HOW TO STUDY IN OULU

Prof. Jari Iinatti
Head of the WCE Programme
Room TS404 (4th floor)
Email: jari.iinatti@ee.oulu.fi, Tel: 0294 482822,
Web: http://www.ee.oulu.fi/~ji/
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• Some tips
Studies in Finland

• 9 + 3 years school (age 7-19)
  – including high school
• 3 year BSc (180 ects)
• 2 year MSc (120 ects, incl M.Sc. thesis)
• Doctor of Technology (40 ects studies, thesis & public defence, 4 years)

ects = European Credit Transfer and Accumulation
Studies in Finland

- 1 year = 60 ects = 1600 hr student work
- 1 ects = 27 hours of student work (25-30 in EU)

**Typical course:**
- 5 ects (130 h work – ca. half at home)
- duration 7-9 weeks (1 period)
- 25-30 h lectures (200+ pages handouts)
- 14 h exercises (100+ handouts)
- small lab / design work, exam

**Typical staff per course**
- 1 lecturer (professor, university lecturer, university teacher, senior research fellow or postdoctoral researcher)
- 1 teaching assistant (post graduate student)

- 3-4 courses going on simultaneously
Course materials

• Most courses have handouts (200-300 pages)
• Library has a few copies of the textbooks
• Students often take photocopies of the material – material is also sold by the paper shop
• Electronic material is often available either in open or password-protected web (electronic learning environment Optima) or Noppa
  – Course information is in Noppa: link to Oodi (official course information) and OPTIMA
Structure of your studies

- Basic, Advanced, and Electives (selective) studies
  - Basic Studies (40 ects)
  - Advanced Studies (16-20 ects)
  - Elective Studies (11-29 ects)
  - Training (3 ects)
  - Master’s Thesis (30 ects)
Teaching arrangements

- 2 periods in autumn, also 2 in spring
- Timetables vary between these periods
- Breaks on
  - Christmas (2 weeks)
  - (schools have 1 week in Oct and 1 week in March, some teacher sync their holidays to these)
  - Eastern (about a week)
  - Summer holiday in mid-May – Sept 1
    - Some exams available, lab/design works can be done and returned
    - Training period 2 months usually at summer (some grants available by University and CWC)
General impressions of Finland

• Low hierarchy & informal
  – No need to call Sir, Herr Professor, ...
  – All staff can be approached directly

• Teachers expect quite independent work
  – # of staff limited, limited hands-on-guidance

• People
  – don’t talk much, but are helpful
  – often skip the small-talk and go directly to the topic

• Staff tends to be busy

• Bribery is extremely rare, but punishable
General impressions of Finland

• Oulu is 2 degrees south from the Arctic Circle (65N):
  – In December, you have 2 hrs of sunlight
  – In June, the sun hardly sets
  – Sun is never very high in the sky

• Weather
  – West winds come from Atlantic
  – East winds from Siberia
  – -15...-30 degrees C in Dec-Feb
  – Snow during December-April

• Food
  – Potatoes with brown sauce (often with pork) ...
Some basic rules

• You credit only once of one performance (content)
  – If something is accepted as training, it is not accepted as a design exercise any more, for example
  – Training cannot be part of Master’s Thesis
Some basic rules

• Individual performance is individual
  – If a lab is conducted as a team-work, it can be done & reported jointly. Might require own contribution explanation.
  – If a lab/paper is returned solo, it should be done by you only

• In both cases, the report/content/program etc. should be own work, not from someone else (other group, students, wep etc)
  – Plagiarism is not allowed
  – Will be controlled, teachers can detect it!
  – Cases will be handled by University rules:
    Hearing, minutes, and for decision making to Vice Dean of the Faculty (responsible for education). Performance is failed. Dean can move decision to Rector (result can be warning or exclusion from the University)
Some basic rules

• Exams
  – Always solo (individual) and controlled (4 h)
    • Final exam, intermediated exams or week exams
  – Usually without material
    • Mobile phones are not allowed
  – Cheating and copying is kepted watch
    • Will be informed to responsible teacher for sanctions
  – Programmable calculators are usually not allowed
  – You can use pencil; if you use pen do it only for fair copy (final without corrections)
  – 1 exam after the course, 2 re-tries per year
Grades

- Course grades are fail, and 1-5 (poor-excellent)
- Typically, 35-45% points is needed for passing, more than 85-90% for excellent
- The lab/design exercise may be part of grading (e.g. 20 %) or just pass/fail
- Failing is not a disaster (usually, 20-30% fails)
- Three exams per year per course
  - Failing in one course usually does not prevent attending the following one
- Yet, all courses need to be passed before graduating, and **obligatory courses can not be replaced**
Thesis

• Thesis
  – Worth 30 ECTS (6 months full-time work)
  – Thesis ca 50-80 pages
  – Remember correct referencing:
    • No direct copy-paste referencing (re-phrase with your own words)
    • If something is borrowed, name the source [1]
  – If not referenced, the text/equation/... is assumed to be developed by you
  – Supervisor guides the structure & contents, usually 3-6 review meetings. Writing is iterative.
  – Electronic form
  – Detailed guidelines in wep page
Some tips

• Structure of the studies
  – See the web page of WCE
  – Contact coordinator (Dr.Tech. Kärkkäinen)

• Course contents and timing
  – Listed on WebOodi web service, linked to Noppa
  – Note that most EE courses outside WCE curriculum are in Finnish. Exam can be taken in English, though

• Timetable
  – Follow also Noppa and course web page (if exists)

• Acknowledging previous studies
  – 4-yr BSc may have something that fits into MSc here
Welcome!

Good Luck!

Enjoy!