

During my exchange study at Aalto University, Finland, I experienced and learned many differences in the environment and culture between Finland and Hong Kong. These unforgettable experiences and knowledge broadened my horizons and benefited me a lot.

The weather in Finland was freezing, and the temperature was -19 degrees when I reached there. It was totally different from Hong Kong, where there was no snow for the whole year. The sunlight in Finland lasted less than 6 hours daily in January and February. It was dark outside after I finished my lesson at 4 p.m. The weather could not be imagined unless you tried to stay in such conditions. I could understand why there were so many people got depressed because of the weather and the need for vitamins for human beings. The snow started to melt in March and April, and the ground was so slippery that you would easily fall without a spike. The weather would also snow suddenly, and everything would become white after a day or night. After a prolonged snowy weather, the snow finally stopped falling and melted in mid-May, and the spring was coming. The sunset was at 11 p.m., and the sunlight lasted for over 15 hours per day. The weather would be much warmer and suitable for traveling around with a thin-down jacket. The grass and flowers would grow, and everything would be colorful after a short period of time.

Apart from the weather, the study at the university was different. In Hong Kong, assignments and midterm exams counted to the final marks. However, the final marks were highly dependent on the final exams in Finland, and students could choose to finish the assignments as they were counted as bonus points. The study mode was much different in Finland, so I needed to arrange the time and do more independent study. The final exams contained different modes, and I tried the paper exam, which was normal in Hong Kong, and the oral exam. The oral exam was a way I had not tried before, and it required a deep understanding of the knowledge since I needed to identify the problem, apply the correct knowledge, and explain the answers. I had different learning experiences during my learning, which was unique to me.

The shared apartment life was also unforgettable for me because I did not live with other international students in a shared apartment. The shared apartment was a bit different from the dorm. We got our bedroom and shared the bathroom and kitchen in our apartment instead of the whole floor. It was more comfortable and convenient for me. I baked with my two roommates, and it was an exciting experience since I had never baked before. We made cinnamon rolls and cookies, and baking them was

easier than expected. We also celebrated one of my roommates' birthdays, and all our memories were joyful.

My exchange study at Aalto University was wonderful, and I had many life-changing experiences in my studies and daily life. These experiences would encourage me to experience and discover different cultures and apply different learning methods for my upcoming courses.