EXCHANGE STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Academic year 2027-2028 (updated on 12.11.2026)

Name of Institution		**University of Helsinki**
Erasmus ID Code		**SF HELSINK01**
		FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
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The University of Helsinki is the only university in Finland that provides education in veterinary medicine. The faculty is approved and accredited by the EAEVE. The faculty comprises four divisions:

- Department of Veterinary Biosciences
- Department of Food Hygiene and Environmental Health
- Department of Equine and Small Animal Medicine
- Department of Production Animal Medicine

In addition, the faculty has a separate Veterinary Teaching Hospital that works closely with the Departments of Equine and Small Animal Medicine and Production Animal Medicine.

Location: Most of the faculty, including The Small Animal Hospital and the Equine Hospital, is in the University of Helsinki's Viikki campus, around 8 km from the center of Helsinki. For the most part Department of Production Animal Medicine and the Production Animal Hospital are in Saari estate in Mäntsälä, about 70 km North from Viikki campus.

Clinical practice for exchange students

In general, exchange students rotate in all three hospitals (small animal, equine, production animal) with their assigned student groups. Exceptions can be agreed on case-by-case basis. Attendance in the clinics is full-time. The group size in each clinical rotation unit is 18 to 20 students, and these students are further divided into smaller groups. The students get plenty of hands-on clinical experience. Each clinic group has a tutoring student helping exchange students to integrate (during academic term from January to May). Veterinary Teaching Hospital can accept total 12 exchange students from its partner universities.

Clinical rotations offered to exchange students:

- Rotations A, B, C, 3-4 students each

Rotation A

- 3 weeks production animal hospital + 3 weeks equine hospital
  OR
- 6 weeks production animal hospital / equine hospital
  AND
- 6 weeks small animal hospital (incl. internal medicine ward, general policlinics, surgery, on-call shifts, diagnostic imaging)

Rotation B

- 2 weeks production animal hospital + 3 weeks equine hospital
  OR
- 5 weeks production animal hospital / equine hospital
  AND
- 7 weeks small animal hospital (incl. internal medicine ward, general policlinics, surgery, on-call shifts, diagnostic imaging)

Rotation C

- 2 weeks production animal hospital + 2 weeks equine hospital
  OR
- 4 weeks production animal hospital / equine hospital
  AND
  8 weeks small animal hospital (incl. internal medicine ward, general policlinics, surgery, on-call shifts, diagnostic imaging)

- If you wish to change one clinic week to a week in the pathology unit, please mention that in the application. Please also indicate if you wish to choose production animal hospital weeks or not.

Study credits: 1 week of clinical rotations equals 1,5 ECTS. Due to the one-week Easter holiday weeks 15 and 16 together are considered as only one week when counting the credits.

Time and duration of an exchange period: Clinical teaching in English is offered from January to the end of May. Length of an exchange period depends on the exchange agreement but is typically three months (12 weeks).

Start date alternatives for a clinical practice period:

- **24th of January or**
- **21st of February 2028**

End date must be marked in the application. For example, if you choose:

- 12 weeks of rotations and start on 24th of January, the end date is 21st of April.
- 12 weeks of rotations and start on 21st of February, the end date is 19th of May.

Days off during spring 2028: Easter holiday: from Thu 13th of April to Wed 19th of April 2028.

Languages of instruction: Clinical teaching is offered in English from January through the end of May in all hospitals. From June to December, the language of instruction is Finnish (and Swedish). Note: at the Equine Hospital teaching is also provided in English during the summer months (June–August).

Language in clinical education in Small Animal Hospital and Equine Hospital:

- Native languages are Finnish and Swedish, but most staff members take care that foreigners are integrated as well as possible
- English is mostly used when foreign student participates in the rounds
- Finnish/Swedish is used with clients, sometimes English as well
- In situations where the life or wellbeing of a patient is dependent on the right understanding of the instructions, Finnish is used for the students
- Exchange students are encouraged to ask for English explanations if instructors forget to do so.

Language in clinical education in Production Animal Hospital

- PAH works mainly as Mobile clinic practice = farm calls. In farms Finnish is used with clients.
- Exchange students are encouraged to ask for English explanations during the car drives back and forth to farms

Nominations, applications, and prerequisites

The nominations for spring term 2028 must be submitted through our Mobility Online system one year in advance. Please see the Nomination Instructions for details.

Nomination period:
- Non-EU students: 1 March–31 March 2027
- EU students: 1 March–30 April 2027

If the number of nominations exceeds the quota of 12 exchange students, priority will be given to students from partner universities with a balanced exchange flow.

The application link will be sent to nominated students when the application period opens in autumn.

Application deadlines:
- Non-EU students: 30 September
- EU students: 15 October

The students should choose their **preferred rotation (A-C) in the learning agreement.**

Prerequisites in clinical practice: Exchange students applying for clinical practice need to be at least at their fourth year of veterinary education and have passed the preclinical and clinic preparation courses. In case the student has not yet passed some of the clinical theory courses by the time of application deadline but will have by the time she/he starts studies in Helsinki, she/he must include a list of those courses in the application. **Students should also mention their previous and forthcoming clinical practice experience in the application.**

In other words, the exchange students in veterinary medicine must provide information on:
- Preclinical studies
- A list of any incomplete clinical theory courses that will be completed before starting studies in Helsinki
- Detailed previous clinical practice experience

Exchange students do not need to submit proof of language proficiency. The home university is expected to check that students have the required B2 level.

Please note that late applications will not be considered!

General information for exchange students

Exchange student instructions are the starting point for making all arrangements for such essentials as health insurance, housing, student benefits, arrival, other practicalities and settling in from a new student's perspective.

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine organizes short faculty level **orientation** upon arrival.

The equipment to be brought to the clinics:
For the Small Animal Hospital: stethoscope, thermometer, pen and small notebook (for taking notes), permanent marker pen, indoor shoes, scissors, pocket calculator, and a nurses (fob) watch that has a second hand.

For the Equine Hospital: same equipment as above + trainers or rubber boots; preferably something that have reinforced toes (you may be able to borrow a pair from the Equine Hospital – the sizes are limited).

For the Production Animal Hospital (Saari in Mäntsälä): For short periods: Rubber boots and overcoats are offered from Saari. For longer stays exchange student brings own, new rubber boots, bought in Finland; preferably something that have reinforced toes and are suitable for working in farms. You will get the overcoats from Saari.

Accommodation:
Exchange students can apply for housing in Mobility Online. With the housing application it's possible to receive a housing offer from either Unihome or Hoas. Kindly note that submitting a housing application does not guarantee a housing offer. An inexpensive accommodation (ca. 17 euros/week) is available in Saari unit during the production animal medicine rotations.

Student Union Membership:
Exchange students can join the Student Union if they wish, provided their studies at the University of Helsinki last at least six weeks. They must join at the beginning of the semester or within 14 days of arrival in the country. Further information on member benefits is available on the HYY's membership page.

Health insurance:
Exchange students should bring European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) with them. The card entitles students to the same healthcare services as the local population in case of an emergency. However, healthcare in Finland is not totally free of charge.

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine has taken an accident insurance policy which covers all incoming exchange students and trainees. This insurance covers treatment expenses in Finland (max. 10 000 euros) caused by possible accident in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Exchange students are also insured by the University of Helsinki, if they are injured or cause damage to the University's property (including clients' animals), because of the negligence of the University. All incoming trainees (regardless of their status) must ensure that they have sufficient liability insurance. It is also advisable for students themselves to take insurance that covers free time, travel, and legal protection.

Vaccinations:
All students attending clinical work are recommended to have two shots of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and a dT shot (tetanus-diphteria) every ten years before arriving to Finland. We recommend that exchange students take rabies vaccination (three shots) if attending the work at the clinics, although Finland has a very low risk of rabies. The risk of rabies exists when working with bats or rescue dogs of certain high-risk countries.

Student associations:

IVSA Finland is the local Finnish chapter of the International Veterinary Students' Association. IVSA Finland organizes monthly events open to both local and exchange students. The theme of the events rotates and could be e.g., a surgical sewing club, tutorial videos for different procedures, an international cooking club or discussions on current topics in veterinary medicine to name a few. All events are informal with the aim of providing both local and exchange students with a relaxed yet interesting and informative evening.

The Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine Association
(Eläinlääketieteen Kandidaattiyhdistys, EKY) aims to improve and maintain student welfare and study circumstances and collaborate with the Faculty, University of Helsinki, and the Finnish Veterinary Association. EKY may take a stand on student and undergraduate education issues. EKY also organizes free time activities for veterinary students.

ESN Uni Helsinki is part of the international Erasmus Student Network association. The ESN Uni Helsinki is a laid-back combination of voluntary Finnish students who organize varying activities for international students at the University and for the Finns who would like to become more international. Everyone is welcome to join the committee and its activities, which are a good way to get to know both international students and the internationally oriented Finns. ESN organizes excursions, trips, clubs, parties, language cafés, and so on. There is something going on every week.