















**Report about my "Staff Training Week"(June, 2nd until June 6th 2014)  
at Jyväskylä University (JYU), Finland**

My name is Anni Nottebaum. I work as a 'Coordinator for Studying and Teaching' at Faculty II, University Oldenburg.

In June 2014 I took part in an organized "Staff Training Week" at Jyväskylä University (JYU), Finland. First of all I decided for the programme because of its wider perspective: Targeting at European colleagues, all working in the field of international mobility and inter-national affairs administration. I thought that a look beyond my own nose could be useful, but I was delighted to go to Finland in the summer, too.

Together with people from the following universities I joined the programme

**Participants**

University of Zagreb
MALTEPE UNIVERSITY
University Oldenburg, Germany - D OLDENBU01, EUC-No. 28714
University for Foreigners Perugia (2 visitors)
Masaryk University (2 visitors)
Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw (2 visitors)
University of Bonn, Germany
University of Münster
Erasmushogeschool Brussels
Pädagogische Hochschule / Viktor Frankl Hochschule
University of Thessaly-Greece
University of Siegen
University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina"
University of Cologne
Mykolas Romeris University
University of Kent
Radboud University Nijmegen

**First Impressions**

[http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=jimmy+kimmel+chats+with+his+studio+audience+%28guys+from+finland%29](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=jimmy+kimmel+chats+with+his+studio+audience+%28guys+from+finland%29) – watch this to get an impression of the rather succinct style in Finnish verbal communication. They seem not to 'waste' time by being talkative, but get to the point. That mentality was proven as true also during my exciting week in Jyväskylä.

### My cultural impressions after one week:

- Lots of young people in the city, i.e. younger than 30
- Heavy Metal Music is very popular,
- Dark clothing and gender crossing styles are liked by many
- Finns go to the sauna each day for at least ten minutes if possible.
- Finnish people keep a distance to others more than in crowded countries (like Germany or China). They distinguish between themselves coming either from the west or the east part of their country
- They love nature and enjoy sports, summer time and celebrating.
- They are used to the Scandinavian weather with summer light almost all day and long dark winter times.

In short: The weather during these days has been mostly dry and sunny; staying close to a big lake was relaxing. The Finnish language is quite unique at first sight and probably hard to learn. At the University and in tourist places people speak excellent English, but no one can expect, that the local bus driver or the older folks can understand if being asked in English. Their support might lead you out in the wilderness – that happened to me once after my training week. Many Finnish people learn(ed) German in school, some can speak Russian.

I experienced an excellent intercultural exchange, met wonderful colleagues, talked and listened carefully and would like to go back to Jyväskylä

Here is my commented Programme Schedule:

## Monday 2 June

Start of the programme at the International Office premises, Building T, 2nd floor, after which we proceed together to the seminar location. Salads, pasty, coffee and refreshments served.

12.00 – Being introduced to the oldest campus “Seminaarinmäki”.

– • In 1863 Mr. Uno Cygnaeus founded the “Jyväskylä Teacher Seminary” which was

12.15 • transformed into “Jyväskylä College of Education” in 1934 and

• became a University in 1966.

I felt reminded of the University of Oldenburg beginnings.

Welcome words and general introduction to the University of Jyväskylä and its international activities

**Ms Tuija Koponen, Head of International Office** – Tuija, a very friendly and competent lady.

She works with her own group and with other coordinators, see:

[https://www.jyu.fi/en/study/contact\\_us/coordinators](https://www.jyu.fi/en/study/contact_us/coordinators)

12.15  
–  
13.00



The screenshot shows the University of Jyväskylä website. The header includes the university logo and name in Finnish and English. Below the header is a navigation menu with options: STUDY WITH US, ALUMNUS, STUDY, RESEARCH, COOPERATION, WORK WITH US, and FACULTIES AND UNITS. The main content area is titled 'Departmental Coordinators / International Affairs' and lists the following faculties and centers:

- Faculty of Humanities
- Faculty of Information Technology
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences
- Faculty of Mathematics and Science
- School of Business and Economics
- Faculty of Social Sciences
- Language Center

JYU consists of 7 faculties with 15.000 students (compared to the national Nr. 1 = Helsinki has 35.000 students) and 2.700 employees. JYU’s budget amounts 211 million € p. a. (in comparison: UOL = 174.3 million in 2012). Education and Higher Education in Finland is for free. University students are selected. Besides Education (Pädagogik, Lehrerausbildung) JYU is famous for its Sport Study Programme, including handicapped students.

**Workshop: Intercultural communication** – helpful and entertaining, as wonderful Lotta put it “What I tell the exchange students in one or two weeks I’ll tell you in 90 Minutes – I’ll have to skip some sheets of my presentation.”

13.00 Ms Lotta Kokkonen, Lecturer in Speech Communication, Language Centre definitely rocked!

14.45 The session is arranged in cooperation with JAMK University of Applied Sciences which offers its own staff week at the same time. – Because of this cooperation “my group of 18” turned into “our group of 40 people” – very interesting, very practical “applied science”- people I met.

15.00 Guided campus walking tour (½ h) – to know my way around on Seminaarinmäki, after which a guided city tour by bus (1 h) – On a hot (!) day, relaxing do sightseeing on the bus around

16.30 the city center was nice. The city center is small, the town spreads far out. For Students and visitors without a (rented) car Jyväskylä is a city to explore by riding the bike.

**Evening free**

Compared to average German low prices for food, going out for dinner is more expensive in Finland. Not to mention the prices for alcoholic beverages! Walking to the harbor area became a wonderful daily routine at night. At 8 p. m. in the summer months you can listen to the melody “Laulu synnyinseudulle” (Lied an die Heimat) von Aulis Raitala. From the top of the stairs of the Town Hill you have a wonderful view upon the Lake.

For more Tourist Information in German look here:  
[http://issuu.com/serusmedia/docs/jsm\\_2014\\_ger/4](http://issuu.com/serusmedia/docs/jsm_2014_ger/4)



For official City Information look here:  
<http://www.jyvaskyla.fi/international/>



## Tuesday 3 June

JyU approaches for coordinating Erasmus staff mobility

**Ms Tuija Koponen and Ms Ulla Sällinen, Intl Affairs Assistant** – Much information was given.

Jyväskylä University (JYU) that means

- 15,000 Students
- Staff 2,600
- 9.30– 11.00 • 20000 Adult Learners
- 

Since 2005 Tuija's team and others at JYU promote "Erasmus (and other) staff mobility" as a "strong backbone". They regard it as a quality indicator of their university profile that teachers and staff people seek foreign experience and therefore go abroad. Professors are encouraged to become a visiting teacher and to make contact even with business firms in other countries.

Social media in international student recruitment

- 11.00– 12.00 ~~Mr Miikka Kimari, Head of Communications and Marketing~~ & **Ms Tarja Vänskä-Kauhanen, Service Coordinator, and University Communications** – The "Head" was not available. Tarja, who started her new task in 2012, talked about making contact through Social Media. JYU is represented in several ones and students write and maintain special blogs.

- 12.00– 13.00 Lunch break

Parallel roundtables (min. 5 participants; to be arranged, if enough interest is shown)

1. Joint degree guidelines, **Ms Tuija Koponen, Head of International Office**
2. Student tutoring (peer student mentoring), **Ms Sanna Patja, International Coordinator**
3. Assessment and development of international Master's degree programme (IMDP's), **Ms Anna Grönlund, Head of Internationalization, Division of Strategic Planning** = That was my choice.

Strategic Internationalization will be the future activity. In 2012

"Internationalization" was established as a new Division of Strategic Planning. The awareness for Internationalization shall be increased at JYU. Internationalization will become a major element in JYU's:

- 13.00– 14.30
- Language policy,
  - Evaluation and Ranking efforts,
  - Research.

JYU's IMDP's will be evaluated in 2015. This will happen as part of an Education Evaluation nationwide. To prepare for the external evaluation JYU goes through an internal evaluation in 2014.

Finland does not work with accreditations like other European countries. The national law could change until 2015. Some way of accreditation has been seized already and study tuition fees are on the move.

At JYU there are strong faculties with a lot of freedom. A University Board decides about the longitudes of IMDP's. The "Quality Assurance Guidelines" are put into practice. It is a risk, if a master programme is developed and organized around only one leading professor. This risk turns into a problem in case of leaving. 7 Faculties

have established 18 IMDPs. This process is founded on a National Funding Programme for creating international master since 1999. The National Programme includes a top-down-process. Having a plan for a new IMDP, the leading professors must give first information concerning

- Name of this IMDP
- Responsibility
- Division of labor
- Resources
- Evaluation
- Perspective.

15.00–  
16.15

**Session on creativity**, JAMK University of Applied Sciences. The session is arranged in cooperation with JAMK University of Applied Sciences which offers its own staff week at the same time. **Mr. Mikko Kalliola, Creative director, Mainostoimisto Aava & Bang Oy**, i.e. a marketing expert, told us about how **“you and your team become creative.”** He is a funny entertainer type who makes his audience smile.



This is his linked in-photo.

Visit to [Taulu Mansion](#) – a farm house hotel in the woods.

18.00–  
23.00



Bus to Taulu Mansion departs from Hotel Milton. The evening starts with a dinner at 7 pm, followed by smoke sauna, swimming or trekking. Transport back to town after 10 pm. The visit is arranged in cooperation with JAMK University of Applied Sciences which offers its own staff week at the same time. Definitely one of the highlights.

## Wednesday 4 June

Recruitment of and support for outgoing Erasmus students at the University of Jyväskylä.

**Ms Laura Laamanen, International Coordinator, International Office**

9.00–  
11.00 Each student at JYU is educated with international competence, either at home or by going abroad. Courses are (mainly) taught in English, the Faculty of Information Technology is the exception to the rule. JYU signs 500 Erasmus learning agreements p.a. Since 2012 the management for Erasmus student mobility has moved from the International Office (IO) to the faculty level. The IO staff is glad about this change.

11.00–  
12.00 Lunch break I spent this break with Berthold Fuchs who is living in Finland since the 80ies (**Dr. phil. Bertold Fuchs, Lektor für Deutsch, Institut für moderne und klassische Sprachen, Tel. +358-50-4285307, [bertold.fuchs@ju.fi](mailto:bertold.fuchs@ju.fi)**).

Introduction to the activities of the [University Language Centre](#) by **Director of the Language Centre Ms Peppi Taalas**, followed by a specially designed Survival Finnish lecture by **Ms Maaria Oksala, Lecturer**

From their point of observation the integration of Finnish language skills is the biggest challenge for foreign students. Foreigners tend to stick with other foreigners as their favorite peer group. If so, they miss valuable contacts with natives. The longer foreign students stay/study/work in Finland the more they are expected to learn Finnish. Therefore the Language Center offers many courses from level A1 up to C1. We took a 30 minute lesson by Maaria.

Afterwards I visited the “Open University” and had a brief talk with **Ursula at Mattilanniemi**  
6. <https://www.avoin.jyu.fi/en>

12.00–  
13.45



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Open University of the University of Jyväskylä. The header includes the university logo and the text 'AVOIN YLIOPISTO-OPETUS 30 VUOTTA'. The main content area features a large image of a woman with the text 'Welcome to the Open University of the University of Jyväskylä!' and 'Life Long Learning'. A sidebar on the left contains links to 'The Open University of the University of Jyväskylä', 'Contacting the Open University', 'Open University Studies in English', 'Registration and Studying in Practice', 'Study Instructions', 'Useful links', and 'Links'. A contact information box on the right provides the university's address, phone number, and office hours.

***A possibility for a faculty visit (optional; please choose only one)***

- **Faculty of Information Technology, hosted by Ms Niina Ormshaw, International Coordinator**

14.00–  
15.45 An informative session with Nina and Tapio Tammi, an IT teacher from CS&SI, in a very relaxed atmosphere. The IT is located in the AGORA (Greek = market, meeting place) Building on the second JYU campus “Mattilanniemi” (built after drafts by architect Alvar Aalto; its claim is: “Information Technology with a human touch.” There are two departments at this

faculty: The Department of Computer Science and Information Systems (CS&SI) and the Department of Mathematical Information Technology (**MIT** – how does that sound?!) This Faculty counts 1500 (master) degree Students and 140 Doctoral students; 8.7 percent of **all** IT students are international. “All IT students” include around 500 Bachelor students which are not mentioned explicitly by this faculty.

The IT Faculty’s annual budget consists of around 9 million € national grant plus 6 million € donations.

The Faculty of Information Technology recommends all foreign students to take additional Finnish language courses.

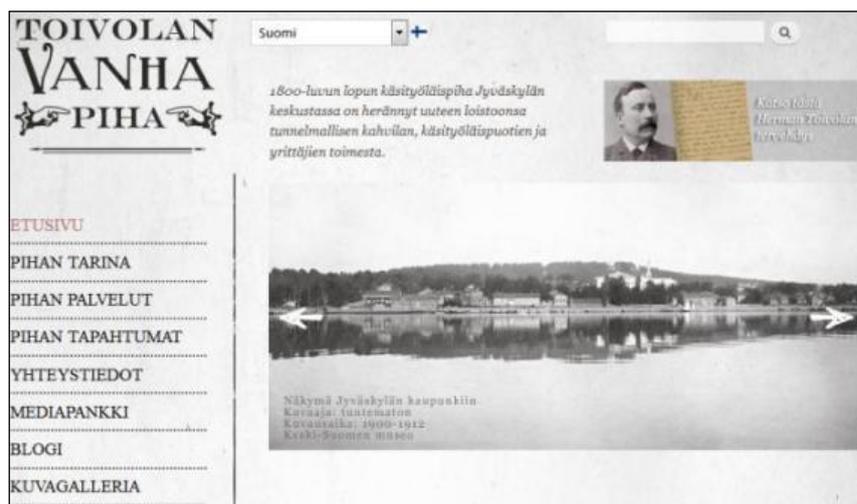
Three IT master degrees has been developed over the years:

- 1) *Mobile Technology and Business (Motebu)* – intake of students from 2007 until 2012 – it had been a joint effort of the two IT departments together and had been taught totally in English. Further Language courses were optional.
- 2) *Service Innovation and Management (SIM, MBA)* – from September 2013 onwards this is an international Master’s degree Programme hosted by CS&SI. Within this Programme some Language Courses are mandatory: one English course (10 ECTS), one course XENX009 Integrated Research Communication (% ECTS) as part of the Master’s Thesis Seminar and one Finnish course for non- native Finnish speakers (5 ECTS).
- 3) *Web Intelligence and Service Engineering (WISE, M. Sc.)* – This programme is offered by MIT since September 2013.

A new Master degree Programm had been started: Cyber Security.

Visit to [Toivolan Vanha Piha](#) (Toivola craftsmen’s courtyard),

16.00–  
18.00



including a guided visit to the craftsmen’s houses (there are two of the oldest buildings in town maintained.) of the Museum of Central Finland and relaxing in the Café Muisto (Café Sehnsucht = desire; wonderful cakes and cookies there) The courtyard’s boutiques sell items made in the nearby workshops. Location: Cygnaeuksenkatu 2.

The visit is arranged in cooperation with JAMK University of Applied Sciences which offers its own staff week at the same time.

Thursday 5 June

Application process of and services for incoming Erasmus students

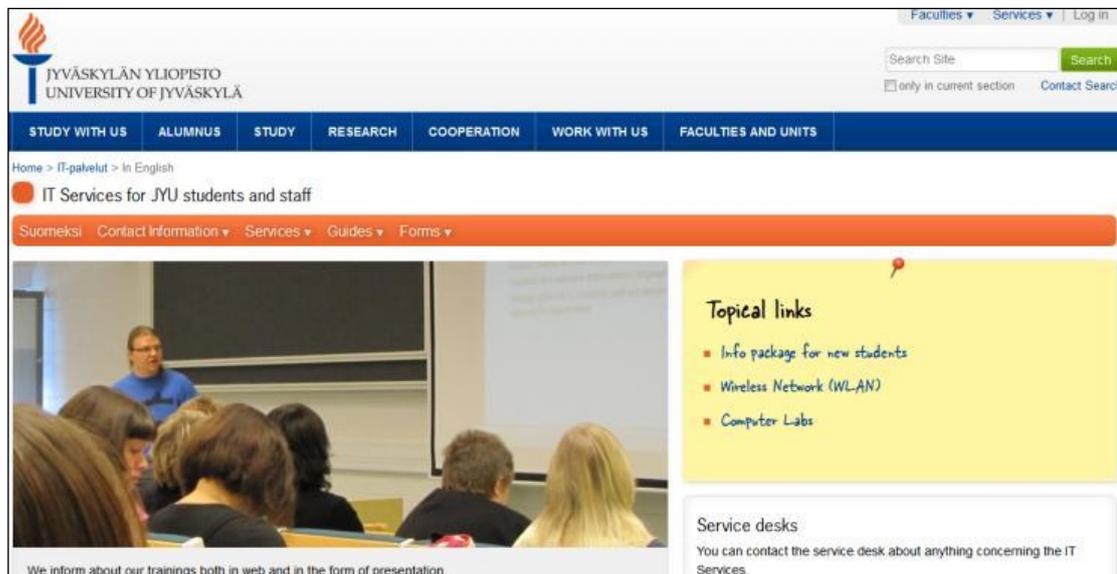
**Ms Sanna Patja, International Coordinator, International Office** – Sanna studied in Spain and France herself and speaks 6 languages! She started working at the JYU-IO in February 2014. In the academic year 2013/14 JYU hosted 238 incoming Erasmus Students in autumn (= middle of September until middle of May). Top countries are:  
Germany: 58 students,  
Spain: 33,  
France: 30,  
Italy: 26 and  
Czech. Republic: 24.  
In total: 171 students from these European countries.

The Germans mostly study at the **Jyväskylä School of Business and Economics** (= JSBE). All foreign students are guided forward with specific informing e-mails. They receive online information and a service course list. An accommodation application is included and comes with the online application.

The full list of courses delivered in English at the JYU can be found at:  
<https://www.jyu.fi/en/study/programmes/courses>

9.00–

11.00 IT Services for JYU students and staff at: <https://www.jyu.fi/itp/en>



The screenshot shows the website for Jyväskylä University (JYU) with the following elements:

- Header: JYVÄSKYLÄN YLIOPISTO UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ
- Navigation: STUDY WITH US, ALUMNUS, STUDY, RESEARCH, COOPERATION, WORK WITH US, FACULTIES AND UNITS
- Breadcrumbs: Home > IT-palvelut > In English
- Page Title: IT Services for JYU students and staff
- Language: Suomi/Suomeksi
- Menu: Contact Information, Services, Guides, Forms
- Main Content: A photo of a person presenting to a group of students in a lecture hall.
- Topical links:
  - Info package for new students
  - Wireless Network (WLAN)
  - Computer Labs
- Service desks: You can contact the service desk about anything concerning the IT Services.
- Footer: We inform about our trainings both in web and in the form of presentation.

Career services and connections to working life

**Ms Annamari Rovamo, Career Specialist, Career Services**

11.00

–

12.00

Annamarie Rovamo and her two employees focused on a national survey dealing with the Expectations of the labour market targeted at University Alumni. As a result employers favor those native students and alumni, who show intercultural and social competence combined with good grades. For JYU students it is highly recommended to study in a foreign country. Finland's working market is very limited; an employer can pick his favorite candidate out of many applicants. A favorite candidate must be able to speak finish (at least on level B 2). The language is a barrier for exchange students to find a job in Helsinki, "the working place to be", for example.

12.00

– Lunch hosted by Intl Office – a terrific “as much as you can eat-salad bar” with some deserts.

12.45

Visit to [Kortepohja Student Village](#) to see the accommodation offered to students by the University Student Union.

13.00

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15.00



The screenshot shows the website for Kortepohja Student Village. The header is green with white text for navigation: APARTMENTS, APPLICANT, TO TENANT, STUDENT VILLAGE, CONTACT. A search bar is on the right. The main content area features a large photo of a modern apartment building. To the right of the photo is a green heading "Did you know..." followed by text: "the R- and S-buildings will be renovated during the rest of the year. The renovation will be finished by the end of 2014. The application period for the modernized R- and S-buildings will begin in October." Below the photo is a section titled "More info on Student Village apartments" with a small text block and a dropdown menu labeled "Select apartment type...".

This Kortepohja student village was not very charming at first sight: functional multi-storey buildings, some green spots –an older “dormitory town” lacking anything fancy. The plus factors are: it is cheap to live there; everything needed is taken care of (caretakers, survival kit, second hand furniture, supermarket, doctors, service and meeting points, and playground). Students can choose between Kortepohja and KOAS as their landlord company. KOAS offers newer buildings for a bit higher price.

- **Jyväskylä University School of Business and Economics (JSBE), hosted by Ms Merja Lehtomäki, International Coordinator**

Merja and her colleague invited us to the third JYU campus “Ylistö”, the most recent and modern one. Walking over the white bridge, going up a small hill, leaving the silver shining sculpture “Rage” behind you are on “Ylistö: the working place of Neurosciences mainly.

15.00

–

16.30

JSBE describes itself as “dynamic and internationally-oriented” (for example an Association of MBAs-accreditation for their Advance MBA Programme; Participation in student exchange programme, such as FIRST; ISEP, ERASMUS and the Norek Network). JSBE “strives for excellence in research and education in the key fields of business and economics” and has offered degree programmes since 1967. 120 faculty and staff members, including 23 professors, serve 1100 degree students, 170 doctoral students and 200 MBA students.

JSBE has specialized expertise in environmental and social issues connected to business. The Master Programmes “*Corporate Environmental Management (CEM)*” (since 1995) and “**International Business and Entrepreneurship (IBE)**” are taught exclusively in English.

JSBE research groups are:

- Accounting in Organizational and Social Context
- Corporate Environmental Management
- Entrepreneurship and International Business
- Interdisciplinary Research Group on Management Education
- Marketing Research Group

- International Macro and Finance
- Spatial Labour Market Analysis
- Strategic and Technology Management
- Sustainable Leadership in a Globalized World

## Friday 6 June

- 10.00– Introduction to the [Student Union](#), its role and services to international students by the  
11.00 **Secretary of International Affairs, Student Union, Ms. Agnes Stijcsics.**  
Location: Student Union Building (YOT on the campus Ylistö once more).
- 11.00– Lunch hosted by the International Office in Restaurant Ilokivi Location: Student Union  
12.00 Building (YOT on the campus map)
- 12.10– Farewell gathering: informal discussions and networking over a cup of coffee with the  
13.00 International Office staff

A very well organized plan and its transfer did work just fine. Thanks a lot to everybody contributing to it! KITOS!

I spent the weekend until Whit Monday in Jyväskylä and Tampere and had save flight back home.

### Final words:

It is mind broadening to meet other people, even more when you travel to anther country and leave your own “comfort zone” – That is one element to get creative, according to Mikka’s conviction (and mine, too.)

**JYU and UOL share many similarities.** They can relate to each other regarding their history, developments and future goals. That seems to be true even for the two faculties for IT and Business/Economics.

I am glad to have been there and I will write E-Mails or even pick up the Phone to keep in touch. There is more to come.

Anni Nottebaum, July 31<sup>st</sup> 2014