Housing for exchange students

The housing situation in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area (cities of Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa and Kauniainen) is challenging and there is a lot of competition on the rental housing market. Rental level is high and there is a lack of small rental apartments and student housing within the area. Therefore, it is good to start finding suitable accommodation many months before your arrival in Finland.

Aalto University does not itself own any student dormitories nor has housing services to offer. Aalto University has an agreement with HOAS for providing a number of furnished rooms for incoming exchange students. Unfortunately Aalto University cannot guarantee housing for all the exchange students since the quota is limited. Exchange students can apply housing also for unfurnished apartments owned by Aalto’s Student Union, AYY. In addition, it is good to prepare yourself to find accommodation from the private rental markets as well.

When looking for an apartment, read carefully all the information and instructions given by the housing provider!

Key points when applying for housing!

- Be active! Apply early and reserve enough time for finding the apartment!
- Apply simultaneously through various channels! (HOAS, AYY and private rentals)
- It is good to reserve minimum 400€- 700€ for accommodation/month (should be enough for a room in a shared apartment).
- If/when you are offered an accommodation, accept the offer as soon as possible, even if the location or the quality of housing does not match all your requirements! Remember also to cancel all your other housing applications as there are other students needing housing in the queue.
- Your possibilities to find an apartment are improved if you are willing to live outside the campus area. It is easy and fast to travel around Helsinki region by public transportation. Check the transport connections from your apartment to the centre or campus areas with Journey Planner.
- Watch out for rental scams! Never send money or passport information to anyone! If the apartment seems too good to be true (e.g. cheapness), it is usually a scam.

Exchange Student Housing - main options

HOAS (Foundation for Student Housing in the Helsinki Region)

HOAS is an independent, non-profit organisation which provides safe and reliable housing for students. Aalto University has reserved a limited number of furnished rooms for Aalto's new incoming exchange students. Apartments are located near Otaniemi campus or in the cities of Helsinki and Espoo, all within good public transportation connections. The monthly rent (approximately 400€/month) includes furniture, electricity and water and other additional free services like fast broadband services, laundry etc. The deposit payment is 500 euros per person. Please note that a signed tenancy agreement is binding for both parties, and the fixed-term agreement (September-December or January-May) cannot be terminated or edited afterwards.

Application period for spring term 2023

HOAS’ application period for the spring term 2023 starts already 30 September 2022 (12:00 at noon). It is highly recommended to apply for HOAS apartment even before you have been accepted as an exchange student at Aalto University. Please note that you need to apply for the apartment by 15 November 2022 at the latest!

Most of the HOAS housing offers will be send out by the end of November, so if you have not received a housing offer via e-mail by early December, be sure to apply for other accommodation options as well. Please remember to check your e-mail on a regular basis - also junk mail / spam mailbox!

- Hoas website for applicants
- Living in Hoas - new Hoas Info 2021/2022 Aalto.pptx

Contact email: exchangestudents@hoas.fi

AYY, Aalto University Student Union

AYY offers affordable and safe housing to students and exchange students studying in the Aalto University, who are members of AYY. The Student Union owns shared apartments, studios and family apartments in Otaniemi campus area & Leppävaara in Espoo and around Helsinki. The rent level starts from 250 euros. All the AYY apartments are unfurnished! Please also note, electricity is excluded in some of AYY's apartments. Internet connection is available in every apartments. The deposit payment is 250 euros per each tenant.

If you want to apply for an apartment for the spring term 2023, please make it in the housing application system Domo. On Domo, you can browse different apartments and make an application for the preferred apartments. You can fill in your application already in the autumn term but please be aware that most of the AYY apartments will be offered during November/December 2022. All housing offers are sent via email to the email address supplied by the applicant into the system so please remember to check your e-mail regularly.

- More information about AYY Housing and applying for apartments at AYY website.

Where to find furniture, homeware

Please note that all AYY apartments are unfurnished. This means that there are no furniture in the apartment. No bed, no table, no lights. All AYY apartments have a kitchen with a stove and a fridge, though.

You can get furniture cheaply or even for free from recycling centers. There’s one in Otaniemi and it is organized by volunteers. More information: Otaniemirecyclingcenter or
Otaniemi buy/sell -groups in Telegram messaging service.

You can also rent furniture from for example a company called Furent. Furent is a company that specialises in services related to furnished apartments. Their main service is furniture rental and they can provide anything from a fully furnished house to single handpicked items. For more information and prices, please contact info@furent.fi

There are also two Ikea stores near Helsinki in Espoo and Vantaa, for contact information and instructions on how to get there, see ikea's website. They also have a delivery service.

Rent your homeware

Just arrived? Choose the easy & sustainable way!

Reuse and Rescue

Contact email: housing@ayy.fi

Other Options/Private market

You can also search for accommodation on the private market. However, it might be difficult to find affordable furnished accommodation for a short period of time. Please note that Aalto University cannot offer any assistance in finding accommodation from the private market.

More information about private rentals:

- Aalto Sharetribe
  A portal where users can offer each other items, favours, rides and housing - and also request all these from other users. Aalto email address is needed in some cases to reply to the announcements. https://aalto.sharetribe.com

- Forenom Apartments and Hostels
  A private accommodation provider Forenom offers both long and short term housing in furnished apartments throughout Finland, for example in Helsinki and in Espoo. Forenom has a variety of furnished flats and private single rooms in a hostel style. Forenom has reopened the Hostel Espoo Otaniemi located nearby Otaniemi Campus Area! Good option e.g. to apply with a friend.
  Inquiries and reservations: Aalto info.pdf

- AnttiKorpi Student house https://www.anttikorpi.com/
- Omenahotels.com
- Citykoti.com
- Comodo apartments
- Lumo Student Housing

No flat before arriving in Finland?

We strongly recommend to find an apartment before arriving in Finland!
Check other short-term accommodation options such as Couchsurfing, Airbnb, Hostels in Finland, Sleep Cheap, Facebook group Teekkari Village's Market