Exchange info AY 2027/28

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Questions?

presemo.aalto.fi/bizexchangeinfo

Sanna Huovinen-Kiuru

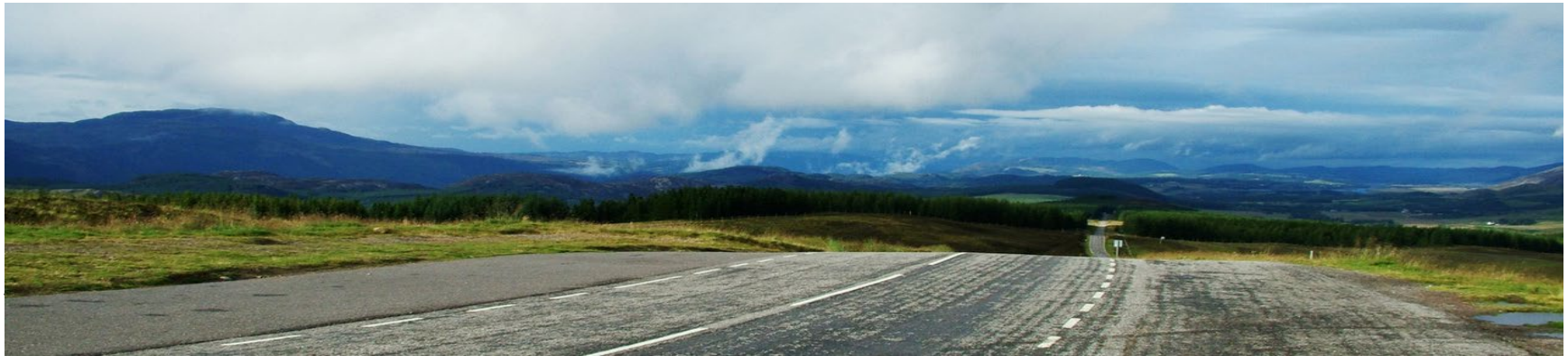
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Key points of exchange at Aalto BIZ

- Exchange studies can be included to all degree programmes at Aalto University School of Business (Aalto Biz)
- Exchange studies form a minor to student's degree, called International Minor (30 ECTS / BSc and 24 ECTS/MSc)
- Length of the exchange period approx. 1 semester
- Exchange studies can be included in both undergraduate (BSc) and graduate (MSc) degree
- Students who have GPA less than 3 cannot be selected



Why to apply for exchange?

- Once in a lifetime experience!
- Possibility to study subjects that are unavailable at Aalto (without tuition fees)
- Studies completed on exchange transferred to degree in full > simple way to complete minor in one semester
- Employers appreciate the international experience
- High-quality exchange destinations
- Experiencing other countries and cultures
- Global Competence
- Language skills
- Networking, new friends etc.

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Alumni stories

School of Business alumni stories: https://www.aalto.fi/en/school-of-business/school-of-business-alumni-stories

- ❑ **The best part of the studies.**
- ❑ **It influenced the direction of the career.**
- ❑ **Regret of not going.**

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School of Business alumni story: Noora Kinnunen

School of Business alumna ...



Alumni Ambassador's story: Juha Aarvala

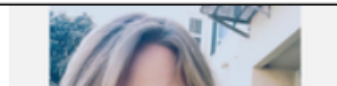
Our Alumni Ambassador Juh...



School of Business Alumni story: Niklas Karvonen

Several different experiences...





When is the best time to go? (1/2)

- BSc: Recommended mainly in 3rd year fall or spring term
- MSc: 1st or 2nd+ year
  - ✓ Suitable semester depends on your degree programme
- Semester timing may vary depending on university
- If you are planning to graduate in the summer after the exchange
  > Fall term recommended
- **If the exchange is the last component of your degree**, **please note that credit transfer takes time**. Credits are transferred only when transcript received from exchange > may take several months!
- Eg. Exchange in the spring, transcript comes sometime during summer -> credit transfer ->graduation
- Good planning= no delays on graduation!

When is the best time to go? (2/2)

- Bachelor students who will continue directly to MSc Degree can apply for Master level exchange in fall after completing **150 credits** and in spring after completing **138 credits** of BSc studies on a set date (29.1.), checked from PSP/hops
- Bachelor degree has to be completed before the exchange:
  Europe:

  exchange in fall 2027 **> BSc graduation in May** at the latest

  exchange in spring 2028 **> BSc graduation in October** at the latest

- **Rest of the world:** Host university requires graduation at the time of their application

  exchange in fall 2027 **> BSc graduation in February** at the latest

  exchange in spring 2028 **> BSc graduation in July** at the latest

Vaihdon ajankohta KTK-tutkinnossa / Recommended semester for BSc exchange

Pääaine	Suositeltu vaihdon ajankohta	Lisätietoa
Johtaminen	3. vuoden syksy	Jos vaihtoon 3.vuoden keväällä, Capstone-kurssin voi suorittaa 2.vuoden keväällä, jos kurssilla on tilaa
Markkinointi	3. vuoden syksy tai kevät	
Tieto- ja palvelujohtaminen	3. vuoden syksy tai kevät	
Laskentatoimi	3. vuoden syksy tai kevät	
Rahoitus	3. vuoden syksy tai kevät	Jos vaihtoon 3. vuoden keväällä, Capstone-kurssi tulee suorittaa jo 2. vuoden keväällä
Yritysjuridiikka	3. vuoden syksy tai kevät	
Taloustiede	3. vuoden syksy tai kevät	
Economics	3. vuoden syksy tai kevät / 3. rd year fall or spring	
Vastuu ja vaikuttavuus	3. vuoden syksy	Pääaineen Capstone-kurssi ja kandiseminaari järjestetään vain keväällä
Aalto University School of Business International Business	3rd year fall	

Studies on exchange 1/2

- **Minor of the degree** – International Minor
- International Minor in Bachelor's degree **30 ECTS/**
  Master's degree **24 ECTS**
- Content very flexible:
  - Studies mainly on student's own level (BSc / MSc)
  - From economics, business administration or related field OR from other fields of science if supporting business studies
  - Courses from the field of your major accepted, if the content differs from your programme studies at Aalto
  - Courses you have not yet completed for your degree
  - Max. 8 ECTS local language / culture studies
  - International minor can be a mixture of studies from different fields, e.g. marketing, finance, sociology etc.

- A study plan is submitted before the exchange and must be approved by BIZ Student Exchange Services.

Studies on exchange (2/2)

- If you have extra studies from the exchange:
  In addition to International Minor, students have the possibility to substitute individual courses from their study program or to include an individual course to the degree (e.g. to elective studies) >preliminary approval before the exchange > contact own Study planner of the department> International Minor must still be in study plan when applying
- If less than 30/24 credits achieved on exchange (requires a valid reason), International Minor has to be supplemented with certain Aalto BIZ courses after exchange
- <u>If less than 18 ECTS completed on exchange International minor cannot be formed to the degree at all</u>

Exchange agreements

- Exchange is reciprocal: in order for us to send students, we must also receive them > balance
- Exchange is based on bilateral agreements between universities, in which case no tuition fees are charged (Erasmus & bilateral) > the available destinations are partner universities
- If we do not receive students from a given destination, places may not be opened every year, or the collaboration may end.
- Promote Aalto whenever there is an opportunity—exchange fairs, etc.
- Exchange is developed according to clear criteria > partners are academically high-level and of high quality

Where can I go? (1/2)

Aalto University School of Business has 130 partner universities around the world ~ 100 UG / G level exchange



Where can I go? (2/2)

- Aalto BIZ offers exchange possibilities in 6 continents and over 130 universities
  - ✓ altogether over 500 individual exchange places
- Some destinations only for Bachelors (UG/BSc), some only for Masters (G/MSc) and some for both
- Partner Universities can be found from **Destination Database in Student Guide**
  - Includes travel reports from previous exchange students – a great source of information when choosing your destination
- Final list of available exchange places 2027-2028 will be available in Student Guide when application period begins in January



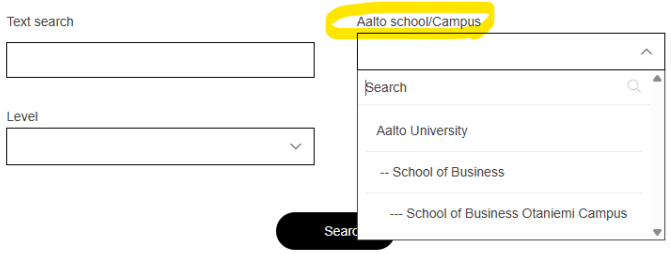
MSc vs. MBA Exchange — Key Differences

- **MSc more academic, similar to MSc studies in Aalto**

- **MBA more professionally focused, students are** in their mid-career (3–7+ yrs experience) and leadership orientated > also exchange students should also blend in (work experience required)
- **MBA:** small groups, not that many exchange students, more independent option. Classes may take place in the evenings or on weekends.

Destination database

- **Exchange reports: https://aalto.adv-pub.moveon4.de/biz-exchange-finder/**
- **Please note! Latest and most accurate info about the available places, semesters and possible requirements in the List of available exchange places (excel sheet). Available when application opens.**
- **Choose**
  School of Business from
  ***the field* Aalto School/Campus**



Most popular places 2026-2027

University	Country	First choices	Total number of applicants	Available places
Bocconi University	Italy	23	115	11
Universidad Torcuato di Tella	Argentina	21	54	10
Universität St.Gallen	Switzerland	20	61	8
National University of Singapore (only BSc)	Singapore	18	73	20
Universidade Nova de Lisboa	Portugal	18	99	8
Keio University	Japan	16	72	4
Chulalongkorn University, Business School	Thailand	13	41	6
Columbia University (Only MSc)	USA	13	17	1
Copenhagen Business School	Denmark	9	77	4
HEC Montreal	Canada	9	41	9
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Something to consider:

💸 Budget: affordable vs. expensive (housing, cost of living, visa, insurance)

🌆 Location: small and compact vs. big city (housing, safety, community)

👥 Company: your own path vs. popular destination (many Aalto students)

🧭 Vibe: closer to your comfort zone vs. greater tolerance for uncertainty

🚆 Distance: near vs. far (e.g.as far as possible or green travelling)

🌞 vs. 💼 Priority: nice lifestyle & climate vs. career benefits

Keep an open mind

Exchange = an experience, not just a destination. A great experience is possible in all places.

📝 Apply boldly to your top choices, but keep an open mind. 10 preferences + wildcard.

🧠 Don’t lock yourself into a single destination. Be ready with alternatives.

🌊 Dreaming of surfing in Australia? Great—but also have a plan B.

✈️ Remember: the university is not a travel agency, the focus is on high-quality studies.

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Language skills

- The required level in the language of instruction is *minimum B2* (CEFR)
- In most of the exchange universities studies can be completed in English
- You can also take one or two courses with local language, and the rest in English
- Usually no requirements for the local language of the country (however some knowledge of local language strongly recommended especially in Latin America and Japan)
- Language skills (other than English) can be a benefit on the work market.

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Kansainvälinen kauppa

Matti Ylikontiola, 24, on harvinaisuus koulutettujen nuorten joukossa: saksan kielen osaajia on nyt niin vähän, että heistä kilpaillaan

Pienelle maalle kielitaito on kilpailuvaltti kansainvälisessä kaupassa. Lähivuosina osaamisesta olisi apua etenkin Saksan-viennissä.



Diplomi-insinööriksi vuoden kuluttua valmistuva Matti Ylikontiola joutui Saksan-opintomatkalla usein tulkiksi opiskelukavereilleen. Koneinsinöörikillan noin 30 hengen ryhmässä vain kaksi puhui sujuvaa saksaa. Kuva: Markku Rantala / Yle

Applying for Bachelor and Master exchange (1/2)

- Application period once a year in January
- All Aalto students apply during the same application period

- **In January 2027 application period (Monday 11.1.-Friday 29.1.) for exchange places in fall 2027 and spring 2028**

- **Courses/grades registred by 29 January in Sisu will be included in the selection (study success index)**
- DL for credit transfer applications 7 January

- The results of the exchange selection will be out end of Feb/early March
- The selection results are final

Application dates

Application dates (application form in portal)	**11.1.–29.1.2027 (16.00)**
Possible credit transfer applications at the latest	Fri 7.1.
Applicant's studies checked for selection	Fri 29.1.
Publication of selection results	Fri 26.2.
Deadline for students to accept the place	Fri 5.3.
Secondary application round if there are places left from main application round	
Applicant's studies checked for selection	
Publication of selection results	
Deadline for students to accept the place	

Applying for exchange (2/2)

- Online application through Moveon mobility system: *aalto.fi > student guide > programmes, minors and courses > other studies > exchange studies > Exchange application periods and instructions* (link available only during application period)
- Appendices to the application
  - **Motivation letter (check instructions)**
  - **Curriculum Vitae (CV)**
  - **Sisu Personal Study plan (HOPS/PSP) > International minor**
  - From BSc students applying for MSc exchange: scheduled BSc study plan and graduation date
  - Relevant language certificates or other certificates (if necessary, eg if language of study other than English, or certificate of absence)
- Remember to add International Minor to HOPS!
- Possibility to state **1-10 choices** in order of preference + 'wild card' (you don't loose anything by selecting wild card option as well).
- **Application deadline on Friday January 29, 2027 at 16.00 (must be submitted on time, system does not kick you out,** late applications are not accepted.

All application deadlines are Finnish time

Appendice 1) Motivation letter

The motivation letter is the **student's own self-reflection. We want applicants to think about these topics already at this point in the exchange process. Based on the letter, you will not be given priority over another applicant. However, if two applicants with the same index would happen to apply for the same destination, motivation letter can make a difference.*

1) Why do you want to study abroad?

2) What kind of skills and knowledge do you expect to learn during the exchange semester and how would these skills support your future career?

3) Student exchange agreements are based on reciprocity: in order to send Aalto BIZ students abroad, we need to receive incoming exchange students from the same universities. How would you promote Finland, Aalto University and especially the School of Business to your fellow students while on exchange?

Personality is more interesting than perfection (Al)

Appendice 2) CV

- Along with the motivation letter, provides an overall picture of the applicant (because we can't interview all)
- We will check the work experience of those applicants who apply for an exchange place that requires work experience (MBA)
- When applying for a position that requires work experience, it **must be mentioned either in the cv or in the application whether it is a full-time or part-time job**, and how many hours per week (if part-time).

Appendice 3) Personal study plan (hops) and exchange application

- **Add International minor as a study draft**
- **Attach pdf copy of your PSP to your exchange application (unless you are first year bachelor or IDBM student)**
  We will check from PSP that international minor is added as a minor to your degree. Add it if not done yet!
- **You can send your application even if your PSP is not approved yet**
- **Bachelor students applying to Master level exchange: degree credits (150 ECTS for fall term, and 138 ECTS for spring term are checked from PSP)**
- The study success index is not calculated on the basis of PSP

Appendice: Language certificate in a nutshell

Language certificate NOT needed as application attachment if:

- You are studying in an English -language program
- You have completed or planning to complete (before the exchange) Mastering Influence in Business Communication / *earlier Business Communication Skills*-course
- Your mother tongue is English

Language certificate is needed as application attachment if:

- you plan to study mainly in language other than English (ask a certificate e.g. from your language teacher)
- If language certificate is required (TOEFL/IELTS/Duolingo) > check additional requirements of the destination.
- Australian destinations:
  Finnish and Swedish speaking students > attach high school diploma, other languages > check requirements, still TOEFL/IELTS is recommended to complete after selection

TOEFL /IELTS language tests

- TOEFL $377 / IELTS EUR 404
- Valid for 2 years
- Not mandatory for BIZ students, but usually a standard in other countries, and mandatory for outgoing exchange students.
- Our exchange agreements have excluded language test requirements, but trend is that requirements are getting more strict
- Test can open opportunities (eg. Master level programmes abroad)
- Makes application process easier eg. Australia, NZ

Selection criteria

- The most important selection criteria is your **study success index.** It is formulated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{credits x GPA}}{\text{Number of present semesters}}$$

- GPA limit 3.0
- Study success index is calculated based on the studies **the student has completed during student's right to study towards a degree at the School of Business,** the average grade of these studies, and the terms of attending-student status.
- Study check 30.1.2026 from Sisu (credit transfers 3 weeks before 8.1.at the latest if courses outside Aalto)

Open university route and study success index

NB! Students selected for degree studies **through Open University Route** to a Degree in Economics and Business Administration: the study index calculation will also include open university route studies **(42 ECTS)**

Other studies completed before the official study right at Aalto BIZ will not be taken into consideration.

If the student is selected through Open University Route, **these studies are considered to be completed in 1,5 semesters** and the semesters will be added into the study index calculation. From then on: 60 credits/ 2 semesters of attendance. After this, each full 15 credits increases attendance by 0.5 semesters of attendance.

Other selection criteria: Requirements set by the exchange universities (2/2)

- Some universities have set their own requirements like:
  Work experience (MBA destinations on master level)
  Age
  GPA (some universities might have their own requirements)
  Study language

- Check the requirements from the list of exchange places (excel sheet) column ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS →

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS (language, GPA, work experience, age etc.)
G: min. 1 year relevant work experience required
Prefer 3 years work experience, however, will accept students with less than 3 years.
G: Min. 23 years old and min. 1 year relevant work experience required.
G: in MBA, min. 23 years old and min. 2 years relevant full-time work experience required.
Proof of English language skills required from all students who do NOT have a US, Canadian, UK, Australian or New Zealand passport. The accepted method is TOEFL or IELTS test. TOEFL iBT score of 90 with no less than 20 on each section, or an IELTS score of 6.5 with no less than a 6.0 on each band score is required. DL 16.2.
Min. 23 yrs old and min. 1 yr relevant work experience required
Min. 18 months of professional work experience GPA equivalent to 3.0, on 4.0 scale = 3,75 at Aalto

Allocation 1/2

- Applicants are sorted according the index
- The applicant will be placed in the first available place according to the order of their wishes, for which they meet the criteria

1	Columbia University
2	University of Michigan
3	University of Texas at Austin
4	University of North Carolina at Chape
5	Emory University
1	Columbia University
1	Fudan University
2	University of Melbourne
3	Peking University
4	Waseda University
5	Universität Zürich
6	Tsinghua University
7	Seoul National University
1	National University of Singapore
2	Prague University of Economics and B
3	IE Universidad
4	Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien

Allocation 2/2

- If all wishes are fulfilled for the applicant, a place can be offered on the basis of a wild card.

- Eg. Australia very popular, and many universities, but in the whole country 13 available places (year.2026)
  Eg. Singapore 55 available places (year.2026)



Where can I get selected to? What index is needed to the destination x?

There is no certain index requirement to any destination

Years are different, everything depends not only on your own academic success, but also on the rest of the applicant pool

v.2022 67% were selected to the one of the top three
v.2023: 84%
V.2024: 76%
v. 2025: 80%
v. 2026: 79%

When wishes are more dispersed > more applicants are selected to their own top destinations



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Overall indexes last year 26-27

Of all 395 applicants highest study success index was 279,00
and the lowest 18,00.

In the middle of the applicant pool (ranking 182) , index was 120,72
ranked among the best
20 applicants by index 179,16.
50 applicants by index 162,40.
100 applicants by index 144,09,
200 applicants by index 125,06.

The average grade point average of all applicants was 4,05.

The International Business programme is included in the January 2027 admissions round for the first time (with a mandatory exchange period scheduled for the autumn), so previous indexes are no longer strictly comparable.

Results of the selection and second round application

- Results of the selections Friday 26 February
- All applicants will receive an email about the results of the selections
- Selected students must approve or decline the offer at the Exchange portal by 5 March at the latest.
- Second round application if places left.
- You **can't** apply on the second round if you have accepted the offer on the first round
- You **can** apply on the second round even if you haven't applied on the first application round, or you have applied but declined the offer

Accepting the offer

- You have **one week time** to consider if you **accept or decline** the exchange offer
- When you accept the offer, you must COMMIT to the exchange
- Exchange CAN NOT be plan B
- If you cancel your exchange without providing a justifiable reason (eg. work is not justifiable reason) after 5.3. this may weaken your chances of being selected for exchange in the future.
- Canceled place is concretely taken away from other students, and causes unnecesary work at the sending and receiving university.

Final confirmation of the exchange

- 1) Students are first selected on exchange internally by Aalto University School of Business, based on the criteria received from the exchange universities

- 2) After selection Student Exchange Services ***nominates*** the students to receiving exchange universities > follows an **application process** for the university in question

- 3) Exchange place is finally 100% certain when you receive *acceptance letter* from exchange university
- NB! Most of the students going on exchange in spring 2027 will not have the application process for the exchange university *until fall 2026*

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Costs / Scholarship (1/2)

- **No tuition fees** in the exchange university if selected through the official Bachelor and Master application process > application/admission fees etc. Possible

- **Students are responsible for all the other costs concerning the exchange** (insurances, visas, accommodation, travelling, study materials etc.)

- Scholarship **automatically** from Aalto BIZ for all the selected students

  Depending of the exchange destination, scholarship is either bilateral or Erasmus

- **Bilateral: 1st instalment 1500 €, 2nd instalment 500€.**
  Total scholarship 2000 €

Cost / Scholarship (2/2)

- Erasmus destinations > Erasmus Scholarship = individual amount

  1st instalment 1726-1943 € (= 75% of scholarship equal to 4 months stay
  Days per Erasmus country group 1 or 2 + two travelling days + travel support)

  Rest in the 2nd instalment after the exchange based on the length of exchange + green travel support if applicable

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  If you are entitled to student financial aid, you will get that on exchange too
- You can also apply for an exchange grant from AYY (ayy.fi/en/students/services/scholarships/)

Additional scholarships to Erasmus+ destinations

- Extra support for **green travel.** i.e. traveling to exchange destination in a more environmentally friendly way (by train, shared ride, bike or bus). Paid after the exchange. 28-205e. Check instructions https://www.aalto.fi/en/other-studies/erasmus-scholarships
- **Inclusion grant:** can be applied from OPH (Finnish National Agency for Education) for if the student needs extra support due to disability, health problems etc. during the exchange e.g., accommodation arrangements, extra travels, medication, therapy, personal assistant.
- **Fewer opportunities Top-up Scholarship**

Top-up scholarship (fewer opportunities) Further information: Accessible exchange studies	For students who have families, are family carers, have disabilities, suffer from a severe or chronic health condition, or have received international protection.	EUR 250 /months (30 days, 8,33 eur / day)

Freemover exchange

- Exchange place can also be arranged independently, and pay possible tuition fees
- Cannot be any of the Aalto BIZ partner universities
- The university has to meet the quality requirements set by Aalto BIZ (please check: https://www.aalto.fi/en/other-studies/free-mover-exchange)
- Application period for freemover scholarship twice a year, in April and in November
- If scholarship is granted, the exchange will become official and the studies can be transferred to the degree as International minor
- Remember to apply for the scholarship **before** the exchange
- The amount of scholarship is 2000 € (1500e + 500e)

More info

- From aalto.fi > student guide > programmes, minors and courses > other studies > exchange studies https://www.aalto.fi/en/other-studies/exchange-studies
- Exchange reports (**Destination database**)
- Web pages / social media of the exchange universities
- Incoming exchange students at Aalto BIZ!!
- #aaltoexchange, #aaltovaihtarit,
- Intagram @aaltobiz → exchange student takeovers


BIZ Vaihtohakuneuvontaa tammikuussa (alk.12.1.)
tiistaisin ja torstaisin
klo 9.30-11.30 ja 13-15
huone Y115 (Ekonominaukio 1)
Pistäydy ilman ajanvarausta!
BIZ Exchange application advising in January (starting from 12.1.)
on Tuesdays and Thursdays
at 9.30-11.30 and 13-15
room Y115 (Ekonominaukio 1)
Drop in without booking!

Student exchange services

email: outgoing-biz@aalto.fi

Book a meeting from MyStudies

Questions?

https://presemo.aalto.fi/bizexchangeinfo

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