Welcome to Åbo Akademi University

Congratulations on your admittance!
Agenda

- Welcome to Finland!
- Short about Åbo Akademi University
- Our two campuses – Åbo & Vasa
- How to accept the study entitlement
- One study entitlement per student
- Residence permit
Welcome to Finland!

- The country of thousands of lakes and forests
- Lonely Planet listed Finland as one of the TOP 3 travel destinations in 2017
- Capital: Helsinki
- 5.5 million inhabitants
- 338,400 km² → 18.1 inhabitants per km²
  - 70% forest
  - 10% water: 190,000 lakes
  - and approximately as many islands – Europe’s largest archipelago

Finland in pictures
Åbo Akademi University – Key facts

- A multidisciplinary and international university located in the south-western part of Finland
  - Swedish is the main language of instruction
- ~7800 students
  - ~1000 international students from over 80 countries
- ~1200 employees
- Very good employment situation among graduates and doctors: 92% work with tasks that correspond to their education
- Internationally acknowledged research university
  - Minority Research, Molecular Process and Material Technology, Drug Development and Diagnostics
Our two campuses

- Åbo – Turku
  - Finland’s oldest city
  - Population of about 187,000
  - Considered the best student city in Finland, with about 40,000 students
  - The campus is located in the old part of the city

- Vasa – Vaasa
  - “The sunniest city in Finland”
  - Population of about 67,000
  - The Vasa campus is situated in the "Academill" building which is an old mill renovated for the university’s purpose.
How to accept the study entitlement

- The confirmation is made electronically
- Two deadlines
  - Scholarship: 21 April 2017
  - Only the study entitlement: 14 July at 15:00 (Helsinki time)
- How to accept the offer:
  - Do you have a Finnish personal identity code? – Yes, accept the offer through the online service [www.studyinfo.fi](http://www.studyinfo.fi)
  - No, accept the offer through ÅAU’s online confirmation form. The scholarship can only be accepted through this form.
  - Difficulties with accepting the offer electronically? Contact us at [admission@abo.fi](mailto:admission@abo.fi)
- If admitted conditionally → copy of BA-degree to [admission@abo.fi](mailto:admission@abo.fi)
- If the confirmation has not reached the Admission Office by the given deadline, you will forfeit the right to enrol in the degree programme
- The decision is final, cannot be changed
One study entitlement per student

- A student can only accept one study entitlement per academic year
- What does it mean in practice?
- Even if an applicant postpones the beginning of his/hers studies or drops out of the study programme, another study entitlement beginning the same academic year cannot be accepted.
- Why these regulations?
Who needs a residence permit?

- Citizens of EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland **do not need** a residence permit, see here [www.migri.fi/eu_registration](http://www.migri.fi/eu_registration)
- Non EU/EEA-citizens staying for more than three months **do need** a residence permit

The residence permit must be in your possession already when entering Finland

The process may take several weeks – start the process already now!
Residence permit cont.

- Start the application process by opening an electronic account at https://enterfinland.fi/eServices
- Collect all mandatory documents and have them translated by an authorized translator
  - Acceptance letter
  - Health insurance: Prearrival information
  - Sufficient funds: 6 720 € for one year (= 560€/month)
  - Tuition fees: documentation of paid fee or necessary means for paying it
  - A passport and a passport photo
- Visit a Finnish embassy/consulate for identification and fingerprinting
- Wait for the decision and collect the card before entering Finland
- Ask to be registered in the Finnish population Information System too
  → Finnish personal identity code
Residence permit overview

Create an account online

Collect all mandatory documents and have them translated

Visit a Finnish embassy/consulate

Wait for the decision and collect the card

Make the travel arrangements to Finland!

WELCOME TO ÅBO AKADEMI UNIVERSITY

www.abo.fi, admission@abo.fi
facebook.com/aboakademi
facebook.com/internationalaboakademi
@aboakademi
instagram.com/aboakademi
youtube.com/aboakademi
Some questions and answers from the webinar 6 April 2017

- Q: I have received a scholarship, do I still need to prove any additional self-funding?
  - A: If you have received a scholarship that only includes the tuition fee waiver, then you need to indicate sufficient funds for your living expenses. If you have received a scholarship that includes the tuition fee waiver and the excellence award covering the living expenses then the scholarship should be enough for the residence permit application.

- Q: If I am on the waiting list for a higher scholarship category, should I still accept the existing offer by 21 April (2017) and not wait and see if I will get the higher one?
  - A: Yes, if you would receive a higher scholarship your status will automatically change but the initial offer has to be accepted within the deadline.

- Q: If I am conditionally accepted, when and how do I send a copy of my BA-degree?
  - A: We will need you to send us a certified true copy of the BA-degree awarded by regular mail, by 14 July 2017.

- Q: Can I take more than 120 credits throughout the program for the courses of personal research interests? If yes, will I have to pay for those extra courses?
  - A: If you think you can manage to take extra courses and they do not overlap with any compulsory courses you have, then you can choose additional courses without any extra costs.
Questions and answers cont.

- Q: Is the scholarship for all students or only for the international students?
  - A: The scholarships are for international students who are liable for tuition fee.

- Q: Do I need to have a residence permit to apply for housing?
  - A: No you do not need a residence permit to apply for student housing.

- Q: Can I extend my studies? And if yes, does the scholarship cover the extended studies?
  - A: Yes it is possible to automatically receive two additional years and then apply for an extension, but a student can be granted a scholarship only for two years.

- Q: I have some difficulties to start my studies from this academic year. Is it possible to stay as absent for this year and start studying from next year August?
  - A: According to Finnish law a student may register as absent the first year only due to the following reasons; 1) service under the Conscription Act (1438/2007), Non-Military Service Act (1446/2007), or Act on Women's Voluntary Military Service (194/1995); 2) maternity, paternity or parental leave; 3) the student cannot begin studies due to being incapacitated by personal illness or injury. (In this case, it could be made clear that this entails incapacity for the entire semester (or academic year)).