

Saint-Petersburg State University
International Relations Office

EXCHANGE STUDENTS' REPORT

Please complete this form and send it to Scientific and Academic Cooperation/Students Exchange Dept.
nechaeva@ir.pu.ru, fax +7 /812/ 3240788. Thank you.

TO BE FILLED OUT ELECTRONICALLY

The international experience you have gained while the exchange period at St.Petersburg University is the unique practice you will remember all your life. It can also help other students when they are planning for their exchange. To make sure that prospective students have a chance to learn from your experience you are required to submit the **Exchange Students' Report**.

Please complete the form and **return by email to nechaeva@ir.pu.ru**.

When filling in the returned student report try to remember the sort of things that you wanted to know before you went on exchange, be honest in your responses and try to avoid simply giving yes/no answers.

Please do not hesitate to contact Scientific and Academic Cooperation/Students Exchange Dept. staff if there are any issues you would like to discuss regarding your exchange experience.

Name:	Alexandra Kurchevskaya
Host Institution	University of Turku, Law Faculty
Exchange Study Period	01/01/2009 – 01/07/2009
Home Institution	Saint-Petersburg State University, Faculty of Economy

Do you give permission for prospective exchange students to contact you if they have questions? **Yes**

If yes, please give your preferred email address: aleksa007@list.ru

The Host Institution

What influenced your decision to select the host institution that you went to?

I wanted to experience studying abroad, the way of life in a foreign country.

Please describe the location of the host institution.

Finland, Turku

Please describe the courses that you took while on exchange. What were their pros and cons?

I took courses both from the University of Turku (Law Faculty) and Turku School of Economics.

How did course content, class size, marking, etc compare with St. Petersburg State University?

There were lectures and seminars as well as at SPbSU. Class size usually depends on a subject (from 5 to 100 students).
There is a common practice of writing essays for each subject which is similar to our course works ("Kursovaia rabota").

Did you find the academic and international office staff helpful?

Yes, the staff was extremely polite, helpful and very competent in every matter.

Please describe the resources available to exchange students (i.e. computers, the library).

There you can find perfect atmosphere to study and to get information: you can use every library in the city and order books from other cities of the country. All the libraries are equipped with computers and Wi-Fi zone.

Did you experience any language or cultural difficulties at the host institution?

Everybody knows English as well as his own language.

Do you think that going on exchange contributed to your academic and personal development? If so, how?

It made a huge contribution to my knowledge in my academic sphere as well as to my personal development.

Practical

Accommodation

Please describe the accommodation options available to exchange students.

There are a lot of so-called Student villages in every part of the city. It is possible to choose either a room in a Student dormitory or a room in Shared apartments.

If you take a room in a Student dormitory it means that you will live in a private room with your own bathroom and toilet and only share kitchen with your floormates (around 10 people).

If you take a room in a shared apartment (which is less expensive) you will leave in a flat with 2-3 other students.

Usually shared apartments are situated more far away from the University and the city center.

How expensive were the accommodation options?

A room in a Student dormitory costs around 280 Euros and in a shared apartment 200 Euros.

What type of accommodation would you recommend?

I have been leaving in a separate room in a Student dormitory with 10 neighbors on my floor. This option seems to me more attractive due to its location to the University, privacy and at the same time closeness to the student life.

Food

Did you have self-catering facilities or were meals provided with your accommodation?

Of course, you have to buy food and cook for yourself, but a common kitchen equipped with all the necessary staff for it.

Was food expensive?

Finland is quite expensive country comparing to other countries of the European Union.

Where is the best place to shop?

In the city center.

How much does it cost to eat out at a local restaurant/café?

It is better to go to eat to special student cafeterias at the University. A student lunch is quit cheap there – 2.60 Euros.

If you want to go to eat out it will be cost no less than 10 Euros (the cheapest one).

Transport

Please describe the local transport options.

It is very small town, so it is better to go either on foot or to use bicycle (the most comfortable and less expensive way). It is also possible to use buses with a special student bus card.

Was it expensive to use local transport? Please give an example of the costs.

Buses and taxi are really expensive there. So, if you don't have a student bus card, the one way ticket will be cost 2, 50 Euro and 1, 50 with this card.

Personal Safety

Did you find the city in which you stayed safe?

Yes, it is very safe there.

Do you have any safety advice for other exchange students?

Highlights

Briefly describe the highlights of your exchange experience.

It was great experience I have ever had in my life.
I have got new knowledge for my academic field as well as for my personal life.

Problems

Briefly describe any problems you experienced and any suggestions you may have to help others avoid them.

Some students had visa problems, so it is better to start a visa process beforehand.
An application for the place in a dormitory should be also made at least 1 month before you are planning to arrive.

Other Comments

Do you have any further comments?

The information given in this Report CAN BE PUBLISHED on the Internet ___ Yes _____

Thank you for taking the time to share your exchange experiences in this report.

Please save your report as a **Word document** and email a copy to nechaeva@ir.pu.ru

Date: 29.08.2009

Name: Alexandra Kurchevskaya