<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>VISA</th>
<th>Study Period</th>
<th>Language of Instruction</th>
<th>Type of Housing</th>
<th>Approximate semester dates</th>
<th>LHU partner since</th>
<th>Cost of Housing &amp; Meals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LHU and external students;</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fall and/or Spring</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Apartments</td>
<td>Fall: Sept. – Dec.</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>€185–€200* Groceries €300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum GPA 2.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Spring: Jan. - April</td>
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</tbody>
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**FINLAND**

Centria University of Applied Sciences, Kokkola


**The Location**

Finland is the northernmost country in the world after Iceland. Don’t be deterred, however, by the weather. Partly because of the warming influence of the Gulf Stream, the climate is not as cold as one might think. The city of Kokkola, population 50,000, is a charming harbor town on the Gulf of Bothnia, 550 miles northwest of Helsinki. Today, Kokkola is not only the regional center of Central Ostrobothnia but also the most northerly point of coastal Swedish speaking Ostrobothnia (about 20% of the town’s inhabitants consider Swedish their native language). Take a walk into the old town with its museums and hundreds of wooden houses from the 17th and 18th centuries. The scenic “Seven Bridges Archipelago Road,” a 25-mile coastal drive connecting Kokkola with Pietarsaari to the south, is breathtaking.

**The University**

Kokkola is the main campus of Centria University of Applied Sciences (CU), a network of three institutions that include two other campuses located in Pietarsaari and Ylivieskai. Since Centria’s creation in 1992, international cooperation has been a focus of its outreach program. Currently, there are approximately 500 international students attending Centria, all of whom receive support from Centria’s International Office staff. The staff assists students with all matters relating to their studies at Centria, including both academic and student life issues (accommodations, cross-cultural adjustment, etc.) Each LHU student is assigned a Finnish student as a student tutor during the program. The Finnish tutors’ responsibilities are to help student participants find their way around the new culture, the university, and the community. Centria’s International Office plans excursions to Helsinki and Stockholm, Sweden, a trip to Lapland to meet Santa Claus, and a Nordic Outdoor Camp, at the beginning of the fall semester. In addition, students have the opportunity to see the Northern Lights.

**Academics**

LHU’s student exchange program with Centria focuses on international business studies offered through Centria University’s Department of Business Management. The program is designed in a series of modules, all taught in English, each of which consists of various courses related around a particular theme of business, be it entrepreneurship and product development; international marketing; foreign languages (including, as an option,
Finnish and Swedish languages for foreigners offered in the fall) and cross-cultural competencies. Some of the courses include Finnish Secrets and Culture; Finnish History, Finnish Politics, Business in Finland (Fall Only), and Getting Local and Global (Intercultural Communication.

**Housing and Meals**
Housing accommodations are coordinated through Centria’s International Office. Students are housed in apartments, 3 students per apartment. Each student has an individual room with shared kitchen and bathroom. The apartments are located approximately ¾ mile from the campus and less than ½ mile from the center of town. Sporting facilities are located within a five-minute walk. The apartments are furnished with a desk, chair, bed, bookshelf, reading lamp and a wardrobe. Students are responsible for their own bed linens and dinner sets, which can be purchased at reasonable cost in Kokkola. Students can expect to pay between185 to 200 Euros per month (approximately $200 to $250 per month) for housing. *In addition, a 240 Euro damage deposit (approximately $300), returnable at the end of the academic term, is required. Students can prepare their own meals and can expect to pay approximately 300 Euros (approximately $400) per month on groceries. Alternatively, they can eat lunch at the university restaurant for about 3 Euros a meal.*

**Air Travel** – students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. Please see the institute for International Studies for assistance.

**Tuition** - LHU students continue to pay LHU tuition and fees while attending Centria University. Students are billed for tuition and fees plus an additional $150 International Service Fee. Keep in mind that all financial aid can apply toward your study in Finland since you are participating in an LHU sponsored program. Please note, however, that it will be necessary to pay for activities such as athletic club memberships, if you wish to utilize those services.

**Academic Calendar**
The fall term begins in early September and ends in mid-December (20th). The spring term begins in early January and ends the end of April.

**Health Insurance**
All students are required to maintain a health insurance policy that will provide coverage while abroad. Information on international health insurance providers can be obtained from the Institute for International Studies. You may find that your present health insurance policy includes overseas coverage. It is important, however, that your carrier provide written verification of such coverage.

**So, how do I get started?**
Simply come by the Institute for International Studies to pick up an application form. Remember! Applications are due March 1 for the fall term and October 1 for the spring term.

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