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International Business/International Trade

Feiting Ke

A GUIDEBOOK FOR CHINESE STUDENTS STUDYDING IN FINLAND

Bachelor's Thesis 2010

## ABSTRACT

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**A guidebook for Chinese students studying in Finland**

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53 pages + 1 appendix

Supervisor

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May 2010

Keywords

studying abroad, studying in Finland, application, preparation, culture

As an increasing proportion of Chinese students, they find the experience as an important part of their study years. Finland has turned out to be one of the favorite destinations for many Chinese students. This thesis serves as a guideline for all the potential Chinese applicants who plan to study in Finland.

As for the visible and invisible barriers when one is frustrated, this thesis provides a clear application procedure and an overall view of studying in Finland for Chinese students based on a survey.

By a short questionnaire with 20 Chinese respondents, this survey shows us the reasons and barriers for them to study in Finland. The questionnaire is used to collect information. In addition more information was gathered from publications, websites etc.

Finland is an attractive destination for many Chinese students. To apply to an ideal university is not that complex, to simplify the whole process. This thesis will guide the potential applicants to proceed.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Objective

There are countless countries and universities for you to choose all over the world. One interesting and versatile option is Finland. Studying in Finland enables more culture and international knowledge. In addition it also helps in improving language skills.

As we know, Finland is located near Sweden, Norway, Russia and Estonia.

Universities of Applied Sciences Network 2010 have statistics that indicates a total of 20 universities and also 28 universities of applied science in Finland. An estimation of 8400 foreign students with a vast 40 nationalities is on a university degree in Finland. In addition 7200 other students are on an exchange program or on independent studies. This thesis shows some reasons why Chinese students want to come to study in Finland, and it gives an overview of studying in Finland

This thesis has two main functions, firstly, as an introduction of applying the school, it will guide you how / what / when to choose a university in Finland by yourself or via an agency, and the whole preparation needed for this stage before arriving in Finland. Secondly, it provides a reliable instrument for studying and living in Finland. So this thesis in a unique position to help Chinese students realize the feasibility of their study abroad plans.

### 1.2 Structure of the thesis

This thesis is structured into two parts comprising seven chapters. And every chapter ends of my own comments and suggestions. The first theoretical part focuses on how to apply in a university to study in Finland and while the second practical part gives and insight into the Finnish way of living.

Chapter one presents a general introduction for the students who plan to take their higher education degree in Finland. The whole structure of this paper is also presented here as an overview. And the research methodology is fully indicated and explained as the base of this thesis.

Chapter two raises the main reasons why students choose to study abroad and questions of the barriers that might arise to the Chinese students who “have selected” Finland as their country of study. Theoretically, by interviews, conclusions are drawn based on the analysis of the answers of the respondents.

Chapter three offers a more thorough look into the method of applying to study in Finland through the introduction of the information collection, school selection and the requirement of the applicant. If one doesn't want to apply in person, they can also refer to the assistance of the agency. And this chapter is based much more on the personal experience.

Chapter four shows the preparation that one should know before leaving China. The chapter provides a wide range of versatile information on the passport and visa application, the related insurance and the bank situation. Similar to the previous chapter, the conclusion is drawn practically.

Chapter five indicates the local policy, institution and the government authorities that might help a lot when arriving in Finland. And also the instruction of how to solve the accommodation problem and other similar barrier one might encounter when arriving in Finland. This makes sure one is ready to put all of what one has learned into practice.

Chapter six presents you how to reduce the affects of culture shock through a briefing introduction of the local culture, the climate and the food. Before all preparations have been done, this chapter will make the transition easier when one arrives in Finland. By reading numerous of related publications, this chapter could be regarded as a

summarized picture of the Finland.

And the last chapter seeks to give an overview of study in Finland. It will help one to make your decision and selection accordingly.

### 1.3 Methodology

The purpose of this study is to introduce how they apply university , what kind of preparation do they need to do before leaving China, after arriving what they should do, and also introduce three agencies for those who want to apply universities by agency. The survey shows some benefits and barriers studying in Finland for Chinese students, also ask them how they can collect information, why they select Finland as their destination and what kind of preparations they should do before they come to Finland. Through introducing culture difference, hoping this will let the students who want to study in Finland adapt to the life in Finland as soon as possible.

The method of this study is through a questionnaire to gather information, clear them up, and according to the information to analyze them. The respondents of this study have all been studying in Finland more than one year. The ages of the respondents are between 17-24 years old. Except from our university, others are from different universities in Helsinki and Oulu. The purpose is mainly to get a wider range of information about studying in Finland. At the same time, the study is to get other relevant information from the publications, web sites and government institutions.

The research has also been done through the kina Chinese Community to pose the questions online. The questions are focusing on the reasons and the barriers for studying in Finland, how they can know and select the university, and also made a small survey based on these questions. It'll be much easier to gather adequate specific information, like the procedure of getting the visa and the pre-departure preparation, or even the recommendation of the agencies.



This thesis aims to become a reference for all Chinese students who decide to study in Finland. The general introduction of Finland provides an overall view for the readers. By the methodology I used, it helps to hit the target and performs a basic acknowledge for how the thesis will proceed.

## 2. REASONS AND BARRIERS TO STUDY IN FINLAND

### 2.1 Reasons for studying in Finland

Studying abroad can make someone diversify their experience and broaden their eyes. If you can study abroad you can enjoy the free time, know more about different culture, it could be an interesting experience in your life. Studying abroad is a good choice when you select a university.

Studying abroad means you must live by yourself. You must arrange everything personally. It is not only about studying professional knowledge, but also can improve your own self-help skills. You know that it is expensive if you eat outside or, so you must cook by yourselves and take care of yourself.

Of course, living in a foreign country can easily achieve in more knowledge and also improving your language skills. It must be helpful for your future.

According to the research of AUCC, this research shows that the top three reasons of the students study abroad. The most main reason to study abroad is to “develop global citizens” and then is “to strengthen students’ international understanding” and the last one is “to develop students’ international cultural awareness and skills.”

Base of the research of AUCC, I also make a small survey. Now more and more Chinese students prefer to study abroad, and when asked for their main reasons of

study abroad, all the respondents placed “more employability” among their reasons. The next most frequently mentioned reasons were “Developing a different cultural awareness and skills” and “Strengthen global understanding”. As the research shows below:

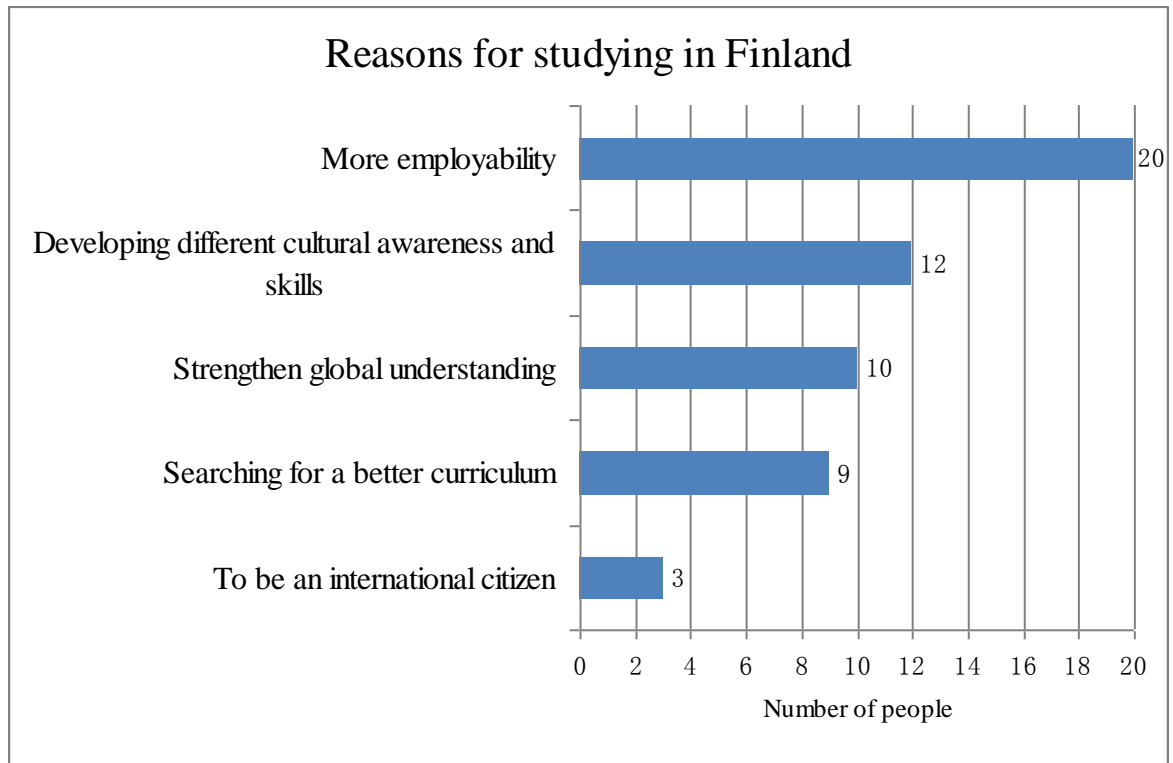


Figure 1 Reasons for Studying in Finland

All the respondents indicated that to study abroad were planned by their parents already when they were in the high school, which could be regarded as a typical phenomenon for the parent oriented society in China, rather than the kids to live on their own way.

## 2.2 Barriers of studying in Finland

Students who want to study aboard are not an easy thing for most Chinese students. There are also some barriers for them to deal with. According to the table (FIG 2).but from the research of AUCC, it shows that the most barriers is also lack of funds and

the next one is students are not interested, the third one is low awareness and commitment and faculty.

However, from my research, some of the reasons are similar. Some are a little bit different. Firstly, lack of funds or financial support. Although there is no tuition fee for full-time students or for international students, it usually costs more to study abroad. After finishing a degree abroad, a lot of money must be spent. Air tickets and the fees of living expenses are both expensive. We also need to consider the money exchange rate. Compared to studying in China, studying in Finland is much more expensive. However, all Chinese students rely on their family. So when one decides to study abroad, you must consider the financial support from your family.

Secondly, when studying and living abroad you might feel uneasy with the locals, the total different Finnish way of living, and the low awareness of the local can also be a barrier. No matter how much preparation you've done, there is still always a certain level of culture shock associated with entering a country that speaks a language you don't know. Student's housing could be a headache if you don't know the right and smart way to apply. It'll be hard to fit in with the local way of the communication at the very beginning.

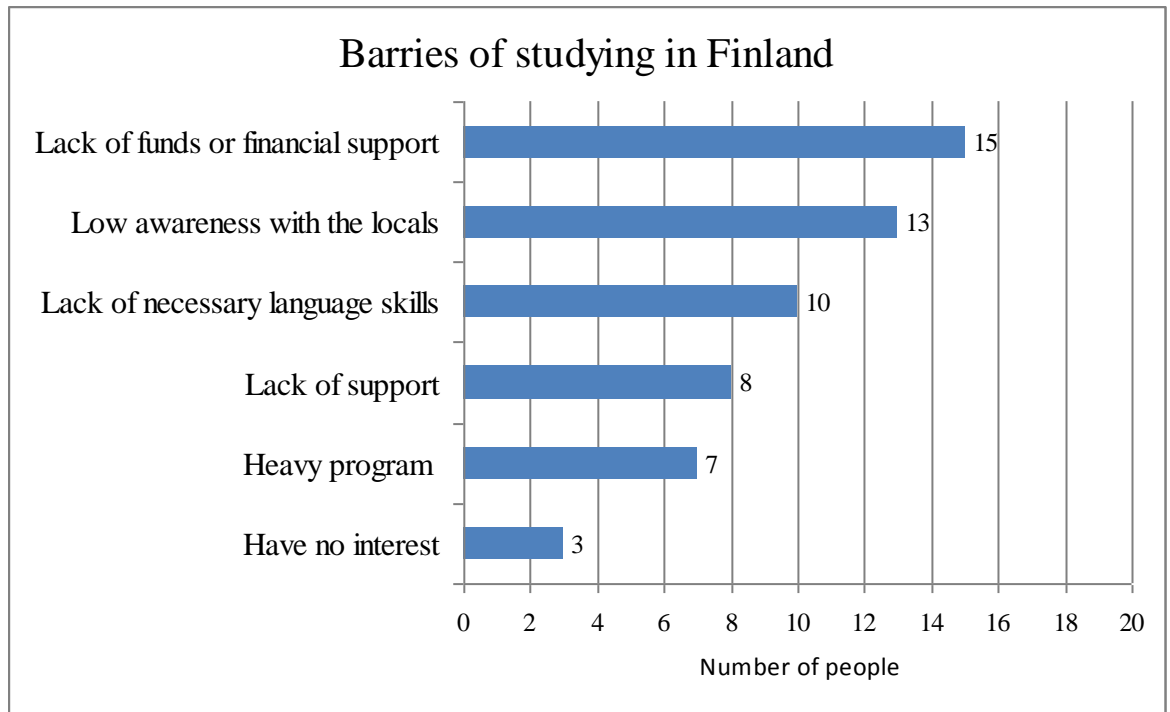


Figure 2 Barriers for Studying in Finland

Thirdly, students need to know the language of Finland in order to study and live overseas. Neither Finnish nor English is an easy language. But as we know government languages in Finland are Finnish and Swedish. So that means not all of Finnish people can speak English. There will be a common misunderstanding in bad communication. Learning some basic Finnish is essential.

Fourthly, due to the inadequate support services, it's totally unfamiliar for the students to apply to study abroad in lack of support services. Some students will find it's hard to gather the related information and find out about the destination. What's more the whole procedure of applying study abroad is so unfamiliar which might become a barrier to their study abroad plans.

### 2.3 Comments and suggestions

Finland is an ideal country for most of Chinese students to study. In Finland there are lots of benefits for international students. The studying and living environments are

also quite good, safe and comfortable. The conditions of studying are comprehensive. Studying in Finland enables good practice in language and communication skills and learning more about a different culture.

If one decides to come to Finland, there will be some barriers for them. Certainly, one can not blindly go to study in Finland. Before coming to Finland, essentially one must have a study plan, and think carefully of the reasons to want to study abroad and after that what you want to do.

### 3. APPLYING FOR STUDIES IN FINLAND

#### 3.1 Information about Finnish school

##### 3.1.1 The system of study in Finland

The Finnish education system consists of the following as indicated by Center of International Mobility (2009a, 4):

Pre-school education

Comprehensive school

Post-comprehensive general and vocational education

Higher education (universities and university of applied sciences)

Adult education

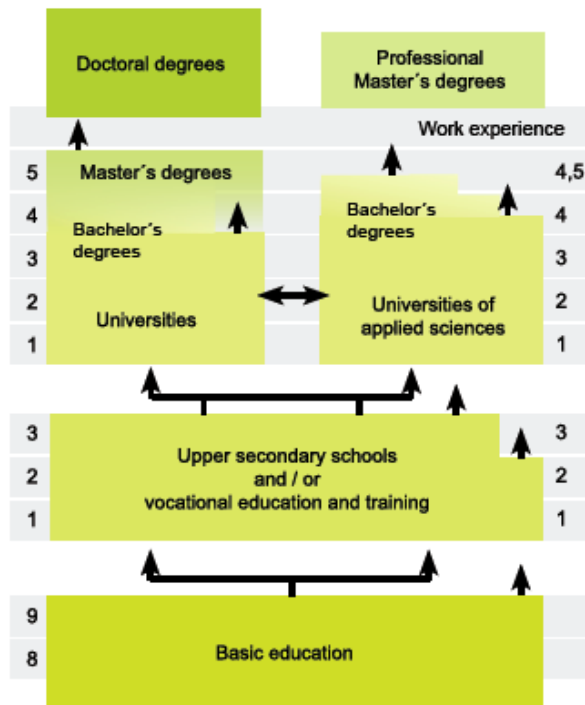


Figure 3 Finnish Education Systems (Center of International Mobility 2009a, 4)

## University

Today Finland has one of the most comprehensive university networks in Europe.

A Bachelor's degree consists of basic and intermediate studies in the major subject, including completing a Bachelor's thesis, and studies in one or more minor subjects and language studies, which is selected by most of Chinese students. While a Master's degree includes advanced studies and the completion of a Master's thesis. Research and the preparation of a substantial thesis are essential parts of the studies for both Licentiate and Doctoral degrees.

Different as in China, the extent of studies is measured in ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credits. One year of full-time study is equivalent to 60 ECTS credits.

The lower Bachelor's degree takes 3 years and is worth 180 ECTS credits

The higher Master's degree takes 2 years and is worth 120 ECTS credits

The doctoral degree takes 4 years and is worth 240 ECTS credits

University of applied science

University of applied science education focuses on International business/trade, international marketing and some professional region.

(Center of International Mobility, 2009c)

University of applied science Institutions/UAS provide education in the following fields of professional education and training:

Humanities and Education

Culture

Social Sciences, Business and Administration

Natural Sciences

Technology, Communication and Transport

Natural Resources and the Environment

Social Services, Health and Sport

Tourism, Catering and Domestic Services

(Center of International Mobility, 2009b)

The University of Applied Science Degrees is Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

The Bachelor's degree takes from 3.5 to 4.5 years and is worth 210–240 ECTS credits

The Master's degree takes 1.5 to 2 years and is worth 60–90 ECTS credits.

(Center of International Mobility, 2009b)

### 3.1.2 Source of information gathering

According to the survey, most of the respondents got information about studying in Finland from the exhibition in home country or their university which they are studying in. They have the programs which are cooperated with the universities in Finland or they seek the information online while some are introduced by the experienced students.

When one is going abroad, young people seek advice and information from people who have been or lived in the designated country. There were many education exhibition and seminar that were organized by Finnish government or Finnish education association, which is also a main source for the Chinese students to get information. Respondents were content with the amount of information they received there. What's more, sometimes you can even make interview appointment during the education exhibition.

How to gather all the information that you need when you apply to study in Finland?  
Normally there are several sources for the preparation period:



Online search

Experienced friends / returned students

Related education exhibition / seminar in home country

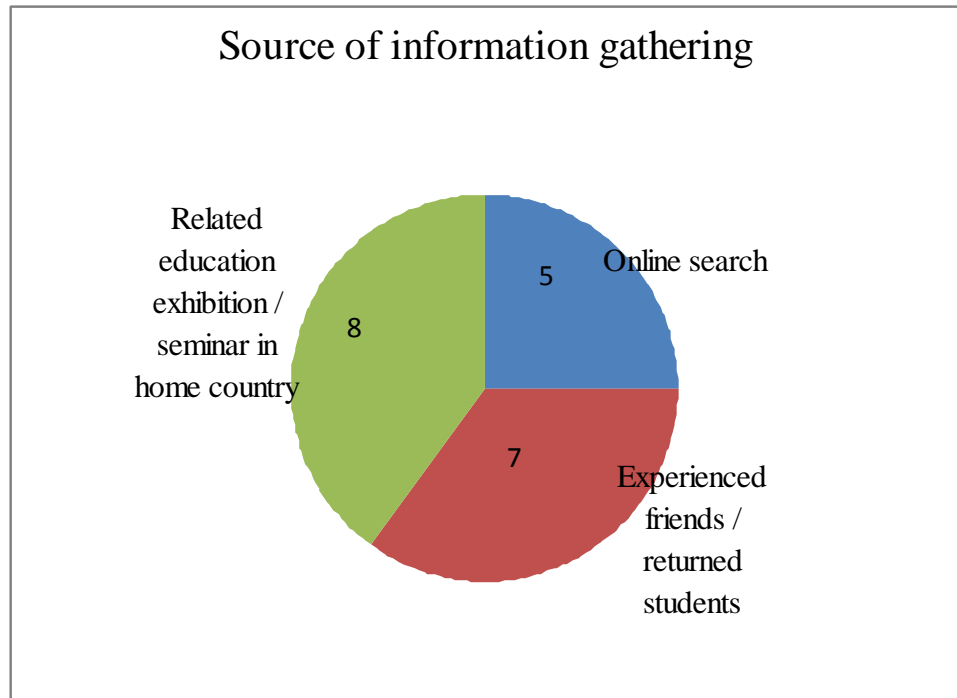


Figure 4 Source of Information Gathering

According to the research, the web-based information will be the main source apart from the others. For instance, [www.kina.cc](http://www.kina.cc), the biggest Chinese forum for studying in Finland, there is a list of all the Finnish universities for you to refer and you can check it out one by one by visiting the university's web site or to e-mail to the related admission office to require for the information you need (e.g. <http://kina.cc/fi/uni.htm>). The Kina forum is also a good place to know the comments and reviews for all the university written by different students. Moreover the articles are a big help for some details.

After gathering all the information you need then you can start the application. There

is a system especially for applying the University of Applied Sciences available now. So it is easy to finish the application form. You can through [www.admissions.fi](http://www.admissions.fi) to apply into the university you choose. The language is also in English. The University Admissions electronic Online Application is available at [www.universityadmissions.fi](http://www.universityadmissions.fi).

(Finnish University Admission, 2010)

For more University information one can refer to International Study Programmes 2009–2010, Degree Programmes published by Center of International Mobility, at [http://www.studyinfinland.fi/publications/Study\\_in\\_Finland\\_2009\\_2010.html](http://www.studyinfinland.fi/publications/Study_in_Finland_2009_2010.html)

### 3.2 Applicant requirement

According to the Finnish admissions of the universities, different universities have different rules in selecting their students. Normally, requirements are based according to your IELTS or TOEL scores. Besides this, one must also attend the entrance exam from the university.

As the application guide 2010 of Kymenlaakso University of Applied Science 2009 shows that:

*University of applied sciences set their own admissions criteria. The entry requirements are:*

*Upper secondary education or matriculation examination*

*Professional basic examination or corresponding qualification acquired in adult education*

*Or corresponding foreign studies*

*Good command of English must usually be certified for all applicants. Applicant from China must prove of his/her English language skills by providing one of the following minimum requirements:*

*IELTS score academic level 6.0 or*

*TOEFL score 550 paper-based test/ 213 computer-based/ 79-80 internet -based test,  
or*

*grade C in the Finnish matriculation examination in advanced level English  
(IB-examination grade 4 completed in Finland, Reifeprüfung –examination grade 7  
completed in Finland or EB-examination grade 6.00-6.95),*

*or skills level 4 in English in the Finnish general language examination ([www.oph.fi](http://www.oph.fi)  
=> Tutkintopalvelut => Yleiset kielitutkinnot).*

Both TOEFL and IELTS test results are valid for two years. And these two are the main tests that Chinese students usually take in China.

The application guide 2010 of Kymenlaakso University of Applied Science also shows that: for master degree, you must have at least three years of work experience of any job, after completing the applied form. This is a must when you apply. The application documents should be sent to the admission office for each applied university accordingly.

According to Kymenlaakso University of applied sciences all applicants who meet the admission criteria will receive invitation letters to the examinations. At last, they will choose their students according to the scores of the entrance exams. If you are accepted by the university, they will send you a letter of acceptance. Once the students receive it, they must confirm in a certain time period. Otherwise the student will lose the chance to study in designated university.

### 3.3 Introduction of the agents

With so much information readily available online, one might ask, "Why should we hire an educational agent?" If they can not apply a university through the Internet or through regular mailing method, then they might think about to hire an agent. For the application, some can, but many cannot. So if you have the same application problem, then here are several reasons why you might need help of a professional agent.

What is an education agency? It is a single organization, which can give you professional suggestions, evaluation and support and help you to select university, arrange everything till you are accepted by the university you chose. In addition they will arrange your flight and accommodations as well.

As the research shows few of the respondents were applied with the help of the agents, while most of the respondents are applied online in person. The service fees of the agency are quite expensive. That also means nowadays, the young students are more familiar with the internet. With the help of the friends who used to study in Finland, they could successfully apply by themselves also.

Let's take some examples for several Chinese agencies which could be considered as an option when you decide to study in Finland.

#### (1) Bole Overseas Education

Bole is established and authorized in 1998, which has more than 40 offices in 26 provinces all over China and more than 20 offices in US, Canada, Australia, UK, France, Russia, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Demark, Swiss, Finland, Ireland, China, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, HK, etc. meanwhile it is establishing a good relationship with more than 2000 universities all over the world. (Bole Overseas Education, 2010)

As an experienced agency in China, Bole provides all the above mentioned array of services for Chinese students. Bole has an office in North Europe, which can help the Chinese students know more about the information in North Europe countries like Finland. Like the other agencies, the general procedure will be:

a) the school selection

- free online or telephone evaluation for the applicants: normally the high school graduated student, the freshman of the university and the student with Bachelor's Degree could apply for a university in Finland (all should with English courses), student could process the evaluate at: <http://www.bole.me/evaluate/> or by phone +86-10-65156886 within minutes.
- free study-abroad plan design: according to the evaluation result and the certain situation of the student, they will design several suitable study-abroad plans for the student to choose

b) School application

- for Bachelor's Degree applicants online application that can be accessed at [www.admissions.fi](http://www.admissions.fi) while for Master's Degree, applicants need to download and fill up all the application forms. When these forms are ready, the following documentation will be prepared according to the application requirements listed on the Finnish University Admission 2010:
  - Transcripts: It should be notarized by the public notary office from the city and the province also.
  - English score: normally the score of your IELTS or TOEFL are required.
  - Statement of Purpose (SOP): it is an additional material which shows your

reasons, objective and goals to study in Finland, it is not a must.

- Recommendation Letters: it could be an extra credit part, if you can prepare it.
- Bank statement: it shows your financial support from your family. It also can make sure you have enough money to prove you live in Finland.
- Health insurances: it is a must for every student who wants to study in Finland.

c) visa application

- Cooperation with the banks, Bole has good relationship with “Ever Bright Bank” and could provide all related bank services for the applicants.
- When applying the Finnish visa, you need to prepare the following documents according to the Embassy of Finland, 2010:
  - Application form (OLE1 and OLE4)
  - High school graduation certificate (notarized)
  - Passport
  - Health insurance
  - Bank statement
  - Citizen identified card

- IELTS or TOEFL score
  
- Photo

And all the documents should be prepared 2 copies. The working duration of application is around 45 days.

d) pre-departure training

- free plane ticket booking service with a good price
  
- lectures for the introduction of the Finnish culture, weather, food, habit and local policies.

e) Follow up service by Bole as they indicated on their website will be:

- pick up help from the airport when arriving
  
- arrange the accommodation according to the requirement respectively

The agent fee is from EUR 2,000 to EUR 5,000 according to the different requirement and the situation. (Bole Overseas Education, 2010a)

Sometimes it is said that when the applicant's qualification is not that good, then agency could help to communicate with the cooperated university and help to ease the procedure and get the entrance permission as they planned. (Bole Overseas Education, 2010a)

For example: Mr. ZHANG, who studied in Anhui, China at a non 211 university (not the key university) in the major of Law with the IELTS of 6.5 with the related working experience. He then used services by Bole to help to apply for a North European

university. And the agent provided two options Abo Akademi University and University of Oslo both for International Law in September 2008. With the perfect application documentations prepared, both universities sent the invitation letter in June 2009. He was enrolled by Abo Akademi University. (Bole Overseas Education, 2010)

## 2) Oversea Study of Global Education

This is an overseas educational consultant which has helped many students realize their dreams. It was established in 1997, and the training institution was set up in 2007, more than an agency. It also focuses on the related education, and provides more study opportunities to study in Europe.

From the study plan, application documentation, pre-departure preparation, plane ticket booking to the accommodation settlement and follow up tracing etc., all these professional services are offered to the clients, with the consulting fee from EUR 2,000 to EUR 5,000 dependently as their website listed. (Oversea Study of Global Education, 2010)

Many successful cases for applying to study in Finland could be stated:

- Ms. CAI, a graduate from Beijing Forrest University, she is majoring in Biology Information, has always been fascinated with the north European culture. GPA 81% and IELTS 6.5, and with the assistance of WEF, she applied to study in Finland and received the offer from the University of Helsinki, Biology Science. Ms. CAI is an outgoing twenty year old, who is always looking for a new adventure. She is hoping to improve her language skills, learn more about the dynamic Finnish culture, and acquire some good stories along the way.

- A 2008 graduate of Liaoning Normal University, Ms. HU planned to study in north Europe, as she's got a GPA 83% and IELTS 6.5. With the help of the agent, she



successfully received the offer from the University of Turku, Environment and Education System. She plans to stay two more years in Finland to get her Masters degree in Environment engineering if possible. Ms. Hu feels very fortunate to have this opportunity now and plans to take advantage of all of the possibilities that Finland and Europe have to offer.

(Oversea Study of Global Education, 2010)

- Mr. LUO, graduated from Jilin University in 2009 majored in International Business. Through applying WEF, he got the offer from the University of Helsinki, Economics, he will be taking the culture courses that may include trips to various cultural spots in Finland. He is very excited to finally explore the country that he has studied. (WEF, 2010b)

As mentioned above, you might find it much easier to find an agency to handle all the application procedure:

- Convenient: education agency can handle nearly every aspect of the application from, e.g. study design to documentation preparation, visa application, transportation arrangement, accommodation and more. This is also indicated as the top reason for the Chinese students to select an agency.
- Expert guidance: agents are experts in helping students into getting which university they are suitable to apply and in helping to create possibilities most people never would have thought of.
- Save time: avoiding headaches and hassle, and letting the agents call around and does all the time consuming work of planning a complex application procedure.
- Simplify choice: agents offer you many options and price quotes from a

variety of universities, giving you the upper hand when making your final study decisions.

- Less stress: planning to study abroad can be stressful. There are so many options and details to worry about. When the agents do most the work, it'll be less stress for you.
- Application documentation: agents can help you to prepare and organize any necessary documents that you may need in order to study outside of the country. They can direct you to your local passport office, and they know where do you need a visa, how to get a visa and any other documentation that you might need along the way as well.
- Local traditions: specialists can update you on all local traditions and customs of places you will study in, for one to make a good impression.
- Local laws: many countries have laws that are very different from your own. Agents can help give you a quick rundown of what you need to be aware of before you go.

(Oversea Study of Global Education, 2010)

### 3) EIC Group

EIC Group specialized in international education for over 20 years. And it is famous and faithful in China. As a professional educational agency, it provides lots of high quality service. (EIC Group, 2010)

Their service range could be summarized as Figure 6 shows:

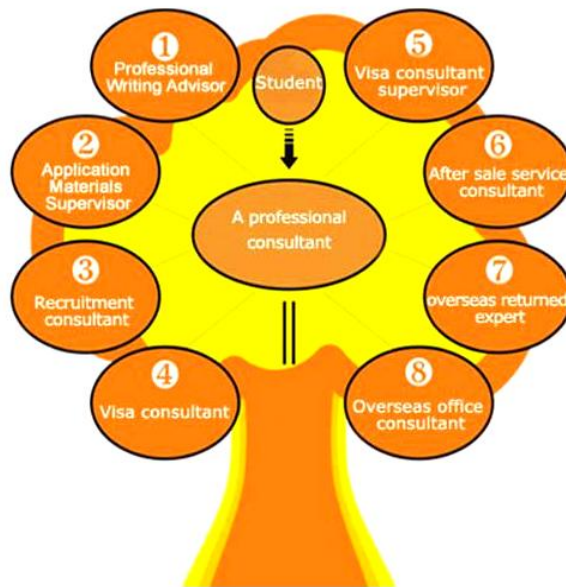


Figure 5 The Service for Student (EIC Group, 2010)

As the EIC website indicated that EIC has a consulting group especially for the Scandinavian area, and will focus more on the study to the five countries: Finland, Demark, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. As a professional consulting agency, the following benefits for study in the Scandinavia could be summarized:

- You don't need to pay for the tuitions, the government compensates the study fees in Finland.
- the environment of Finland is quite good, whether it is the study surrounding or living environment, comparing to other countries, Finland is safer.
- the benefits for students here are pretty good. For those foreign students are same as the local students.

(EIC Group, 2010)

With so many benefits of using an agency, you might take it into consideration when you start to apply for a Finnish university.

### 3.4 Comments and suggestions

When you choose an agency, you must take care of any details. As we know educational service is as a business. So before you authorized the agency, you must know more about the company. Just in case, the facts are different from the information which are informed you. In view of the information's reliability, when you select the agency, you must choose a high reputation and responsible one.

This chapter provides information that will help you in choosing and provide numerous information from the school selection, application, pre-departure preparation to the arrival settlement. In the later chapters more information will be provided as guidance for study in Finland.

## 4. BEFORE LEAVING CHINA FOR STUDYING IN FINLAND

### 4.1 Receiving the acceptance for the university of applied science

Once you receive the acceptance of the University of Applied Science, you must give the answer as soon as possible. You also need to fulfill the form of applying the apartment. Give the exact day when you will arrive in Finland and the university can arrange your apartment and ask the tutor to pick you up.

### 4.2 Passport application

As the pre-departure preparation, when you get the offer from a Finnish university, you can start to prepare. Preparation of following issues are essential, to be sure that you can leave for Finland without any problems, if you want to apply by yourself.

When Chinese students are coming to Finland they need a valid passport. The

following steps will show you how to get the passport as a Chinese citizen. You can apply it for through the local police station. The requirement and procedure are almost the same, but might be a little bit different according to the different region. Just take Shanghai for example, as Shanghai Police Station 2010 shows:

#### Step 1: Complete and Submit Form “Application for a Chinese Citizen Passport”

When you start to apply the passport, you can get the application form from the local appointed police station or you can download it from the web site, for Shanghai, for instance, it’s available at <http://www.police.sh.cn/shga/gweb/>, print it out when it’s been filled up correctly. Passport must be applied in person and at your registered permanent residence place.

#### Step 2: Submit Original Evidence of Chinese Citizenship

When applying for a China passport in person, evidence of Chinese citizenship must be submitted with the Application Form. As the police station shows all original documentation submitted as citizenship evidence, which will be returned to you after the present identification. The documentation will be:

- *Original Permanent Residence Booklet or Certificate of Citizenship issued by the city or the county or your permanent residence place.*
- *Original Citizen Identification Card*
- *Original Social Insurance Card*

(Shanghai Police Station, 2010)

#### Step 3: Submit a Photocopy of the Original Document Presented (Step 2)

The photocopy of all original documentation must be prepared that you will present when you apply. And all photocopies must be on plain white, A4 standard paper stock, and one copy is needed for each:

- *Copy of Original Permanent Residence Booklet or Certificate of Citizenship must show the first page and the page with the applicant's name*
- *Copy of Original Citizen Identification Card must show the front and the back of your ID, You may enlarge the image of your ID on the A4 page, but you may not decrease the size of the image.*
- *Copy of Original Social Insurance Card must show the front and the back of your Social Insurance Card*

(Shanghai Police Station, 2010)

#### Step 4: Provide Three Passport Photos

Your photographs must be:

- *Identical*
- *In color*
- *2 x 2 inches in size*
- *Taken within the past 6 months, showing current appearance*
- *Full face, front view with a plain white or off-white background*
- *Between 1 inch and 1 3/8 inches from the bottom of the chin to the top of the*

*head*

(Shanghai Police Station, 2010)

#### Step 5: Present Identification

When applying for a Chinese passport in person, acceptable identification must be presented at the time of application.

#### Step 6: Pay Application fee

Application fee RMB 200, which is the same national wide as the police station states.

The passport will be ready in 10 working days and you can choose to get it in person or receive it by courier. (Shanghai Police Station, 2010)

### 4.3 Money matter to be taken care of

An account statement or a bank statement is requested when applying the visa. According to the Finnish Consulate, an account statement must show the balance of your account to prove that you have the ability to live on your own. Now all the banks in China provide the service. But normally we open the bank statement in Bank of China.

When you apply for a bank statement, according to my own experience, normally you should:

#### Step 1: Open a deposit account

- when open a deposit account you need to take ID card or passport with you and apply in person
- apply the CNY / EUR two currencies account
- when the account is available, deposit EUR 6,000 equivalent US Dollar for 3 months
- account opening is for free for most of the local bank

#### Step 2: Apply for a bank statement

- there are three-month statement, six-month state and one-year statement
- please note that when the statement is issued the account will be frozen until the statement is expired, which means when you ask for a three-month statement, you cannot deposit or withdraw until three months later
- three-month bank statement is recommended

#### Step 3: Application fee

- when finish step 1 and 2 then just wait for the statement
- the bank statement need to be supplied by the bank and the person in charge will sign and approved accordingly
- normally you can get the statement within half an hour, so just be patient
- different region has different service fees ,normally it is vary from CNY 50-100



(Bank of China, 2010)

Or you can ask the bank to issue a bill of exchange with the payee's name of the university you've applied.

#### 4.4 Getting health insurance

For Chinese students they must have a health insurance attached to their residence application. More detailed information is provided by the Finnish Immigration Service.

From 2008, the Finnish Immigration formulated that the foreign students who want to study in Finland. They must submit student insurance, when they apply for the visa. This is done, in order to lighten their economical burden, if they are hurt or some kind of accident happens when they are living in Finland.

- *For studies of less than two years in duration, a student must have private insurance which primarily covers the costs of medical treatment up to 100,000 euros (cost level in 2008).*
- *Where the duration of the studies is two years or more, a student will usually have a home municipality in Finland and is therefore entitled to municipal health care services. In such cases, it is sufficient for the insurance to primarily cover the cost of medicines (in practice the cover extends to doctor's fees and costs of treatment and examination), up to 30,000 euros (cost level in 2008).*

(Finnish Immigration Service, 2010)

But unfortunately, most Chinese agencies are not authorized or the price is too high to be accepted. Here I would like to take International Student Insurance for example, which has a much more reasonable premium and conditions according to my own experience:

	Worldwide Including the USA		Worldwide Excluding the USA	
	Budget	Select	Budget	Select
Under 19	\$42	\$66	\$33	\$50
19-23	\$45	\$88	\$33	\$50
24-30	\$90	\$150	\$33	\$50
31-40	\$150	\$199	\$92	\$114
41-50	\$249	\$350	\$120	\$189
51-64	\$338	\$450	\$175	\$255

Figure 6 Premium for International Student Health Insurance (International Student Health Insurance 2010)

To be eligible for this insurance, participants must meet all of the following requirements:

- *Must be a full-time student at a college or university, excluding online colleges and universities, or within 31 days of being a full-time student at a college or university; or must be a full-time scholar affiliated with an educational institution and performing work or research for at least 30 hours per week.*
- *Must be residing outside Home Country for the purpose of pursuing international educational activities.*
- *Must not have obtained residency status in the Host Country.*

(International Student Health Insurance, 2010)

Here we take the Multinational insurance as example. If you are qualified and have an international credit card which can pay US dollar, then it is highly recommended to apply the insurance online:

**Step 1: Basic Information**

- After reading the benefit and the condition of the insurance listed on:

<http://www.internationalstudentinsurance.com/student-health-insurance/benefits.php>

- You can start to apply online at:

[https://server.internationalstudentnetwork.com/ISI/atlas\\_international/quote.htm](https://server.internationalstudentnetwork.com/ISI/atlas_international/quote.htm)

- Read the content carefully and answer according to your actual situation, for example:

Will your trip include the US or US territories as a destination country? This should be No of course, as you've applied to Finland as your destination.

Date of Departure from Home Country and the Date of Return to Home Country, there should be one year at least since this is the minimum stay period for the insurance when as the visa application requests.

Your age, just fill in the actual age which should be the same as the passport show.

Leave the blank for Spouse's Age (if to be covered), the Number of children to be covered and the Sports Rider Coverage, unless you need to take your wife/husband/kids along.

For Online Fulfillment, should choose Yes, and this is the online payment as mentioned before.

After submit this page, the formal application form will be available to access.

## **Step 2: Insurance Details**

I started with 369.90 (US Dollar), the minimum amount. But the premium is not fixed, and varies according to different deductible amount.

*A "premium" is agreed upon fees paid for coverage of medical benefits for a defined benefit period. Premiums can be paid by employers, unions, employees, or shared by both the insured individual and the plan sponsor. (Multinational Insurance, 2009, 3)*

*A "deductible" is a specific dollar amount during the benefit period that your health insurance company may require that you pay out-of-pocket each year before your health insurance plan begins to make payments for claims. (Multinational Insurance, 2009, 4)*

For example, if you choose \$100 as the deductible, and when the actual cost is less than \$100, you should pay all the cost by yourself. The health care related expenditure is \$150, and then \$50 can be reimbursed by the insurance company. The higher the deductible, the lower the premium will be. When the deductible is \$100, the premium will be \$369.90, while the deductible is \$0, the premium will be \$420. So how much deductible you want to choose will depend on your own needs.

Maximum Coverage – the cap amount for the reimbursement, \$50,000 will be enough, which is equivalent to EUR 30,000 as the Finnish Immigration Service department request.

For the part where it states: would you like to add an extra month for End of Trip

Home Country Coverage, no need to change.

### **Step 3: Personal Information**

Here you need input your personal information, and for the Name of Beneficiary, which means that will benefit from your death.

Please be careful when you input all your information, don't make any mistakes and be sure to double check before you confirm the order, soon your premium will be deducted from your credit card, and you'll receive your order form in your mail box, check and print it out.

The insurance order you've received is not the final one which the visa requests. Enter the Client zone and use the ID the web site provided to access and find the Visa Letter – View and print my Visa Letter, which is the one visa request. Download the PDF file called CONFIRMATION OF COVERAGE. Here I take my own insurance policy as an example. Please see the Appendix.

Prepare some copies of the insurance order which will be requested for the residence permit when arrive in Finland.

When all these are ready then you can start to apply the visa.

## 4.5 Getting a visa to study in Finland

As a Chinese student when they are entering into Finland, they must have a valid visa.

According to Finnish Immigration Service, if they are accepted by the university and they have the qualification to apply the visa. At [www.formin.finland.fi](http://www.formin.finland.fi) for foreign nationals who just arrive in Finland (Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, 2010).

In China there're only three Finnish Consulates that accept the visa application which is located in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou with the same procedure.

As a Chinese student, before applying the visa, the following documentation should be prepared as the Finnish Consulate 2010 indicates:

- *Application Forms OLE1 and OLE4 (information for parent must be correctly filled in)*
- *High school graduation certificate (notarized)*
- *Passport with at least valid for 6 months*
- *International student health insurance*
- *Original bank statement (at least EUR 6,000 or the equivalent US Dollar)*
- *Citizen identified card*
- *IELTS or TOEFL score*
- *University admission notice (if available)*
- *Three photographs*

(The Embassy of Finland, 2010)

According to my own experience, all the documents should be prepared at least 2 copies, all the original documentation will be returned after the present identification, the application circle is around 45 days, which is the same for all the three consulates.

For study visa application, interview is not a must, and just be sure that all the documentation is correct and then waiting for the reply.

#### 4.6 Comments and suggestions

In this chapter, pre-departure preparation of the passport, health insurance, bank statement and visa are introduced. If you decide to apply in person, then just be careful for all the documentation you've prepared and be sure no mistakes are made accordingly.

To save time, passport application, bank statement application (have a deposit account already) can be done by online reservation, while health insurance can be applied and confirmed online, which is very convenient for the applicants.

In the later chapter, more information is available for what you should do and know when you arrive in Finland.

### 5. ARRIVING IN FINLAND

#### 5.1 Students registration

According to the local policy, foreigners want to stay in Finland for at least one year,

They must submit personal identity data to the Population Information System for registration. Registration takes place in a local register office.

Once arrived, you should open an account in the local Finnish bank with your own name and issue a bank statement with the amount of 6,000 euros within two weeks to the directorate of Immigration:

ULKOMAALAVISVIRASTO PL 18 , 00581 HELSINKI, PANIMOKATU 2A

Tel :+358 9 476 5500 Fax :+358 9 47655 858

VUORIKATU 1, KOUVOLA, 45100

Tel +358 71 87 34120 , Fax: +358 71 87 34 132

(Finnish Immigration Service, 2010)

## 5.2 Residence permits for students

For Chinese students who intend to stay in Finland for more than 90 days, they must obtain a residence permit from the Finnish diplomatic mission in their home country before entering Finland. (Academy of Finland, 2010)

Just fill in the application form and submit it, along with relevant appendices, to the Finnish diplomatic mission 2010. Required appendices:

- *letter of acceptance from a Finnish educational institution, which includes information on the duration of studies, the language of study and the degree aimed for*
- *details of comprehensive health insurance cover*
- *if necessary, a statement of the applicant's previous studies and language skills, and*



*proof of means of support.*

(The Embassy of Finland, 2010)

For Chinese students, they should apply in China. The applicant must remain abroad while waiting for the decision on the permit application.

*The first residence permit is issued by the Finnish Immigration Service, which receives the application from the Finnish diplomatic mission. First residence permit for studies costs EUR 125 for one year. And the average processing times for the residence permit is around 26 days.* (The Finnish Immigration Service, 2010)

A residence permit application form, Clarification on studies form and information about fees for permits can be found at <http://www.uvi.fi>

### 5.3 Cost in Finland

It is important that you as a student have sufficient funding for the entire study time. If not, you may have difficulties in completing your studies, and you may even have to leave the country if your residence permit is not renewed.

It's true that for a Chinese student, he/she will always find things that extremely expensive, and will feel lack of money for all the time. The following content provides a general view of the cost in Finland.

Tuition fees: *university education in Finland is funded by the government* (This is Finland, 2010). This means as long as the students are full-time students studying in Finland, they do not need to pay the tuition fees. They just need to pay their necessary staffs for their study. But compare to China, the books and the other related materials are at least three times expensive. So, if you can get some second-hand materials, it'll save a lot.

Student Union Fee: *charge an annual membership fee of about 30 –110 EUR to cover the activities. Student health services are included in this fee. Membership is compulsory for those who are studying for their Bachelor's or Master's degree, but voluntary for doctoral students* (This is Finland, 2010). But it is also different from different university. For example, in our university of applied science it just cost 20 euros for one year. But not including health service fees. Student union membership entitles the student to a number of benefits: health services, subsidized meals, cheap travel options and other discounts.

Cost of Living: the average cost of living in Finland is very high. According to the survey, the average living expenses for a single Chinese student amounts to about 500-600 euros per month, including the housing fees. Of course, it also depends on person, if they spent more on shopping or health care or traveling. The survey also shows that most of the Chinese students think that all the vegetable and fruits are more expensive for them.

Scholarships: there is no scholarship for bachelor level studies in Finland, information on scholarships is provided by the Centre for International Mobility Center of International Mobility at [www.cimo.fi](http://www.cimo.fi) and Finnish diplomatic missions.

Working part-time: as a full-time foreign degree student, they allow to work no more than 25 hours in one week. But due to the high unemployment rate, it's hard to find part-time work in Finland, so you should not count on finding part-time work, or other financial assistance in Finland. (Housing and Accommodation in Finland, 2010)

In other words, for Chinese students, the minimum cost per month will be around EUR 500-600, according to my own experience, which is quite high for most of the Chinese students. You need to make sure that you have got enough financial support, including paying living expense, insurance and all the expense you must spend.

Student apartment is economical for all the students. The living environment is quite

good and all the basic furniture is provided. Comparing to other house agency, the price is really the best price. Normally student just only rent a one single room from the apartment. That means you will have roommate, even you are a total stranger. He/she might be from a different country. When you are living together, you must accommodate yourself to him/her. You both have different habits, customs and living styles. Living with tenant is not an easy thing.

Student Apartments: a safe and convenient choice. Most Chinese students live in student apartments. Housing costs are reasonable, and applying for an apartment is simple and easy. Schools and colleges are not far away from the student apartments. There're two types of student apartments:

- Shared Apartment: it is shared by 2-3 students with basic furniture. Every student has their single room. They shared the public place of the apartment, for example, kitchen and the bathroom and balcony. And most of the student apartments also supply the sauna, washing room and drying room for free.
- Studio: for single student. They are more expensive and not necessary. Unless he/she really doesn't want live with others.

Family apartment: is provided by couples and families with children. More and more Chinese students prefer to select a family apartment, as it's a good way to study the local culture.

(Housing and Accommodation in Finland, 2010)

In Kouvola, there are five different apartments located in different places. They belong to the company Kiinteisto Oy. They are located at:

- Jukolantie 17 (Toukola)

- Kuusihaankatu 6 (Penttilä)
- Utinkatu 39 (Utinkoto)
- Sippolankatu 3
- Prikaatintie 4 (Viertola)

All the students are studying in Kouvola can apply the apartment from the company kiineteisto oy. And the detail shows below:

#### JUKOLANTIE 17 (TOUKOLA)

- *The building was set up in 1985, there are 60 rooms there. it is quite close from the city centre. And the price of the rent is between 162, 45- 188, 10 per month per room.*

#### KUUSIHAANKATU 6 (PENTTILÄ)

- *The accommodation building is built up in 1992, and it could be contained 100 students. It is three kilometres from the city centre. The rent price is between 207, 20-216, 94 euros per month per room.*

#### UTINKATU 39 (UTINKOTO)

- *It is built up in 1990, there are 60 rooms there. It is really close to the city centre. The rent fee is between 192, 90- 220, 80 euros per month.*

#### SIPPOLANKATU 3

- The student hall was built in 1975 and it was renewed in 1994. There are 157 student rooms there. The price rent is 205, 00 euros per room per month.

#### PRIKAATINTIE 4 (VIERTOLA)

- There are 15 apartments are located in Prikaatintie 4 the building are set up in 1911-1913, but they were renewing in 1999-2000. the apartment is consist of 2 or 3 rooms also including the kitchen. And the price is showed below:

- *Family apartment :2 rooms + kitchenette* 45 m<sup>2</sup> 432,00 €
- *Family apartment 2 :rooms + kitchenette* 48 m<sup>2</sup> 460,80 €
- *Apartment for 2 persons:3 rooms + kitchenette* 60 m<sup>2</sup>288,00 €
- *Apartment for 2 persons:3 rooms + kitchenette* 63,5 m<sup>2</sup>304,80 €

(Kiinteistö Oy Kouvola Vuokratalot, 2010)

There is wireless and cable internet for every student apartment. There is basic furniture in each room. All the students just bring their own computer with them. Once they have moved into their apartment, they can connect to the internet at once.

#### 5.4 Comments and suggestions

When you are arriving in Finland, the best choice is to read about the local policy and regulation in advance to avoid any problem, like when and how to open the personal account, and how to register to the police station which is quite important.

When you start to apply for the Residence Permits for Students, be sure that you've prepared all the documentation which is necessary and find the right authority to get

the permit.

Since living in Finland is quite costly compared to China, it's better to get funds from own family or alternatively trying to find a part time job. If they can find a part job in Finland, the working experience are quite wonderful for their memory.

For all the apartments, generally they have basic furniture inside. You can bring other things along, such as cooking and eating utensils. And if you can find out in advance how it is furnished, then it'll be worthwhile and to think about how to get the missing equipment.

But even you are well prepared there are still some unpredictable problems which are beyond your imagination. So sufficient information could be help as your pre-departure preparation. And in the following chapter more details will be discussed.

## 6. LIVING IN FINLAND

### 6.1 Culture difference

As the survey indicated, more than half of the respondents found a culture shock when they were studying and living in Finland. Respectively, while some other half said that there was no culture shock when they were communicating with locals.

For Chinese, a deep root tradition is a common thing for a strong family tie. From the survey, it is proved that all of the respondents were financially funded by their family. Therefore Chinese students depend a lot on their family. Communication in Chinese culture means a lot of careful listening, analyzing the context and the meaning beyond the words. This culture difference creates a major aspect.

For Finns, they clearly rely on data-orientated as I observed, while Chinese are more dialogue-orientated. When you are talking with them, you'll find Finns are always

good listeners and with traditional Western European values in mind. Finns are more direct in talking, mentioned by some of the respondents, they talk what they think, so it's easier to catch their meaning. Finns show strong signs of active behavior, that is, they like to take the initiative rather than follow the group's decision.

Finland and China are both listening cultures; people are allowed to talk freely, without being interrupted. They also share the virtue of modesty, not liking to be interrupted too often, prefer to think in silence. As a culture, Finland is relatively homogeneous, as is China.

To summarize the response to the question of culture difference: Chinese are more soft, silence, conservative, implicit, while Finnish are on the contrary, more open minded, directly, talkative, independent, and emotional. But for both Chinese and Finnish, they do share something in common: good listener, kind, modest.

Table 1: A Summary of Communication Style and Cultural Features in Finland and China (Nishimura S., 2009, 5)

Finland	China
Communication style	Communication style
Introvert	Introvert
Modest	Modest
Quiet	Quiet
Doesn't interrupt	Doesn't interrupt

Uses silence
Thinks in silence
Dislikes big talkers
Little body language
Cultural features
Little power of traditions
High commitment to complete action chains
Linear-active and reactive
Listening culture
Data-orientation
High situational relevance
Relatively homogeneous
Punctual
Non-hierarchical
Respect for elders

Uses silence
Thinks in silence
Dislikes big talkers
Little body language
Cultural features
A lot of power of traditions
High commitment to complete action chains
Reactive
Listening culture
dialogue-orientation
High situational relevance
Relatively homogeneous
Punctual
Hierarchical
High respect for elders



Individualistic
-----------------

Collectivistic
----------------

It always takes time for one to be familiar with another culture. As our survey respondents mentioned that when you arrive in Finland, you will not find it difficult to communicate with your classmates or local people. Most of them are quite kind, whatever the age they are.

## 6.2 Climate in Kouvola

According to the research, the respondents from South China think it's too cold in Finland and not very comfortable due to the big difference in months. The respondents from North China think it's acceptable. Naturally all the respondents like the summer a lot.

The weather in Finland is variable and can change very quickly especially in the winter months. The warmest, no lower than 10 °C is in July and the coldest is no higher than -3 °C, is in February. February is also the driest month in Finland, while August weather is the most humid time of year. (Finnish Meteorological Institute, 2010)

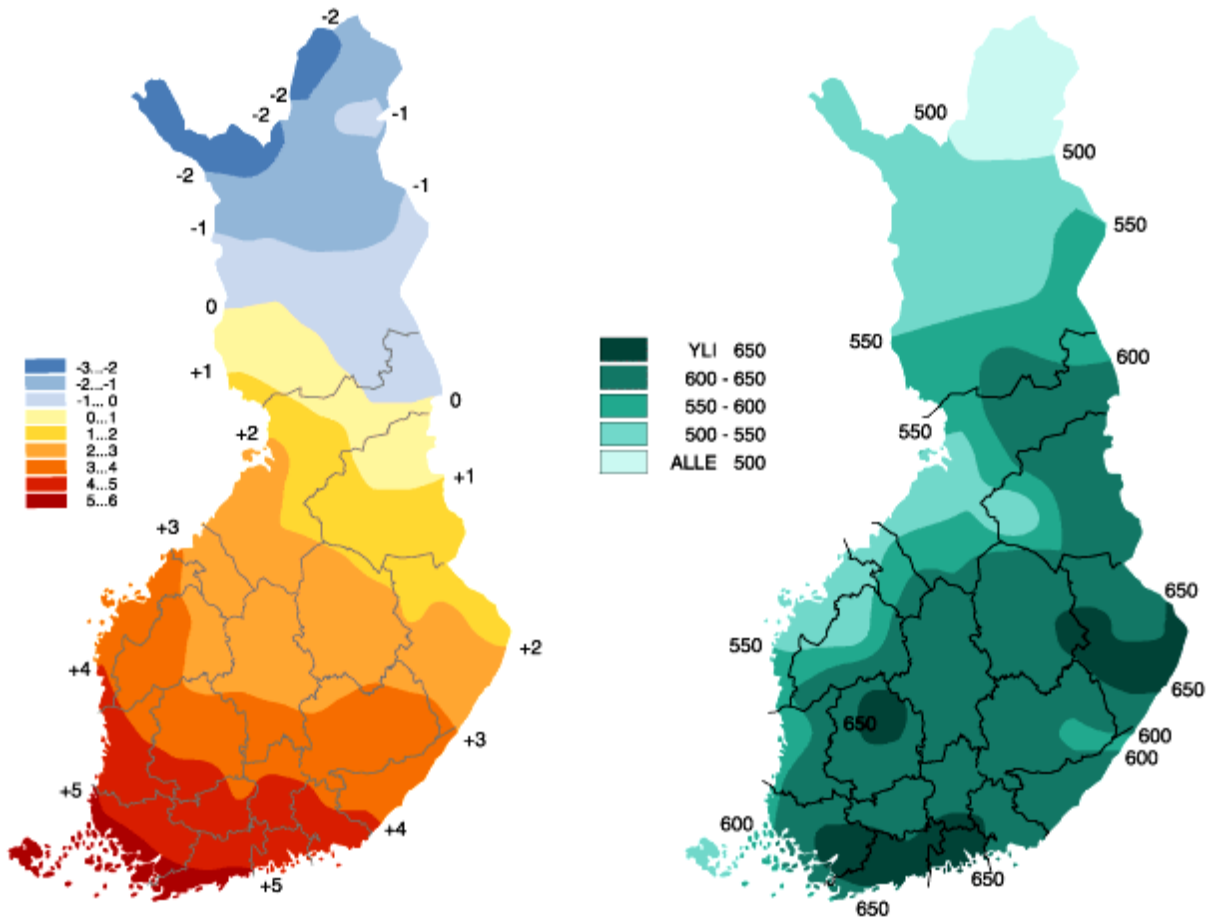


Figure 7 Annual temperature and rain figure in Finland (Finnish Meteorological Institute, 2010)

Because Kouvola is close to Helsinki, the weather in Kouvola is as quite similar as in Helsinki. Kouvola for example, in summer, you can get away with lightweight clothing in the daytime, but long sleeves and long trousers or skirts are useful for the evenings. You must prepare some boots especially suitable for wearing in the winter. Because of the heavy snow and ice, it is better for anti-skidding. The extra heavy pumino must be prepared, because of the heavy snow and wind. All other accessories for keeping warm should be prepared.

### 6.3 Finnish Food

The research indicated that the majority of the respondents do not like the Finnish food, just only few students can accept the Finish food.

Finnish food has always been firmly focused on natural and local products. In summer time there are lots of fresh fruits and berries selling in the markets. Bread and potatoes are always the main course for the Finns, while Chinese mostly eats rice. At the beginning, you'll find it difficult to take bread for each meal. You can try some when you are staying in Finland, maybe you will like them

As to my own experience, most of the Finnish students always eat their lunch in the student dining hall. Normally the main food is potato. They also supply all kinds of salads, including vegetables, fruit, and berries and so on. Sometimes they also supply rice, but not quite often. The price of the student lunch is quite cheap, it is 2.55Euros. But if you want to take two different main foods, a higher price obtained, around 4.75 euros.

Due to a different diet, when we are coming to Finland, we need bring all kinds spices with us. Of course we also can buy our local food in the Asian shop. But it is a little bit far from Kouvola and also expensive. This Asian shop is located in Helsinki. If you are in Helsinki, you can take the metro to Hakaniemi. It is a five minute ride from the central railway station. Here is a website which shows all the Asian supermarkets:  
<http://www.lintulaakso.net/kallionbasaari/puoti.php?puoti=aseanic>

For students it's always costly to eat outside, and personally I strongly recommend bringing the rice cooker with you and prepare your food by yourself.

## 6.4 Traveling in Finland

Finland is also a good choice for traveling. The location is also quite convenient for students to travel to other country. But due to the high cost, some of them never travel around, and half of them only travel some countries near Finland. Bus and train seem to be the top choice for traveling, compared to the high price of airplane.

Sometimes one can attend the traveling activities which are organized by the students union which is more acceptable by the students, and it'll save cost for sure.

From my own experience, due to the high traffic fees, if possible you need to buy a bike. That can save a lot.

## 6.5 Comments and suggestions

Culture difference is always an interesting topic for the people from different countries. Especially for foreigners, who are living in Finland? They can know more different culture, customs and traditions from each other. It is good for them to improve their international culture and ways of communication.

According to the survey, we found that, most of Chinese they like the summer in Finland. As to the winter, all of them think it is too cold here. The weather in summer is not too hot or too cool. The daytime is quite long, comparing to winter, the day time is quite short, and you can not see the sun quite often. All here are covered by the heavy snow and freezing in winter.

For food, Chinese students might take some time to get used to, but later on, most of the Chinese students might love the Finnish food

All Finland is fulfilled with nature. The air here is quite fresh, but just a little bit dry. You need always keep drinking water. If you have time you can travel around and

know more about the real Finnish life. Bike and train are recommended here.

## 7. SUMMARY

This thesis provides comparatively sufficient information for the Chinese student who wants to study and live in Finland as a target. This guidebook is gathering the information based on research findings, which is also refer to some publications and websites.

One can gather enough information about the Finnish school via various methods before drawing the conclusion. According to the different requirement, choose the one which fits you most, then you could start to apply by yourself or through an agency if you want.

To apply university in Finland is quite easy, if you just follow the guideline that listed in chapter 3. After the application of the entrance, the traveling documents like the passport, bank statement, insurance and visa should be prepared at the same time. And it usually takes time for all the preparation of the requested documentation.

After arriving in Finland, the first thing is to be familiar with the local regulation and policy. Registration to the police station is a must for a foreign student. Then the residence permits application. Since it costs more than China, reasonable expenditure plan should be done accordingly or part-time jobs, to ease the financial burden. How to deal with the accommodation will also take you a lot of time, to find a good and reliable partner could be a choice, but sometimes it's beyond control.

Even due to the culture shock when you arrived, you would still find it's easy to communicate with the local youths. More communication with the locals instead of only Chinese will be highly recommended. If you do that you can adapt to your new

life here as soon as possible, and it also can practice your language skills. Whatever English or Finish. The climate is not very comfortable in winter, but still not a big problem and sometimes it's attracting to enjoy the white Christmas and live in a Finns way. The food is totally different and most of the Chinese cannot be used to it, as it's a part of the culture, you might enjoy it after some time. During the holidays, traveling somewhere could be also a kind of study.

In summary, studying and living in Finland could be a good choice only if when you are physically and mentally well prepared.

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## APPENDIX 1

<b>RESPONDENT INFO</b>	
Name:	
Gender:	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <span style="margin-left: 150px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Female</span>
Address:	
Mobile telephone:	
Email address:	

I just have a few questions to check if this study will be relevant to you.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Screener</b>	<b>Code</b>
1.	Just to verify, may I know where do you come from? <b>SINGLE ANSWER ONLY</b>  <div style="text-align: right;">             China              Japan              Korea              Others (please specify)           </div>	   1 2 4 5
2.	How old are you? <b>SINGLE ANSWER ONLY</b>  <div style="text-align: right;">             &lt; 17 years old              17 &lt; age &lt; 21 years old              &gt; 24 years old           </div>	   1 2 3
3.	How long have you been in Finland? <b>SINGLE ANSWER ONLY</b>  <div style="text-align: right;">             &lt; 6 months              &gt; 6 months           </div>	   1 2
4.	Which university are you currently in?	

And now here're some multiple choice and open questions which have no right or wrong answers:

1. What are your reasons for promoting study abroad? (Multiple choice)

- A. To be an international citizen
- B. Strengthen global understanding
- C. Developing different cultural awareness and skills
- D. More employability
- E. Enhance disciplinary expertise
- F. Searching a better curriculum
- G. Others, please specify:

2. What's your challenge or barriers to study abroad? (Multiple choice)

- A. Lack of funds or financial support
- B. Heavy program
- C. Low awareness with locals
- D. Lack of necessary language skills
- E. Students have no interests
- F. Lack of support

3. How do you know the information of University in Finland? (Single choice)

- A. Online search
- B. Experienced friends / returned students
- C. Related education exhibition / seminar in home country
- D. Others, please specify:

4. As you know, what's the basic requirement to apply to a Finnish university? (Multiple choice)

- A. Language skills? TOFEL / IELTS score?

- B. Upper education examination?
- C. Entrance examination?
- D. Others, please specify:

5. How do you apply for a Finnish university? (Single choice)

- A. applied in person
- B. applied through an agency

6. What's your procedure to apply for a Finnish university?

- Apply to whom?
- Qualification?

7. How do you know this agency?

- A. Online search
- B. Experienced friends / returned students
- C. Related education exhibition / seminar in home country
- D. Library catalog
- E. Others, please specify:

8. What do you do for your pre-departure preparation? (Not for choose, but open questions)

- A. How do you apply for a passport?
- B. How do you get your Insurance?
- C. How do you get the Bank statement?
- D. Where do you apply for the Visa?

9. What do you do when arrive in Finland? (Not for choose, but open questions)

- A. Registration to police station?
- B. Residence permits for students?
- C. Housing?

10. What do you think about the cost in Finland? Average expenditure?

11. What do you think about the culture difference between China and Finland?

12. What's the climate in Finland?

13. How about the Finnish food?

14. Do you have time to travel around? How? Where?

Thanks and Close