

Welcome to Aalto University School of Chemical Engineering webinar 5 April at 13-14:30 EEST

Q&A

Studies at Aalto University

- 1. Do local students study also in English or are international classes separated from Finnish classes?**

A: In all Master's programmes in School of Chemical Engineering the language of instruction is English. Local and international students are studying together.

- 2. What is Biomass Refining about?**

A: Biomass Refining uses newest technologies to convert biomass into clean energy and a variety of marketable bioproducts. Students choosing Biomass Refining as their major gain a deep understanding of biomass and its components on microscopic and molecular levels.

Read more about the major here: [Biomass Refining Study Option](#) and [detailed curriculum for 2022-2024](#)

- 3. I have a question about the minors: after checking, I found that some minors have bachelors level related prerequisites, how can I take the minor if I currently don't have these prerequisites?**

A: Some minors or courses may have prerequisites. In some cases, the prerequisites are marked with the Aalto University course code followed by text "or similar knowledge". Please check the course description to see whether you have completed similar course in your previous studies. If not, you are expected to register and complete the prerequisite course before starting the minor.

- 4. How long the exchange programs are?**

A: There are different types of exchange programs. Typically, however, a student spends one term abroad. Master's Students usually plan their exchange studies for 2nd year autumn term.

- 5. What is the grade point average of the Master's students?**

2020-2023 the GPA average has been 3.6

- 6. Approximately how many students start their Master's degree at the School of Chemical Engineering each year?**

A: Approximately 220 students per year.

- 7. I am not able to start in September. Can I defer my studies?**

A: According to the Universities Act Section 39 a student is not allowed to postpone the beginning of studies, unless in following situations specified in the Act:

- 1) the student is performing military service in accordance with the Conscription Act, the Civil Service Act or the Act on Women's Voluntary Military Service;
- 2) the student needs time off from his studies to take care of his child in connection with the birth or adoption; or
- 3) the student is unable to start his studies due to his own illness or disability. These reasons must be supported with documentation.

In all other cases, the student must register as attending after accepting the study offer.

Daily life

8. Does Aalto University help in finding accommodation if we fail to occupy the house in AYY or HOAS? Can you tell me more about accommodation?

A: Aalto University does not own any student dormitories. Make sure to start looking for housing early on! Read more about housing options here:

<https://www.aalto.fi/en/services/housing-for-students>.

Aalto University organized a webinar on housing on 6 April. The recording will be found later on our Events and Resources page: <https://www.aalto.fi/en/student-guide/events-and-resources-for-admitted-masters-students>

9. Should I buy the clothes in Finland or bring from my hometown? Is it cheaper?

A: According to Infofinland.fi <https://www.infofinland.fi/en/settling-in-finland/cost-of-living-in-finland> clothing is slightly more expensive in Finland than in the EU on average. Some inexpensive international brands do not have shops in Finland. Keep in mind that you need different clothes and shoes for different seasons, and depending on the climate you come from, you may have to purchase for example winter clothing in Finland. Bringing clothes with you reduces your costs.

10. What is Goin'?

A: Goin' Connect is a social networking platform for new Master's Students. You can connect with other newly admitted students and start building your network: chat with students coming to the same programme, find people from different countries, and get to know people who share your interests. [Register on Aalto University's Goin' environment](#).

11. Monthly expenses approximately?

A: The cost of living varies depending on the price of your accommodation and lifestyle. As a proof of sufficient funds for your residence permit, you will need 560 € per month at your disposal. More information on Migri.fi: <https://migri.fi/en/income-requirement-for-students>

StudyinFinland gives an estimate of €700 - €900 living expenses, but this varies depending on your accommodation: <https://www.studyinfinland.fi/admissions/fees-and-costs>

More information on costs of living in Finland: <https://www.infofinland.fi/en/settling-in-finland/cost-of-living-in-finland>

12. What about food and discounts?

A: As a student in higher education, you are eligible for one discounted meal per day in a student restaurant. Student meals in official student restaurants are currently €2.95. See the list of restaurants here:

<https://asiointi.kela.fi/opiskelijaravintolahaku/OpruokaApplication?karttalinkki=eng08000049>

In addition to the official student restaurants, there are several other options on campus: <https://www.aalto.fi/en/campus/campus-restaurants-and-cafes> Confirm the prices and possible student discounts from their website.

Work, theses, and doctoral studies

13. What is the destination of the graduates in the past few years?

A: Aalto School of Chemical Engineering takes in about 30 to 40 doctoral students annually. About half of them have either projects done together with industry or are full-time working in industry.

14. Does Aalto University help a graduate in opening their startup in Finland?

A: Yes! Aalto University Startup Center offers startup programs and services for students and alumni who are interested in opening a startup in Finland. Read more about Aalto University Startup Center:

<https://startupcenter.aalto.fi/>

<https://www.aalto.fi/en/for-alumni/startups-and-entrepreneurship>

<https://startupsauna.com/>

15. Thesis option for CBME. Whether we opt for research or an industry project?

A: Both are valid options. In School of Chemical Engineering, you are expected to be proactive in finding a thesis topic and supervisor.

**16. During studies, can we be hired as a Teaching Assistant or research assistant also?
Can I do part-time job during my studies?**

A: Yes. Schools and some research groups offer part-time jobs or summer jobs. If you are an international student, be mindful of possible income limitations of your student residence permit/visa. For further information consult Finnish Immigration Service Migri

<https://migri.fi/en/working-and-internships-during-studies>

17. Can we manage part time jobs with study easily?

A: All our Master's programmes have been designed to be full-time programmes. However, many students do have a part-time job. When planning on seeking employment, carefully consider the progress of your studies and the number of hours you are committing to in your work to assess whether you are able to complete your studies on time.

18. Is it possible to do publications in the MSc program?

A: If you participate in a research group you might be part of a project generating publications. In addition, your MSc thesis might be the basis of a publication.

19. Requirement for doctoral studies?

A: To be eligible for doctoral studies, one must have a Master's degree in a relevant field with the weighted average grade of 3.5/very good (without the thesis). The Master's Thesis grade must be 4.0/very good or higher on Aalto University scale (1-5). Excellent command of Finnish, Swedish or English is mandatory.

20. How long is the doctoral program if I want to continue in the same major?

A: Full-time doctoral students plan on completing their doctoral degree within four years of admission. For part-time doctoral students, who typically have main occupation outside the School of Chemical Engineering, the planned completion time can be up to eight years. Read more about our doctoral programmes: <https://www.aalto.fi/en/study-options/aalto-doctoral-programme-in-chemical-engineering>

Language

21. Is Finnish necessary when looking for a job? Is Finnish not needed at all for joining the local companies?

A: This depends on the employer. In academia, it is easy to pursue a career in English. In the industry, it depends on the company. Skilled people are needed in Finnish industry and companies are exploring the option of hiring international talent. There are also several international companies in Finland, where the working language is English. Some job opportunities, however, may be still offered primarily to Finnish speakers, if the work requires communication with Finnish-speaking clients or staff members.

Even if most Finns speak English, if you want to integrate into community and understand the society well, it is recommended to study Finnish language, at least basics.

Admissions documents and visa

22. I received a conditional letter from Aalto University, the condition is to send hard copies. Will the university send another letter (unconditional) after receiving hard copies of educational documents?

Admissions Services always confirm when the attachments have arrived, and the Admissions system has updated your information. Note that it often takes one day for the attachments to get registered. Admissions also inform the applicants if there are still unmet conditions. If the received attachment is the last condition, the applicant will get a confirmation message. If you need a formal unconditional letter of acceptance, please contact Learning Services of your school: studies-chem@aalto.fi.

23. Can Aalto help in speed up the visa process?

A: Unfortunately not. Consult Finnish Immigration Services Migri for further information regarding your visa / residence permit process.

You can find more information on our New Students page: <https://www.aalto.fi/en/new-students/masters-students>

For students of International Joint Programmes, the instructions are found under the title Here is what you should do next - 2. Apply for Residence Permit or register your residence: <https://www.aalto.fi/en/new-students/international-joint-masters-programmes>

24. I have a problem about sending my hard copy documents, I can't deliver them by 26 May.

A: This question has been forwarded to University Admissions. As a rule, however, you must be able to submit your hard copy documents by the given deadline.