

# GO FURTHER

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## GET FAR

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UNIVERSITY of OULU  
OULUN YLIOPISTO

FINLAND





**GO  
FURTHER  
GET FAR**



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My first point  
of contact with  
the University of  
Oulu began as an  
exchange student  
several years ago,  
keen to immerse  
myself in the  
Nordic Design  
tradition. The  
year that followed  
far exceeded my  
expectations.

**Tanya Anthony**

## UNIVERSITY OF OULU



### More than 70 different specialist disciplines

The University of Oulu (UO) follows the Scandinavian and European university tradition with an excellent reputation in research and teaching and it is often ranked among the top international universities in the world. Its excellence in teaching and research has been recognized with the prestigious ECTS Label and the AACSB Accreditation. With ten faculties, UO is one of the largest universities in Finland, with a steadily growing number of international students and professors.

The University encompasses eight fields of study: **Humanities, Education, Economics, Natural Sciences, Medicine, Dentistry, Health Sciences, and Engineering and Architecture**. In all, more than 70 different specialist disciplines are represented.

### Four distinct research focus areas

In UO we have defined four distinct research focus areas which are **biosciences and health, information technology, cultural interaction and identity** and **environment, natural resources and materials**. We participate in several international study and research networks and institutions, and host international conferences annually.

Our graduates enter the job market as experts of the environment, economics, technology, medicine, education, and culture. Research institutions such as Centre for Wireless Communication (CWC), Centre for Internet Excellence (CIE), Infotech, Biocenter Oulu, Martti Ahtisaari Institute of Global Business and Economics, and Thule Institute offer graduates possibilities for an academic career.

### Facts

- founded in 1958
- 16 000 students
- 2 800 staff members, with 250 professors
- two main campuses: Linnanmaa and Kontinkangas
- Eight fields of study: Humanities, Education, Economics, Natural Sciences, Medicine, Dentistry, Health Sciences, Engineering and Architecture





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Without a doubt one of the most positive experiences I had in coming to Oulu was housing. From application until I had a contract and secured a place only took a few weeks and I did it all from South Korea via the Internet.

Sebastian Teatini

## RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

### **Search for patterns in real-life phenomena and produce knowledge**

At the University of Oulu we teach what we research. Our researchers produce knowledge in cooperation with the global scientific community.

The search for new knowledge has led us to pioneering discoveries in many fields of science. A number of innovations at use in mobile phones and wireless devices have been introduced and piloted by researchers of our university.

Researchers at the University of Oulu also excel in life sciences, study of the global change and socio-economic developments of the globalised world. We search for patterns in real-life phenomena, develop solutions, examine the properties of material and social reality, and produce knowledge which helps the decision-makers, engineers, doctors, teachers, and other experts to make the right choices in their work.

### **Skills needed in independent, critical thinking and research**

Both basic and applied research are featured in our education. Whether you are an exchange student, a Master degree student or a doctoral student, you will study with researchers and teachers of the University of Oulu. One of our aims is to teach you skills needed in independent, critical thinking and research.





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“Each new student who starts studying at the University of Oulu has a student tutor, or ”kummi” in Finnish. This year I decided to become a kummi myself, because I am glad to help new students as well as my kummi helped me.

Aleksandra Lazareva

## SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

University of Oulu welcomes hundreds of international students each year. We meet and greet all new students in the beginning of their academic journey with the **Orientation** kicking off the studies on campus. Orientation introduces you to the studies and study environment and you get to meet your fellow students, both international and Finnish.

UO takes care of individuals. We support your academic challenges with a functioning infrastructure and easy-access assistance. At your department

you will have a **personal academic contact** who can be addressed casually by their first name and who will help you with making your individual study plan. A well prepared study plan is a valuable tool to make progress in your study path.

You get to meet your **kummi**, first student colleague, online even before arriving. Kummis are senior students of the University of Oulu trained to help you in the beginning to get accustomed to daily life in Oulu.



### Student housing

The local student housing foundation PSOAS offers a wide range of accommodation possibilities, from shared apartments to studios, around the city area. No matter where you live in Oulu, services ranging from supermarkets to libraries and sport facilities are close to your home. PSOAS is ranked by students as one of the leading housing providers in the world.

### Tools for studies

University of Oulu campus offers students and staff free WiFi access and a variety of different ICT facilities. Computer labs and classrooms provide students with Windows, Linux and Macintosh workstations equipped with latest software and programmes. ICT facilities and services are designed to help you achieve best results in your studies and research.

The Finnish library system is a paradise for students and bookworms. At the university libraries textbooks and course materials, scientific publications, bibliographies and reference works are

all at your disposal. All students get a library card free of charge. You may obtain material through inter-library loan also from elsewhere in Finland and abroad.

### Health services

Student health services for all Bachelor and Master level students are located at the Linnanmaa campus. Health services include medical, mental, and dental treatment. Most services are free of charge while some incur a nominal fee.

### Student organisations

Student organisations are experts in organising cultural activities, sporting events, parties, and trips in Finland. These study-field-specific organisations have internationally experienced members with first-hand knowledge

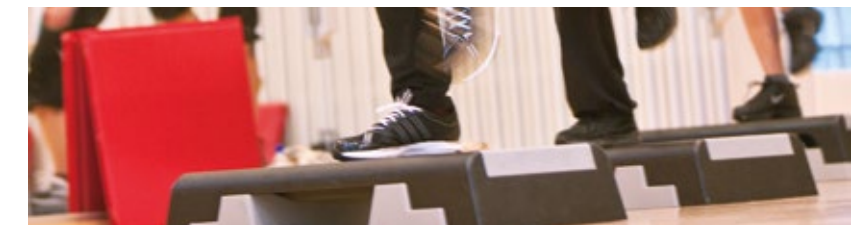
to share. In addition, there are two university-wide student organisations with special interest in issues in international education.

### Sports for all

Finns are sports enthusiasts. The university offers sports activities for its students and staff ranging from ballet to rugby and yoga, from kayaking to cross-country skiing. Feel free to pick the one that is closest to your body and soul!

### Kummi family programme™

The University of Oulu is the home of the Kummi Family Programme. The programme offers you a once-in-a-lifetime chance to get a feel for Finnish family life. Get to know Finnish culture and everyday life with its rich array of customs and traditions!





# OULU

**The creatively innovative northern attitude**

A youthful student city, Oulu is of comfortable size, it has tranquil surroundings and a Scandinavian ambience. Living in Oulu means easy access to both high technology and wild nature. Museums, architecture, cinemas, clubs, festivals, concerts, theatres, libraries – the arts and culture of Oulu have many venues. Oulu Music Video Festival and Air Guitar World Championships are just two examples of the creatively innovative northern attitude.

**120 different nationalities**

In Oulu, you have the opportunity to live in a safe and active environment. Already 120 different nationalities call Oulu their home. The Oulu region is the fastest growing region in Finland.

Collaboration between the University of Oulu, the city, research institutes, and businesses has been remarkably productive. For a large number of companies, Oulu has been a favourable environment for their R&D and the region has played a vital role in Finland’s technological lead.



**Oulu**

- 65°01 N, 25°48 E
- is the largest city in Northern Scandinavia
- has the youngest population in Finland
- has the population of 190 000
- has 28 000 higher education students
- is located on the shore of the Bay of Bothnia, along the Oulu River
- is the Winter Cycling Capital of the World
- was founded in 1605 by King Carl IX of Sweden

# FINLAND

**One of the world’s most peaceful countries**

The country of thousands of lakes, Lapland wilderness and high technology cities, Finland has been recently ranked as one of the world’s most peaceful, competitive and livable countries. Finland has a diversified modern industrial economy and the income per capita is among the highest in Western Europe.

**Modern welfare state**

A member of the European Union since 1995, Finland was the only Nordic state to join the Euro system at its initiation in January 1999. Today, the key features of Finland’s modern welfare state are a high standard of education, equality promotion, and national social security system.

**Easy access**

From Finland you have easy access to Asia, Russia, other Nordic countries, and mainland Europe. The two official languages, Finnish and Swedish, are complemented with English as many Finns speak fluent English.



**Finland**

- has 5.4 million inhabitants, 17.9 inhabitants per square kilometre
- is one of the leading countries in internet and mobile phone use
- has exactly 187 888 lakes
- is the home of sauna, Angry Birds, Linux, Marimekko, and Alvar Aalto
- has one of the highest educational participation rates in the world

**Finns**

- are among the biggest coffee drinkers
- are among the biggest ice-cream eaters
- claim sports as their favourite leisure time activity





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# STUDENTS SAY

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## Tanya Anthony, Architectural Design

### **Tanya first came to the University of Oulu as an exchange student:**

“The year that followed far exceeded my expectations. Not simply because the University of Oulu has an impeccably well implemented set of programs or even that the faculty members are geared expressly towards facilitating incoming students settling into their new environment. One also gets the sense that they are well taken care of. Each of us was assigned a student tutor or kummi as you will come to know him/her, who assisted us with our initial Orientation and continues to keep us informed about the things we ought to be aware of.”

### **Tanya especially appreciates the flexibility of studies:**

“The international master students in my course have a surprising degree of flexibility in crafting the course of their study. Whether your interest lies in Architectural Design, Urban Design or is Restoration related, the faculty with its departments exists to support your area of focus. This is in strong contrast to other universities I have studied at previously where one is often forced to complete time consuming pre-requisites that have little relevance to one’s study. Depending on how industrious a student you are, there is a multitude of opportunities to further develop your work from the studios into workshops, excursions and organised domestic and international design competitions.”



### **It has been easy for Tanya to enjoy the student life in general:**

“One does not have to look too hard before discovering the almost never-ending clubs, societies, guilds and activities at hand for all students. In my own experience, one would be constantly occupied if one chose to be very active in all these organisations. What I value most is the efficiency in all matters related to bureaucracy with the university. Whether one is dealing with PSOAS, the student health service or student services, one can expect to be dealt with promptly and fairly.”

## Sebastian Teatini, Education and Globalisation

### **For Sebastian, settling in Oulu was simple:**

“The local student housing agency, PSOAS, which works closely with the University of Oulu, facilitated the process as much as possible and the amount of red-tape was minimal. From application until I had a contract and secured a place only took a few weeks and I did it all from South Korea via the Internet. Getting the keys upon arrival was easy, I just stopped by their office in downtown and signed the contract and off I was to my new abode.”

“I often feel as if the university is, perhaps due to the proximity to my apartment, an extension to my home. On campus I find almost everything I need for a productive day, or a more laid back day, to keep me occupied or relaxed at the same time. There are plenty of places to eat or just grab a snack and hot cup of joe. For those who feel compelled to spend their times in computers labs, well, there are many of those around. To top it off, the campus is well served by public transportation to downtown and airport, and of course, amazing bike paths linking the campus to all parts of Oulu.”

### **Language is the key to the Finnish society:**

“As language is such an important part of a culture, for those who are interested in learning about the Finnish society should take a few courses in Finnish language, which many people consider



to be one of the most difficult languages. I took a course in Survival Finnish at the university and almost everything I learned in that class I still use in the few opportunities I have to actually speak Finnish. Understanding a little about the language has helped me learn more about the people in Finland.”

“One of my favorite things to do in Oulu is to take a warm June night bike ride down to Nallikari beach and see the midnight sun going down. Riding in the winter is also possible since the city keeps the paths plowed and groomed even when it snows. When the snow melts in May is when the paths really come alive. The fresh smell of green and flowers in the air makes riding bicycles around Oulu one of the best activities one can ask for.”

## Aleksandra Lazareva, Learning, Education and Technology

### **Aleksandra’s decision to come to Oulu was easy:**

“I graduated from my home university to be a teacher of foreign languages. For a long time I have been interested in use of modern technologies in teaching and learning, different learning styles and student motivation. I started thinking of continuing my studies and developing my professional skills in that area. When I was in my last year of studies I started to look for a Master Programme that would suit my interests. I was really excited when I found the Learning, Education and Technology International Master Programme in the University of Oulu, because it seemed to be exactly what I wanted to study. I applied for it and was extremely happy when after all the application and selection procedures I finally got in.”

“What makes my studying here enjoyable is the study group. Although it is quite a small group, we are from all over the world. The atmosphere in the classroom is always friendly, anyone is free to agree or disagree, share own opinion or comment. Professors and lecturers in the programme are experts in their areas, highly competent and motivated. It is truly inspiring for me as a student. They are, as well as other staff at the faculty, open-minded and helpful people with good sense of humor who are very easy to approach and talk to.”



### **Aleksandra is also inspired by the overall atmosphere on campus:**

“The University of Oulu is a great place to study. As a student, you get a variety of opportunities and services to make your learning flexible, productive and enjoyable. Moreover, student organizations offer so much to local students and make student life really active and interesting. I have met a lot of different, interesting and talented people here, which always motivates me, brings new ideas to my mind, and makes me feel as a part of the whole student community in the University of Oulu.”

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# APPLY TO STUDY WITH US

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**Exchange** students can apply through existing exchange agreements or as a free mover student. University of Oulu offers courses in English in all study fields, and exchange students can come either for a term or the whole academic year. Start planning your exchange by having a look at our offerings and consulting your home university.

[www.oulu.fi/english/studentexchange](http://www.oulu.fi/english/studentexchange)  
[international.office@oulu.fi](mailto:international.office@oulu.fi)

If you want to study for a **Master's degree** at our university, you can choose from several different Master's programmes from architecture and engineering to business and sciences. Main requirements for admission are a Bachelor's degree (or similar) and a good command of the English language. Visit our website for more information on how to apply!

[www.oulu.fi/degree](http://www.oulu.fi/degree)  
[admissions.officer@oulu.fi](mailto:admissions.officer@oulu.fi)



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