

EDUCATION IN NOVIA

Finnish education system is quite different from the one we have at home. Group work and getting to know each other is the basis of the education. Hence my study period started in Jakobstad on the last days of August - though the courses just started after the autumn break, in the middle of October.

autumn semester

The first weeks of the autumn semester for the 1st grade students were mostly about showing around - introduction about Jakobstad, Novia and the structure of the education system.



Moreover each department had a warm-up 2 week project. I took part in the *Visual Arts Department* mapping project, which aimed on discovering the town in a small group, finding our most and least favourite places. The exchange students made up one group - so we took Jakobstad on our backs. Strolled around all the little streets, cafés, walked in forests and in the harbour while asking questions both from ourselves and each other. So it was really killing two birds with one stone - learning about our teammates and about our new temporary home! The outcome of this project was a little exhibition within the university walls.



Project week exhibition

After the introduction week university has started for 2nd years students too. It started with a 6 week project - this time I chose the *Graphic Design Department's* task. This project also started with a 3 week long group work. Each group had to make research about youth culture from 1950s to 1990s. Then we had to make a 3 minutes long video with the helps of the found informations about the given decade. As 3 weeks went by, we had 2 weeks to create something about our generation. Meanwhile we also had to organize a group exhibition in the After Eight Music Café.

After all of these projects and autumn break, the 3rd and 4th year student are also back, and the university is filled with students.

Luckily - as I have mentioned in a former writing - everyone speaks English here. Even though the courses are in Swedish, mostly they are held in English - just in case that everyone would understand. 😊

There are many exciting courses you can choose from the different departments. The only difficulty is that - compared to Hungary - courses are not 3 hours long. Most of the time they last from 9 am - 4 pm (with lunch break) and sometimes they take up 2 days - but(!) they are not held on every week.

Courses

I chose 3 *Individual Courses* at the Visual Arts Department, but there are a large amount of other courses you can choose from. Such as *Photographic Expression*, *Documentary Photography* and *Digital Imaging*. Interior Design Department offers such as *Product Design* and *Textile Workshop*. Graphic Design Department hold courses like *Typography*, *Graphic Expression*, *Book* and *Web design*.

Of course there are other courses than visual and fine arts. Campus Allegro in Jakobstad also gives you the chance to make progress in *Music* and *Performing Arts*!

You can find out more and more on Novia's website: <https://www.novia.fi/exchange-/courses-in-english-2/>