

# MY JOURNEY AS AN INTERNATIONAL TUTOR



## INTERNATIONAL TUTOR TRAINING

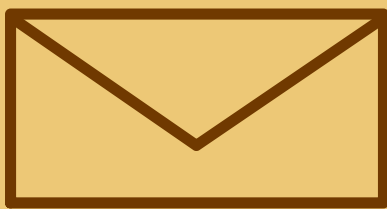
I have been accepted as an international tutor for the coming semester! Great news! I will soon attend two compulsory training about international tutoring. Some themes that I can already expect to have during the training are plans for official arrival day(s) & orientation days for international students, and description of international tutor tasks.

## RECEIVING INFORMATION ABOUT STUDENTS

I understand more now about international tutoring and the tasks. I receive further information about the plan for official arrival day(s), and I get to know who my assigned students are. Besides, it is very helpful that there is an information bank storing all necessary information I need to know before I officially act as an international tutor.



## CONTACTING STUDENTS



I receive now the contact information of my assigned students. I can start emailing them. I will try to ask for their other contact information, so that I can create some chat form for me and my student group, e.g. WhatsApp group. It is easier for me to reach them during the arrival day(s), and to plan activities with the group in future.

I should also remember to stay in touch with Mobility Services if I receive any information from my students. It is assuring to know that I can always reach out to the staffs in Mobility Services.

## ARRIVAL DAY(S)

I, and my international tutor peers, follow the arrival day(s) plan and pick up the new international students. I am prepared for this busy day to come, but I am excited to meet the students for the first time, together with my international tutor team!

After picking up the students, we also give them tours of the apartments. We help them shopping for any necessities that they need to settle in for the first night in Vaasa.



## BEFORE ORIENTATION



I and the other international tutors arrange casual hang-out activities with the students before their orientation days. We want to use this chance to get to know them, and we don't want them to feel bored or lost on the first few days in new city. We also want to make ourselves most available to the students, especially in the beginning.

## ORIENTATION DAYS

I bring my students to the University for registrations, and also to Maistraatti. I meet them again during lunch time, accompany them for lunch and show them around the campus. Later, I and other international tutors give the students computer training, to teach them how to use University's website and University's student tools. We help them to register to the courses at the same time. After orientation, we also try to arrange some evening activities, for all interested students to hang out.



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## SEMESTER STARTS



The busy time seems to be over now. All students have got acquainted with living and studying in Vaasa. My students have found their peers to hang out with. I stay in touch with them occasionally and inform them about events happening around the campus and the city. It does feel nice to meet them now and then in the campuses. I usually join having lunches with them whenever possible.

## PLANNING EVENT

One of the international tutor task is organizing an event, with my assigned event team, for the new international students. I have already got to know my event teammates earlier, and we have been discussing about event ideas. Now seems to be the time to move forward with the plan, and soon carry out our event. It will be great to see and hang out with the students again!



## DURING SEMESTER



Even though my students have got used to Vaasa and Finland, I still stay in touch with them, to catch up. I always reassure them that whenever they need advises from a local students with any matters, they can always reach me. I got to see them in the international tutors' events, and whenever I have time, I volunteer to help my international peers with their events.

## COMMUNICATION WITH MOBILITY SERVICES

The staffs in Mobility Services have arranged frequent meeting-up times for us, international tutors, with them. I can always update them with how my experiences have been in these meeting times. They have always been easy to reach via emails or WhatsApp anyway. The staffs will also organize an event, at some point during the semester, for just us international tutors to have fun!



## LAPLAND TRIP

Every semester, Mobility Services organizes Lapland trip for international students. I hear that there are opportunities for two international tutors to join. I am definitely interested in applying for those two spots!



## AT THE END OF SEMESTER

I have got to do many things with the international students. And I have made many new friendships. It is so sad that they are leaving soon! I will definitely reach out to my students, to hang out more before they leave, and to see if they need my help with anything now. I am certain though, that I will remain in touch with the student, and contact them when I travel to their cities & countries.

I am also so excited to hear that the Mobility Services usually organize an evening activity at the end of semester, for the whole international tutor team to celebrate the journey we have been together!

