



## EXCHANGE STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Academic year 2025-2026 (updated on 1.11.2024)

<b>Name of Institution</b>		<b>University of Helsinki</b>
<b>Erasmus ID Code</b>		<b>SF HELSINK01</b>
		<b>FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE</b>
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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 located 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 located 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 clinical hands-on experience. Each clinic group has a tutor 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 polyclinics, 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 polyclinics, 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 polyclinics, 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 14 and 15 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: **26<sup>th</sup> of January or 23<sup>th</sup> of February 2026.**

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

- 12 weeks of rotations and start on 26<sup>th</sup> of January, the end date is 24<sup>th</sup> of April.
- 12 weeks of rotations and start on 23<sup>th</sup> of February, the end date is 22<sup>nd</sup> of May.

**Days off during spring 2026:** Easter holiday: from 2<sup>nd</sup> of April to 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2026

**NB! English is used in clinics when needed and only during the spring semester** (January - May). In autumn (August - December) language of instruction is Finnish (and Swedish).

**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**

**We would need the nominations** from partner universities for clinical practice even a year ahead by April 30<sup>th</sup>, to be able to plan the clinical rotations properly. Please send nominations to [studentexchange@helsinki.fi](mailto:studentexchange@helsinki.fi). The nomination should include the following information: name, email address and the study year of the student. Nominated students will receive registration guidelines by email.

Students should fill in our online registration by October 15<sup>th</sup> (September 30<sup>th</sup> if students is not an EU/EEA citizen). Students from partner universities nominated a year ahead will have a priority if applicant numbers exceed the quota of 12 exchange students.

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

**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. **Students should also mention their previous and forthcoming clinical practice experience in the application (separate statement or CV or description in the motivation letter).** 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.

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 a 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): 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:**

You have to make the decision to join the union and pay the membership fee (ca 30 euros for one term) within 5 days from your arrival.

**Health insurance:**

Exchange students should also 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 an 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-diphtheria) 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 a relaxed yet interesting and informative evening. Incoming exchange students can join the [IVSA Finland Facebook group](#).



**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 the 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.

We also recommend our [Facebook page for new international students](#)