

7.2 Housing in Vasa

The Student Housing Foundation in Vasa (VOAS)

The Student Housing Foundation in Vasa, VOAS, offers housing for students in Vasa. The rent varies depending on the type of flat and location. For more information please visit their website, where you can also apply for housing.

VOAS

Olympiagatan 3 B, 65100 Vasa

Phone: +358 (0)6 327 6530

e-mail: asuntotoimisto@voas.fi

www.voas.fi/en

Lärkan

Åbo Akademi University has an agreement with Lärkan to provide a certain number of apartments or rooms for exchange students. Lärkan offers student apartments 1.2 km from the university, close to the railway station and the city centre. The rent varies between 250€ and 400€ depending on the type of housing. For more information, please visit their website, where you can also fill in a housing application.

Lärkan

Realia Isännöinti Oy

Fredsgatan 16 A, 65100 Vasa

Phone: +358 (0)10 228 8100

e-mail: isp.vaasa@realia.fi

<http://studiebostader.fi/?lang=en>

7.3 Private Market Flats

If you prefer to rent a flat elsewhere in Åbo or Vasa, get in touch with any of the housing agencies. Please note that flats on the private market are often rented for a minimum of one year and are rarely furnished.

There are housing agencies that specialise in serving students, for instance:

Opiskelijoiden Vuokravälitys in Åbo

Tavastgatan 14, 20500 Åbo

Phone: +358 (0)2 233 8308

e-mail: turku@ovv.com

www.ovv.com

You can try www.vuokraovi.com, which also has information in English.

For furnished apartments, have a look at

www.kalustettuasunto.fi and www.forenom.fi/.

In addition, you can check the advertisements in the local newspapers *Turun Sanomat* and *Åbo Underrättelser* (Åbo) and *Vasabladet* (Vasa) under *vuokrattavana/uthyres*, or you can put your own request to rent a flat in any of these newspapers. Social media can also be of help, there are groups for the purpose of finding flats for rent e.g. on Facebook. The Student Union also has a few rental flats in Åbo mainly for students. Contact them for further information.

Buying a Flat

A foreigner living in Finland has the right to buy a flat. The statutes of certain housing associations may prohibit transfer of its shares to foreigners. If you encounter any such restrictions, you can apply for special permission from the Advisory Committee for Foreigners' Investments of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. You can also contact a real estate agent or lawyer to assist you in such matters.

Foreigners' rights to land and house ownership are restricted only in exceptional situations.

7.4 Practical Matters Related to Housing

There are various guides on student housing in Finland for international students, which might be helpful even if you do not live in an official student accommodation. Three guides are listed here:

Finland's Student Housing Ltd, www.soa.fi

Turun Ylioppilaskyläsäätiö, www.tys.fi > Tenant

VOAS www.voas.fi/guide/index.html

The Starting Package (exchange students only)

TTY, ÅAS and Turku University of Applied Sciences all provide a starting package service for exchange students in Åbo. Exchange students