



Aalto University

Important links:

[Aalto University website](#)

[Website for incoming exchange students](#)

[Website for international students at Aalto](#)

# Aalto University

## School of Science

### Information sheet 2021-2022

*At the School of Science we match cutting-edge scientific and technological advances with societal needs, resulting in far-reaching impacts enabled by new combinations of core sciences, technology, and business. We educate responsible and multi-skilled experts who can successfully tackle increasingly complex societal challenges in areas such as energy, environment, health, and well-being.*

**School of Science** (please click for course lists)

- Computer Science
- Industrial Engineering and Management
- Engineering Physics
- Mathematics and Operations Research
- Biomedical Engineering and Neuroscience

#### Contact information

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02150 Espoo

For enquiries and nominations, please contact:  
[exchanges-sci@aalto.fi](mailto:exchanges-sci@aalto.fi)



## ***Courses for exchange students***

At least 2/3 of the courses should be selected from one study field at the School of Science. The remaining 1/3 can be taken from other Schools of Technology in Aalto University, as long as the prerequisites are met.

## ***Interdisciplinary studies***

Exchange students are not allowed to take courses from the School of Arts, Design and Architecture or the School of Business, except for cross-school courses, university wide studies and interdisciplinary studies.

Interdisciplinary studies include e.g. [Aalto Ventures Program \(AVP\)](#) courses and [Aaltonaut courses](#). AVP courses cover important aspects of entrepreneurship: leadership, design thinking, finance, innovation, start-ups, prototyping, storytelling and much more. Aaltonaut courses are Bachelor level interdisciplinary product development courses recommended for students from all academic backgrounds.

There are some changes in the course selection every year, the study programmes are updated during the summer. Students must be prepared to make changes in their study plans upon arrival.

[For more information on studies, please see Into website.](#)

Regardless of study level, exchange students can choose both Bachelor and Master level courses, provided that the prerequisites are met. The majority of courses offered in English are on the Master level.

## ***Academic calendar***

### **Autumn Term 2021**

August - December, periods I and II

Teaching and exams 13 Sept – 23 Dec 2021

Orientation is held on the week before the teaching starts. Exact dates will be confirmed later.

### **Spring term 2022**

January - July, periods III, IV and V

Teaching and exams 10 Jan – 3 June 2022

Orientation is held before the teaching starts. Exact dates will be confirmed later.

## ***Grading and credits***

The grading scale is 1-5 (1 is the lowest passing grade and 5 the highest) or pass/fail.

The scope and workload of courses is given in ECTS credits (=European Credit Transfer System). One credit corresponds to 27 hours of work, including lectures and other forms of instruction, exercises, seminars and independent work at home and in the library. The scope of a course can be 1-15 ECTS credits depending on its content.

A full study load is 30 ECTS per term, which corresponds to about 800 hours of studying. There are no set limits on how many courses students can take. However, Aalto University expects exchange students to study full time and pass courses with good grades.

## ***Transcript of records***

Students can order a digitally signed transcript of records. Signed and stamped paper version can be sent to the student on request.



## ***Nomination***

The home university should nominate students to **exchanges-sci@aalto.fi** with the following information: student's name, exchange semester, e-mail address and intended study field in Aalto University. There is no set nomination deadline, but nominations should preferably be sent at least two weeks before the application deadline.

## ***Application deadlines***

**April 30:** Deadline for applications for the next autumn term and academic year

**October 15:** Deadline for applications only for the next spring term

Please verify the dates online.

## ***How to apply***

Nominated students receive application instructions and a link to the online application by email. Attachments are uploaded to the online application, no hard copies are required.

[More detailed application information can be found on Into website](#) (read the schools specific application information under Schools of Technology: the School of Chemical Engineering, the School of Engineering, the School of Electrical Engineering, the School of Science).

## ***Requirements***

**Academic requirements:** Aalto University strongly recommends at least two to three years of Bachelor's studies before arrival.

**Language requirements:** Exchange students need either an official language test certificate or a certificate from an English language teacher/professor stating that the student has sufficient language skills to study in English in their subject area (minimum B2 in CEFR level). Only students, whose mother tongue is English or who study in English-medium programme in a university in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, Singapore, the UK, or in USA, are exempted from providing a language certificate.

## ***Application results***

The application results will be ready within six weeks after the application deadline.



# Practical matters

## ***Accommodation***

Aalto University does not own any student housing nor have housing services to offer. Main housing providers are HOAS (Foundation for Student Housing in the Helsinki Region) and AYY (Aalto University Student Union).

Students must apply for housing themselves according to the instructions given by Aalto University. The housing situation in Helsinki metropolitan area is difficult, especially in the autumn. Aalto University cannot guarantee student accommodation for all exchange students. [For more information on housing, please see Into website.](#)

## ***Visa/residence permit***

Citizens of non-EU/EEA countries must apply for visa or residence permit. Non-EU/EEA students are advised to start the residence permit application process immediately after receiving the letter of admission. [For more information on applying residence permit, please see Finnish Immigration Service \(MIGRI\) website.](#)

Citizens of EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland do not need a residence permit for Finland but must register right of residence in Finland if non-stop stay exceeds 3 months. [For more information on registering an EU citizen's right of residence, please see Finnish Immigration Service \(MIGRI\) website.](#)

## ***Insurance and health care***

Students must personally cover costs if they become ill in Finland, therefore all exchange students must have insurance that is valid for the whole duration of the stay in Finland.

Students who apply for Finnish residence permit must take out **private insurance** that covers medical and drug expenses. [For more information on eligible insurance for residence permit application, please see Finnish Immigration Service \(MIGRI\) website.](#)

In addition to private insurance, EU-students should take **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** with them to Finland. By presenting the European Health Insurance Card, one can prove right to necessary medical treatment in another EU or EEA country and in Switzerland. The card must be valid for the whole duration of stay in Finland.

The emergency number in Finland is 112.

## ***Living expenses***

According to current estimate, students need **800 euros per month** for living expenses. The total living expenses depend greatly on the type of accommodation. [For the breakdown of estimated monthly expenses, please see Into website.](#)

## ***Student Union Membership***

AYY (Aalto University Student Union) membership is optional but highly recommended for all exchange students. AYY membership is mandatory for students who live in AYY apartments. [For more information on benefits, please see AYY website.](#) From 2021 onwards, exchange students do not have access to Finnish Student Health Services (FSHS).