

August 23, 2018

Dear exchange student,

I hope your first week in Finland has been exciting! Some of you I met at the airport, but I want to wish you all warmly welcome to Finland! Now that the school has started you have many practical questions. Please take a moment to read this email. 😊

This message contains important information about:

1. **E-books and ordering school books**
2. **Studying Finnish/Swedish**
3. **Applying for a Finnish student card**
4. **Being in contact with home and adjusting**

1. School books and e-books

For your basic studies course books you may fill in a form via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/afskoulukirjat18>

Regarding e-books (for basic studies): As many high schools are using e-books, you may yourself buy the license. Remember to get a receipt or a screenshot from the order. Then you can get the costs covered by filling in the reimbursement form ("kulukorvauslomake").

More instructions for school books order & return, and answers to many questions you may find here: <https://www.afs.fi/isantaperheeksi/#afs-nav-material-for-exchange-students>

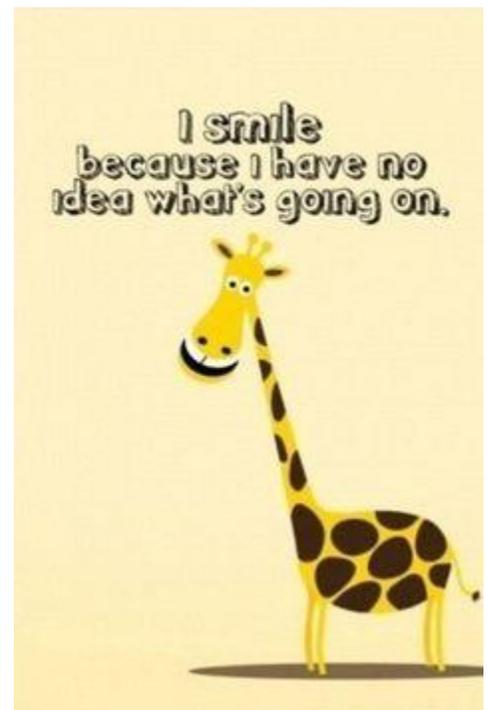
2. Studying Finnish

AFS supports Finnish/Swedish language studies with up to 80€ /student. You may sign up for a **Community College language course** in your area and get your money back by filling in the reimbursement form (kulukorvauslomake). The form is also available from here: <https://www.afs.fi/isantaperheeksi/#afs-nav-material-for-exchange-students>

For independent language studies (for all students), we have a discount voucher for WordDive's Comprehensive Finnish -package. Here is some information about WordDive:

"Over the past seven years, dozens of language learning professionals, engineers, user interface developers and psychologists have worked on developing WordDive. Launched in 2010 and awarded as best **e-learning solution** in Finland in 2011, WordDive combines the best of Finnish education know-how and game industry.

The WordDive application makes learning exceptionally fast and efficient. Thanks to the AI, the pace of learning and rehearsing of each study item can be optimised individually for each user. In addition, WordDive is based on the use of



multiple senses, which supports fast learning and achieving well-rounded language skills. All course material is created by native speakers and experienced professionals."

You may buy a license for 3, 6 or 12 months for Comprehensive Finnish package (suomeksi: Laaja Suomi-paketti) with a 30% discount with this code:

HLXK23.

It is also available from this link: <https://www.worddive.com/en/offer/HLXK23>.

Please note that the code is only valid until the end of September!

NOTE: The code and the purchase must be made on a computer, but after that you can also use the mobile app to study. You just have to download the WordDive-app from your application store and log in with your username and password.

This is a good extra study method even though you would already attend a Finnish class.

If you live in an area where you cannot attend a Finnish course, AFS will cover the costs of WordDive. You must first pay it yourself and then fill in the "kulukorvauslomake"/ reimbursement form to get your money back. AFS covers Finnish/Swedish studies up to 80 €/ year / student (course, e-course, books).

3. Applying for a Finnish student card

If you are older than 16, you may need a Finnish student card to get a discount for VR and Matkahuolto public transportation services. Find attached the application, fill it in and send it to toimisto@lukio.fi or mail it to the address found at the form. It takes a few weeks to process the order. They will then send you a bill and you will get the card within two weeks from paying it.

4. Being in contact with home

I take this opportunity to remind you: **Too much contact back home makes your adaptation process harder.** Try to consciously live in the reality that you are in here in Finland – you did not choose to go on an exchange program to report everything back home, but to get to know your host family and new friends and to learn about the Finnish culture and language. **So moderate the use of whatsapp and other social medium and be present and respectful to your community here in Finland. This will help you get the most out of your experience!**

AFS Intercultural Programs Finland ry

Malmrinne 1 B 4. kerros, FI-00180 Helsinki

[Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) ja [Twitter](#) @afsfinland

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