

University of Joensuu

How to get to Joensuu

1. BY PLANE

The Helsinki Vantaa Airport is connected to Joensuu by four to six daily flights and the flight time is approximately one hour. Please check the timetables and fares at www.finnair.com. There is a shuttle service from airport to Joensuu center (one-way €).

2. BY TRAIN

Trains for Joensuu leave from the main Railway Station in Helsinki. If you arrive in Helsinki by plane, it is recommended that you take a Finnair shuttle bus from the airport directly to the city centre and the Railway Station. The bus fare is €20. There are also taxis available at the airport, and you can look for the yellow "Airport Taxi" service. Fares to the city centre are about €20-30 and the transportation time is at least half an hour.

It takes 5-6 hours from Helsinki to Joensuu by train. The one-way fare is about €60. Please check the up-to-date information at www.vr.fi/heo/eng/.

3. TO FINLAND BY FERRY

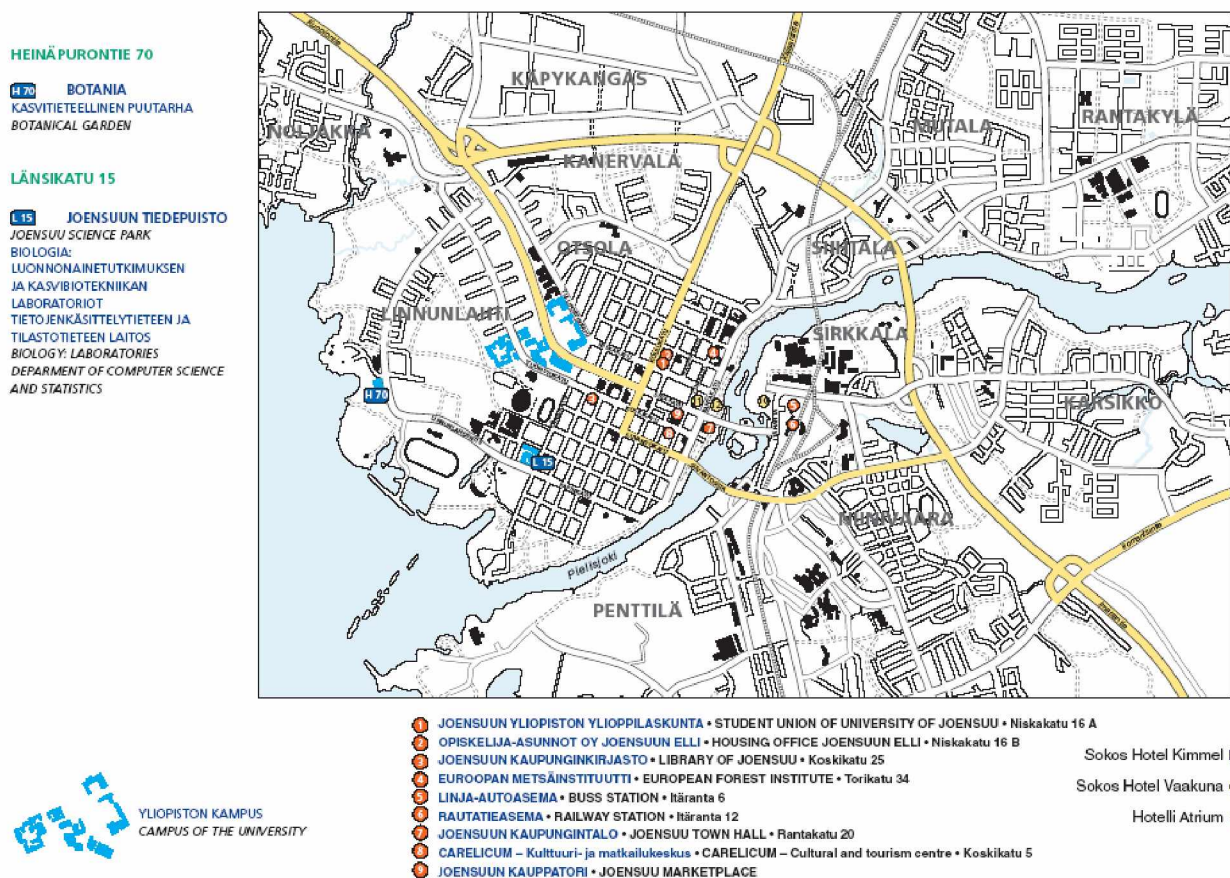
If you decide to travel to Finland by ferry, there are good ferry connections, for instance, from Travemünde (Germany) (www.ferrycenter.fi/finnlines/en/) and Stockholm (Sweden) to Helsinki and Turku (www.silja.fi or www.vikingline.fi) and from Tallinn to Helsinki (the previous sites and also <http://www.lindaliini.ee>). Joensuu can be reached by train from both Helsinki and Turku.

VISA AND RESIDENCE PERMIT

The study visa is necessary for all students from countries outside the European Union or Schengen space. Please contact your local Finnish consulate for more information. EU citizens and citizens of Schengen countries can enter the country freely, but they must register their right to reside in Finland if staying for more than three months. The registration costs 40 euros. More information can be found on the web page of the Finnish Police (<http://www.poliisi.fi>). Please note that students who are citizens of an EU country can enter Finland with their EU Identity Card, but if they are planning to travel outside the EU (e.g. to Russia) during their stay in Finland, they will need a passport.

Studying and Living in Joensuu

The University of Joensuu was established in 1969. It has eight faculties: Biosciences; Education; Forest Sciences; Humanities; Law, Economics and Business Administration; Science; Social Sciences and Regional Studies; and Theology. In addition to the main campus in Joensuu, the university has a second campus in the city of Savonlinna. Savonlinna hosts the departments of Teacher Education and Translation Studies, as well as the Centre for Tourism Studies. The university has 8,300 students, approximately 1,100 of whom study at the Savonlinna campus. The university buildings are located in a compact area close to each other.



REGISTRATION AT UNIVERSITY

Before starting your studies at the University of Joensuu, you must register at Student Services, located in the Aurora Building. Your student tutors will assist you with this procedure. The documents needed when registering are passport or official identification card, insurance documents/E128 form/European Health Insurance Card, receipt of payment of the Student Union Membership fee and registration form (available at the desk and at the orientation).

STUDENT UNION

Membership of the Student Union of the University of Joensuu (<http://www.joensuu.fi/index.php?page=106>) is compulsory for all international students studying for a degree in Finland. Exchange students are also recommended to join a student union and they can become members if they study in Finland for more than three months. To become a member one must pay the membership fee, which entitles students to the services of Student Health Service, discounts on meal prices in the cafeterias on campus and at a number of shops, stores and restaurants, and to 50% discount on long distance train and bus fares.

The membership fees for the academic year 2008-2009 are €3/full year and €19/semester. After paying the membership fee and registering at Student Services of the University, students can order a Student Identification Card (€8) by going to the Student Union office, filling in a card application form and attaching a passport photo to it. The card can be collected from the Student Union office after a couple of weeks.

Please note that an ISIC card (International Student Card) or other similar cards do not entitle you to most student benefits in Finland.

BANK ACCOUNT

You can open a bank account almost in every bank. There is no fee for opening an account but other services are usually subject to charge. Be prepared to proof your identity (e.g. passport).

INSURANCE

The University of Joensuu requires that all incoming international students have a European Health Insurance Card or a valid personal insurance policy from an internationally recognised insurance agency for the duration of their stay in Joensuu. This insurance should cover all costs related to treatment of sudden illness, accidents and accidental death. Students must present proof of valid insurance when registering.

HEALTH CARE

Finnish Student Health Service (Ylioppilaiden terveydenhuoltosäätiö, YTHS, www.yths.fi) provides all students of the University of Joensuu, including exchange students, with preventive healthcare, medical care, mental health care, and dental care. Almost every type of health service a student might need, with the exception of hospital treatment and maternity clinic, are included. FSHS runs health centres in 16 university towns and you will be eligible to receive treatment at any of these centres. Please note that you can use the FSHS health services only if you have a student card, i.e. if you have paid the Student Union membership fee.

ACADEMIC YEAR

The academic year is based on a two-semester system. The official academic year is from 1 August to 31 July. However, studies in the Autumn Semester start mainly at the end of August and end in mid December and in the Spring Semester they start at the beginning of January and end in mid or late May. The Christmas break is about three weeks. There is no teaching during the summer except for some field courses etc.

Academic year 2008-2009:

- **Autumn Semester** 2008: September 1 to December 19
Christmas break: December 20 to January 6
- **Spring Semester** 2009: January 7 to May 8
Easter break: April 9-15

It is recommended that students arrive at the beginning of each semester and participate in the Orientation Programme, which is arranged by the Student Union for all international students in the beginning of both autumn and spring semesters.

STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF JOENSUU

Academic freedom is one of the basic values of the Finnish university system, emphasising independent studying. Students can basically choose what to study and when to study. Academic freedom goes hand in hand with academic responsibility – it is up to the students themselves to plan their studies and schedule and complete their studies. Teaching at the University of Joensuu is mainly done in Finnish. For both international and domestic students, however, the university offers a variety of study programmes and courses taught in English. International students are allowed to take courses in all these programmes. In addition, exchange students may take courses in the International Master's Degree Programmes in Human Geography, Information Technology (IMPIT), and Cultural Diversity, and also follow lectures in other departments. (However, it is highly recommended to verify with the CE coordinator of your home institution if your course choices will be accepted for your studies)

For further information, please check: www.joensuu.fi/international

In Finnish university system there are no special examination periods. An examination usually follows an intensively taught course. It is possible to retake examinations if a student has failed a previous exam or if a student wishes to improve his or her grade. General examination days are also arranged monthly.

ACCOMODATION


Accommodation in Joensuu for both international and Finnish students is offered by Joensuun Elli, an independent Student Housing Company. Joensuun Elli has several housing units located in different parts of Joensuu and provides housing for more than 3000 students. Most students live in a shared flat where they have a private room and they share kitchen, bathroom and toilet with 1-2 other students. Exchange students are usually accommodated in a furnished room with a bed and a mattress, a desk, a chair and a wardrobe. There are no curtains, rugs, linen, dishes, cutlery, etc. in the flats. The Student Union rents survival packages for exchange students to cover the basic needs. Rent for a room in a shared flat is about 150-270 euros/month. Rent includes electricity, heating and water. In most flats there is a possibility to have the ElliNet internet connection for 20 euros/month. There is a free laundry room and a public sauna in every housing unit. For further information, please check <http://www.joensuunelli.fi/eng/>.

FOOD

There is a cafeteria or a restaurant in most of the buildings on campus. With the Student Union Membership Card, you get a discount of €2.25 on warm meals offered at the restaurants (except in

the restaurants Aura and Metla). Without a student card, a meal costs €4.60. Student discounts do not apply to cafeteria products.

LANGUAGE COURSES

The Language Centre is one of the non-faculty institutes of the university. For international students, the Language Centre offers elementary and intermediate Finnish courses. The introductory Finnish course included in the Orientation Programme is also organised by the Language Centre. It is possible for international students to take part in courses in other languages as well. Courses at the Language Centre require pre-registration, and the number of students in groups is limited. For further information, check <http://www.joensuu.fi/kielikeskus/index.html>, Finnish for International Students 

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The Joensuu University Library is an academic library which primarily provides services to the students and researchers of the University of Joensuu but which is open to anyone who needs information. The library also functions as a national deposit library and as a European Documentation Centre. The main library operates both in Joensuu and in Savonlinna Campus. The library collections cover the disciplines of the faculties of the university. All the course books should be able to find from university library and are possible to loan with your Student Identification Card. Services offered by the library are include reading rooms, PC facilities (word processing, Internet etc.), self-service copying machines and sales of university publications.

Other Useful Information

MOBILE PHONE

There are plenty of different operators (e.g. Sonera, Elisa, and DNA). You can open a mobile phone connection at any shops that sell mobile phones. A foreigner is required to pay a substantial deposit (usually about 300 euros) in order to obtain their own SIM card. When buying a prepaid sim card no deposit is required, but the rates are a bit more expensive than normally. You can purchase prepaid SIM cards at e.g. R-kiosks.

SHOPPING

The shops are usually open at least from 9 to 17 on weekdays and from 9 to 13 (or 15) on Saturdays. Department stores and shopping centres keep their doors open from 9 to 21 Monday through Friday and from 9 to 18 on Saturdays. During the summer months and before Christmas, several stores are open also on Sundays. Some small grocery stores are open on Sundays throughout the year and there are also 24-hour-shops in Joensuu. Shopping stores such as Sokos, Anttila, Citymarket and Prisma sell all kinds of domestic products. Good shops for ecological/Third World products are e.g. Maailmankauppa Päiväntasaaja ("World Shop") and SinunKaupat (bio-products). There are also several flea markets and/or second-hand-stores where you can find basically everything from cheap furniture and domestic products to clothes. In addition, there is a traditional,

two-day open-air market (markkinat in Finnish) four times a year with the market place full of stands and people.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

General Emergency Number **112**

- In urgent, genuine cases of emergency where someone's life, health, property or the environment is in danger, or if there is any reason to assume this to be the case
- No area code is necessary for this number, even when using a mobile phone. Calls to the general emergency number are always automatically routed to the nearest emergency response centre.

Toxicological emergency (09) 471 977

Students may also use the general health services, especially for serious illness and emergencies or when the student health services are closed (evenings and weekends).

Hospital (North Karelia Central Hospital): Tikkamäentie 16

I Primary health care emergency unit, Nurse on call: (013) 267 4060. Mon-Fri 14:00-22:00.

II Special health care emergency unit (24/7), Nurse on call: (013) 171 3300. Sat-Sun 08:00-22:00.

If you need urgent help from the police, dial the general emergency number 112.

Joensuu Police office +358 71 875 0281 (Mon-Fri 08:00-16:15)

Contacts

CE Institutional coordinator

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Departmental Coordinators

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