



Information Literacy Skills for Incoming Exchange Students: Introducing a New Mandatory Course

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Hanken School of Economics



- » Campuses in Helsinki and Vaasa
- » Languages: Swedish and English
- » 5 departments and 1 language centre
- » 2 534 students (2 412 BSc and MSc, 122 PhD)
 - » Approx. 22 % at Vaasa campus
- » 122 faculty,
107 staff, 12 in the library
- » Internationally accredited by EQUIS, AACSB and AMBA
- » International rankings in FT and U-Multirank

Hanken Exchange Programme



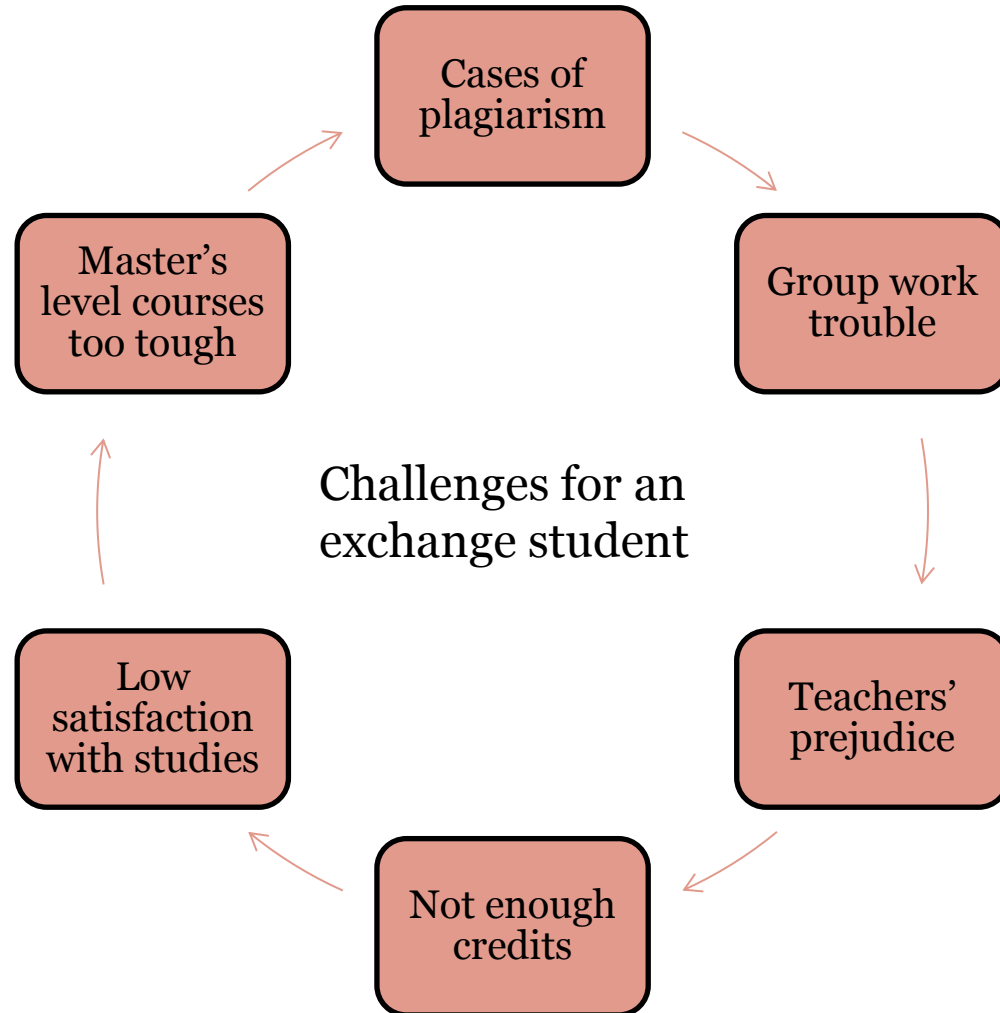
- » 129 partner universities, 40-50 active in the exchange programme
- » Helsinki gets about 160 and Vaasa 25 students per year
- » From approximately 25 different countries
- » Most students from European countries
 - » Germany, France, Austria and the Netherlands with most students
- » About 25 % from Asia
 - » China, Taiwan, Thailand, India, South Korea
- » North America
 - » Canada, Mexico and United States
- » Students on both Bachelor's and Master's level

Writing and IL for Hanken students



- » Year 1
 - » Mandatory course in referencing, formatting and academic communication
 - » Information search module integrated into a mandatory course
 - » Year 2
 - » Academic writing courses in Swedish and English
 - » Year 3
 - » Individually written Bachelor's thesis, information search module for most of the subjects
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- » Year 4
 - » Method's courses, elective courses in advanced academic communication
 - » Year 5
 - » Individually written Master's thesis, information search module for some subjects

Reasons behind the new course



Purpose of the course for exchange students



- » To help the students succeed in their studies at Hanken
 - » Make them more confident in writing assignments
 - » Prepare them for group assignments
- » Prevent plagiarism
 - » Make them understand referencing and its importance
- » Create a “take away” from their exchange studies
 - » Learn about academic writing
 - » Become confident in writing with references

ORIENTATION COURSE

ORIENTATION LECTURES



Information about Finland, practicalities, studies at Hanken

WORKSHOPS AND GUIDED TOURS

Intercultural communication exercises, library visits and a city tour



INFORMATION LITERACY WORKSHOP



Reference technique and information search in databases

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT

Text with references on a chosen topic and own reflection.



1 ECTS CREDIT



Course is graded pass/fail, students receive feedback on their essay.

- » Mandatory for all the incoming exchange students
- » Combines practicalities and introduction to academic studies
- » Written assignment on a freely chosen topic about Finland
- » Minimum 350+350 words

Assignment topics autumn 2016



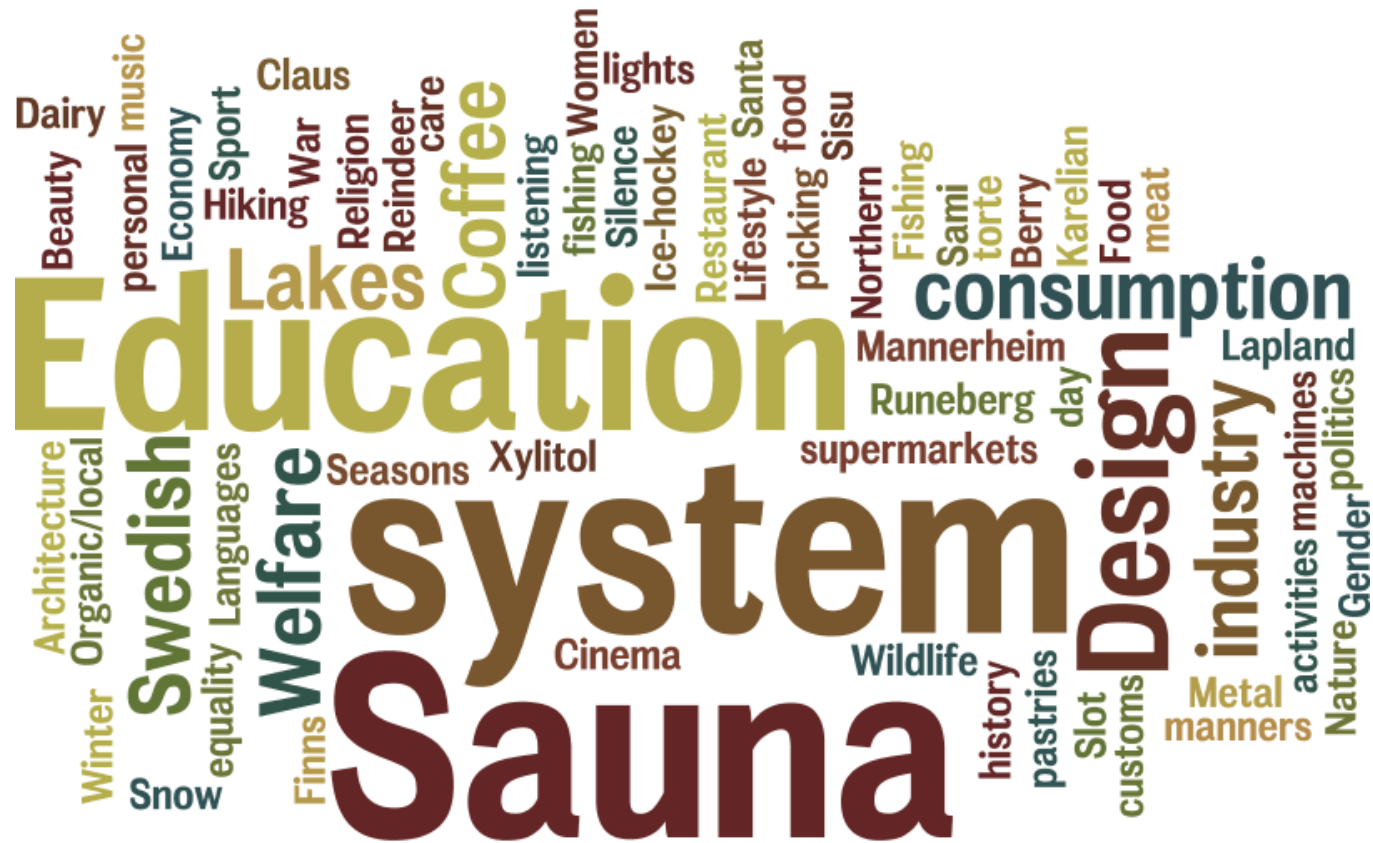
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Topics spring 2017



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Feedback and thoughts



- » No cases of plagiarism since the inception of the course
- » Collaboration with group assignments has become better according to the student survey
- » Course feedback positive, Orientation course is deemed relevant and useful by most of the students



- » Some students find reference technique boring and unnecessary
- » Difficult to keep the contents relevant and interesting for all the levels



Thank you for listening!
Questions? Comments? Feedback?

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