

# Tuition fee liability at Aalto University

What, why, how, and what if?

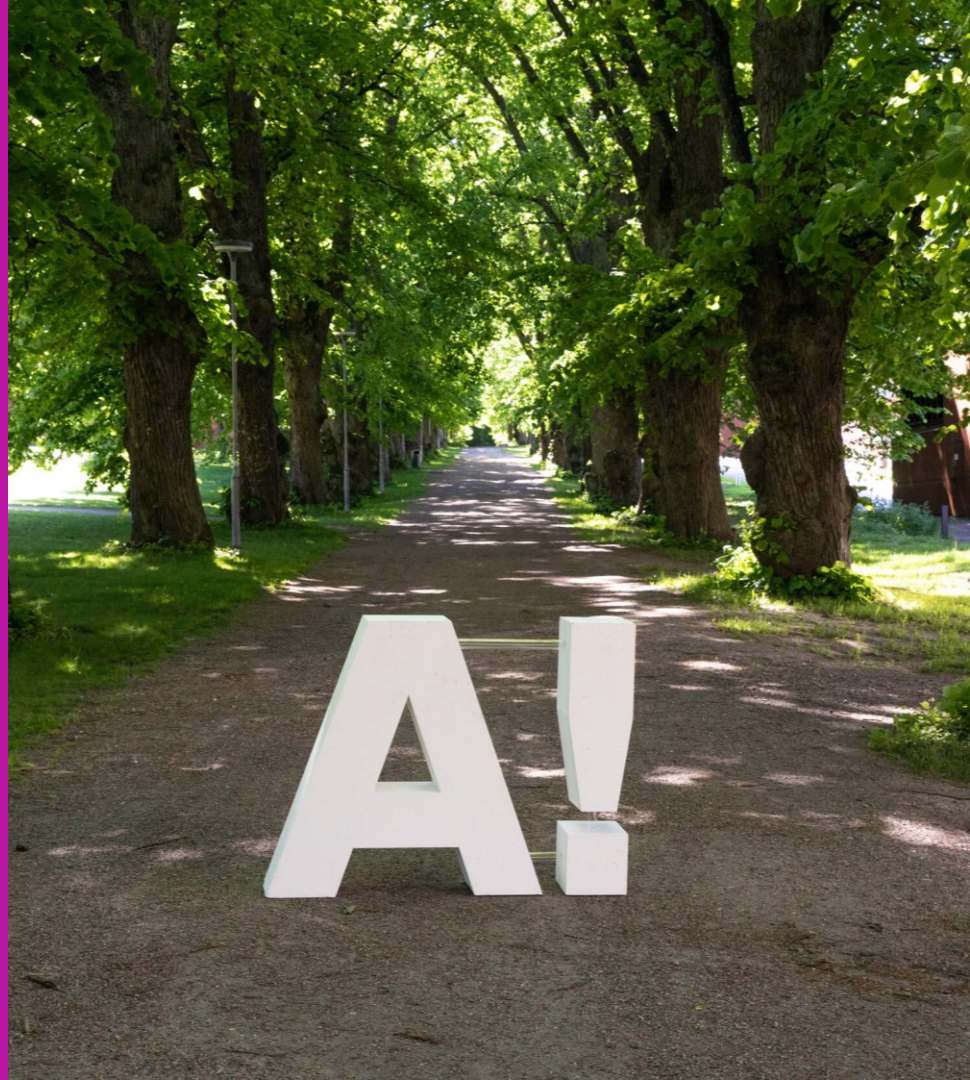
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Aino Roms

31 August 2023



Aalto University  
School of Engineering



# At this session

- What is tuition fee liability?
- Scholarships at Aalto University
- Tuition fee liability in your life
- Q&A
- Contact information



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# Confidentiality

- **Information of your payment and scholarship status is confidential (personal and financial data)**
- **Please phrase your questions in general terms**
- **Information of your health is secret - please don't share it or leave it and possible other sensitive personal matters to individual discussions with Learning Services personnel**
- **All students at Aalto University are treated equally in terms of services and academic regulations of the university.**



# Tuition Fee Liability

# What is tuition fee liability?

- Tuition Fee Liability is defined in national law
- Universities are required by law to charge tuition-fee-liable students since intake 2017
- Liable students are Bachelor or Master **degree students**, studying in a degree programme **in English**, and **citizens of a country outside the European Union (EU), European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland**
- The tuition fee in Master's programmes at Aalto University is 15 000 EUR per year
- Covering the tuition fee in a way or another is precondition to annual enrolment for all liable students
- The tuition fee can be covered in three ways
  - Payment
  - Scholarship
  - Exemption
- Information about scholarships and tuition fees in Student Guide





# Exemption from tuition fee liability

The fees will not concern you as a non-EU citizen if you:

- are equivalent to an EU citizen (i.e. citizens of Switzerland)
- have a permanent residence permit card in Finland (type P)
- **have a continuous residence permit card in Finland (type A), based on other grounds than studying**
- have an EU residence permit for third-country citizens with long-term residence permit card in Finland (type P-EU permit)
- have an EU family member's residence card in Finland
- have an EU blue card in Finland
- have a Brexit residence permit card, type "SEU-sopimuksen 50 artikla = Right of residence under the withdrawal agreement", or "P SEU-sopimuksen 50 artikla = Right of permanent residence under the withdrawal agreement"
- have proof from the Finnish Immigration Service (Migri) of registering, or application to register, EU right to residence in Finland in accordance with the EU-UK withdrawal agreement. Please refer to [Migri's Brexit information](#) for further details.

# Changes in tuition fee liability during studies

- **In order to be exempted from tuition fees for the whole academic year, your residence permit or right of residence has to be valid at the start of that academic year (i.e. 1st of August).**
  - Example 1: residence permit valid until 31 August 2023 grants exemption for the whole academic year 2023-2024
  - Example 2: residence permit valid from 1 September 2023 until 31 August 2024 grants exemption for the spring term 2024 and for the academic year 2024-2025.
- **If your status changes from liable to exempted during your studies**
  - Scholarship will be cancelled (you don't need it and you're not eligible anymore)
  - You can apply for refund for paid fee in case you have already paid for the period that you are exempted for
- **If your status changes from exempted to liable during your studies**
  - This can happen if your work-based residence permit expires, and you apply for a student RP
  - You can apply for **a reserve scholarship** for the remaining period of your studies – more information in [Intro](#)
- **If your residence permit type changes or you are granted a new residence permit card that extends the current exemption, please send a message to [tuitionfees@aalto.fi](mailto:tuitionfees@aalto.fi)**



# Scholarships



# Aalto University Scholarships

- **Scholarship types**
  - Finland Scholarships
  - 50 % (Category B) and 100 % (Category A) tuition fee waivers
- **These scholarships are**
  - Allocated at the admission
  - Merit-based and granted on competitive basis
  - Not subjects to appeals
- **The number of scholarships per degree programme is limited and depends on the number of selected tuition fee liable students per degree programme**



# Finland Scholarships

- Finland scholarships awarded by Aalto University are part of the national Finland Scholarship programme funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture. Finland Scholarship programme runs from 2022 to 2024.
- The Finland Scholarship includes an Aalto University Scholarship (Category A, 100% tuition fee waiver) for two years and a grant worth 5000 € for relocation and other costs for the first year of studies.
- The 5000 € grant is paid to the student's Finnish bank account after they have arrived in Finland and registered as attending. The grant is paid once and only during the first year of studies.
- More information: [tuitionfees@aalto.fi](mailto:tuitionfees@aalto.fi)



# Scholarship Terms - Duration

## In-house Master's programmes

- *“The scholarship is granted for one degree only and **for no more than the normative duration of studies for the degree**. The normative duration of studies is two (2) academic years for a Master's degree (120 ECTS credits). The scholarship is to be used for the completion of degree studies only.”*

## Nordic Master's programmes

- *“The Aalto University Scholarship is granted for one degree only and only **for one academic year** to complete the nominal time for the master's studies at Aalto University. The Aalto University Scholarship is not granted for/**does not cover the year the student studies at the partner university**. The scholarship is to be used for the completion of degree studies only.”*

→ What does this mean?



# Study Progress

- **Careful planning of studies is essential!** Have your Personal Study Plan checked with planning officer or coordinator of your programme asap
- Study progress monitored in the spring semester of the first year.
  - If your studies have progressed according to the study plan, no action is needed.
  - If studies have not progressed, LES will contact you and scholarship continuation is decided on case-by-case-basis.
- If you have any issues affecting your study progress, it is **essential that you contact the student services/your programmes planning officer** and actively seek help so that your scholarship is not affected.
- To graduate in normative two years the study schedule is tight, and it extremely important that you **take care of yourself and your study ability**

# Other scholarships



# What if you cannot graduate within two academic years?

- Scholarship for the fifth semester of master's studies is available to **all tuition fee liable students** = students with scholarship & students paying tuition fee
- The scholarship is 100% tuition fee waiver
- You can apply for the fifth semester scholarship in the fourth semester of your studies – application instructions will be sent to you in March, DL around 20 April
- The scholarship is granted to all who fulfill the following conditions (no competition)
  - Have a valid master's thesis topic
  - Thesis supervisor states that your thesis is proceeding as planned
  - Have a realistic study plan to graduate by the end of the 5th semester

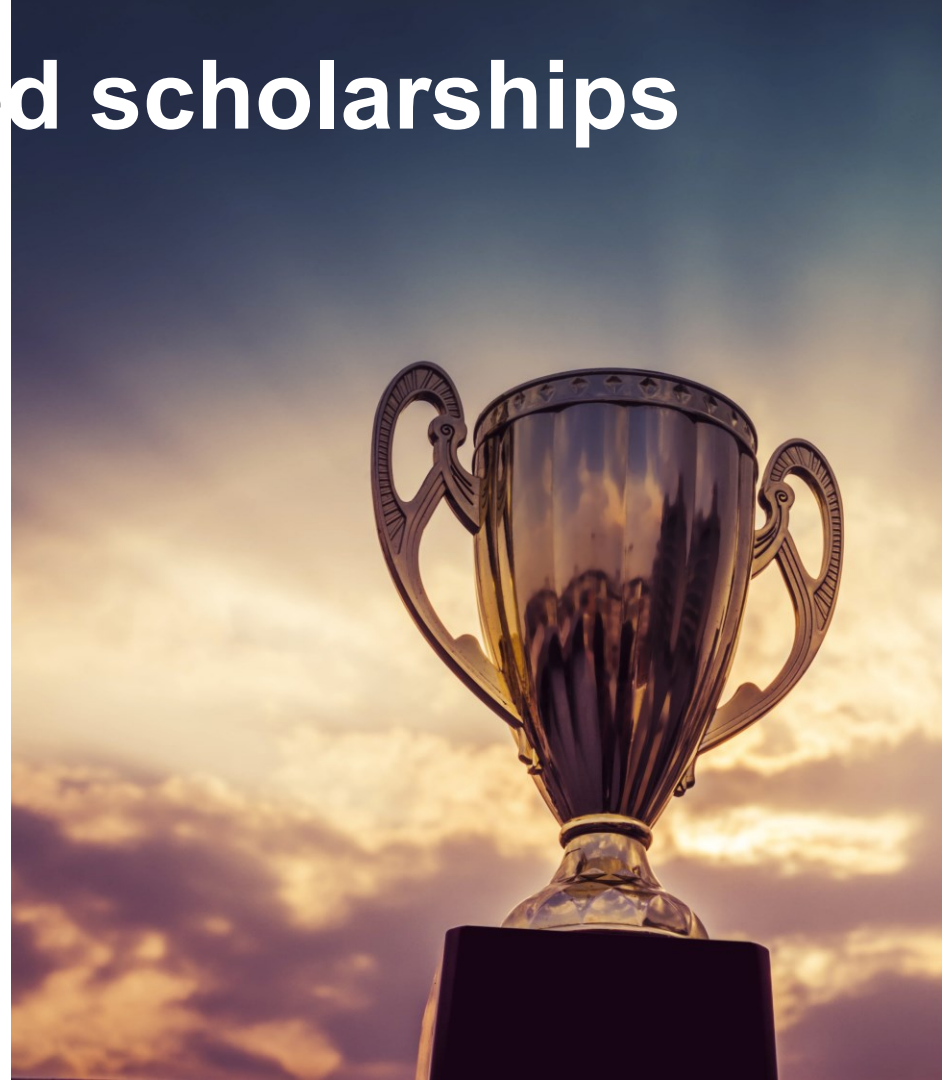


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# Aalto incentive-based scholarships

- Incentive-based scholarships reward **fee-paying students** (i.e. students paying either full or partial fee) making good progress in their studies.
- Conditions: you have completed 60 ECTS credits (or above) of studies from your approved PSP during one academic year.
- Application instructions sent by the end of the spring term
- Nordic Master students eligible to apply for the academic year that they have paid tuition fee to Aalto
- The scholarship is 1500 € and it is paid towards the end of autumn term (or upon graduation, where applicable).
- The Incentive-Based Scholarship can be granted more than once.



# Tuition fee liability in your life

# Annual enrolment, and residence permits

- Enrolment as attending is a condition to extend the residence permit, and covering the tuition fee is a pre-condition to enrolment
- Residence permits must be extended before the current one expires
  - If you have a 2-year residence permit, this usually applies for the 5<sup>th</sup> semester
  - Migri's requirement for means of support 560 € / month
- Scholarships can be frozen, with certain conditions, if you enroll as non-attending
- Non-attending students cannot study (i.e. complete credits or transactions like their submission and graduation)
- Detailed information
  - Annual enrolment and permissible duration
  - Extended residence permit for studies







# Living costs – let's be realistic

Accommodation	€250 – 450
Transportation	€30 – 60
Food	€170 – 320
Phone	€20 - 40
Internet	€0 – 30
Sports	€10 - 25
Entertainment	€50+
Clothing	€30 - 50
Travel	€50+
Miscellaneous costs	€50 -100
<b>Total</b>	<b>€600 - 1200+</b>



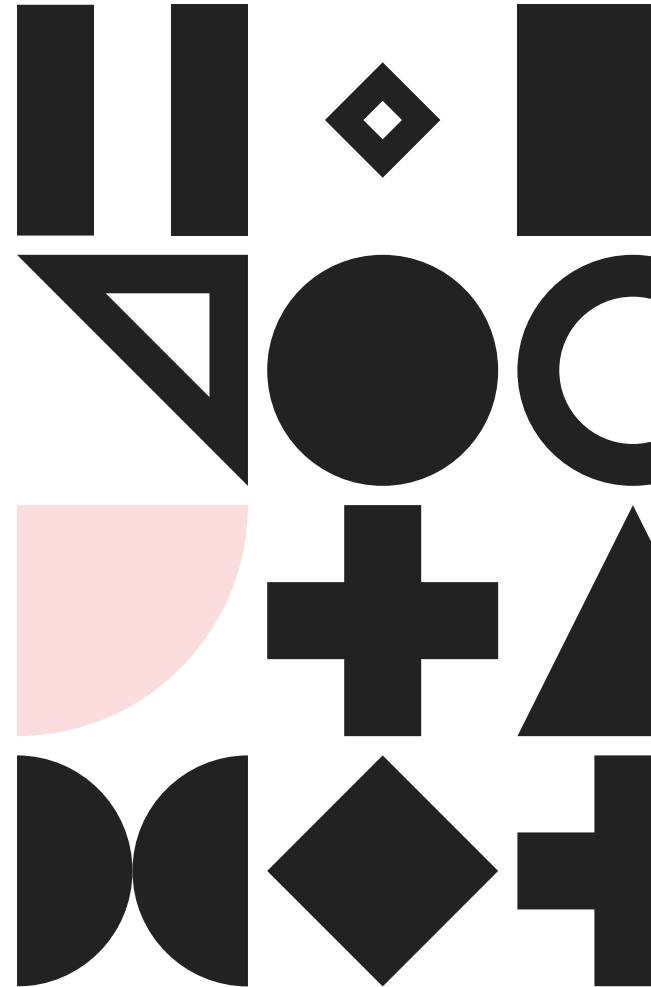
# How to support your living?

- **Student Guide – International Students**
  - Living in Finland → Financial matters → Monthly expenses, Budget tips
  - Living in Finland → Working in Finland
- **60 ECTS / year = full-time studies**
- **Aim for a proper summer job or internship, save for the academic year → thesis placement → job after graduation**
- **How? Use our services! Explore them at the Service Fair after this session!**



# Services for your support

- **Career Services (Career Design Lab)**
  - JobTeaser portal
  - Events, e.g. ENG Career Evening for International Master students, Aalto Thesis Fair, Aalto Talent Expo, Summer Job Days
  - Individual career counseling
  - CV clinics
- **Courses to support your career**
  - Future of Work, Finland works online course
  - Aalto Talent Programme – starting Jan 2023
- **Learning Finnish, <https://www.aalto.fi/en/international-students/studying-finnish>**
- **Join your guild!**
  - Social wellbeing
  - Excursions to companies
  - Key networks to support you in your career



# “It’s all up to you” – empowering or distressing?

- **Invest in your study ability: self-leadership, stress management, time management**
  - Study Skills <https://www.aalto.fi/en/services/groups-workshops-and-online-materials-for-supporting-wellbeing-and-study-ability> → general information, self-study material, overview of services
  - Personal Impact courses, <https://www.aalto.fi/en/other-studies/personal-impact>
- **If it starts to feel dominantly distressing...**
  - You’re not alone!
  - Starting Point of Wellbeing – low-threshold first contact
  - Courses and workshops offered by study psychologists Individual counseling with study psychologists
  - Student healthcare and other mental wellbeing services



# Beat the blues events

- Living in Finland 27 Sep
- Culture Shock 25 Oct
- From winter-blues to embracing winter 29 Nov



# Questions?



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# Where to get support?

- Welcome Fair – tuition fees booth **today**
- How to cope with tuition fees (date TBA), university-wide event
- Programme-specific questions → [masterstudies-eng@aalto.fi](mailto:masterstudies-eng@aalto.fi) & your Success Team in MyStudies
- Tuition fee questions → [tuitionfees@aalto.fi](mailto:tuitionfees@aalto.fi) & appointments in MyStudies (choose the topic TUITION FEES)
- Study rights and enrolment → [studies-eng@aalto.fi](mailto:studies-eng@aalto.fi)
- Wellbeing → [Starting Point of Wellbeing](#)
- Remember that none of us is a master of all trades.



# Take-home message

- Your wellbeing is the top priority
- Be aware of the tuition fee regulations but don't sacrifice your wellbeing
- If you don't feel well or have any questions or doubts, never hesitate to contact us!



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