



INFORMATION PACKAGE

It is nice that you are joining us at the University of Oulu! Here is a short information package for our newly admitted international programme students.

Unfortunately, the global corona situation seems to be escalating and students are facing a lot of problems in arriving in Oulu and even starting their studies remotely. We are very sorry for all the inconvenience this difficult situation has caused to students. Attempts have been made to solve the problems created by this exceptional situation.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

University of Oulu is offering distance education for the autumn 2020 for new international students who are not able to join us due to the different challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic. For the spring 2021 semester, decisions will be made later. **It is highly recommended to start the studies remotely** as University of Oulu is providing this unique possibility.

We understand that studying remotely can be challenging. It may not be what you wished for your first year at our university. However, we aim to make it as easy as possible for you and allow some flexibility in studies. In addition, we would like to see you arriving in Oulu as soon as possible in order to ensure fluent progress of studies and eventually graduation in time.

REGISTRATION

It's compulsory that all students enrolled at the University of Oulu register to the university annually, in order to be able to exercise their right to study. Students register to the university at the beginning of the academic year for both autumn and spring term, either as a present or absent student. Please note, if not registered by the deadline 30th September, students will lose the right to study. In this case, if a student wishes to begin the studies later, they must apply for readmission from the university. Please note that students removed from the register will lose their scholarships.

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As stated earlier, new students can register as absent only [on legal grounds](#) (military service, parent leave, sickness allowance decision). Due to a legislative amendment, during July 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021 new students can also register as absent due to a Covid-19 related reason. Students are able to register as absent for the first year of studies **if covid-19 related restrictions by officials prevent them from starting studies or due to other substantial reasons related to the epidemic**. Status of the registration can be changed to 'absent' only during the registration period (deadline 30th September).

If student have grounds for being absent, they have to present the following documents when registering:

- A document describing the reasons preventing him/her to arrive in Oulu and start his/her studies.
 - Students present the reasons and all the evidence supporting the reasons for the absence when registering as absent.
 - When making an absence registration, the student must justify why it is not possible to study remotely.

Reasons for absences related to Covid-19 epidemic are handled and approved case-by-case by the education dean of the faculty. Unfortunately, this may take some time and students are asked to be patient with the notification.

Students may register as absent for the entire academic year. If they wish to register as absent only for the autumn term, they are asked to contact the programme representatives and discuss the possibility of starting the studies in January. Students may also change the status of registration for the spring term from 'attending' to 'absent' during the spring term registration period between 1.12.2020-31.1.2021, if they do not have study attainments from January.

New student's registration as absent is done by e-mailing or mailing documents to the Academic [Affairs Service Team](#) and by filling in the Enrolment and registration form which is available at the study [affairs forms page](#).

Tuition fee and scholarship

In case a student is registered as absent with legal grounds they are entitled to a refund of tuition fee.

Tuition fees cannot be stored in the university for the future. Tuition fees are returned to the payer (e.g. sponsors). The instructions for tuition fee refund will be sent together with the decision of being registered as absent.

Provided that a student has legal grounds for postponing the starting of the studies, the scholarship will transfer to the next year. Scholarships cannot be postponed in other cases.

ACTIVATION OF STUDENT'S USER ACCOUNT

If students have not been able to activate the student's user account, they should contact helpdesk@oulu.fi. It is important to contact immediately Campus ICT Services if having problems with student's user account.

STARTING THE STUDIES

Four important things to consider:

1. In order to register for courses, you need to activate your student's user account. However, you are able to begin your studies and join the online lectures and info sessions even when your account is not active yet.
2. All students have access to the Peppi system to check the timetables of each course: Please choose "Master's Programmes (2 years)" and after that "Faculty of xxxx". Then choose your own programme and make sure that it is an international programme (e.g. Computer Science and Engineering, Master of Science (Tech.) (2y), International Programme).
3. Students have also access to [WebOodi](#) without an active student's user account. You will be able to see the programme structure and information regarding all the courses. You will need the course code or the name to find the right course in Weboodi. In the upper right corner you will find the "Search" box. Please write there the course code, and the course description will appear. Check who is the "Person responsible" and send an e-mail to him/her. Teachers can send you the links to the online sessions.
4. [Moodle](#) is one of the most popular learning environments used in the courses. Please ask the teacher to give the Moodle course key in order to have access to Moodle. All emails are like this: firstname.surname@oulu.fi



ARRIVING TO OULU

We urge you all to act responsibly upon your arrival, as it is the wellbeing of us all that is at stake.

When arriving from abroad from a country that is under restrictions by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, one should self-quarantine for 14 days. You can check the [Ministry for Foreign Affairs website](#) for the latest travel advisories. Coronavirus info provided by the University of Oulu can be found at <https://www.oulu.fi/university/coronavirus>

Latest updates from Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) can be found [here](#). They recommend wearing a mask when

- you are in public transport where it is difficult to avoid close contacts
- you are on your way to take a coronavirus test and are waiting for the test results and have an urgent reason to spend time outside your home
- you are returning to Finland from a risk area and are travelling from the place of arrival, such as an airport, to quarantine and also if you have an urgent reason to spend time outside your home during quarantine

Although the physical study office is closed, you can reach the academic affairs service team: [Academic Affairs Service Team](#). Please note that the current situation has created an increased flow of incoming messages, so there may be delays in answering queries. We do our best to keep you updated on the current issues regarding studies.

We are doing the best we can to make sure that you enjoy your studies and all your questions are answered. Thank you for your understanding and stay healthy!