related Production Animal Hospital are located in Saari estate in Mäntsälä, about 70 km North from Viikki campus.

Clinical practice for exchange students

In general, exchange students rotate in all three hospitals (small animal, equine, production animal) in two-week intervals with their assigned student group. The exceptions are agreed on case-by-case basis. Attendance in the clinics is full-time. The group size in each clinical rotation unit is 16 to 18 students, and these students are further divided into smaller groups. The students get plenty of clinical hands-on experience. Each clinic group has tutor students helping exchange students to integrate (during academic term from February to May). Veterinary Teaching Hospital can accept total 12 exchange students from its partner universities.

Clinical rotations offered to exchange students:

- Rotation A, 3-4 students, emphasis on large animals
- Rotation B, 3-4 students
- Rotation C, 3-4 students, emphasis on small animals
- Rotation D, 3-4 students

Rotation A

- 3 weeks production animals
- 3 weeks equine / 2 weeks equine + 1 week pathology
- 2 weeks small animal internal medicine (ward, policlinics, on-call)
- 2 weeks small animal surgery / diagnostic imaging
- 2 weeks electives

Rotation B

- 2 weeks production animals
- 3 weeks equine / 2 weeks equine + 1 week pathology
- 3 weeks small animal internal medicine (ward, policlinics, on-call)
- 2 weeks small animal surgery / diagnostic imaging
- 2 weeks electives

Rotation C

- 2 weeks production animals
- 2 weeks equine / 1 weeks equine + 1 week pathology
- 3 weeks small animal internal medicine (ward, policlinics, on-call)
- 3 weeks small animal surgery / diagnostic imaging
- 2 weeks electives

Rotation D

- 3 weeks production animals
- 2 weeks equine / 1 weeks equine + 1 week pathology
- 2 weeks small animal internal medicine (ward, policlinics, on-call)
- 3 weeks small animal surgery / diagnostic imaging
- 2 weeks electives

- Saari rotation is an exception, so exchange students can decide whether to join the clinical group to Saari or to stay in Helsinki with another group.

Study credits: 1 week of clinical rotations equals to 1,5 ECTS. Due to the one-week Easter holiday weeks 15 and 16 together are considered as only one week when counting the credit points.

Time and duration of an exchange period: Clinical teaching in English is offered from February/March to the end of May. Length of an exchange period depends on the exchange agreement, but is typically three months.

Start date alternatives for a clinical practice period: **31st of January or 28th of February, 2022.**

End date must be marked in the application.

Days off during spring 2022: Easter holiday: 14.4. – 20.4.2022.

NB! Clinics are offered in English only during the spring semester (February - May). In autumn (August - December) language of instruction is Finnish (and Swedish).

Language in clinical education in Helsinki:

- Native languages are Finnish and Swedish but most staff members take care that foreigners are integrated as well as possible
- English is mostly used when foreign student participates in the rounds
- Finnish/Swedish is used with clients, sometimes English as well
- In situations where the life or wellbeing of a patient is dependent on the right understanding of the instructions, Finnish is used for the students

Nominations, applications and prerequisites

We would need the nominations from partner universities for clinical practice even a year ahead by April 30th, to be able to plan the clinical rotations properly. Please send nominations to studentexchange@helsinki.fi. The nomination should include the following information: name, email address and the study year of the student. Students should fill in our [online application by October 15th](#) (September 30th if students is not an EU/EEA citizen). Students from partner universities nominated a year ahead will have a priority if applicant numbers

exceed the quota of 12 exchange students. The students should write down their **areas of interest and preferred rotations (A-D) in the learning agreement and motivation letter**. Please note that late applications will not be considered!

Proof of language skills is required from exchange students coming to study in the Faculty. The University of Helsinki requires language skills in English, Finnish or Swedish (the language you mainly plan to study with) that correspond to **Level B2 on the CEFR scale**. This is especially important at the clinics when the wellbeing of patients is dependent on the right understanding of the instructions. The University of Helsinki reserves the right to interview the applicants via Skype to determine the language skill level.

Prerequisites in clinical practice: Exchange students applying for clinical practice need to be at least at their fourth year of veterinary education and have passed the preclinical and clinic preparation courses. **Students should also mention their previous and forthcoming clinical practice experience in the application (separate statement or CV or description in the motivation letter)**. In case the student has not yet passed some of the clinical theory courses by the time of application deadline but will have by the time she/he starts studies in Helsinki, she/he has to include a list of those courses in the application.

General information for exchange students

The Exchange student instructions are the starting point for making all arrangements for such essentials as health insurance, housing, student benefits, arrival, other practicalities and settling in from a new student's perspective.

We also recommend our [Facebook page for new international students](#)

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine organizes a short faculty level **orientation** upon arrival.

The equipment to be brought to the clinics:

For the Small Animal Hospital: stethoscope, thermometer, pen and small notebook (for taking notes), permanent marker pen, indoor shoes, scissors, pocket calculator, and a nurses (fob) watch that has a second hand. If the student participates in a diagnostic imaging rotation, also a ruler.

For the Equine Hospital: same equipment as above + trainers or rubber boots; preferably something that have reinforced toes (you may be able to borrow a pair from the Equine Hospital – the sizes are limited).

For the Production Animal Hospital (Saari): For short periods: Rubber boots and overcoats are offered from Saari. Longer stays: exchange student brings own, new rubber boots, bought in Finland; preferably something that have reinforced toes and are suitable for working in farms. You will get the overcoats from Saari.

Accommodation: Exchange students can apply for housing in Mobility Online. With the housing application it's possible to receive a housing offer from either Unihome or HOAS. Kindly note that submitting a housing application does not guarantee a housing offer. An inexpensive accommodation (ca. 17 euros/week) is available in Saari unit during the production animal medicine rotations.

Student Union Membership

You have to make the decision to join the union and pay the membership fee (ca 20 euros for one term) within 5 days from your arrival. You also need a late arrival document from International Exchange Services.

Health insurance

Exchange students should also bring European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) with them. The card entitles students to the same healthcare services as the local population in case of an emergency. However, healthcare in Finland is not totally free of charge.

Faculty has taken an **accident insurance** for its undergraduate and postgraduate exchange students. This insurance covers treatment expenses (max. 8 000 euros) and costs of permanent handicap (max. 10 000 euros) caused by possible accident in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Exchange students are also insured by the University of Helsinki in above mentioned cases, if they are injured because of the negligence of the University and also for the unintentional negligence of students causing damage to the University's property (including clients' animals). It is advisable for students themselves to take an insurance that covers free time, travel, and legal protection.

Vaccinations: All students attending clinical work are recommended to have two shots of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and a dT shot (tetanus-diphtheria) every ten years before arriving to Finland. We recommend that exchange students take rabies vaccination (three shots) if attending the work at the clinics, although Finland has a very low risk of rabies. The risk of rabies exists when working with bats or rescue dogs of certain high-risk countries.

Student associations:

IVSA Finland is the local Finnish chapter of the International Veterinary Students' Association. IVSA Finland organizes monthly open to both local and exchange students. The theme of the events and could be e.g. a surgical sewing club, tutorial videos for different procedures, an international cooking club or discussions on current in veterinary medicine to name a few. All events are informal with the providing both local and exchange students a relaxed yet interesting and informative evening. Incoming exchange students can join the [IVSA Finland Facebook group](#).



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The Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine Association (Eläinlääketieteen Kandidaattiyhdistys, EKY) aims to improve and maintain student welfare and study circumstances and collaborate with the Faculty, University of Helsinki, and the Finnish Veterinary Association. EKY may take a stand on student and undergraduate education issues. EKY also organizes free time activities for the veterinary students.

[ESN Uni Helsinki](#) is part of the international Erasmus Student Network association. The ESN Uni Helsinki is a laid-back combination of voluntary Finnish students who organize varying activities for international students at the University and for the Finns who would like to become more international. Everyone is welcome to join the committee and its activities which are a good way to get to know both international students and the internationally-oriented Finns. ESN organizes excursions, trips, clubs, parties, language cafés, and so on. There is something going on every week.