How to live like a Finn and Maximise Your Academic and Social Success in Oulu?

Here are the answers:
Communication is a(n) (inter-) personal business

- Different meanings for different people
- The importance of a shared culture
- We want to make sense!
- An example
What do you hear/feel?

- In a Finnish shop/supermarket
  - Someone bumps into you
- "Oho!" ???
- "I am so sorry, how clumsy of me!"
- “Bloody hell! Watch where you are going!!”

- "I notice that I did something mildly wrong to you, but in this situation Oho is enough.”

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Freedom and Responsibility

- academic freedom: interpretations
  - independent sciences
  - scientific community: self-regulation
  - freedom to
    - study what you want
    - not to study
    - to attend lectures
    - not to attend lectures
  - voluntary “membership” entails RESPONSIBILITY and ACCOUNTABILITY
Students, Professors, Teachers: Academic Interactions

- informal
- polite
- non-confrontational in Finland means
  - Negotiation
  - Toned-down emotions
  - Willingness to co-operate

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Exams

- registration usually required: ask the teacher or the co-ordinator
- retake possible
- no cheating
  - You can be expelled
  - Loss of face and credibility
- exams in English usually possible: ask the teacher or the co-ordinator
Forms of Work

- group projects: active engagement required
- lecture attendance: ask the teacher
- labs, small group work: usually mandatory attendance
- individual essays or other work possible
- book exams used in a lot of disciplines
Student Work

- **Written work**
  - always consult the teacher first about the requirements
  - usually individual
  - language and content assessed
  - plagiarism will result in failing the course
  - plan your work
- **Research**
  - not just a summing up of facts
  - not a survey
  - library work required
  - present you own thoughts clearly

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### Grading system

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A)</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0/5</td>
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<td>fail</td>
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</tbody>
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| B)   |       | Pass/Fail       |

Make sure you discuss with the departmental coordinator/teacher about the grading!

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Do not take things for granted – always ask

Always keep your teachers informed
How to make sense of the foreign?

- Cultural adaptation process
- A re-evaluation of your experience and its applicability
How to make sense of the foreign?

- **Useful hints**
  - speak with your friends (sit in the kitchen with other exchange students and let out all your views about the strange ways of Finns – you’ll find a number of pairs of sympathetic ears,), but try to be ANALYTIC, try to UNDERSTAND, not just complain
  - speak with the people back home (family, boy/girl friend, fellow students back home)
  - keep a diary
How to live like a Finn?

Seclusion.
How to live like a Finn?

OULUN YLIOPISTO

Youth.
How to live like a Finn?

Go to Norway.
How to live like a Finn?

Work ethic.
How to live like a Finn?

Nature.
How to live like a Finn?

Friends.
How to live like a Finn?

Crazy stuff.
This is your change.

Make most of it!
University of Oulu, Finland

65°01 N, 25°48 E

200 km from the Arctic Circle